

# HE SAVED US!

*by Amanda Achen (Grade 6)*

Once upon a time, there was a huge fish. He lived in the Rainy River, near Baudette, Minnesota. His name was Willie. He had a best friend named Fred. Fred was a seagull.

A long time ago, the people of Baudette had a problem. Every spring when the ice melted, the Rainy River flooded the town.

“Uff da! We are so tired of bailin’ water out of our buildings,” somebody said.

“You betcha! I wish somebody would help us! Isn’t it a shame da river is so dang shallow?” somebody else said.

What they didn’t know was that Fred was listening as he sat upon the Rex Hotel. Fred flew over the flood plains and had a good idea. He went to find Willie.

Willie didn’t know what to do. He thought and thought. Finally he had an idea.

“I’ll swim at the bottom of da river faster than a bullet at deer season. I vill swim back and forth twenty or thirty times. It vill dig a trench in da river and make it deeper. That will work, eh?” said Willie.

So he got to work. He dug the trench, the river got deeper, and the town never flooded again. The people saw Willie at work and were so happy as the water went down.

“Boy howdy! That Willie is a hero. He saved us. And we shall erect a statue of him,” said the mayor.

So they did.