

Rosemount neighbors seek origin of mysterious holes in pond, ground

By Jon Jeter
Staff Writer

No one seems to know the origin of the huge hole that appeared smack dab in the middle of the pond behind Leonard (Pete) Peterson's Rosemount home early Tuesday. *2nd Feb*

One tongue-in-cheek explanation, provided by Peterson after he and neighbor Barry Draxten inspected the pond Tuesday, is that the hole was left there when an alien spaceship landed on the small pond.

And what about the five smaller holes several yards away from the large one?

They were left, Peterson said tongue-in-cheek, when the aliens planted their eggs in the frozen pond. Well, you explain what left a 12-foot-wide hole in the middle of the pond in rural Rosemount. No one else can — for now anyway.

Shortly after midnight Monday, Leonard Peterson said, he heard a "loud crack, like a tree being hit by lightning." He and Draxten discovered the hole Tuesday morning. The pond lies between the two homes.

The Draxtens and the Petersons actually think a meteor splashed into their pond, creating the large hole and then the several other nearby holes. They suspect that its heat melted the 2 feet of snow that covered the pond a day earlier.

But others aren't quite so sure.

"I don't think it was a meteorite," said Dr. Calvin Alexander, a University of Minnesota professor of geology and physics, although he didn't rule it out. The Draxtens and Petersons called him to look at their mysterious aperture Wednesday morning. Alexander said that if a meteor had hit the 4-foot-deep pond, divers, who explored the area for two hours

yesterday, probably would have found it.

Alexander said only four meteorites have been discovered in Minnesota in the last 100 years, even though scientists estimate that five to 10 meteors fall in the state per year.

A Federal Aviation Administration inspector also inspected the hole and said it was not caused by any aircraft or aircraft parts, Draxten said.

A local UFO investigator looked at the pond but couldn't say one way or the other — to everyone's relief.

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Rosemount is a suburb of St Paul, MN, and is not normally known for excitement of any kind.