

Contact Information

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Laura Furtman (pictured here with the late Roscoe Churchill)

Laura Furtman and Roscoe Churchill co-authored a book about the Flambeau Mine that discusses the evolution of Wisconsin's mining laws, the politics involved in bringing the mine to Ladysmith, the economics of the project and environmental concerns. Furtman became interested in following developments at the Flambeau Mine in 1997, when she first met Churchill at an environmental meeting. Churchill, who had served eight terms on the Rusk County Board during the time period that Flambeau Mining Company was trying to secure its permits and was a member of the committee that evaluated the mine proposal, fast became Furtman's mentor. The two worked closely together on mining-related issues for nearly ten years, up until Churchill's death in February 2007.

As part of the research for their book, Furtman and Churchill did numerous open records requests of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to gain access to groundwater and surface water monitoring data for the mine and assembled that data into tables and graphs for ease in review. The book, released in 2007 and entitled *The Buzzards Have Landed! – The Real Story of the Flambeau Mine*, also includes a CD-ROM that contains DNR documents, mining company reports, legal briefs and correspondence so you can “read for yourself.” While Furtman is quick to say that she is “certainly no Roscoe Churchill,” she adds that it is important to her to do what she can “to help protect Wisconsin's waters from the mining industry’s grasp.”

Laura Furtman is a registered pharmacist who received her Pharmacy Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1979.