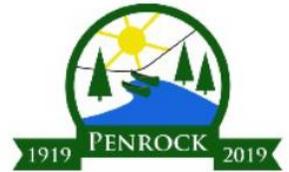


“Penrock” 100th Anniversary Celebration

Speech given by Joan Pratt – July 27, 2019



Hello and Welcome Everybody,

Because I have been here the longest, I have been asked to tell the history of how this all began.

My father, Wyburn Eastmure was gassed in Passchendaele in WWI. Back in Toronto, his doctor suggested that he should take a long canoe trip in Algonquin Park – it would help clear his lungs. With his army buddy Toag Ogle, he paddled through the park, down the Oxtongue River into Lake of Bays, then portaged into Penlake to visit Toag’s mother on Isle Donelg, now called Hill’s Island. Her cottage is now owned by Ian Bates’ family.

That evening, Mrs. Ogle suggested the boys paddle over to the Brown’s cottage, (now belonging to the Court family), where the pretty American daughters were having a party. So of course, these soldiers agreed! At the party, Wyburn being a polite fellow, remarked to Mrs. Brown, “What a beautiful part of this bay for a cottage”. Mrs. Brown replied, “Well, if you are interested you should meet with Tom Shaw. He farms the property with waterfront on Wolf Bay next to ours.”

The meeting was arranged and 100 years ago this very month, Wyburn signed the papers to purchase this property.

Following this brilliant purchase Wyburn travelled back to Toronto – got settled in business – met and married my mother Gerry and they had four children. At some point they decided to travel north to have a look at this shoreline Wyburn had bought some years ago, as a possible location to build their cottage. They decided it was perfect.

I am thinking about my mother – she was a true camper who made my father’s dream come true. It was 1936 that the building began. Tents were erected, one for the builder, one for the four children and one for my parents. A small cookhouse was built and my mother cooked for seven, for three months. She kept a watchful eye over her four children, but also the building site so she could provide full reports to my dad when he arrived on weekends. He would bring the food for the week, leaving his car at North Portage and paddle across to the camp. There were no roads into this part of Wolf Bay.

Our father and mother – Wyburn and Gerry, left a wonderful legacy to all of us. We are now five generations of family spending the summers around this lake that we love.

I do feel blessed, spending my summers surrounded by my children and nieces and nephews galore. – Especially tonight, with the organization team that surely you must agree, know how to throw a great party.