

# THE STORY OF WILLIE WALLEYE

*by Marie Erickson*

The story of Willie Walleye started a long, long time ago. Willie had been born with dozens of other brothers and sisters. His mother had named him Willie because he reminded her of her father, who was named Will. When Willie was born he was the smallest walleye among the babies. But just because he was the smallest didn't mean he was quiet.

Willie was always getting into trouble. He was a playful and energetic little fish. He would constantly be swimming around and going on adventures within the lake. After many, many years Willie had grown to be the biggest fish in the lake, even bigger than his mom!

One day, Willie had been swimming around as usual when he came across a small boat in the lake. Willie wanted to know who was in the boat so he decided to swim close to it. When he got close to the boat, however, because of Willie's size he accidentally bumped the boat. An old man who was in the boat was thrown overboard into the lake. He started to drift away from the boat and wasn't able to get back.

Willie felt so bad. He helped the man back into the boat with the use of his fin. The man thanked Willie for his kind help. The next day the man started to work on building a statue to honor the big fish. None of the townspeople believed the old man that there was a fish that big, but he relentlessly built it.

He finished the statue in about a year and titled it, "Willie the Walleye". Now the town believed the old man because they thought that Willie must be real in order for a big statue to be made for him.