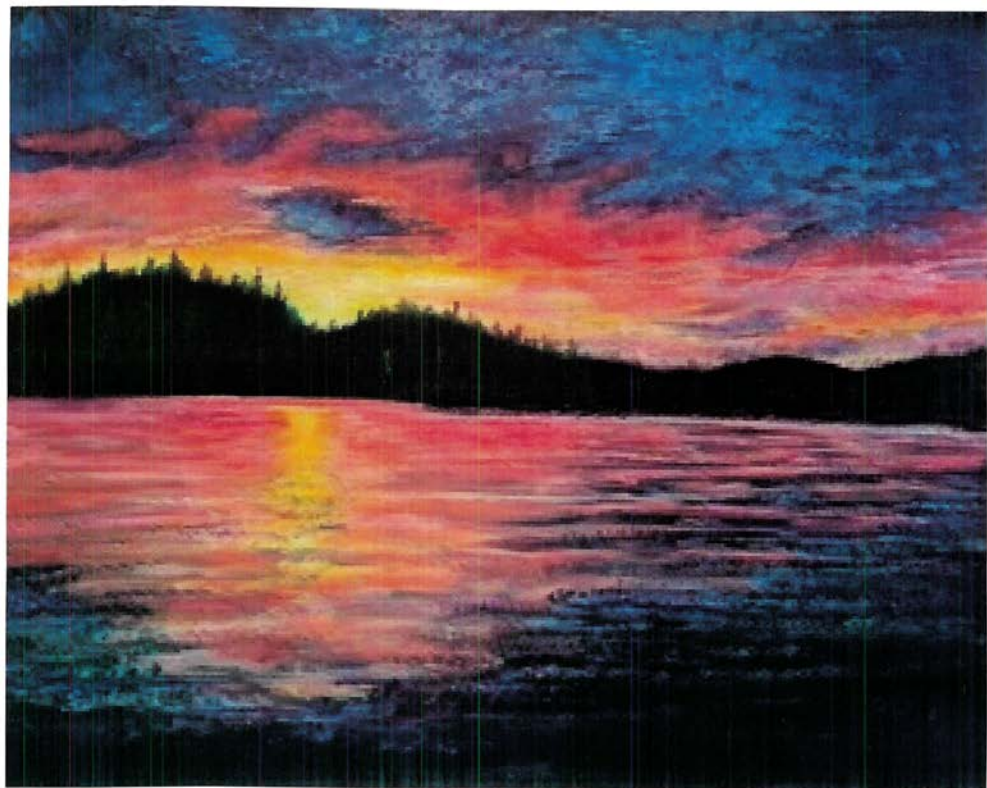


# Whiskey Bay



The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation

## **Front Cover Credit: “For the Auroophiles” by Fallon Milloy**

### **FALLON MILLOY about the artist**

I am inspired by our beautiful Lake of Bays – whether in paintings or my own enjoyment of various activities.

As a 4th generation Milloy, I’ve grown up on Lake of Bays alongside my family, neighbours and the beautiful nature we’re surrounded by. So, naturally, when I sat down in art class, instructed to paint a landscape, I was innately called to recreate the natural scenes displayed all over Lake of Bays. This painting was based on Langmaid's Island with a structure and view which is beautiful and unforgettable.

The painting itself was created in 2023 with a technique called layering. The technique involves the layering of complimentary colours to create a more in depth and full piece. Originally, the piece consisted of purples, pinks, blues and yellows, and the exact complimentary colours are as follows: green, blue, pink and purple. Each complimentary colour perfectly corresponds with each other, which you can pick out from the smaller details and paint strokes. The original picture allowed for a beautiful colour scheme to be played with.

In her free time between work and college, Fallon continues to pursue art, specializing in nature painting and photography. She would love to become a recognized artist on the lake and is happy to take on commissioned paintings and photographs for fellow cottagers.

Contact information: [FallonMilloy@gmail.com](mailto:FallonMilloy@gmail.com)



## **PRESERVING COMMUNITY HERITAGE**

**Lake of Bays is blessed with many older cottages, buildings and churches. In addition to their historical significance and role as a window on our past, these structures add character and charm to our community of cottage families who have summered together for many generations.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**We wish to thank Susan Truscott, Wendy Gibson, Aileen Blair, Steve Blair, John Price, Liz Price, Dr. Douglas Milloy, Fallon Milloy, Scott Gibson, Ruth Gibson and Sam Hart. Special thanks to filmmaker Oliver Ward of Huntsville for producing the accompanying Whiskey Bay video, Lizann Flatt of Baysville Branch Library for formatting this booklet and to Smellies Design and Print Shop Bracebridge for printing this booklet.**

**Gloria Woodside and Paul Shoniker**

**August 16, 2025**

# WHISKEY BAY

What scene does the name “Whiskey Bay” conjure up? Cottagers, drinks in hand, on their docks or at gatherings to celebrate life’s events, regattas, tennis tournaments or picnics? The Whiskey Sour, orange hulled, sailing daily from the bay at 2 pm? Or whiskey stills operating under cover of darkness, farms producing ingredients for whiskey and docks providing access for boats delivering illegal liquor? This story documents the arrival of the settlers, logging, prohibition and the moonshine industry, cottage development in Whiskey Bay and the continued presence of many multigenerational families in their original cottages. More than anything, the story of Whiskey Bay is about a place that has fostered close friendships and a unique sense of community that has endured over generations.

## Location

On official ministry maps, Whiskey Bay is located between Whiskey Point on the west side of Langmaid’s Island to Price Point. To the west is Menominee Bay. The Channel separates Whiskey Point from Langmaid’s Island and leads to what was originally known on township maps as William’s Bay, the location of William’s Sawmill, on the east side of Langmaid’s Island.

By road, the area is accessed off South Portage Road by Price Point Road which travels along the west side of the bay, and Channel Road which leads to Whiskey Point Lane, a private road providing access to the east side of the bay.

## The First Settlers

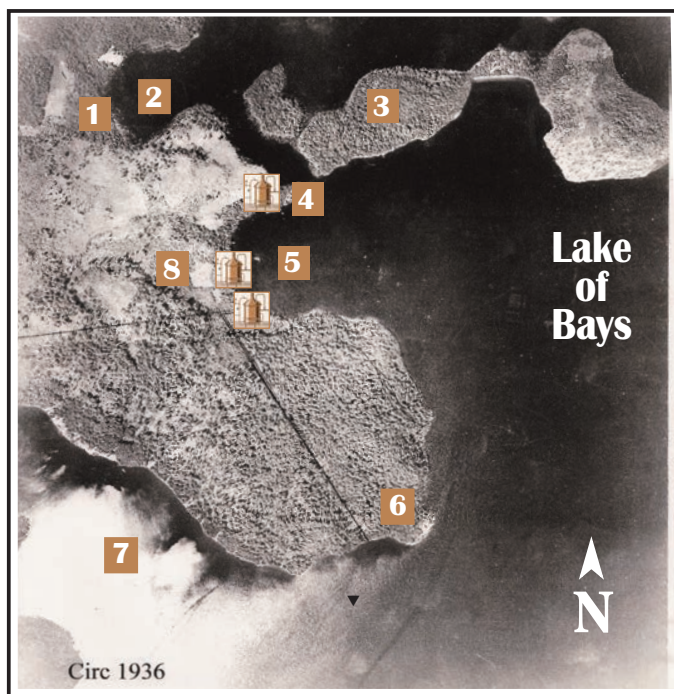
The history of Whiskey Bay is associated with Indigenous Peoples living in the area and pioneers who first travelled from Bracebridge to Baysville in search of free land. The “Free Land Grants and Homesteads Act” of 1868 offered land to settlers in approximately 100-acre lots. Free Grant laws were in force, i.e., clearing 15 acres (with at least two acres being cleared and cultivated annually), building a dwelling at least 16 by 20 feet and occupying the land continuously, at least 6 months of every year, for five years. Early settlers in the Whiskey Bay area included: the Williamses (Post Office and Sawmill), Hendersons and Bastedos (Price Point, west side of Whiskey Bay and the east side of Menominee Bay) and Greens (Green Acres, including the north part of Whiskey Bay, the Point, the Channel and the west side of William’s Bay).

## Logging and Lumbering

As in other areas of Lake of Bays, lumbering was an important industry for the settlers. The most valuable timber were the pine trees which grew in abundance in

this area of the lake. Logs from the Whiskey Bay area were either floated to Baysville where they were milled or floated to Bracebridge or to nearby William's Bay, through the Channel, for lumbering. The Williamses had a small sawmill located where the present Still Bay Cottages (formerly Top Spot, then Beauview) are now located. In the early years Williams Mill filled the needs of local settlers who would have had a difficult time obtaining construction material in this relatively isolated area. The mill was closed by 1908, after which only part of the wharf and some of the timbers of the mill itself remained.

A 1936 RCAF aerial photo of the Whiskey Bay area shows the extensive lumbering that had taken place. At the top of the map, one sees a clear-cut area on William's Post Office land, with a diagonal black line formed by a dry-stone wall. To the right is William's Bay with much logging debris in the water near the shore. A road, shown in the photo as a white line, heads south of the "Green Acres" property towards Whiskey Bay – it then forks towards the channel and in the other direction it ends near two large docks extending into the water. The variations in shading relate to various time periods of logging. The Green farm is apparent near the foot of Whiskey Bay.



## Whiskey Bay

### Aerial Photograph, 1936

- 1 Williams Sawmill
- 2 Williams Bay
- 3 Langmaid's Island
- 4 Whiskey Point
- 5 Whiskey Bay
- 6 Price Point
- 7 Menominee Bay
- 8 Green Farm



The Stills

## **Farming**

Apart from logging and trapping, there was a stone quarry on the north part of William's Post Office property and several small farms. The Indigenous Peoples cultivated corn around the Menominee Bay area. There was a potato crop on Langmaid's Island, the Ferguson farm at Brunel and South Portage, and a farm at Green Acres on Price Point Road, with the latter identified as the source of the ingredients for whiskey. In the 1921 Voter's List for the Baysville area, brothers Louis and Ed Green reported their occupations as "farmer," a difficult job given the thin soil and terrain around Whiskey Bay. (See the aerial photo for the farm location.)

## **Prohibition and the Moonshine Industry**

The Canadian Temperance Act of 1878 gave local governments the option to ban alcohol sales. In Ontario, Prohibition measures were in effect from 1916 to 1927. However, that did not diminish the demand for alcohol, leading to the development of whiskey stills in various areas of Ontario, including Whiskey Bay in McLean Township.

The mash used for producing moonshine included fermented grain such as wheat, rye or corn as well as sugar, water, yeast and malt. Both Ruth Martin (1967) and Elaine Hutton (2006) interviewed members of the Green family. At least two generations of the family were involved in the moonshine business at different times. Jean Robertson, in her publication "Clovelly. A History 1902-2002," states: "It is said that the steamer also picked up illicit goods, from the still on Whiskey Bay." However, most others said it was smaller boats, scows or canoes, that transported the whiskey from the stills to larger steamers in other areas of the lake.

Interestingly, some of the whiskey-making was done on boats until a floating still exploded. No one was reported injured, but that was the end of floating stills. Several sources identify three stills in Whiskey Bay – one at Whiskey Point and one at the foot of the bay and one up the hill by Vancleaf Drive (see Aerial photo). Although the stills no longer exist, cottagers in the bay recall the remnants of one of the shacks at the foot of the bay was still there in the 1960s - a favourite destination for kids exploring in the woods. The submerged cribs from the dock used for distribution remain today.

According to sources, everyone around Lake of Bays knew that Whiskey Bay was the place to get "drinking whiskey." Clayton Preston of Baysville reported that at some point the police apparently found out about the alcohol being made at Whiskey Bay. The moonshiners got wind of this and threw all their whiskey into

the bay as you could only be prosecuted if the product was confiscated. That ended the production of whiskey in Whiskey Bay, but the name of the Bay remained as the development of two subdivisions began.

## **The Greens and the Grays**

John Louis Green owned 68 acres and shoreline extending across the foot of Whiskey Bay, including Whiskey Point, the shoreline in the Channel and Williams Bay up to and including Still Bay Cottages (originally Top Spot Cottages). In 1926, the land was sold to Martin Kinton of Huntsville, except for 2 ½ acres which was sold to John's brother Lloyd and his wife



**Charles Gray at Green Acres**

Polly Evelyn Green, an area known as “Green Acres” farm. In about 1957, the property was sold to Violet and Charles Gray. Charles was a mechanic and built a large garage for his repair business. Violet was well known for her baked goods, most of which were bought by families on Whiskey Bay who walked or drove by the Grays on their way down Price Point Road. Ruth Gibson recalls stopping by the Gray's place on Sunday night on their way home and placing an order for Mrs. Gray's delicious butter tarts to be picked up the following Friday. The Grays resided there until about 1980 whereupon they moved to Huntsville.

## **Development of Whiskey Bay**

### **Whiskey Point Subdivision (1940s)**

In 1945, Thomas Patrick McIlroy, a Huntsville Insurance Agent, and Clifford Charles Snell, a Huntsville Dairyman, purchased property they consolidated for a subdivision, allocating land for a road from the Green Acres property around the foot of the bay extending towards the Channel and Whiskey Point. This eventually became the road for the Price Point subdivision.

# Charley's Place

Patrick McIlroy was acquainted with Father Charles MacKinnon, a St. Catherines Catholic priest. Father Mac, as he was known, was looking for land for a spiritual and recovery retreat for clergy suffering from WW2 service. Lots 6 and 7 were earmarked for Father Mac soon after the land was purchased in 1945. The Lots offered privacy with rock faces on either side, and access from a separate lane. At the time the adjoining Lots were not developed.

Father Mac along with several other priests camped on the property and began to construct the retreat themselves. The building of the main structure, known as “Charley’s Place” was completed in 1947. Lots 6 and 7 were purchased and transferred to Father Mac in 1949 for \$1400. The delay in the land purchase may have been to allow for fundraising or completion of the subdivision road. The

CHARLEY'S PLACE CONSTRUCTION HISTORY 1014 WHISKEY POINT LANE		
Found on inside of outer wall beside fireplace during insulation of living room.		
DATE	PARTICIPANTS	ACTIVITY
July 20 1947	Romeo V., Father MacKinnon	Ed R. Carried Stone
	Ed. R., Tom L.	
July 1 1949	Father Mac, R. Valliere J. Valliere, R. Lucas J. Dugas, L. Roy A. Blois, B. Robida	First Mass
July 7 1949	J. Dugas	Toilet Ready
July 1 1950	Father Mac, B. Robida L. Roy, J. Dugas J. Valliere, Romeo Valliere	Hydro
July 7 1950	J. Dugas, Father Mac	Stove
July 12 1950	J. Dugas, R. Valliere Father Mac	Dock
July 21 1950	H. Dugas (alone)	5 Panels
August 12 1950	Horace	Sin Bin Finished
August 12 1950	Horace and Tom	Ladder on Dock
August 1950	H. Dugas, T. Lucas Supervisors: C. Valliere Father Mac	Storm Windows
1951	Maurice Dugas, Wally Clair	Seaplane Truman
June 6 1951	Joe Dugas, Foreman – Father Mac	Partition for Toilet
June 29 1951	H. Dugas, Father MacKinnon	Altar Finished
July 1 1951	R. Valliere, J. Valliere R. Gagne, A. McCleister L. Roy, A. Blais R. Robida, H. Dugas R. Lacas, Father MacKinnon	Party \$15 per person
July 1 1951		Tom stabs Sonny with Plug
July 15 1951	Father Gavard, Mike Golfan Bill Anderson, G. Shoemaker Pat and Jack, Father Mac	Fridge
August 15 1951	G. Shoemaker, Pat and Steve Father Mac (Supervisor)	Stone Walk Begun

## Construction record for Charley’s Place

The living room had two cots, along with a built-in bar with racks for glasses and a kitchen and dining area. There was an outhouse at the back of the structure. An ice hut behind the retreat was initially used to keep foods cold or frozen. The retreat did not have hydro or running water. However in 1951, running water was installed and a bedroom was converted to a bathroom with a metal shower stall.

history of the construction and activities were documented on an interior wall of the structure, along with the names of the priests who assisted. The notes document activity from 1947 to 1951 (see Table left). Signs leading to the retreat from South Portage Road simply indicated “Charley’s.”

It was a large structure for the day, initially constructed as large open rooms. In 1950, partitions were added creating 4 bedrooms with cots and metal bunk beds off a screened dormitory. The dormitory had 10 large, screened openings on two sides with wooden shutters that opened to the



**Charley's Place when sold in 1966**

The first outdoor Mass was held on Whiskey Point on July 1st, 1949 and on Sundays and special occasions thereafter. A cross was mounted on a large rock on the point, and altars were constructed of

birch trees. As it was built as a hideaway, many priests and nuns attended Mass incognito. Nearby cottagers from St. Catharines were invited to attend Mass. When weather precluded Mass outdoors, it was moved into the large screened porch.

### **Location of outdoor Mass**



In 1955 following the death of Father MacKinnon, the retreat was sold to Father Gavard for \$5,000. Father Gavard helped with the initial 1945 construction. He subsequently winterized the kitchen, one bedroom and the living room and added hot water. Father Gavard became ill in early 1960 and the property then fell into disrepair.

In 1966, John and Betty Truscott decided to purchase their own cottage property. Charley's Place was the second property they looked at for sale in Whiskey Bay. Through the Lake of Bays Sailing Club they knew many of the families in Whiskey Bay, including next-door neighbours Melville and Beverly Hart. John and Betty paid \$12,000 for Lot 6 and Charley's Place. Also in 1966, the Theis family purchased Lot 7 from Father Gavard.

## The Truscotts

The Truscotts are in their 6<sup>th</sup> generation on Lake of Bays. John Truscott's grandmother stayed at Bigwin Inn in the late 1920s and early 1930s and decided the family should have a summer home on the lake. In the 1930s, they rented various cottages on Glenmount and Norway Point. The Tyrell cottage, Mini Wawa at Norway Point, burnt down while the Truscott's were renting it. This has become a longstanding source of laughter amongst the next generation of Tyrells,



Browns and Truscotts. John's father, Gordon Truscott, bought the family cottage on Bigwin View Lane in 1943 after renting it from the Ritchie family for a number of years.

At age 11, John Truscott met Earle Vancleave, then 9, who accompanied his father Roy working at Norway Point. John and Earle became best friends and worked

**John Truscott with his grandmothers**

alongside Roy. Gordon and John attended Roy Vancleaf's hunt camp each fall. John and Earle didn't have a taste for hunting, but they were happy to catch the dogs as they ran out through the property by the dump. Roy and Hilda identified a room in their Baysville home as "John's room." John developed a very strong love of the Lake and the village of Baysville and became lifelong friends of the Vancleafs and Kellys. Off season, when the Truscott cottage was closed for the winter, John stayed in Baysville with the Vancleafs and became passionate about winter at Lake of Bays. Earle and John were best man at each other's respective weddings.

In 1966, John and Betty fell in love with the Whiskey Bay property - water on two sides, the tranquility of the bay, the large sunroom with the bedrooms off it, and the rustic charm of the cottage. In 1966 the damaged



**Betty and John Truscott sailing at Norway Point**

birch bark altars were still on the rocky point. Despite the cottage being only partially insulated and without winter water, John and Betty and their three daughters began using the property in the winter of 1966, carrying buckets of water from a hole in the ice. They were the first family in the Bay to use their cottage year round. John and Betty eventually fully winterized the cottage and installed a concrete block foundation under the structure. A stack of towels was always available in the winter as few in Whiskey Bay had winter water at the time.

An addition was added to the back of the cottage to incorporate a dining room, laundry room and second bathroom for future grandchildren. It was routine to have as many as fourteen family members staying with them at one time. Daughters Kathryn, Susan and Patty each married and had two children. John and Betty did not change the original interior and retained many of the original contents. New windows and doors were sized precisely to match the original openings. The "Charley's" sign now hangs over the ice hut, which is used today as a woodshed. The Church lanterns now light the sunroom. Ten wood shuttered

screen windows in the sunroom have been replaced with glass windows. The Mass collection basket still adorns a wall in the living room where it was found along with bear and fox skins on the sunroom walls. The original fireplace, along with all the handmade interior doors and black metal handles remain unchanged. The rock point where Mass was held on Whiskey Point is undeveloped. Two red Muskoka chairs sit on the platform where the original pulpit once stood.

John and Betty made Charley's Place their permanent residence in the early 1980s. Six grandchildren, all close in age, lived with their grandparents each year for the entire summer (some into their 20s). A cousin who played with the grandchildren described it as a "birthday party which never ended." John's sailboat, the Whiskey Sour, was an iconic image in the Bay, either anchored off the dock or setting sail daily at 2pm. The cottage, two large living areas, flat lakefront yard and the rocky point have been used for family gatherings including three weddings, many showers, anniversaries and celebrations of life, all seasons of the year.

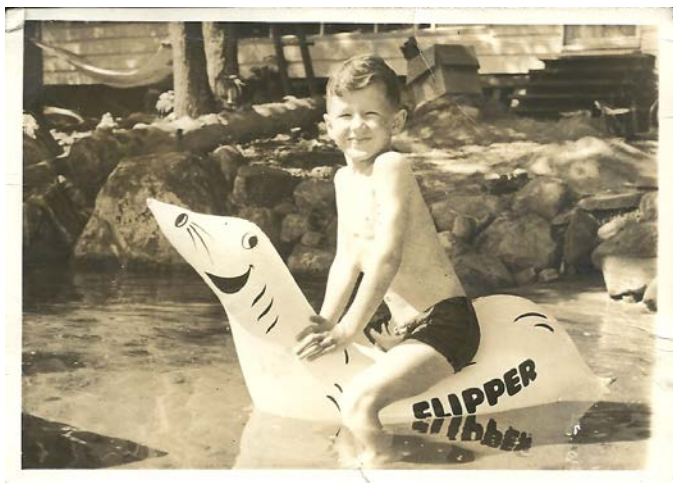


**Charley's Place today**

## Milloy Cottage

In 1948 Archie and Lenora Milloy purchased Lot 9 and their cottage from Patrick McIlroy Sr. for \$4,500. It was the second lot developed in Whiskey Point. Their son Douglas was three years old at the time. Archie was a Toronto mathematics high school teacher, so the family were able to spend the entire summer at the cottage. Doug's close friends growing up at the lake were Jimmy McIlroy next door (Lot 10) and Billy Steiss (Lot 3 and 4) in the Channel. Dr. Douglas Milloy has been a resident of Whiskey Bay for 77 years and has lived here longer than anyone else in the Bay.

The Milloy cottage with its beautiful Muskoka stone fireplace and windows facing the lake has changed little over the years. Archie loved to build, so the cottage was greatly improved over time. His crowning achievement was the hardwood floor in the large living room. Archie spotted some large yellow birch logs



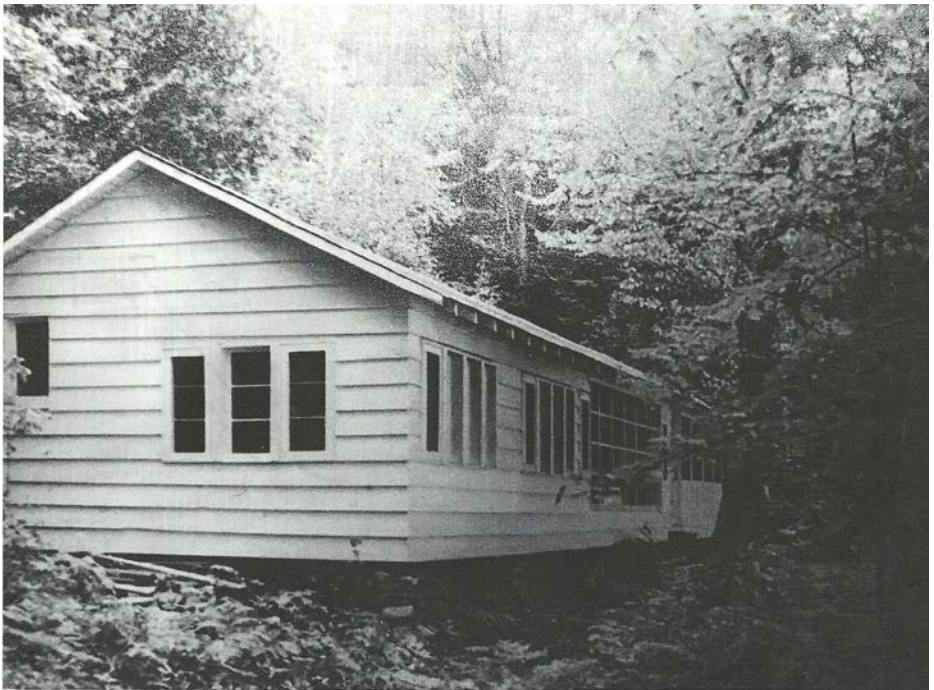
**Doug Milloy**

in shallow water on the south side of the bay. With the help of the farmer at Brunel Road and South Portage Road and a team of horses and chains, they got the logs out of the water and onto the shore where they remained until winter. The same horses and a sleigh then dragged the logs out to Brunel Road where they were transported to Huntsville Planing Mills for planing into wood flooring. Archie installed the pegged hardwood floors in the living room and that is how it remains to this day. The cottage exterior was painted with an aluminum fire retardant paint. Archie also built a boathouse entirely by hand which stood until it was destroyed by ice in 2015.

Doug recalls that in 1950 a big launch driven by a captain in full uniform pulled up to their dock. A lone passenger was seated in the rear of the boat. The passenger was none other than Gordon Adamson, owner of Langmaid's Island. Mr. Adamson welcomed the Milloy's to the bay and invited them to use his beach – an invitation which he graciously extended to all Whiskey Bay families.

Initially there was no running water in the cottage. Spring water was collected from the stream on the Price subdivision. An ice box with blocks of ice from Baysville kept food cold. Doug fondly recalls the water system which his father and next-door neighbour, physics teacher Mr Slack, devised so both cottages could have running water. The teachers installed a pump at the lake and fastened a big metal water tank high on a tree above each cottage. They pumped water from the lake to fill the water tanks. The tanks had a rubber hose going to the cottages which supplied running water on demand by centrifugal force.

In 1989 Dr. Douglas Milloy and his wife Joan assumed ownership of the cottage along with their children Andrew and Rebecca and grandchildren Fallon, Ian and Owen. Fallon's beautiful oil painting graces the front cover of this booklet. The family's greatest delight is still to awaken in the morning to sun streaming in and dancing on the ceiling through the east facing windows. They don't know how Archie and Lenora originally found the property, but their vision and hard work is appreciated and enjoyed to this day, almost eighty years later.



**Original Milloy cottage (remains today)**

## Slack / Bartlett Cottage

In 1948, Albert Slack, a Toronto high school physics teacher, and his wife Mabel purchased Lot 8 from Patrick McIlroy Sr. and built a cottage similar in style to their neighbours and friends the Milloy's. After Albert's passing, Mabel continued to visit the cottage on her own. Despite the lack of running water, electricity, or a phone, she cherished her time at the cottage well into her 90s—thanks in large part to the support of her wonderful neighbours and friends the Milloys, Theises and Truscotts.

Each morning Mabel followed a beloved ritual of making toast on the wood-burning stove and brewing coffee with water boiled



**Mabel Slack**

from the lake. When the cottage eventually became too difficult for her to manage, and with no children of their own, Mabel offered ownership of the property to her nephew George Bartlett. George and his brother, Paul, had spent many joyful childhood vacations visiting Mabel and Albert at the cottage. George did not hesitate to accept Mabel's offer to keep the cottage in the family.



**Original Slack cottage (remains today)**

In 2004 George and his wife, Emily, assumed ownership of the cottage and created lifelong memories with their children and grandchildren. In 2010 Emily designed a new cottage to be constructed on the hill. She enjoyed special times at the new cottage with her family before passing in 2014. The cottage today remains a cherished gathering place for George, his second wife, Marianna, and his children and grandchildren. Mabel and Albert Slack were the first of four generations of their family to enjoy the beauty and community of Whiskey Bay.

## Theis Cottage

In 1955, Margaret and Horst Theis, immigrants from Germany, were thrilled when their Toronto friends Albert and Mabel Slack invited them for a weekend to their Lake of Bays cottage on Whiskey Bay. It was a long drive up Yonge Street and Highway 11. After driving for two and a half hours they stopped for a picnic



**Horst & Margaret Theis**

under pine trees. The highway in those days went through the towns of Gravenhurst and Bracebridge. They continued on the winding road to Baysville, then Brunel Road to South Portage Road and finally to Price Point Road and the driveway under the hydro line substantially above the lake. At this point they could not see the lake but were in the “bush.” There was no orderly tree arrangement as in the German forests they were accustomed. There were lots of rocks and a risky narrow footpath leading straight down a hill to the lake.

Just as the bush had surprised them, so did the lake. The lake,

the air, the sound of wind in the trees and the loon calls were “Awesome.”

Margaret and Mabel cleaned up while Albert and Horst sawed and chopped wood for the antique kitchen stove to prepare the dinner. Despite the mice, Margaret and Horst slept well. The next morning was cold, but Horst hurried out to see the sunrise over Langmaid’s Island. “IT WAS AND STILL IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, AWESOME SIGHT.” Today Horst is practically blind, but even



**Original Theis cottage (remains today)**

with his eyes closed he says he can still see the vision of the sunrise over the lake.

The Slacks introduced the Theises to their neighbours and friends Archie, Lenora and Doug Milloy. They launched the wooden rowboat and took them for a ride, showing them the Channel and the next bay. He explained the cottager's lifestyle, ie. the wood stove, fireplace, how to start the water pump, the two-seater outhouse and gathering of wood. He introduced them to the wildlife, the various birds, the crayfish, the frogs, the mink, the clever racoon, chipmunks, porcupines, red squirrels, flying squirrels, salamanders and cautioned them of the occasional bear. Mabel and Albert made absolutely sure that their habitat would not be

disturbed. Bugs were a different matter entirely.

They told Margaret and Horst what they knew about the Lake and surrounding areas. Once, when taking them on another rowboat ride, they went to the front of the Milloy's cottage where some remnants of a sunken boat could still be seen. Albert said it was this boat that gave Whiskey Bay its name because it belonged to a bootlegger who was selling hard liquor to the cottagers.

The Slacks bought their property on the advice of the Milloys. In 1966, Horst and Margaret Theis bought Lot 7 from Father Gavard on the advice of the Slacks. After a couple of years they built a cozy 22' x 24' cabin with one bedroom and a loft. The cast iron wood stove was the primary source of heat. In 1981, they installed plumbing when an elderly aunt was visiting. Horst and Margaret, now 96 and 94 years old, still plan on returning this summer. "We will make do because you just can't beat the sunrises."

## Hart Cottage

Bigwin Island was named in honour of Joseph Bigwin, an Algonquin chief who once resided on the island. In the early 1880s Bigwin Island was logged by Edward Boothby of Port Cunnington. In 1893, Reuben William Millichamp, a Toronto businessman, purchased 670 acre Bigwin Island, Reuben Island and Millichamp Island from the Ontario Government for \$1 an acre. Millichamp sold Bigwin Island to C.O. Shaw for the development of Bigwin Inn in 1910. In 1921 Reuben Millichamp and his wife Florence purchased property on the south shore directly opposite Bigwin Inn. The property was annexed from the Peter Brown farm in 1907 and had a magnificent sugar sand beach.

In 1923, John Langmaid, a master carpenter from Baysville, built a cottage with a stone fireplace likely constructed by James McFarlane of Huntsville and a two-storey boathouse where card playing took place with neighbours William Eric Phillips and Elgin Vesta Lander. The first year the Millichamps were in their new cottage, the Wawa Hotel at Norway Point burnt down on August 19. They walked to the Bailey farm and then on to Grove Park for fear the fire would spread along the entire shoreline. Fortunately, it did not. Reuben and Florence had three daughters, Beverly, Masie and Elizabeth, and son Harold. Harold was a pilot and was shot down and killed in 1941 over Germany.



**Beverly Millichamp/Hart with children Sam, Jane Ann, Melissa and a cousin**

After the deaths of Reuben and Florence in 1945 and 1940 respectively, the Millichamp daughters shared the cottage. In 1954 Beverly and her husband Melville Hart along with their daughters, Jane Ann and Melissa, and son Sam

purchased Lot 5 on Whiskey Point from William Millock. Millock had previously purchased the property from Thomas Patrick McIlroy and Clifford Charles Snell in March 1951. The Harts moved their belongings from the family south shore cottage to Whiskey Point by car and Melville and Beverly sailed their 18 foot Interlake Sloop to Whiskey Bay followed by his son Sam in a smaller 12 foot sailboat.



**Original cabin on Whiskey Point**

The Hart's property extended from Whiskey Point for about 400 feet with water on both sides. Millock had built two small cabins, one very close to the point adjacent to Langmaid's Island, each side about 25 feet away from the two shorelines. The other cabin was about 80 feet higher up on the rock twenty

feet from the front shoreline. The cabin on the point was much larger and had a cast iron wood stove for cooking, a kitchen sink and a bunk bed. The single pane windows at the front were hinged at the top and fastened in the open position by ceiling hooks. An outhouse was the bathroom. The smaller cabin was fitted with bunk beds and two large swing-in single pane windows facing the lake and one small swing-in window on the other side.

In 1954 when the Hart's purchased Lot 5 and the two cabins, the small cabin became Sam's sleeping quarters and the larger cabin on the point was used by Jane Ann and Melissa. Construction began immediately on an architecturally designed main cottage built by George Ellis of Ellis Construction in Baysville along with a two-slip boathouse. The new cottage on the crest of a rock cliff thirty feet from the shore afforded an extraordinary view of Whiskey Bay looking toward the south shore.

The cottage perished the following year and was replaced by an almost identical cottage constructed by master builder and neighbour Lloyd Green of Green's Acres. Following the death of Melville in 1963 at age 72, Beverly used the cottage well into her 90s, driving herself to the lake. She was often accompanied

by members of her bridge club who played bridge on the front patio and swam off the rocks. So attached to the cottage was she, that even when she was no longer able to drive, Sam drove her up and back from Toronto.



### **Original Cottage (burned down)**

In 1994, the Lloyd Green cottage burned down, also during the winter. Beverly, Jane Ann, Melissa and Sam made minor modifications to a fully winterized structure, locating the dining room to the front facing the lake and centering the fireplace on the back wall. The walls and ceiling are clad in knotty cedar. The outstanding Hart Residence was constructed by Mark Cooper, a builder of high end cottages on the Muskoka lakes. In 2010 Sam Hart made the cottage his full-time residence enjoying the property in all seasons. The same year the cabin at the point was rebuilt into a self contained winterized unit with radiant heated floors and a Muskoka stone wood burning fireplace. A two storey double car garage was also constructed with a gym on the upper level. The township required the smaller cabin to be demolished because it exceeded the maximum space allowed on the property. There is now a fire pit where the small cabin once stood fifteen feet from the shoreline.

### **Price Point (1920s - 2016)**

In the early 1920s, Norman W. Price of Niagara Falls, New York and his brother Albert M. Price of Cleveland, Ohio canoed to Lake of Bays after camping in Algonquin Park. They explored the lake and decided to camp on a point of land



**Original Cottage on Price Point circa 1920s**

north of Baysville. They later learned the point was owned by Peter Burleigh Bastedo. The remoteness of the location appealed to Norman and Albert, and they sought out Mr. Bastedo to inquire about buying a small piece of the property. They did purchase property from Mr. Bastedo and upon receiving the deed, to their great surprise they discovered that not only had they purchased the camping site at the Point, but also roughly eighty acres and more than two thousand feet of shoreline extending from the south side of what today is Price Point into Whiskey Bay. In the years following, the two brothers built two modest cottages on the point where they spent the next several summers.



**Family visit  
at Price  
Point**

Norman and Albert shared the land until the Depression. They then sold the property to their nephew Arthur V. Price. Price Point continued to be a family gathering place for the same two weeks every summer. There was no road access so they drove to Langton House, north of Baysville, where the proprietors took them across the lake to Price Point by boat.



**Arthur and Mildred Price**

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, Arthur and Mildred Price, along with their children Patricia (Pat), Arthur Jr. (Val) and John (Joan), enjoyed summers at Price Point, traveling from their home in Ottawa to Lake of Bays. Eventually a small private dock was built on Lot 1 at the northernmost end of the property in Whiskey Bay from where the family parked their car and took a short boat ride through Whiskey Bay and around “Florence’s Point” to the cottage.

Pat and Val married and moved to California and their visits to Lake of Bays became less frequent. In 1960 John moved to Chicago and married Joan Farwell. Joan’s first trip to Lake of Bays was in the summer of 1961. John and Joan enjoyed spending time at Lake of Bays and found it an easy drive from their home outside Chicago. The cottage was quite rustic and did not have electricity or indoor plumbing. In 1970 the family added a living room, an additional bedroom, bathroom and basement. John and Joan, now with young children Elizabeth and John, enjoyed the new and improved cottage. Arthur was an engineer with Gatineau Power and decided to electrify the cottage by installing a private power line over the back acreage to link up to a main power line. Unfortunately, electricity was not installed in the cottage until after Arthur’s death in 1971.



**John & Joan Price host Whiskey Bay picnic  
July 4th 1966**

Mildred continued to join John, Joan and the kids at the cottage most summers. John and young John steadily made improvements each year. In the early 1980s, after everyone grew increasingly tired of “commuting” from “Lot 1” with luggage and provisions, etc., John and Joan made plans to construct a road through the bush, roughly following the electric line, over the hill to connect up with the township road that provided access to the other cottages in Whiskey Bay. Events which might

have contributed to these plans were the purchases of large items including a bathtub, refrigerator, a large hutch, etc., each of which had to be transported from the Baysville Government Dock by boat, then carried up the considerable hill to the cottage. Fortunately for the Prices, there always seemed to be someone from Whiskey Bay in Baysville or around the dock (Walter Gibson and Gaye Wadham’s husband Gerard Gagnon, among others, might have been in the “right place at the wrong time” quite often) and were enlisted to help carry those large items into the cottage.

The Price family enjoyed summer and many winter holidays at the cottage where they got to know their Whiskey Bay neighbours. The original “Uncle Norman’s Cottage” ultimately fell into disrepair and was removed in the mid-1980s. When John retired in 1994, he and Joan decided to spend more time at the cottage and embarked on a major renovation in 1996 resulting in the cottage as it looks today.

After much thoughtful deliberation, the family decided to sell the cottage in 2016. The family who purchased the cottage are continuing the legacy of using the Point as a family gathering place.

## Price Point Subdivision - 1950s

### McBride Cottage

In 1947, Percival A. McBride (proprietor of McBride Cycle in Toronto) purchased a cottage in the river beside Burlmarie Lodge. Once Percy's son Marty was married in 1949, he and his wife Irene decided they wanted a summer cottage of their own. They set out on their motorcycle surveying all the lakes in Muskoka and decided that Lake of Bays was the lake they wanted to purchase property on. Marty went to Bracebridge to find out who owned the property in Whiskey Bay. He was told it was Arthur V. Price. In 1950, Martin went to a small cabin on Price Point to meet Arthur V. Price and talked him into subdividing the land that he owned in the bay. It was Marty's initial inquiry that prompted Arthur V. Price to subdivide the land into 21 lots, retaining (what today is) Price Point and "Lot 1" in Whiskey Bay for boat access. Martin and Irene McBride got first choice of the 21 lots and chose 5 and 6 because of the view of the sunsets. Lots 5 and 6 were sold to Martin and Irene McBride for \$1,250. Arthur also offered to sell Marty and Irene all the other land up to the Anderson property (lot 14) for \$8,000. Unfortunately they did not have the money to purchase the whole bay. In 1957 Marty and Irene had Mr. Rosty from Menominee Lake build a Pan-Abode cottage for them. In 1981, Irene was fortunate to also purchase Lot 7.



**Whiskey Bay's 3rd generation on McBride boathouse 1988**

Lots in the Price Point subdivision continued to be sold (Lot 2 to Ed & Marjorie Wadham, Lot 3 to Ross & Eileen Blair, 11 to Walter & Ruth Gibson, Lot 12 to Bill & Marcia Scott, etc. through 1968 whereupon all lots had been sold. Arthur V. Price told Bill Scott to build his cottage “to a certain standard,” to which Bill replied with a smile, “That shouldn’t be too difficult considering the cottages on the Point at the time.”

## **Wadham Cottage**

In 1938, Marjorie Wadham’s parents Marguerite and Otto Chantler purchased a cottage on Nithgrove Road on the south shore across from Whiskey Bay. In the summers of 1942 and 1943 Marjorie worked as a waitress at Britannia Hotel where she met Aileen Blair. It was Marjorie’s parents who told she and Ed about the lots for sale in Whiskey Bay.

In March 1955, Ed and Marjorie Wadham purchased adjacent Lots 2 and 3 from Arthur Price for \$1,900. Shortly thereafter Lot 3 was subsequently transferred



**Original Wadham Cottage (remains today)**

from Marjorie to Aileen and Ross Blair for the sum of \$950. A single driveway was built to serve both properties. They proceeded to build identical cottages the

summer of 1956. According to Aileen the cottages were built by Patrick McIlroy. When Patrick McIlroy subdivided his Whiskey Point land he retained a lot and built his own cottage, now owned by the Geddes family. The original Wadham cottage had three bedrooms and was not insulated. It was heated by a wood stove and did not have hot water. Much of the furniture in the cottage today was built by Ed Wadham and Otto Chantler.

Ed Wadham's family was also familiar with Lake of Bays. Ed's parents (Ed Sr. and Charlotte Wadham) took photos and kept a diary of their summer vacation in 1916 at a friend's cottage on Lake of Bays. It was a chaperoned holiday as they were not married until 1919! Charlotte and Ed spent the first few summers with Marjorie and Ed on



Whiskey Bay and then rented a cottage at Birch Glen (now The Landscapes near Baysville). They rented the same cottage at Birch Glen every summer until they were in their 80s. Ed Sr. was an antique boat enthusiast, and his latest wooden launch (there were several!) was a familiar sight coming into the bay. Interestingly Ed Sr. docked his boat in the Baysville Marina boathouse immediately next to Gordon Adamson of Landmaid's Island.

Eventually a porch was enclosed and a bunkie added to accommodate Marjorie and Ed's three children (Gaye, Wendy and Janet), and their extended families, including eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. The marriage of Wendy Wadham to Whiskey Bay neighbour Scott Gibson has made for many cousins in the bay, and some confusion for newcomers as to who lives where!



**Ed Wadham**

## Blair Cottage

Aileen Blair (nee Rippon) worked for several summers at Britannia Hotel on Lake of Bays as a waitress and eventually as head waitress. She made many friends at Britannia, including Jerry Anderson whom she knew from her Toronto school days starting when they were in kindergarten. Aileen married Ross Blair in 1950 and kept in touch with her Britannia friends. When her Britannia workmate shared the news that there were building lots available for sale on Whiskey Bay, Aileen and Ross readily agreed to purchase a lot beside the Wadham lot. The cottages were built in tandem during the summer of 1956. When asked what the inspiration for the cottage design was, Aileen said “the price!” There was electricity and cold running water but, with three small children each, having no washing machine or modern conveniences meant frequent trips to the Huntsville laundromat.



**Aileen Blair (centre) with waitresses at Britannia Hotel 1942**

The Blair cottage grew over time and in the 1960s a main floor family room and hot water was installed. A full basement was excavated in 1973 with the help of dynamite to remove large granite rocks as big as a Volkswagen Beetle!

In 2005 a tornado travelled between the Blair and Wadham cottages. Twenty five trees were toppled over and fortunately there was no damage to either cottage. The barren area was replanted with native tree species. The tornado forever changed the landscape and views of the cottage.

The cottage family spirit endures to this day thanks to the foresight of Aileen and Ross Blair. In the summer of 2015, Aileen celebrated her 90th birthday at the



**Aileen Blair, John Truscott, Bill and Marcia Scott celebrate their 90th birthdays July 2015**

cottage along with John Truscott and Bill and Marcia Scott. The Blairs are looking forward to celebrating Aileen's **100th birthday** on July 24th.

## **The “Scott's and Gibson's”**

Muriel Tytler first came to Lake of Bays as a teenager around 1910, visiting her friend Gladys Lennard on Bigwin View Lane. Muriel and her husband, George Lamont, later spent many summer holidays at the lake over several decades, beginning in the 1920s, enjoying sailing and golfing while staying at Glenmount Hotel, White House Hotel, and Bigwin Inn. Their daughter Marcia was baptized at Glenmount.

When Marcia and her husband Bill Scott began looking for cottage property with Bill's sister Ruth and her husband Walter Gibson, Marcia had her heart set on Lake of Bays and together they found their beloved property on Whiskey Bay in 1958. They drove to Lake of Bays to look at a cottage that was for sale. They were disappointed to find that the cottage they came to see wasn't even on the

lake - it was the cabin at the corner of Brunel and South Portage Roads!

Having come this far, they decided to look around and took the first right-hand turn off South Portage Road. The road was blocked not far from where the Wadham and Blair cottages were, so Bill and Walter got out and walked through the woods to where their current property is.

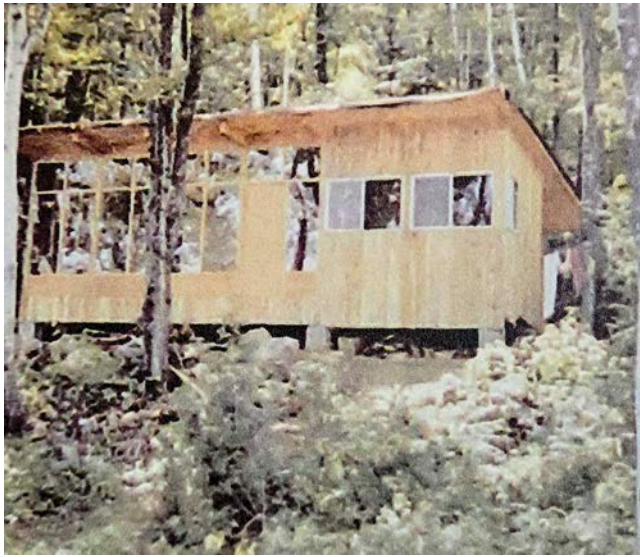
This was it! As luck would have it, the car blocking them belonged to Arthur V. Price, the owner of the property. When Arthur returned to his car, the Scotts and Gibsons talked to him about buying two lots. Lots 11 and 12 were sold to them on August 13, 1958, for \$5,150 .... or \$2,575 each!



**Walter & Ruth Gibson and Marcia & Bill Scott**

Bill and Walter, with some help from Bill and Ruth's dad William, built both cottages themselves, working mainly on weekends. The first cottage went up in the summer of 1959, with both families camping in tents on the beach. Ruth recalls that when they had an outhouse delivered, a very young Valerie exclaimed "Our cottage is here!" While the second cottage was being built in 1960, both families stayed in the completed cottage. By then, there were seven children: Leslie, Valerie, Ted and Greg Scott, and Lynne, Scott and Roy Gibson. It was very crowded, and as the story goes Grandad Scott slept on boards placed across the bathtub! With both cottages completed, Ted Scott and Roy Gibson drew a number from a hat to determine which family got which cottage.

The cottages were designed by an architect friend of Bill's and built as mirror images of each other. The basis of the design was the desire for a wall of windows across the kitchen and living room to allow everyone to fully enjoy the beautiful view of Lake of Bays.



**Original Scott Cottage (remains today)**

In 1968, Bill and Walter built a boathouse, the scene of many wonderful parties and celebrations on Whiskey Bay including the 40th anniversary of the cottages in 1997 and the 50th anniversary in 2006 (the engineers decided to take some liberties with their math!).

Even with various additions and extensions, the cottages still look very similar. One driveway serves both properties and

there is a well-worn path

between the kitchen doors of the two cottages. Both cottages have large decks to accommodate multiple generations for family cocktails at 5:30pm every day.



**Original Gibson cottage (remains today)**

It takes a certain longevity on Whiskey Bay to figure out exactly who is a Scott and who is a Gibson... although for most it's enough to refer to 217 Price Point Road as "The Scott's and Gibson's!"

## Anderson Cottage

The Anderson's cottage story starts in the early 1930s when Aileen Blair (nee Rippon) met Jerry Anderson in grade 1. Their friendship endured (especially since Jerry's mother had charged Aileen with looking after "little Jerry"). In the mid 1940s, Norma Anderson (nee McLean) ventured to Britannia Hotel on Lake of Bays to work for the summer. There she met both Aileen Blair and Marge Wadham and they spent the summer waitressing... but the story gets even better! Doesn't Jerry turn up at Britannia for the summer as well, playing clarinet in the band. Jerry was courting Norma at the time, but Norma was none too happy to see him arrive. Norma forgave Jerry and they were married not long after.



In 1956, Norma and Jerry, with their two daughters, visited the **Original Anderson cottage (remains today)** Blairs at their cottage and also fell in love with Whiskey Bay. In 1958, Norma and Jerry purchased Lot 13, along the shore from the Wadham, Blair, McBride, Gibson and Scott properties. The only other cottage in the Price Point subdivision at the time was the McCreary's (Lot 15) which was built in 1954 (currently the Maconachie cottage). The Anderson cottage was a Viceroy prefab installed by a crew of workers that did not speak English and were provided very little instruction. Dick Markle of Huntsville installed the plumbing and whatever electrical Jerry couldn't figure out. The interior was finished by Jerry, including

the kitchen which still survives to this day. The first few years were very exciting as the drop from the front door was about 10' (awaiting the deck that Jerry would later build). In the early 1970s, hot water and a bathtub were added to appease Norma. In 1987 a new technical innovation was added: a rotary dial telephone.

In 1972, Lot 14, the "spring lot" was purchased from the Price's with the codicil that the fresh water spring remained untouched and free-flowing. For years cottagers on the lake, including the Prices, traveled to the spring for water. The spring still runs to this day (though drinking from it isn't advised!). The original cottage is now owned by Norma's son Tom following her passing in 2023.

## **Barczynski / Gleeson Cottage**

Dr. George Barczynski, a veterinarian from London, his wife Lydia and children Viktor and Anita were first introduced to Lake of Bays in the mid 1960s by a family from Buffalo, New York who built a cottage on Williams Bay. In



December 1969 they purchased a lot for sale in Whiskey Bay from Mrs. Betty Sampson who owned a cottage and an adjacent lot. The Barczynski's completed construction of their prefabricated "Four Seasons Cottage" in September, 1973. The three-bedroom dwelling was approximately 900 square feet.

**George and Lydia Barczynski**

Dr. Barczynski passed away in October 1985, a year after Anita married Paul Gleeson, the eldest son of former London Mayor Al Gleeson. Anita and Paul resided in Mississauga where they raised two daughters, Bryana and Sonya. Lydia also moved to Mississauga and enjoyed the weekend trips and summer vacations at the cottage with her grandchildren. In 1995, Lydia transferred title of the cottage to Anita.

With hopes of one day being able to retire to Lake of Bays and accommodate family, friends and relatives, Anita and Paul replaced the original cottage in 2012 with a four bedroom winterized home and later a garage with a bunkie overtop.

Four weeks after moving into the new home, Lydia happily celebrated her 90th birthday at the lake.



**Original Barczynski cottage**

In 2021, Anita and Paul achieved their goal of becoming full time residents of Lake of Bays. Paul became President of the Lake of Bays Association in 2024 and Anita became the Area Steward for Price Point Rd. With the recent addition of two grandchildren, the lake house is now being enjoyed by a fourth generation.

## **1960s to Recent Times**

While it was the Prices, Greens, McIlroys and Snells that launched the history of Whiskey Bay, it is the continuity of so many multigenerational families that have established the strong community spirit that remains to this day. Among the original cottages built in the late 1940s and 1950s, close friendships developed over several decades and generations. There were so many children of similar ages (23 born from the mid-50s to mid-60s) that a well worn path developed along the shoreline. Many of these families gathered for fireworks on May 24th, Saturday night bridge games, bonfires with sing-alongs (led by Bill Scott with Jerry Anderson on the accordion), an annual regatta, massive games of kick-the-can and group hikes to Price Point on Thanksgiving.

Eventually the Whiskey Bay mob ventured further afield, and with the Truscott family who arrived in the bay in 1966, Whiskey Bay comprised a substantial portion of the Lake of Bays Sailing Club (LBSC) for two generations. Over the years, 14 LBSC instructors have come from Whiskey Bay!

Whiskey Bay is well known for its social activities. Swimming races and kick-the-can gave way to tennis tournaments, engagement parties and wedding celebrations as new family members were welcomed to Whiskey Bay. The original cottages were often added to and/or bunkies built to accommodate growing families and a third generation made Whiskey Bay their summer home. A variety of plumbing and heating modifications made winter visits possible for several families and New Year's Eve parties were added to the Whiskey Bay social calendar.

## Whiskey Bay Today

Today there are 26 cottages from Price Point to Whiskey Point. Each property has its own origin story, and hopefully this can be the start of documenting all the Whiskey Bay family histories. Of the 19 original modest summer cottages on Whiskey Bay that are still in use, a surprising number (13) are still owned by the original families who built them. This has been the story of just some of those original families. Whether by shared use or cottage succession, a 4<sup>th</sup> generation has joined several of the Whiskey Bay families. In 2025, the recognition of the Whiskey Bay Community by the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation is a unique opportunity to honour five of the original owners: Aileen Blair, Ruth Gibson, Irene Watt and Horst and Margaret Theis. They all still visit their Whiskey Bay cottages and share their love of Lake of Bays with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At the time of writing, Aileen Blair is planning to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 24<sup>th</sup> at the cottage. The longevity of many of the original owners has been remarkable. It must be the whiskey!



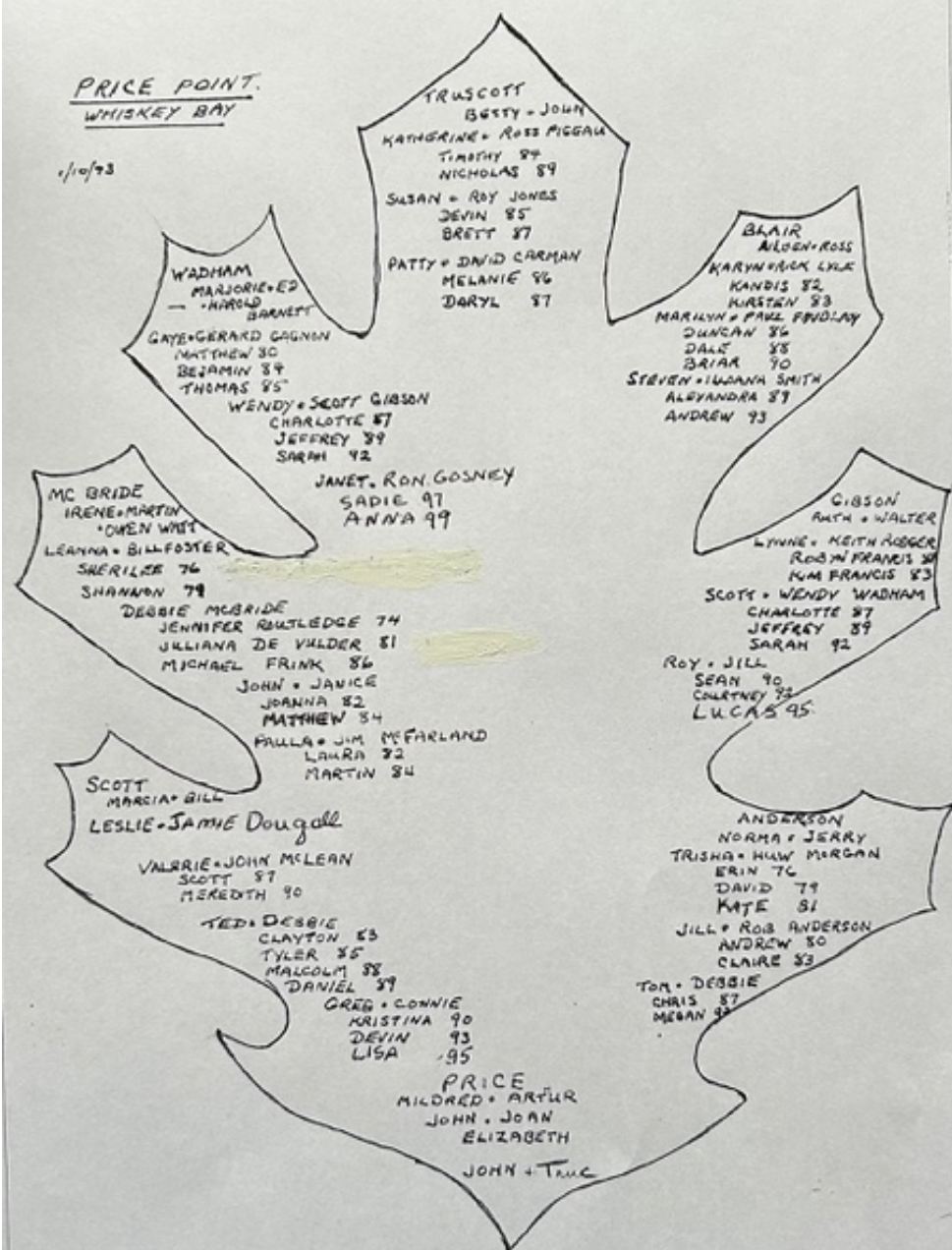
**Irene McBride/Watt, Aileen Blair,  
Ruth Gibson 2024**



**Top to bottom: 1963  
Regatta McIlroy's  
dock, 1965 Regatta,  
1977 Team Whiskey  
Bay at Lake of Bays  
Regatta**

PRICE POINT.  
WHISKEY BAY

1/10/93

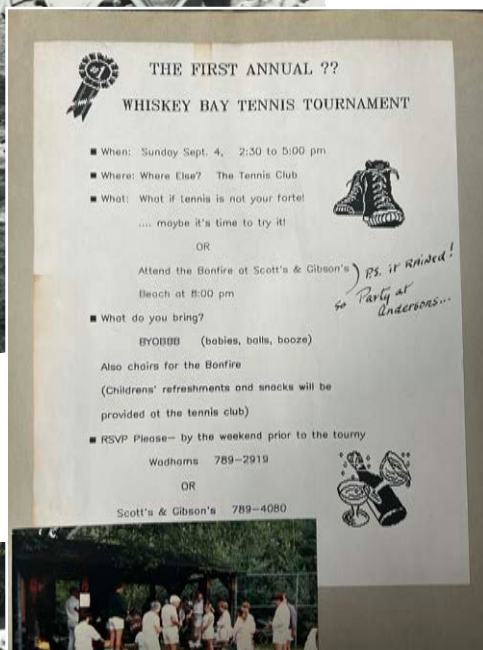


1993 Whiskey Bay Family Tree



**Left: 1963  
Bake Sale**

**Below: 1988  
First Annual  
Whiskey Bay  
Tennis  
Tournament**



**Below: Annual Tennis Tournament**





**Above: 1996 40 years on Whiskey Bay celebration**

**Below: 1994 Thanksgiving walk to Price Point**





**Top to Bottom 2006 Pig Roast generations: 1st, 2nd, 3rd  
Inset: Bill Scott at the 2006 pig roast**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information has been drawn from books on Muskoka, the Ruth Martin papers, the Archives of Ontario, and records at the Land Registry office in Bracebridge. A former resident of Whiskey Bay, Elaine Hutton, conducted much research and documented interviews with many of the first-generation families in Whiskey Bay and Price Point dating back to the 1930s, as well as residents who worked in the area. Interviews with current day residents were also conducted. **Many thanks to the many Whiskey Bay families who contributed their stories and photos.**

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### History of Whiskey Bay - Research

Elaine M. Hutton - *History of Whiskey Bay* August 27, 2007

Susan Truscott - *History of Charley's Place* December, 2020

### Ruth Martin papers, Book IV

Ron and Ruth Martin (nee Campbell) summered for many years on Bigwin View Lane. Ruth was born in 1908 and was a high school teacher at Eastern High School of Commerce in Toronto. She was the social hostess at Bigwin Inn for three summers in the 1940s. When illness prevented Ruth from continuing with her writing, the Ruth Martin Papers were put in safekeeping with her stepdaughter, Annette Benson. Jane Tate, daughter of Mary Lynn Findlay (Lures and Legends of Lake of Bays) was a close friend of Ruth Martin and took possession of the papers. Jane Tate and Lee VanOrmer generously allowed the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation to arrange for this publication.

Margaret McBurney, a former director of LBHF and herself a notable historian, arranged to have the original documents deposited with the Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library, University of Toronto.

Gloria Woodside, director of LBHF arranged to have the Ruth Martin papers photocopied unedited and transcribed the documents into an electronic format.