

## **Kerri Thoreson RE: search for Scott Shawver's body – 8.11.14**

Closure? Not at all, just a transition into the next phase of mourning for family and those closest to Scott Shawver. Since I first heard the news last Sunday morning it's been rather surreal ... life goes on but there's been an overlaying sadness all week. I felt it everywhere in the community, even at the annual picnic on Thursday night. Unspoken but present nonetheless.

Meanwhile every single day of the search a dozen or more of Scotty's family, and friends who were like family have maintained a vigil on the lake, a flotilla that resembled an old world Irish wake. The first few days I couldn't understand why they would want to put themselves through that pain, sitting on the lake while dive teams searched at the site of where Scott was lost overboard during a storm. It was not a judgment but a concern. I even voiced my concern to two of those who had been with him on the boat and the traumatic attempts to rescue him on that fateful night. Where they really prepared to be there when his earthly body was recovered?

I've known the grief of losing a loved one in a tragic accident over four decades ago. No one can understand the private road we each travel through tragedy. This week of the boat vigil I've come to see that those who mourned on the lake were traveling their own private road, honoring Scott by their presence, sharing stories and no doubt some laughs even through the heartbreak. I stand in awe of their loyalty, dedication and their awareness of needing to do the right thing for themselves and for their sweet Scotty.

The grieving of the loss of this good and decent man will now truly begin.