

## **NEWS FLASH**

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After many hours of intense concentration, Stevens County residents -- led by a resolute Nancy Barbour of the east side of town -- successfully completed the "Spring Splendors" jigsaw puzzle at Maplelag Resort in Callaway, Minnesota, thus capturing top honors in the Senior category of 2010's Stevens County Jigsaw Puzzle competition. Barbour guided the determined effort to complete the 1,000 piece Milton Bradley puzzle with the aid of husband Jim Barbour, puzzle enthusiasts Cheryl and Hans Rempel, and hanger-on Nancy Carpenter. The bright, multi-colored puzzle was especially difficult due to its convoluted bursts of bright pink, orange and yellow compounded with contrasting shades of burnt sienna, adobe and shadowed grey-green.

A handful of other anonymous resort-goers contributed observations, critiques and the occasional keen eye to insert a particularly obstinate piece in the challenging puzzle. Contributions from Mary and Jim Richards of the Maplelag resort proved instrumental to the winning effort. Proud jigsaw puzzle leader Nancy Barbour enthusiastically stated "it was so satisfying to have the support and assistance of so many!" Late in the competition Jim Richards provided much needed incentive to complete the puzzle by the 12:30 p.m. deadline, stating that "blocks would not be removed from the car" until the puzzle was completed. Mary Richards came through with the crucial encouragement by providing warm chocolate chip cookies to cheer the competitors onward. In the end, the chocolate chip cookies -- and the unexpected arrival of fresh cinnamon-sugar pie crust crisps provided by an anonymous donor -- provided the impetus to propel the competitors on to last-minute victory.

Barbour's team is looking forward to the next stage of competition at the West Central Jigsaw Puzzle Regional Competition. The residents of Stevens County, Minnesota should all be proud of their accomplishments!