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MarineMax Celebrates Half a Century of Service by Technician Dan Derfler at MarineMax Nisswa

NISSWA, MN (September 16, 2025)— MarineMax is proud to honor Dan Derfler, a longtime marine technician at MarineMax Nisswa, for reaching 50 years of dedicated service. What began as a summer job repairing outboard motors when he was just 16 has grown into a remarkable career defined by loyalty, craftsmanship, and community.

“His work ethic and his loyalty to the marine business and the customer base is outstanding,” said Brent Wiczek, General Manager of MarineMax Nisswa. “Dan truly loves what he does.”

A lifelong resident of the Brainerd Lakes Area, Derfler graduated from Pequot Lakes High School in 1976 and studied auto mechanics before joining the shop full-time in 1989. Over the years, he has done everything from motor installations, once completing 16 in a single summer, to winterizing boats. Through it all, he says it’s been about more than the work itself. “It’s not only the work,” he explained. “It’s the tight-knit group. The consistency of knowing where you’re going every day is the biggest thing.”

His ties to the community run even deeper. Today, Derfler works just south of downtown Nisswa on the same land where his father once held a job, continuing a family legacy of hard work and dedication rooted in the area.

Although he has considered retirement, Derfler prefers to keep a modified schedule, working four days per week to stay active. “It’s mechanic aerobics,” he said with a smile. “You’ve got to get into all kinds of small places. So as long as my body holds together, and they want me there, I’ll probably just stay.”

With five decades of service, Dan’s tenure stands as a rare achievement in any industry. His unmatched knowledge and dedication to his craft have made him a trusted resource for both colleagues and customers. MarineMax is proud to celebrate his legacy of quality craftsmanship and the countless boaters whose experiences on the water have been shaped by his skill and care.