

R.L.I.A. Grant Allen Scholarship Essay

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Ever since moving to Rush City in 1992 and living in a house on one of Rush Lake's channels, Rush Lake has been a very important part of my life. I have spent fifteen of seventeen years of my life next to Rush Lake. It has been the perfect place for me to grow up.

Rush Lake is a place of many firsts for me. It was the first place I would go fishing. I can still remember practicing casting with my small, blue Mickey Mouse fishing pole, which I still own to this day, not catching anything but my dad's neck a few times. Of course my first fish, a tiny Sunfish, finally came and I was overjoyed with my accomplishment. As I grew up, so did my fishing and outdoors passion. I caught my first Northern in Rush Lake and was again so happy with myself that I ran it up to my house and brought it into the kitchen to show my family. I had to come back later to clean up the slime that the fish dropped on the kitchen floor. Another big moment for me was catching my first true Minnesota Walleye, again which I did on Rush Lake. That was a huge thrill for me. All anyone talks about is catching Minnesota Walleyes and I got my first on this lake.

Another great thing about Rush Lake is the wildlife. With all of the different birds that this lake attracts, there is always something to watch. When the lake freezes in the winter, it provides for a sturdy path for deer to travel into our yard and steal some snacks from our bird feeders.

Besides fishing and watching the wildlife, Rush Lake has offered so much more to me. It is a fun place to take a dip when the summer heat arrives. It is a very relaxing place to do homework for school. I have even driven my boat out into the lake, anchored and did my homework in the middle of the lake. Of course I brought my fishing pole along just in case I got done early. I also enjoy just taking the boat out for a spin at

sunset. There is nothing like taking a boat ride on a calm evening with the wind in your face and a gentle mist splashing you. It is one of my favorite feelings. As with everything else, I drove a boat for the first time on Rush Lake with the help and super-vision of my Grandpa.

Rush Lake will always hold a special place in my heart. It already holds fifteen years of magnificent memories. I can very easily see myself coming back twenty years from now and reliving all of my childhood and teenage memories on Rush Lake. I will never forget this place. But, for now, I will enjoy the lake while I am still at home and continue to fill my Rush Lake memory book.