

Bella Sanders and Barbara Curtis visited with Sharon Natzel in the Spring of 2013 on their memories of the beginning of the current Long Lake Area Association and its main creator, Bob Thorndycraft. He was aided by Gerry Budgett and others.

It was Labor Day Weekend in 1973 and the Sanders were closing up to head back to Mahtomedi, MN where they both taught school. Bob stopped at their cabin and asked for \$10 to contribute toward a lawyer's fees.

Barbara recalls Bob Thorndycraft calling George Curtis, her husband, in Chicago after seeing something in the Park Rapids paper concerning 300 condos on a timeshare to be built on the Wyatt estate on the west side of the lake. If all 300 had a boat, the marina would have been huge and would have caused an overcrowded lake.

Many "\$10" were given and the project was defeated.

The Thorndycraft's lived in Canada and Bob was in the Canadian Air Force as well as the U.S. Air Force. They came to Minnesota to visit and settled in Park Rapids in town for a while. They stayed on and bought property at Dakota Beach. He opened the AAA Insurance Agency and became a leader in the community. They built a house on Long Lake with the help of John Sanders, Bella's husband.

Bob was instrumental in getting the street paved from County 20 to Dakota Shores.

In later years, the Long Lake Area Association fought and prevented a motorcycle track from being built near the north end of the lake. The goal was to keep the quiet and serenity of Long Lake.