



Photo of- (l-r) Patrick Shirley Walstrom Marine facilities manager, David Lyle- President Walstrom Marine, John Hattfield chairman of Recreational Boating Industries Educational Foundation and Van Snyder of the MBIA

Local Marina first in State to Receive Clean Marine Designation

When it comes to clean water, there are few harbors as pristine as that of Little Traverse Bay. Now celebrating its 60th year alongside the Bay's crystal clear waters, Walstrom Marine is proud to be one of just two marinas in Michigan to be designated "Michigan Clean Marina."

The recognition, given by the Michigan Clean Marina Program(CMP) Committee, was handed out during an award ceremony on December 8, 2005 at the Recreational Boating Educational Conference held at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The CMP Program is a joint undertaking by the Michigan Boating Industries Association, Michigan Sea Grant and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The purpose of the program is to promote the prevention and reduction of pollution from marinas and the recreational boating community.

Walstrom Marine signed a pledge to participate in the program, and soon afterward established a Clean Marina Board of Trustees, and attended workshops to develop a handbook and best management practices. Each trustee was assigned an area to manage, such as, repair and maintenance, fueling, waste handling, and boater education.

Once the improvements were implemented and had reached a level of competency, the trustees requested a visitation by the CMP consultants. On December 1, 2005 the consultants visited Walstrom Marine in Harbor Springs for their evaluation.

"The management and staff of Walstrom Marine and Belle Maer Harbor (also a

designated marina) have implemented excellent policies and procedures addressing environmental practices and protections they have in place within their marinas. These two marinas are examples of how water-front facilities can insure protection of our waters that give hours and hours of pleasure to millions of boaters,” said Van Snider, Jr. CAE, president of Michigan Boating Industries Association.

Ward Walstrom, Jr., Vice President of Walstrom Marine said that being located in northern Michigan instills a deep desire to preserve and protect the quality of Michigan’s lakes.

“Because we live and work in such a clean and unique environment, it has always been our goal to keep our water and air as clean as possible,” he said.

Walstrom said the installation of pump-out connections on new slips, installation of a catch basin for city storm water downtown, using baking soda for removal of bottom paint and hot water pressure for cleaning bottoms, as well as periodical removal of debris from surface water and the bottom are just a few ways the marina staff has been keeping the harbor clean.

“We grew up learning to swim at the beach next to us, and we still enjoy swimming in our bay. Transient boaters, as well as our boaters, remark on how clean the water is and that you can see the bottom. They also marvel at our artesian drinking fountains. These are valuable assets not many other communities have. It is our desire to pass these assets on to our children and to their children also,” Walstrom said.