

THIN ICE MOVE

When IASM members **Terry Semple** of St. Paul, Minnesota and **Bob Swift** of nearby Big Lake contracted to move an 1880s-era house off Manitou Island, they faced two significant obstacles.

According to Semple, two steel girders lifted the house – two stories with three bedrooms and two baths, each supported by...

First of all, the only bridge off the island was too narrow and inadequately structured to support the 60-ton house. And secondly, the water level of White Bear Lake, although frozen, was several feet below normal and too shallow in some places to withstand the weight.

Along with the structure's owner, Doug Kraemer, a White Bear Lake general contractor, Semple pumped water into the shallow areas to add up to two-feet of ice that rested on about a foot of water and muck. Then, Semple brought in a local engineer to ensure weight distribution for the short haul. It worked!

"Like a ship, the house seemed to gracefully skim the frozen waters of White Bear Lake," wrote *Star Tribune* reporters Kevin Giles and Paul Walsh of the *Twin Cities Star Tribune* newspaper, of the intriguing move.

"It had the makings of everything Minnesotan: A cruel wind chill well below zero, a North Country fashion show of gawking onlookers and a 60-ton house reeled like a fish across White Bear Lake on ice that was two feet thick," they wrote.

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Source: ESRI, TeleAtlas

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Terry Semple and Robert Swift joint-ventured the move.

By **JACK E. BRYMER, SR.**, Contributing Editor