

## **CLOVERLEAF COTTAGES PART OF LOTS 4 & 5, CONCESSION 12**

*Submitted By: A. May*

In 1907 John Robertson received a Patent from the Crown on this land and other lands. In 1925 John Robertson sold this part and other lands to William Keown. From 1925 to 1947, this changed ownership from Keown to Chapin to Elizabeth White to Laverne Case to Florence Greene to Edward & Margaret White.

In 1952, Myrtle & Al Fisher purchased 1065 feet of lake front from Edward & Margaret White. The Fishers originally lived in Sarnia, Myrtle in the nursing profession while Al worked for Imperial Oil. They moved to Stratford where Myrtle became the Supt. of Nurses at the hospital.

In 1953, they sold 4 lots from this property and developed the remainder. Local residents were quite skeptical of this as the lake front was very wet and swampy – all 1065 feet (but they had a vision of what it could be made into.)

In the fall they came up, cut a lot of trees and had a bulldozer push a lot of the hill out into the lake to create a level area where the cottages are today. They built one or two cottages and from there expanded to seven plus their office and living quarters which were built at the bottom of the hill, on the left side of the driveway. All cottages had an outhouse at the back of the cottage, where cars now park. These cottages were always kept sparkling clean because Myrtle was a nurse and insisted that their place be kept clean. Never were outhouses as clean and sanitary as at the Cloverleaf Cottages. Water was supplied from 2 dug wells one between cottage # 1 and the office and the other between cottages # 5 & 6. Both had pumps on them (Al was kept busy trying to teach the children not to play with the pumps.)

Myrtle would call Al “Fish,” “ok Fish,” “watch it Fish” (especially when playing cards.)

Both were very caring of the birds and wild life. Al would always have sunflower seeds in his pockets when out working or walking around. The chipmunks would climb up Al’s leg and body and into his pockets looking for seeds.

The time they liked best was after the summer season was over. They would catch up on their card playing and enjoy a rest from the busy summer season. They would sit at the window and watch the birds and animals feeding on the food they had left out for them. They had to watch when opening the door at night that a raccoon didn’t enter, also looking for a meal.

Myrtle and Al sold Cloverleaf Cottages, except one lot at the south end of the property, to Josie and Ted Wesolowski. On the lot they built a summer place for themselves. This cottage they enjoyed very much as they had hundreds of past guests visit them while staying at Cloverleaf. Eventually due to failing health and their advanced age, they retired to Stratford, their permanent home.

Cloverleaf Cottages is now owned and operated by Richard Wesolowski.

### Joan & Bernard Dickey (Guests at Clover Leaf)

They were one of the Fishers first guests and came up to Oxtongue nearly every summer after. Up to the year 2000 they lived their summers at Cloverleaf Cottages, the last few years staying from the end of June until Thanksgiving in October. Bernie was an avid boater and a very good swimmer. He loved to teach the children to water ski and would put in many hours and spend a lot of money doing this. Many, many children will remember “Bernie.” He also liked to meet and talk to people and spent many hours on the beach doing this. He also liked to take the boat to the south end of the lake, where it was quiet and sit in the boat and read and relax. Joan was very quiet but very friendly. She preferred to read and relax in the sun. Bernie was a veteran of WW2. He was also very involved in