



**Caribou Lodge  
Wood Lake  
Muskoka  
History  
May 2026**



# Table of contents

Table of contents .....	2
1. Preface & Acknowledgments .....	4
2a. Lodge grounds layout & key dates .....	6
2b. Wood Lake maps .....	8
3a. Chronologies - Main Lodge & area .....	10
3b. Owner history .....	11
Bill (William Frederick) Tingey: 1914 (in late 1920s established family lodge)-1944 .....	11
Neville and Blenkin families: 1944 -1969 .....	12
Ken & Bonnie Slack: 1969 -1972 .....	13
Otto & Theresa Stampfer: 1972 -2002 .....	13
Brian Middleton & family: 2002 - present .....	14
3c. 1908 thru 1910s .....	15
3d. 1920s .....	19
3e. 1930s .....	20
3f. 1940s .....	24
3g. 1950s .....	36
3h. 1960s .....	48
3i. 1970s .....	62
3j. 1980s .....	70
3k. 1990s .....	73
3l. 2000s .....	77
3m. 2010s .....	87
3n. 2020s .....	90
4a. Cottages & Beach .....	96
4b. Cottages chronology .....	97
4c. 1930s .....	98
4d. 1940s .....	101

4e. 1950s.....	109
4f. 1960s.....	116
4g. 1970s.....	127
4h. 1980s.....	131
4i. 1990s.....	133
4j. 2000s.....	136
4k. 2010s.....	147
4l. 2020s.....	163
5. Brochures& menus .....	171
6. “Mother” tree.....	182
7. Narratives/traditions.....	184
8. 2025 (June) edition – Additional pictures.....	190
9. 2026 edition - Additional pictures.....	253

# 1. Preface & Acknowledgments

The originator of Caribou Lodge was William Frederick (Bill) Tingey.

From the material/accounts I have been able to locate, the broad early chronology is:

- In 1910 Bill built a sawmill on the property
- In 1914 Bill's purchase of the property was registered
- In 1918 Bill established a hunting/fishing Lodge on the property
- In the late 1920s Bill established the family Lodge

The family Lodge continues to run until the present day in 2026, has been family run and has and continues to host multiple generations of families for summer vacations.

This book has been prepared to document the Lodge building/grounds/owner history solely for the enjoyment of those interested and is not intended to be used for any commercial sale.

The book is produced with the permission of the Middleton family, current (2024) owners of Caribou Lodge.

**Credits for accounts of the Lodge history (the detail is in section 7 including the detailed accounts/relevant excerpts):**

**<https://thegreatcanadianwilderness.com/business-listings/caribou-Lodge/>**

Doctors Alberta and William Cross, Life at Wood Lake – 45 years, 1958

Marg Jaroscak narrative in The Vankoughnet Community Quilt 1988  
By St. David's W.M.S & St. Stephen's A.C.W.

Ellen Tingey narrative in The Vankoughnet Community Quilt 1988  
By St. David's W.M.S & St. Stephen's A.C.W.

Wood Lake Cottagers' Association The Year 2000/50th Anniversary Edition, by Bill Rapson  
published in 2002

Graydon Boyes

From The Boyes Family in Oakley Township Muskoka, By Graydon Boyes 2014

Graydon Boyes recollections 2024

Other credits:

Jim Colvin, Lorie Colvin, Andy Heics, Sylvia Heics, Bernie Jaroscak, Bret Jimison, Mary Louise Learn, Rick Loiacono, Brian Middleton, Heather (Blenkin) Millar, Steve Neville, Ockenden family, Sharon Pickett, Anne Taylor, John Watts, Vankoughnet Community Library, Wood Lake Cottagers' Association Facebook page.

Photo credits are from the sources/people above, and as indicated on the pages, where applicable.

Permissions for printing of pictures where individuals are identifiable are noted.

June 2024, not to be sold for profit

**Reviewers:**

Susan Bennett  
Irene&Graydon Boyes  
Roy Clay  
Jim Colvin  
Lorie Colvin  
Ned Grace  
Andy Heics  
Bernie Jaroscak  
Bret Jimison  
Mary Louise Learn  
Rick Loiacono  
Heather (Blenkin) Millar  
Marni Nancekivell  
Steve Neville  
Randy Rapson  
Anne Taylor  
Casey Trigiani  
John Watts

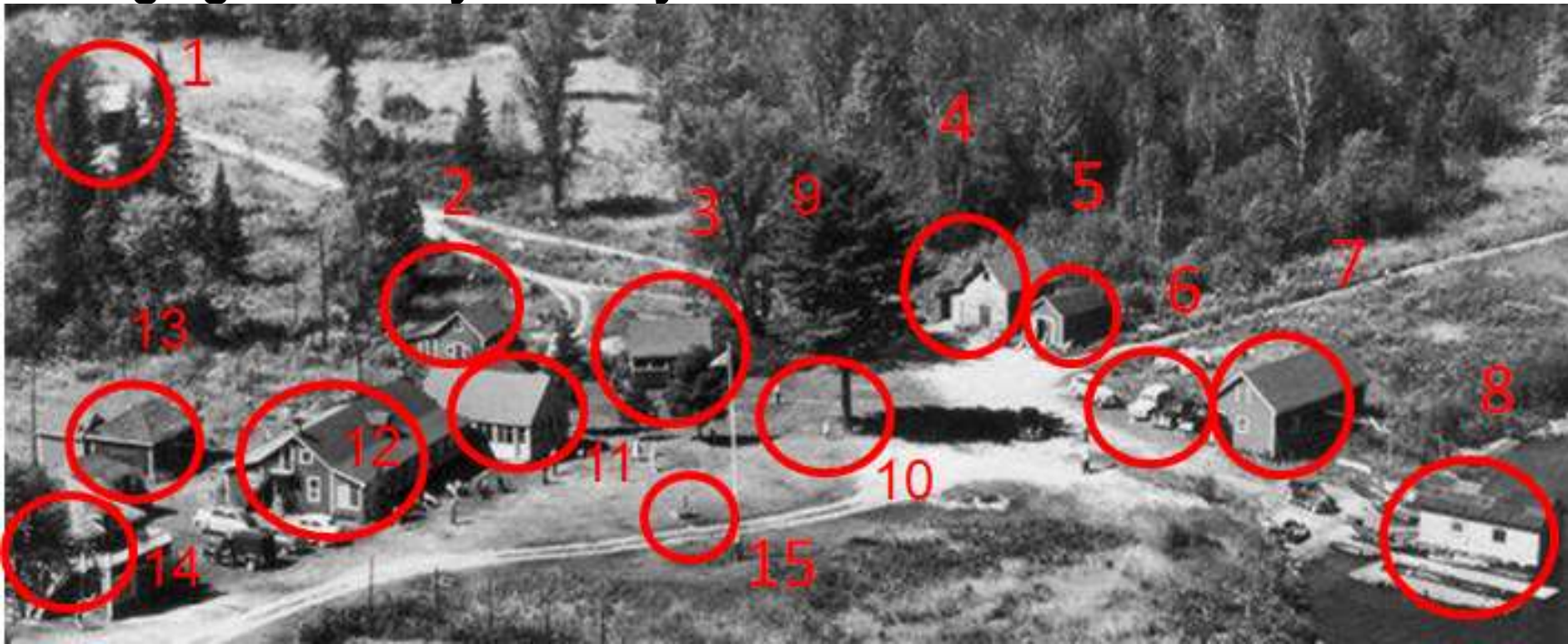
Special thanks are given to Andy Heics and Bret Jimison for their multiple detailed reviews and discussions about the book and also to Andy for contributing multiple pictures. Special thanks are also given to Irene&Graydon Boyes, Jim Colvin, Rick Loiacono, Bernie Jaroscak, Mary Louise Learn and Heather (Blenkin) Millar, who contributed many pictures for the book, and who also participated in or facilitated many dialogues relative to the compilation of the material for the book.

Material for the original book organized by:  
Paul LaRue, June 2024

Additional material for the June 2025 edition added solely in section 8  
Paul LaRue, June 2025

Additional material for the May 2026 edition added solely in section 9  
Paul LaRue, May 2026

## 2a. Lodge grounds layout & key dates



1952 picture, per Wood Lake Cottagers' Association Facebook page

1. Original ice house built in 1932, then a pig house, then boat storage in later years
  2. Root house for produce storage, used prior to freezer being built in the store, rec hall built on this site in 1970s, 2020s used for storage
  3. Cottage later torn down, new rec hall built on/near the site in the 1970s
  4. Second location of the Ice house
  5. Marina storage
  6. Location where Marina office, parts storage, showroom building was built
  7. Marina workshop building
  8. A cabin was originally on the site in the 1930s, after that a one storey boathouse built in mid 1940s, burned down in mid 1950s. Two storey boathouse built in early 1960s,
  9. "Mother" tree, had to be taken down 2023
  10. Sawmill (1910) and Log cabin (pre-1910) were here
  11. Dining room (store is behind this, is not visible in the picture), both store and dining room functions stopped in 2010s
  12. Main Lodge building, originally built as one storey, building started in 1928. Building moved, then two storey building built in the same location in the early 1950s
  13. At various points, lodging, workshop building, laundry facility
  14. Was rec hall, held dances and other events 1940s-70s, is currently (2024) Holiday House 2 floor cottage rental
  15. Hand well
- Not visible in the picture is the tennis court across the road from Holiday House



2024 picture

Photo credit: Jim Colvin

1 Hilltop chalet, formerly sleeping cabin

2 Wood shed

3 Loon

4 Holiday House, formerly rec hall

5 Workshop

6 Main Lodge building, contains The Heron (Lodge Suite)

7 Formerly dining room

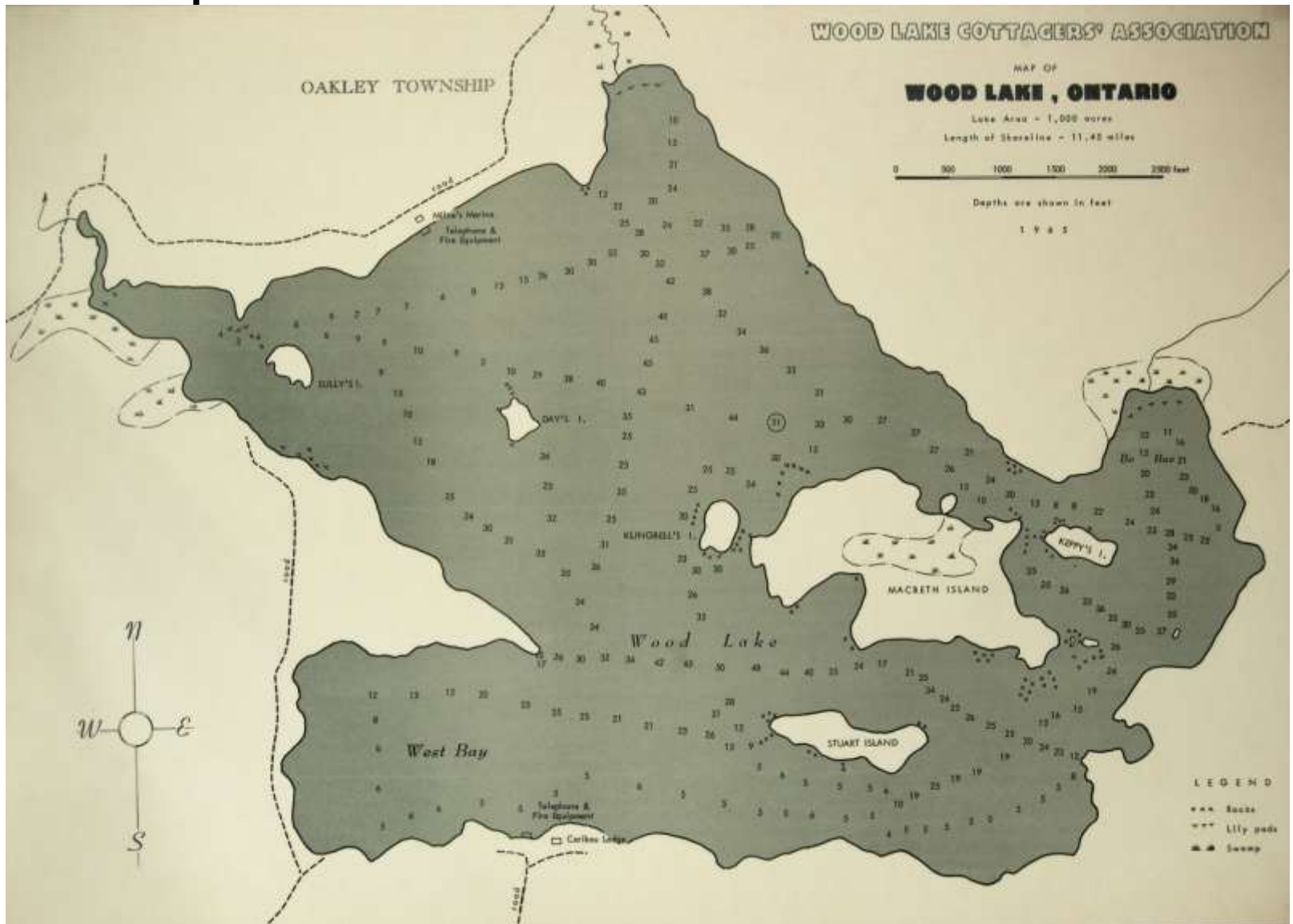
8 Formerly store

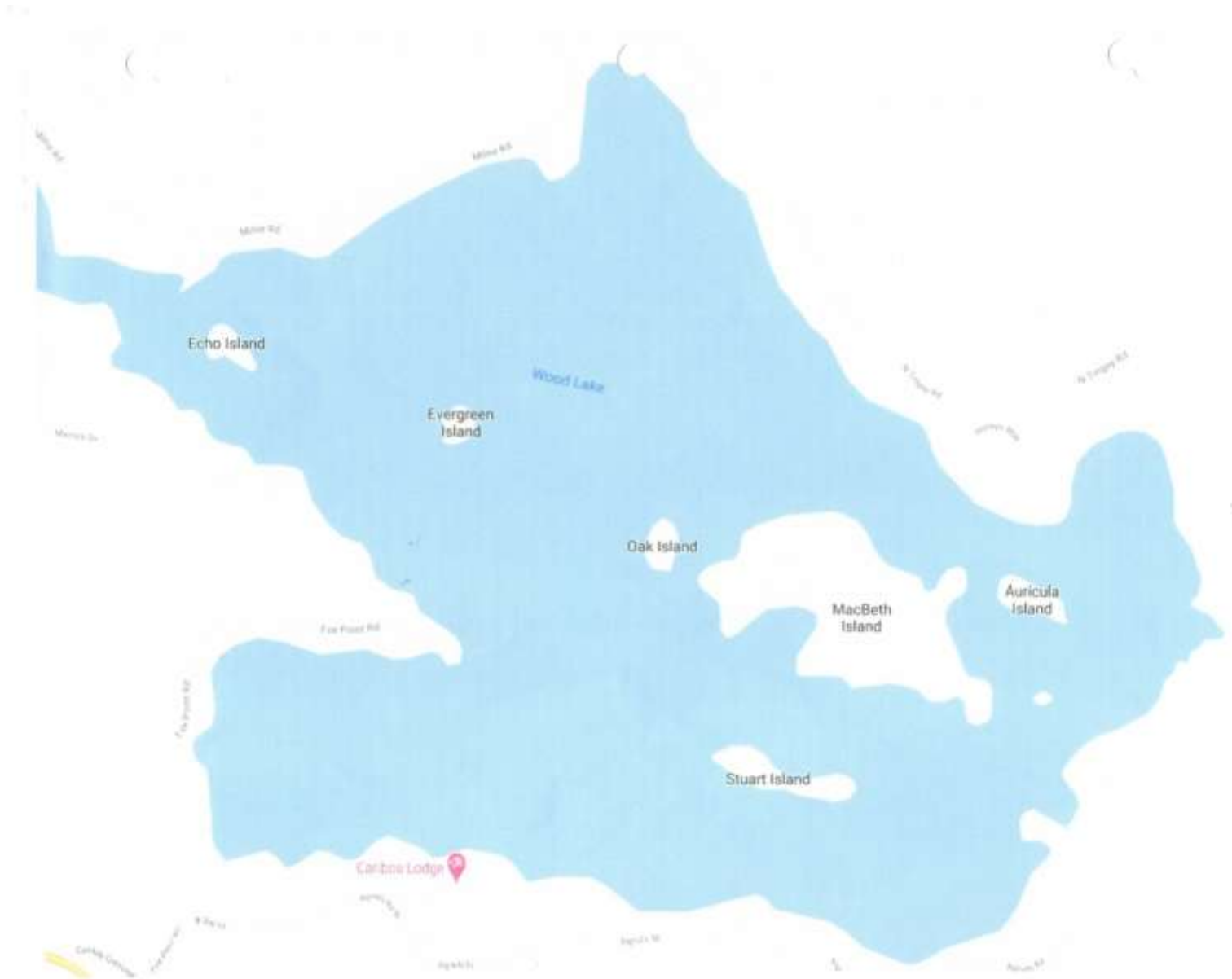
9 Storage (formerly rec hall, starting early 1970s)

10 Shuffleboard

11 Play area, basketball

## 2b. Wood Lake maps





## 3a. Chronologies - Main Lodge& area

On this page the references are to the owner history (section 3), or narratives (section 7).

- 1879 Henry O'Hara owned the property on the southwest side of Wood Lake, thought to include Caribou Lodge (ref. 7e)
- Late 1800s/early 1900s William Landon purchased the O'Hara property (ref. 7e)
- 1900 William Frederick (Bill) Tingey and Isabel Boyes married (ref. 7f)
- 1910 Bill Tingey built a sawmill on the property (ref. 7d)
- 1910 Bill Tingey bought the log cabin on the property which was built by the Bell-Ewart Lumberman for Jim O'Hara (ref. 7e)
- 1910s Another log cabin existed west of the marina. The back of the cabin was a large rock. A cavity in the rock was used for cooking (ref. 7e)
- 1914 Bill Tingey purchase of the property from the Landon family was registered (ref. 3b)
- 1918 Bill Tingey became the originator and proprietor of Caribou Lodge, a small camp where hunters could stay (ref. 7f)
- 1920s (late) Family Lodge established (ref. 7a, 7e)
- 1920s (late) Main Lodge (one storey) built, building started in 1928 (ref. 7e)
- 1932 Store built including dining room, laundry house, ice house and generator (ref. 7f)
- 1935 Bill Tingey launches major promotion, promoting Muskoka Tourist resorts (ref. 7e)
- 1944 Caribou Lodge sold to Jack & Laura Neville, and George & Elsie Blenkin by Bill Tingey (ref. 3b,7e, 7f)
- 1940s (mid) New dining room built (per pictures)
- 1940s (mid) One storey boathouse built (per pictures showing the boathouse, prior to new dining room being built)
- 1940s (to 1970s) Holiday House was the rec hall and site for dances (multiple sources), until the new rec hall was built
- 1950 Wood Lake Cottagers' Association initial discussions about forming were held (ref. 7e)
- 1952-53 Main Lodge 1 storey building where original building did not have a basement, part of building moved to a nearby location, two storey building with basement built on the site (per Heather (Blenkin) Millar)
- 1950s (mid) Boathouse near Lodge burned down
- 1960s (early) Two storey boathouse built, with lodging on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- 1960s The two cottages immediately east of the Lodge and four cottages west were separated from the Lodge (per Steve Neville). The marina and buildings were also separated from the Lodge (per Heather (Blenkin) Millar)
- 1969 Caribou Lodge sold by Neville and Blenkin families to Ken and Bonnie Slack (ref. 3b/Owner history)
- 1972 Caribou Lodge sold by Ken and Bonnie Slack to Otto and Theresa Stampfer (ref. 3b/Owner history)
- 1970s (early), New rec hall built, based on picture showing rec hall in 1976
- 1970s (late), Two storey boathouse near Lodge was burnt in a fire (multiple sources)
- 2002 Caribou Lodge sold by Otto and Theresa Stampfer to Brian Middleton (ref. 3b/Owner history)
- 2002 Main Lodge facing updated, deck that spans the complete front width built (Middleton family)
- 2010s Decks added to apartments in the main Lodge building

### 3b. Owner history

The land registry records include dates of registry and in the earlier changes in ownership, these dates differed from accounts or other references of when ownership changes occurred. In the chronology if there is a conflict, the accounts or other reference dates are used.

#### Bill (William Frederick) Tingey: 1914 (in late 1920s established family lodge)-1944

Date of instrument	Date of registry	Grantor	Grantee
--------------------	------------------	---------	---------

433 4305	17003911 31mki1914	Maria Landon Landon Landon Landon	Wm. Fred. Tingey acc. 7000 - 4000 Landon
----------	--------------------	--------------------------------------	--

Purchase of Lodge property by Bill (William Frederick) Tingey from Landon family. The purchase was registered in 1914. The property was purchased in 1914, per the previous page reference, the Family Lodge started in the late 1920s.



Bill Tingey, from The Boyes Family in Oakley Township, by Graydon Boyes 2014

Bill was born in 1875, and passed away in 1958.

# Neville and Blenkin families: 1944 -1969

Date	Date	Grantor	Grantee
of instrument	of registry		

*683 Grant - 14 Sep 1945 23 Oct 1945 Wm Frederick Tingey et al*

<i>John Neville and Geo. Blenkin, carrying on business in the name of Caribow Lodge</i>	<i>Parts as follows admitted</i>	<i>7,810.00</i>	<i>attached</i>		
				<i>Plan</i>	
					<i>admitted</i>

Purchase of Lodge property by John Neville and George Blenkin, from Bill Tingey, the purchase occurred on June 6/1944 ("D-day reference in personal narratives and on back of this picture)



*Jack, Laura, Elsie  
& George - proud owners  
of Caribow Lodge  
purchased on D-day.*

Jack Neville, Laura Neville, Elsie Blenkin, George Blenkin  
Printed with permission of the family

## Ken & Bonnie Slack: 1969 -1972

DATE OF INSTRUMENT	DATE OF REGISTRATION	GRANTOR	GRANTEE
24 Apr 1968	12 May 1969	John Roland Neville, et ux and Elsie May Blenkin, the sole Extri. of Estate of George Edward Blenkin, dec'd, & in their personal capacities.	Kenneth Slack

AREA	CONSIDERATION	REMARKS
	\$1.00	All those parts this lot & lot 24 desig. as part 1, and all that part this lot as part 2; All right title & interest of the Grantors to that part O.R.S. lying in front this lot & lot 24 desig. as part 4; tog. with R/W over this lot as part 3 on RD-758; Reserving and Subject to R/W in favour of Grantors as appurt. to remainder of lands in this lot desig. as part 2 on said Plan.

Purchase of Caribou Lodge by Ken and Bonnie Slack from Neville and Blenkin families



Ken & Bonnie Slack  
Printed with permission of the family



## Otto & Theresa Stampfer: 1972 -2002

DATE OF INSTRUMENT	DATE OF REGISTRATION	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	REMARKS
4Jan.1972	17Apr.1972	Kenneth Slack, et ux	Otto Stampfer & his wife, Theresa Stampfer, as tenants in common, in equal shares	Firstly: Parts lots 24 & 25 desig. as part 1 on RD-758. Secondly: Part this lot desig. as part 2 on RD-758. Thirdly: All right, title & interest in part CRA lying in front lots 24 & 25 desig. as part 4 on RD-758. Tog. with R/W over part this lot desig. as part 3 on RD-758. Reserv. & Subj. to R/W over part this lot desig. as part 2 on RD-758 as appurt. to remainder of lands in this lot owned by grant.

Purchase of Caribou Lodge by Otto and Theresa Stampfer from Ken Slack

## Brian Middleton & family: 2002 - present

Registration Date Date d'enregistrement	Parties from Parties	Parties to Parties
YY   MM   DD AA   MM   JJ		
2002 04 12	STAMPFER, Otto STAMPFER, Theresa	CARIBOU LODGE MUSKOKA INC.

Purchase of Caribou Lodge by Brian Middleton from Otto and Theresa Stampfer



Brian Middleton with daughters Anne (left on the picture), and Karolyn (right)

Brian passed away in January 2026

Brian's connection to Wood Lake started with spending summers at the cabin his father built on the North side of the Lake. It was built in 1935, and is still owned by the family. Brian purchased Caribou Lodge in 2002. With the help of his family, he rebuilt it with care, intention, and pride. His vision was clear: to honour the families who had been coming to Caribou Lodge for generations, to preserve the spirit of the place, and to leave a lasting legacy for his own family. He believed the lodge should be a safe haven—for people who truly loved it, and for golden retrievers. Among the improvements made were a new well for water, a major renovation to the Loon (#1), decks, and new washrooms in a number of the cottages. Brian's family continues his legacy and lovingly stewards Caribou Lodge.

### 3c. 1908 thru 1910s



1908, a hunting group picture from postcard Bill Tingey sent to his son  
Photo credit: Irene & Graydon Boyes



Bill Tingey's logs near Wood Lake, logs to be cut at his saw mill on Wood Lake  
Photo credit: Irene & Graydon Boyes



Moving logs on Wood Lake  
Photo credit: Irene & Graydon Boyes



Group picture from days of Caribou Lodge as a hunting Lodge. Bill Tingey is on the far left.  
Photo credit: Irene & Graydon Boyes

### 3d. 1920s



Waskapa July 9/24  
Mr. D.R. Boyes  
Van Koughnet.  
Dear Sir,  
I arrived home  
O.K. yesterday and am  
writing to you if you would  
ask Mr. W<sup>ingey</sup> <sup>if he</sup> has any  
deer skins to spare as I would  
like to get one or two.  
I am enclosing picture I  
promised.  
Kindly answer as soon as  
possible and let me know about  
the skins. Thanking you  
I remain  
Yours Truly,  
Chief Jim Bigwin

The tie in to Caribou Lodge of this picture of and letter from Chief Jim Bigwin, is that he sent the letter to Dougald Boyes, asking that Bill Tingey be asked if he had any deerskins. At the date of the letter the hunting Lodge was in operation.

Photo credit: Irene & Graydon Boyes

### 3e. 1930s



1931 (estimated)

The picture shows what is thought to be a cabin, prior to the original one storey boathouse being built around that location. The cottages in the background do not have porches on them



*TINGEY'S HOTEL WOOD LAKE*

The only reference found where the main Lodge building was referred to as Tingey's Hotel



1938

Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Photo credits: Bernie Jaroscak, Steve Neville

**3f. 1940s**



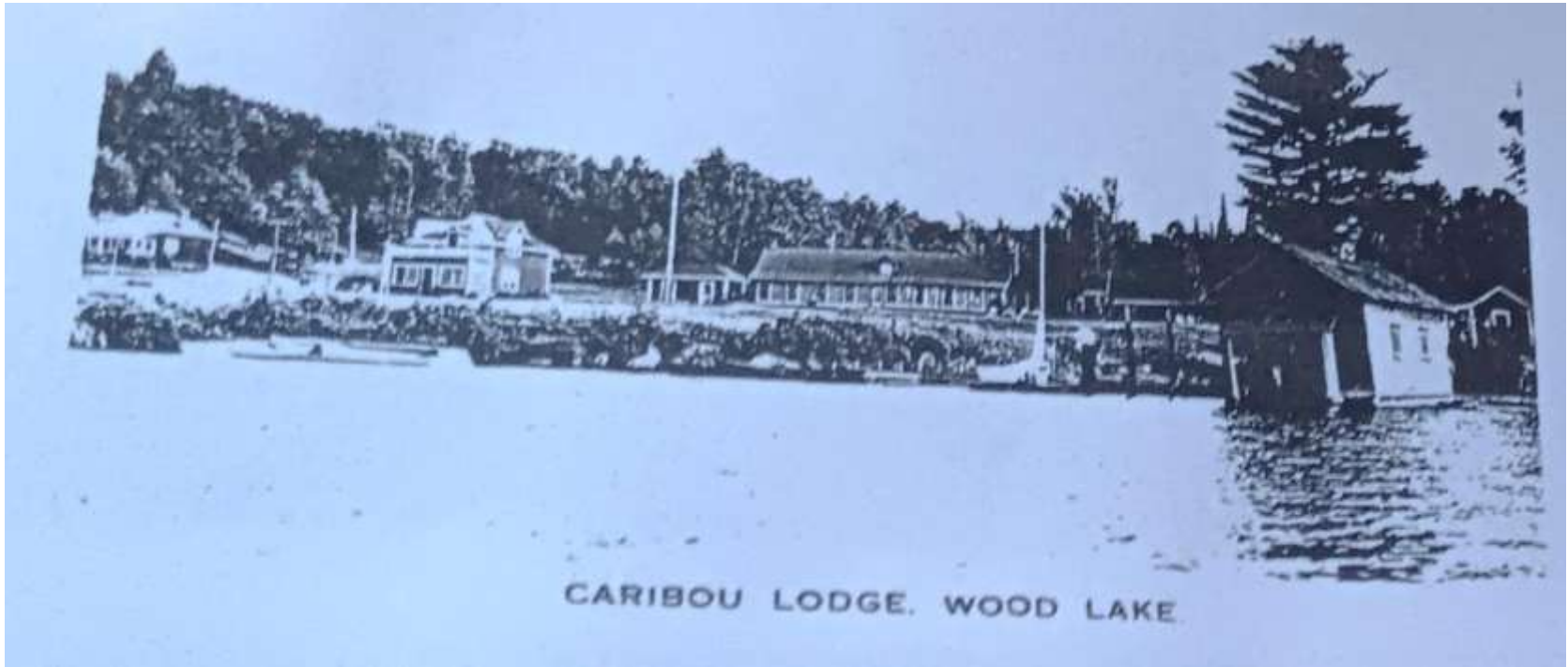
Photo credit: Mary Louise Learn



1944

Date from copy of picture in The Wood Lake Cottager's Association The Story of its times The Year 2000 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Bill Rapson

Photo credit: Irene & Graydon Boyes





1944

Photo credit: Jim Colvin



This picture shows the new (at the time) dining room



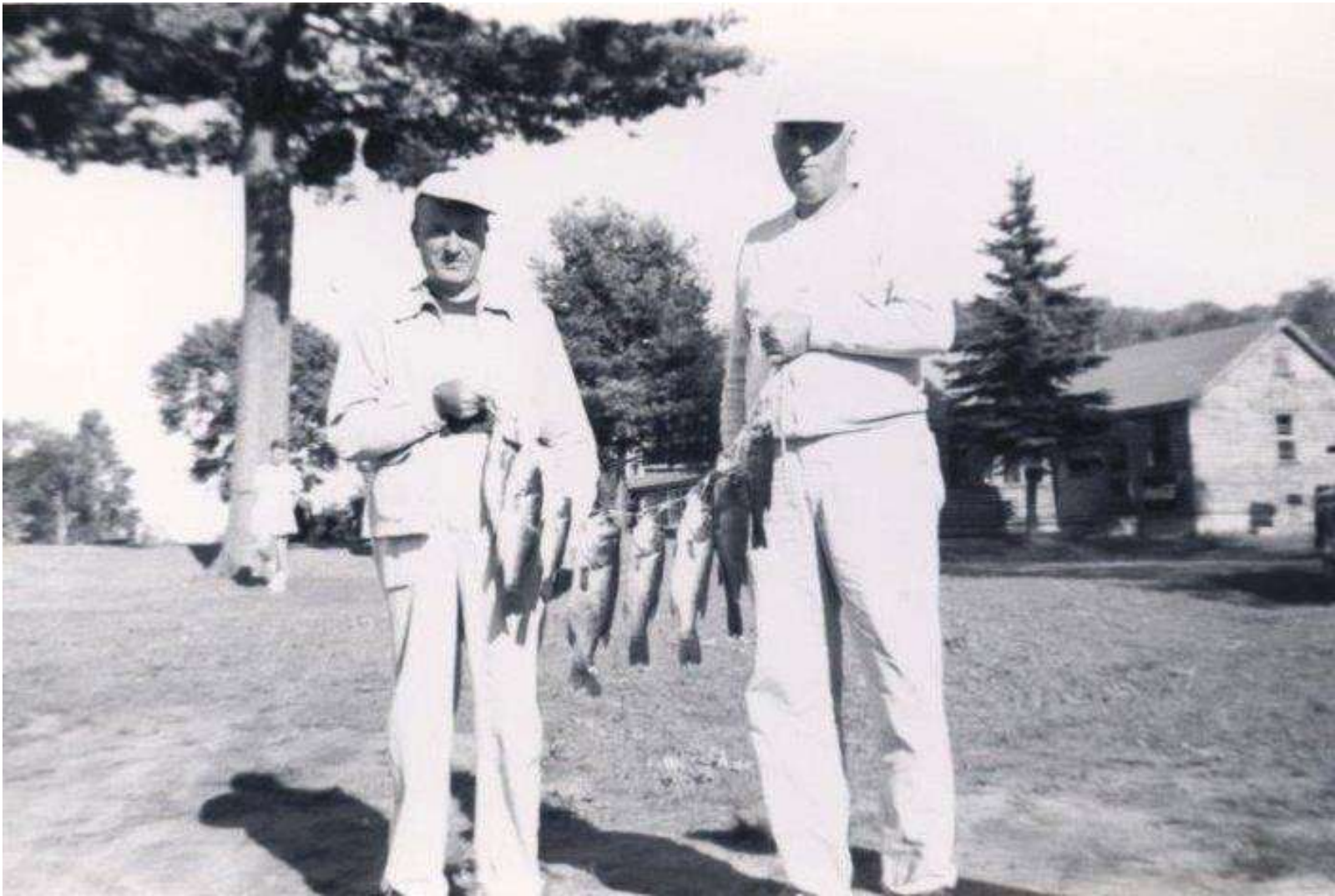
Photo credit: Steve Neville



Main Lodge still shows as one storey, there is a small cottage/building to the left of the Lodge



The property immediately to the west of the Lodge (top part of the picture) is no longer in 2024 part of the Lodge. The entire picture shown with permission of the current (2024) property owners  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Store is in the background to the right  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



1947

The Lodge owners plus a relative, lake in the background  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



1948

Photo credit: Heather (Blenkin) Millar



Picture from the side of the dining room  
Printed with permission of the family

### 3g. 1950s



Jack Neville foreground to the left and George Blenkin far right with a hunting group  
Cottage west of the Lodge in the background center of picture, Marina building to the right  
Photo credit: Steve Neville, Sharon Pickett



2<sup>nd</sup> location of Ice House to the left, Marina storage to the right  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Point to the west of the Lodge, west of where the current (2024) Caribou docks and Wood Lake Cottagers' Association docks are



1950

2<sup>nd</sup> location of Ice House to the left, Marina storage to the right  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Lodge grounds – looking out over Lake  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Marina storage building to the left, Marina workshop building to the right, Cottages west of the Lodge in the background  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



1951

From Hand well, view towards lake  
Photo credit: Heather (Blenkin) Millar



1952, per Wood Lake Cottagers' Association Facebook page

The property immediately to the west of the Lodge (right part of the picture) is no longer in 2024 part of the Lodge. The entire picture shown with permission of the current (2024) property owners



1956, per reference in Muskoka digital archives postmark  
Canadian Post-Card Co. Ltd. Toronto



The property immediately to the west of the Lodge (left part of the picture) is no longer in 2024 part of the Lodge. The entire picture shown with permission of the current (2024) property owners



Lodge from the water  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak

### 3h. 1960s



The property immediately to the west of the Lodge (left part of the picture) is no longer in 2024 part of the Lodge. The entire picture shown with permission of the current (2024) property owners



Peterborough Postcard Co  
Ski jump constructed by Nelles Lishman, per Jim Colvin



Peterborough postcard company (and what looks like same picture shown labelled as circa 1965, WLCA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 2000) Mid 1960s, showing two storey boathouse. The plane to the left of the boathouse was owned by one of the Lodge owners, Jack Neville.



Lodge from the water



1969

From Lodge grounds looking out on Wood Lake to point  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

From Lodge grounds towards boathouse  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Showing Marina workshop and Marina office, parts storage, showroom buildings  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969  
Public washrooms  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Accommodations behind the Main Lodge building (later workshop)

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Cabin behind the store, near the area where the rec hall built in the 1970s is located  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Showing 2<sup>nd</sup> location of ice house and marina storage in background  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Showing Marina office, parts storage, showroom to the right, storage and ice house to the left  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono

**CARIBOU LODGE**  
VANKOUGHNET P.O.  
Muskoka, Ontario

Telephone 645-4841

April 20th, 1969

Dear Friends:

This is to inform you that Caribou Lodge on Wood Lake, Muskoka has been sold to Mr. Kenneth Slack, who will take possession as of May 1st, 1969.

As you know we have owned and operated Caribou Lodge for the past 24 seasons. We shall miss it, but are happy that it will be in such good hands. Mr. and Mrs. Slack are both formerly Air Canada employees, who are well known for serving the public needs, and are coming to Caribou as newlyweds.

To those to whom this letter is being sent we say a sincere "Thank You" for all the different ways in which you have helped us. There are many—guests, salesmen, service, newspaper and bank people, neighbors, pre-season helpers and many others—friends all. How fortunate we have been! Please be as good to the Slacks as you have been to us.

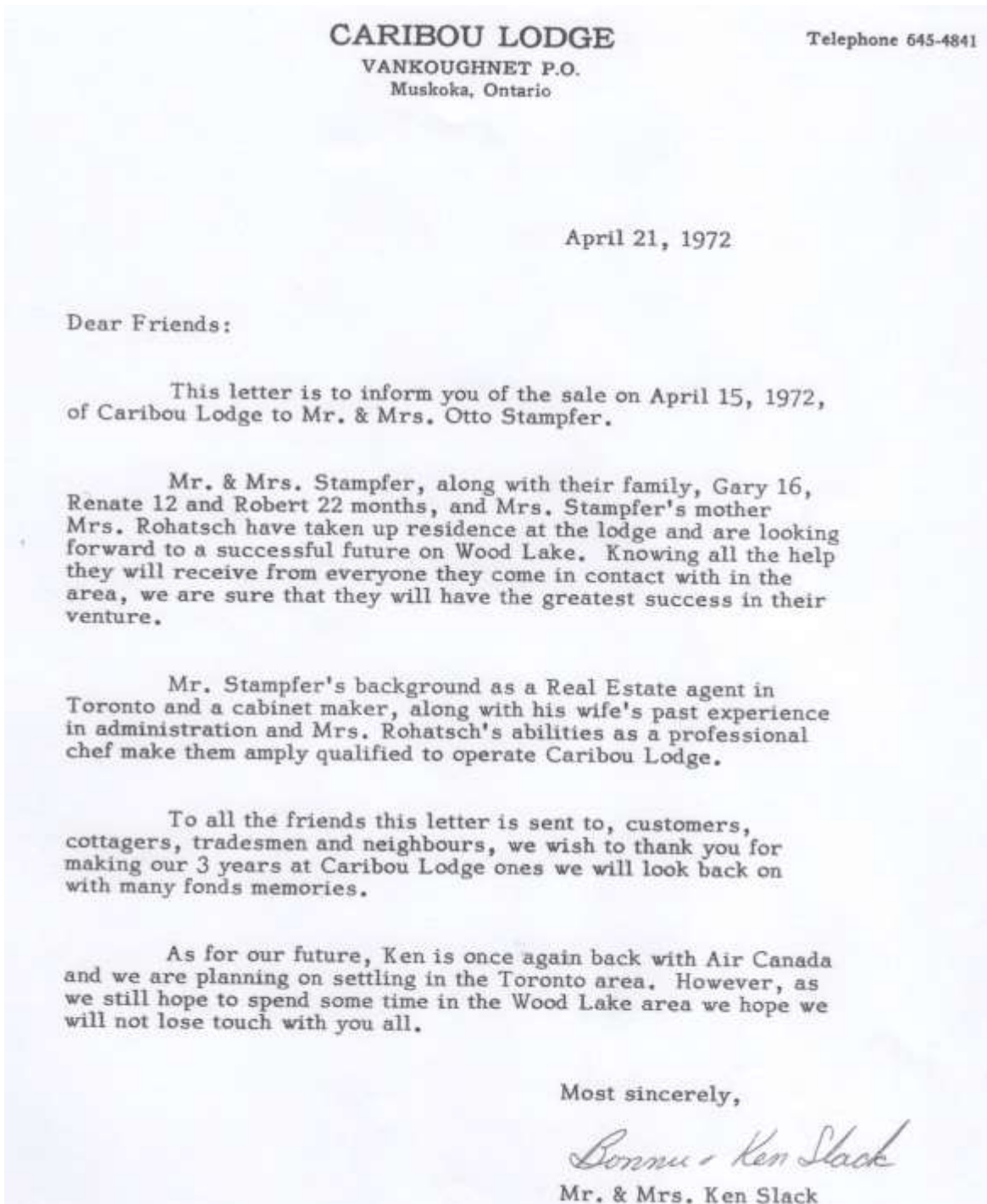
As for us, we are building a new home in the Wood Lake district, Jack planning on maintaining the Marina service and repairs on Wood Lake.

Most sincerely,

*Laura & Jack*

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Neville

### 3i. 1970s



Bonnie and Ken's last letter:



1974

Showing two storey boathouse and marina workshop building to the rear  
Photo date & credit: Andy Heics



1974  
Caribou Lodge and Marina  
Photo credit: Sylvia Heics



1976

Water ski competition at 1976 regatta

Photo credit: Sylvia Heics



Postcard reverse side

**CARIBOU LODGE**  
On beautiful Wood Lake in the Muskoka Vacationland. Fully modern 2, 3 & 4 bedroom house-keeping cottages. Dining room. Store, boats & motors. Playground, sandy beach. 17 miles east of Bracebridge on the Vankoughnet Road. Phone: 705 645-5634 or write: Otto & Theresa Stampfer, Caribou Lodge, R.R. 3,  
BRACEBRIDGE, ONTARIO, CANADA.  
Photo: H.R. Oakman

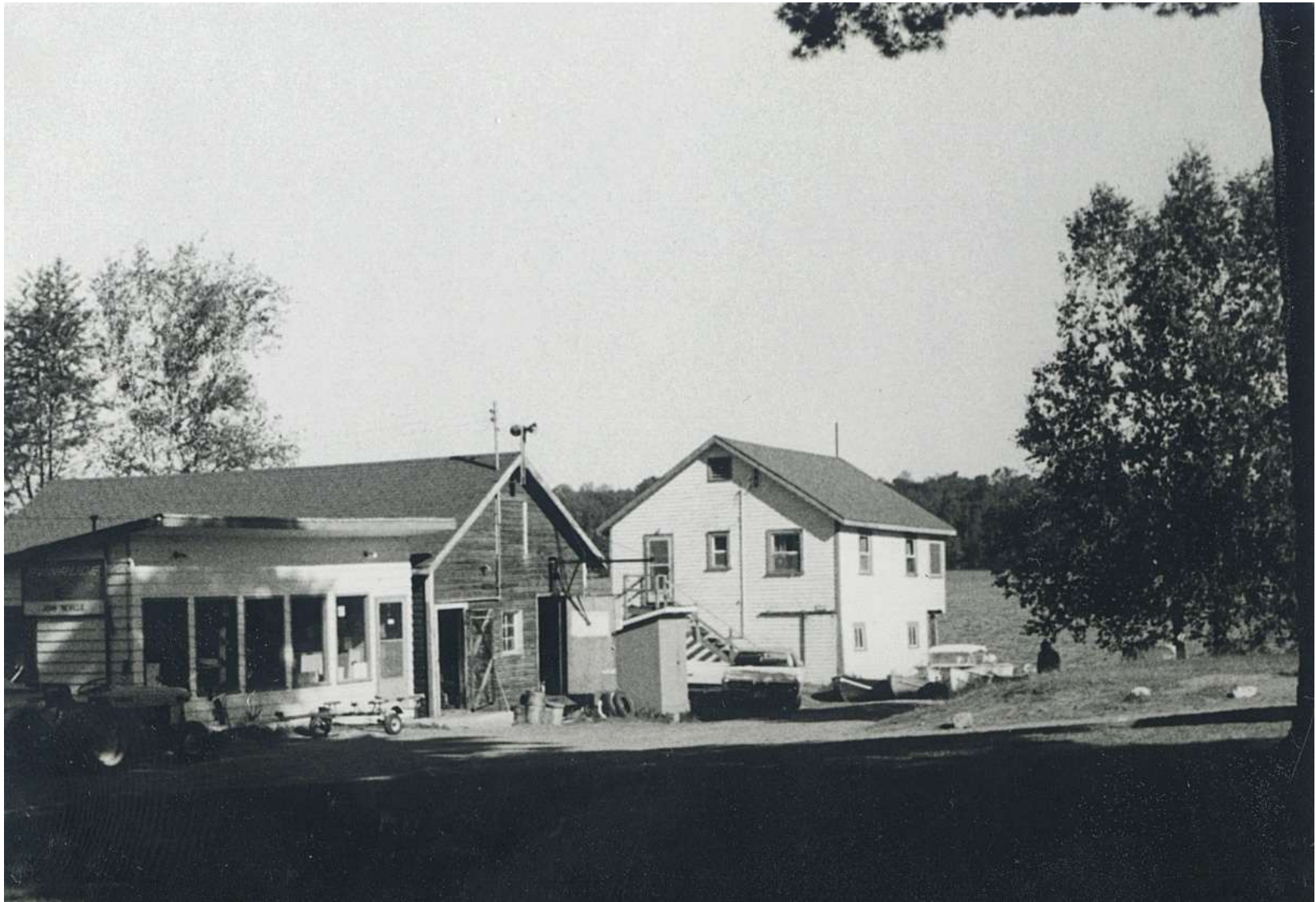


1976  
Store

Photo credit: Andy Heics



1976  
Rec hall  
Photo credit: Andy Heics



1976 Caribou Lodge marina from Lodge looking out to Wood Lake, showing two storey boathouse and Marina workshop and Marina office, parts storage, showroom buildings  
Photo credit: Andy Heics

### 3j. 1980s



1983

Main Lodge building, dining room, and store  
Photo credit: Andy Heics



1983

Marina workshop and Marina office, parts storage, showroom building  
Photo credit: Andy Heics



1983

2<sup>nd</sup> location of ice house and marina storage buildings  
Photo credit: Andy Heics

### 3k. 1990s



1990

Photo credit: Paul LaRue



1992  
Dining room, store, phone booth  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



This bench in the foreground was carved by Otto Stampfer, out of a large tree that was taken down. The tree was near the tennis court.



July 1995  
Lodge after storm  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue

### 3l. 2000s



2002

Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002

Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002

Photo credit: Brian Middleton

# Caribou Lodge

R.R. 3, BRACEBRIDGE, ONTARIO P1L 1X1  
(705) 645-5634 • (416) 449-2351

Toronto Feb, 10 2002

Dear friends,

As every year around this time we are sending out greetings to all our guests with a reminder to confirm your tentative booking for the upcoming summer season. We hope you all had a good winter so far and we look forward to an early spring.

As most of you know we had the Lodge up for sale since last summer. There were several offers however none materialized into a deal.

This weekend we finished negotiating a new offer with the last initials the deal was made and the Lodge is now sold to Mr. Middleton and his family.

Mr. Middleton is operating a successful business in Goderich Ontario however the love for Muskoka brought him back to Wood Lake where he spent some summers of his younger years at his families cottage. His father was one of the early cottage owners on the lake.

The new owners intend to operate the Lodge as we did for many years and they are looking forward to meet you all this summer.

Theresa, Robert and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and for being our friends over so many years. "THANK YOU VERY MUCH" and we do hope that you will continue to spend some more happy days at the Lodge.

To confirm your tentative booking for the coming season please complete the back portion of the brochure and return the same to us with deposit on or before March 15th. Thank you. Please make cheque or money order payable to Caribou Lodge.

We hope that you all will have a fulfilled and pleasant holiday as always at the Lodge on lovely Wood Lake.

Sincerely,



Otto and Theresa Stampfer

Otto/Theresa last letter



2002

Lodge with new front and porch  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2007

Workshop at rear of Main Lodge building, and side wall of public washrooms  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



2007

Rear of Main Lodge building

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



2007

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



2007

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



2007

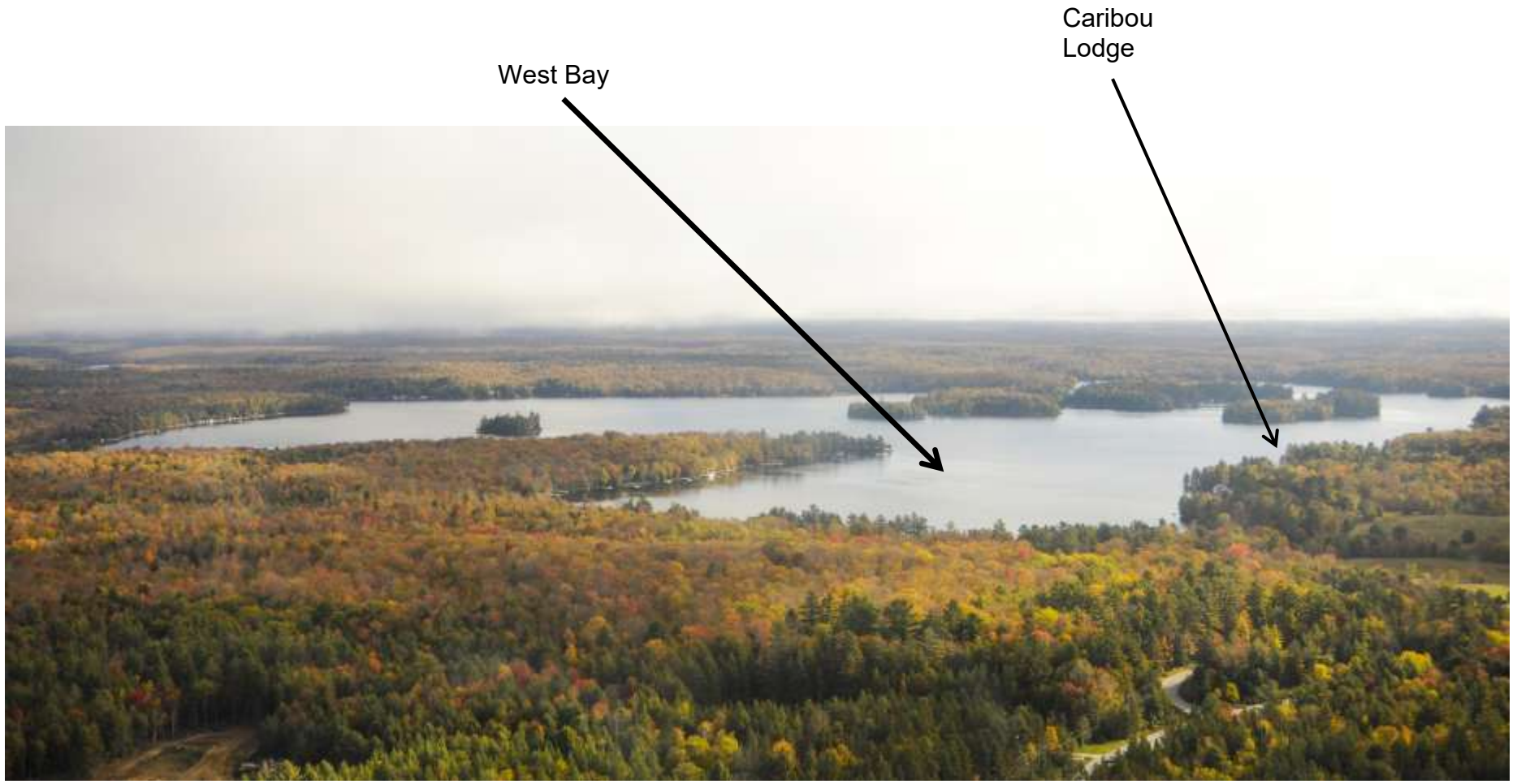
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono

### 3m. 2010s



2010

Photo credit: Andy Heics



2010

Showing the entirety of Wood Lake, Caribou Lodge is on the shore  
Photo credit: Andy Heics



2010

Caribou Lodge property, east (left) to west (right)

Photo credit: Andy Heics

**3n. 2020s**



2022



2022  
Rec hall



2023  
Hand well  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

Photo credit: Jim Colvin

- 92 -

June 2024, not to be sold for profit

2020s



2024

Photo credit: Jim Colvin



2024

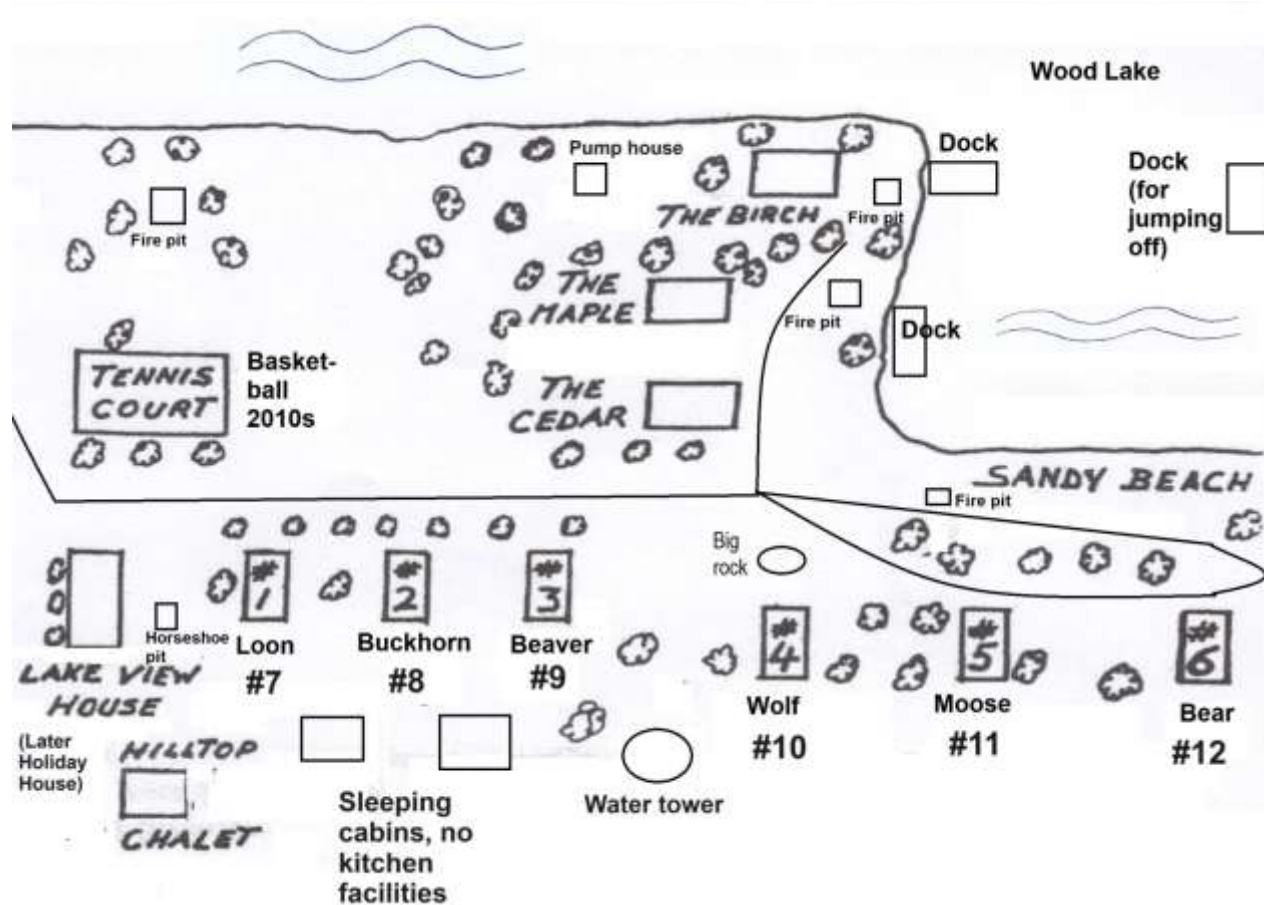
Photo credit: Jim Colvin



2024  
Photo credit: Jim Colvin

## 4a. Cottages&Beach

The layout on this page is annotated from a 1980s brochure



The six cottages starting east of Holiday House, were originally named #7 through #12. This is thought to be because #1 through #4 were cottages west of the marina that were sold off in the late 1960s, then #5 and #6 were the cottages near the store, and one of the apartments in the main Lodge. The cottages were renamed to #1 - #6 in the late 1960s, then to the Loon, Buckhorn, Beaver, Wolf, Moose and Bear in 2004.

The Birch cottage was originally the “cottage on the point”, then #7 for a period of time, and finally named the Birch in 1982.

The Cedar and Maple have always had the same/original names.

The pump mechanism (the “pump house” near the Birch) pulled water from the lake and pumped it up the hill to the water tower for storage. Each cottage had a water line coming down the hill from the tower - allowing for gravity fed water.

## 4b. Cottages chronology

- 1920s – 1930s The “cottage on the point” (later named #7, then the Birch), and the six cottages south of the road and starting east of Holiday House (previously rec hall) were built. These dates are a guess and are based on:
  - Activity by Bill Tingey e.g. building store (1932) and launching promotion (1935) (ref. 7f)
  - All pictures going back to the 1930s, show the cottages
  - Reference from Graydon Boyes in narratives section (7f) that his father Claude built a number of the cottages
- 1920s – 1930s (through late 1960s) Four cottages originally to the west of the property and two cottages to the east of the property, were part of Caribou Lodge
- 1920s – 1930s (through late 1960s) The six cottages starting to the east of Holiday House (earlier was rec hall) were labeled as #7-#12
- 1940s (early) Porches put on six cottages starting to the east of Holiday House. Per pictures from the 1930s, these cottages did not originally have porches
- 1946 There was water to the small cottages, but no hydro (ref. 7e)
- 1950 (approximately) Bathrooms were added to the cottages, so outhouses were no longer used
- 1960s (late) six cottages to the south of the road starting immediately east of Holiday House (earlier rec hall) were renumbered #1-#6
- 1970s – 1980s Side extensions added to Wolf/#4, Moose/#5 (1960s pictures show both cottages without additions)
- 1982 Maple and Cedar cottages built
- 1982 (approximately) The Birch was named, previously it was #7 and the “cottage on the point”
- 2000s (early) In the cottage area, the pump house near the Birch, and water tower behind the Wolf/#4/#10 were removed as the source for water for the cottages and replaced with well water as the source
- 2004 Cottages #1 - #6 given names (Loon, Buckhorn, Beaver, Wolf, Moose and Bear)
- 2005 Large addition and deck put on Loon/#1
- 2005 Deck added to Birch
- 2011 “Sitting” dock built in water in front of Maple and Cedar
- 2013 Bear/#6 and Buckhorn/#2 decks added
- 2014 Cedar & Maple cottage decks added
- 2015 Beaver/#3, Wolf/#4, Moose/#5, decks added
- 2016-2020 Beaver/#3, Wolf/#4, Moose/#5 bathrooms remodeled
- 2021 Bear/#6 bathroom remodeled

## 4c. 1930s



1938

From looking at other pictures, this appears to be Loon/#1, #7 at the time  
Photo credit: Mary Louise Learn



1938

From looking at other pictures, this appears to be Loon/#1, #7 at the time. One of the sleeping cabins is visible between the cottages

Photo credit: Mary Louise Learn



1938

Looking down from the easternmost sleeping cabin, towards the lake past Wolf/#4, #10 at the time  
Photo credit: Mary Louise Learn

4d. 1940s



1948  
Wolf/#4, #10 at the time



From the water to the Wolf/#4, #10 at the time  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



On steps of Loon/#1, #7 at the time  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



From the beach, towards the Birch ("cottage on the point" at the time)  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



1946

Photo credit: Mary Louise Learn



Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak

## 4e. 1950s



On steps of Wolf/#4, #10 at the time  
Photo credit: Ockenden family



Looking out past point where Birch ("cottage on the point" at the time) is  
Photo credit: Ockenden family



On dock, background is area where Cedar and Maple were built, Birch ("cottage on the point" at the time) is to the right

Photo credit: Ockenden family



On steps of Birch, "cottage on the point" at the time  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



Looking towards beach, cottages Bear/#6 to the left #12 at the time, Moose/#5 to the right, #11 at the time  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



1956

Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



1956, per reference in Muskoka digital archives postmark  
The three cottages circled in red were in back of the other cottages and were called "sleeping cabins", as they had bedrooms but not cooking facilities  
Canadian Post-Card Co. Ltd. Toronto

**4f. 1960s**



Wolf/#4, #10 at the time





Printed with permission of many of the people in the picture



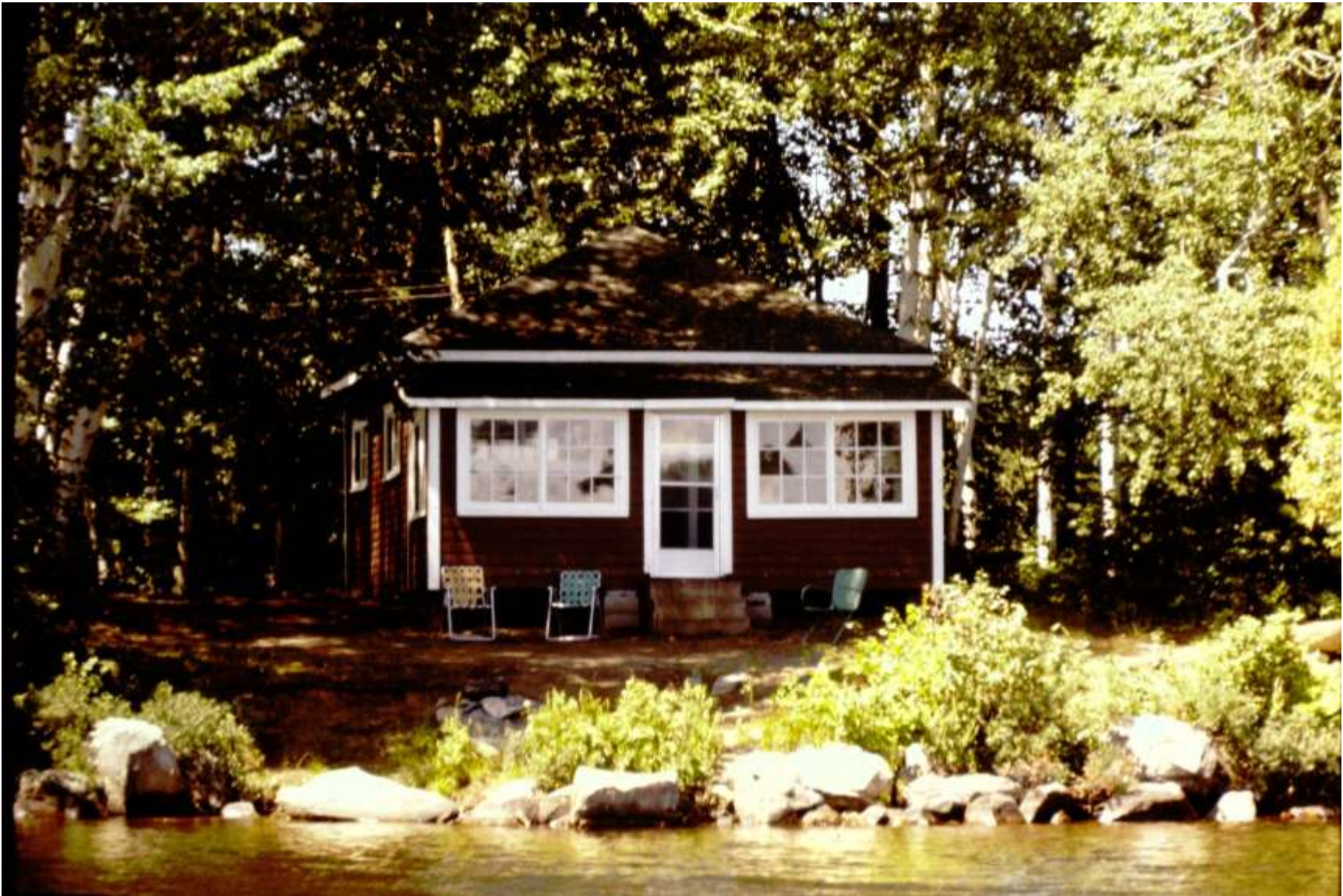
1969

At beach, before trees at eastern edge of property were planted  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



Birch ("cottage on the point" at the time), with platform with diving board in the water. The cottage in the background at the far left of the picture is believed to be the Beaver/#3, the Maple and Cedar were not built yet.

Photo credit: Wood Lake Cottagers' Association Facebook page



1969  
Birch ("cottage on the point" at the time)  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Wood shed behind Loon (#1 at the time)  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Moose (#5 at the time), owner's truck in front  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969  
Sleeping cabin  
Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Loon (#1 at the time)

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Buckhorn (#2 at the time)

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono

4g. 1970s



1972

Holiday House

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1972

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1972

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1972

## 4h. 1980s



1980

One of the sleeping cabins  
Photo credit: Mary Louise Learn



1987  
View across lake with Birch to the left

#### 4i. 1990s



1992

Outhouse near Wolf/#4/#10, no longer in use at this time  
Photo credit: Bret Jimison



1990  
Road towards Cedar  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



1994  
Wolf/#4  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



1995  
Bear/#6  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



Birch

## 4j. 2000s



2001  
Wolf/#4  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2003 Birch



2003  
Cedar, Maple, Birch  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2003  
Bear/#6  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2004  
Water slide  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2005  
Loon/#1 with addition  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2007  
Birch  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2007  
Cedar (front deck not yet built)  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2007  
"Jumping off" dock  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2007  
Looking towards the Birch  
Photo credit: Richard Loiacono



2007  
Beaver/#3  
Photo credit: Richard Loiacono



2009  
Bear/#6 (deck not yet built)  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue

4k. 2010s



2010  
Beach



2010

Cedar, Maple, Birch (Cedar Maple dock not yet in place)  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2010

Moose/#5 (deck not yet built)  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2010  
Cedar before deck built



2010  
Maple before deck built



2013  
Holiday House



2013  
Bear/#6 with deck  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2013  
Buckhorn/#2 with deck  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2013  
Cedar and Wolf/#4 from water



2013  
Maple from water



2013  
Moose/#5 no deck



2014  
Cedar with deck



2014

In front of Cedar before & after brush cleared  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2014  
Beach

Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2015  
Wolf/#4 with deck



2015  
Moose/#5 with deck



2019

Cedar and Birch

Photo credit: Caribou Lodge Muskoka Facebook page



2019

Looking out on Wood Lake past dock at the Birch  
Photo credit: Caribou Lodge Muskoka Facebook page



2019

Looking towards Cedar, Maple and Birch

Photo credit: Caribou Lodge Muskoka Facebook page



2019

Cedar & Maple, with "sitting" dock in front



Looking down from Wolf/#4 over Wood Lake



From the front of the Birch, looking down the path towards the Maple and Cedar  
Photo credit: Mary Louise Learn

## 4I. 2020s



2020  
Beach area



2022  
Wolf/#4



2022  
Moose/#5



Bear/#6



2022  
Loon/#1



2022  
Holiday House



From Caribou beach looking out over Wood Lake  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



Birch cottage



2024  
Photo credit: Jim Colvin



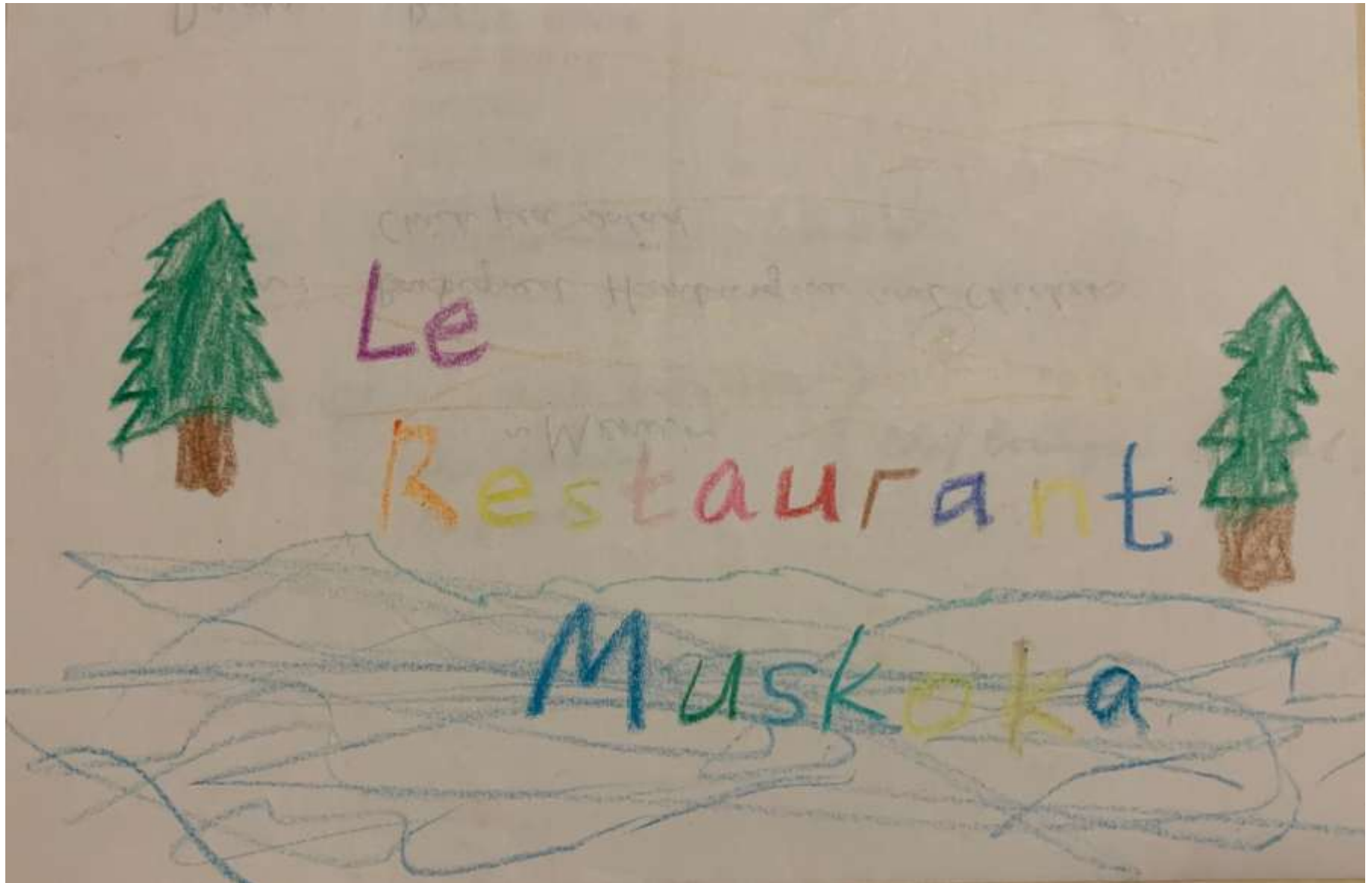
2024

Photo credit: Jim Colvin



2024  
Photo credit: Jim Colvin

## 5. Brochures& menus



Restaurant menu header page from approximately 1950  
Credit: John Watts

MENU

TODAY'S SPECIAL IS: BREADED PORK CHOPS  
MASHED POTATOES  
WITH BROCCOLI OR NO BROCCOLI

DRINKS:

RED WINE  
APPLE JUICE  
ORANGE JUICE  
MILK OR  
WATER

DESSERT:

FROZEN YOGURT WITH A SIDE  
ORDER OF DONUT

ANY CUSTOMERS WISHING TO STAY IN OUR HOTEL  
FACILITIES: THE COST IS \$1.97 PLUS TAX

Restaurant menu from approximately 1950

Credit: John Watts

Holiday at . . .

# Caribou Lodge

**WOOD LAKE**  
 Vankoughnet Muskoka Ontario  
 Phone Bracebridge: 863-r-2



*Caribou Lodge*  
 on Wood Lake

- Furnished Cottages
- Cabins and Rooms
- Good Food
- Boats, Canoes, Motors
- Safe Sandy Beach
- Good Bass Fishing



Dining Room in Lodge

### Large Furnished COTTAGES

Comprising three bed rooms, dining room, kitchen and large glassed and screened in verandah, hydro, running water, spring mattresses, linen, blankets, with ice and boat supplied. Complete cooking equipment with exception of silverware.

RATES: Month	_____	\$150.00
Week	_____	40.00
Day	_____	6.00

### Small Furnished COTTAGES

Comprising two bedrooms, kitchen and large screened verandah. Equipment and furnishings supplied exactly as with large cottages.

RATES: Month	_____	\$110.00
Week	_____	30.00
Day	_____	5.00

Extra Cots per week \$5.00

Cottages with inside conveniences  
 \$2.50 per week extra

**EVERYTHING FOR  
A PERFECT HOLIDAY**

### ENJOYMENT FOR YOUNG AND OLD

### ROOM and BOARD

In Cabins and Lodge Rooms

Single	_____	\$30.00 per week
		5.00 per day
Double	_____	27.50 per week
		4.50 per day

### CHILDREN UNDER TEN YEARS ROOM AND BOARD

Single	_____	\$18.00 per week
Double	_____	16.50 per week

### CLUBHOUSE ROOMS

Room and Board

Single	_____	\$27.50 per week
		4.50 per day
Double	_____	25.00 per week
		4.00 per day

### BOATS and MOTORS

Row Boats and Canoes	_____	\$ 1.00 per day, up
		6.00 per week, up
Motors,	_____	10.00 per week, up
		1.75 per day, up

### MEALS

Breakfast	_____	75c
Dinner	_____	1.25
Supper	_____	1.00

Safe Sandy Beach



From 1950s  
 Credit: Bernie Jaroscak

LEISURE LIVING AT

*Caribou Lodge*

● Bracebridge

14 miles

● Muskoka Airport

● Gravenhurst

● Orillia

● Barrie

● Toronto

Hwy #11  
Hwy #400

● Vankoughnet

FISHING

HUNTING

BOATING

HIKING

SWIMMING

SKI-DOOING

TENNIS

RELAXING

*Caribou Lodge*

WOOD LAKE

VANKOUGHNET

MUSKOKA

PHONE (705) 645-5634

COME TO....

CARIBOU

LODGE



ON....

Wood Lake

VANKOUGHNET

MUSKOKA

ONTARIO

PHONE (705) 645-5634

**"LOCATED"** 135 scenic miles north of Toronto, Caribou Lodge offers informality and relaxation at it's best.

---

---

The **LODGE** and Cottages are situated on the shores of one of Southern Muskoka's finest lakes, where the Holidayer and Sportsman will find four seasons of unlimited Outdoor Pleasures.

---

---



**"ACCOMODATIONS"** are completely equipped for housekeeping and come supplied with bedding, dishes, cutlery & cookware. (Towels excepted)

---

---

To **"REACH"** Caribou Lodge, a highway directory can be found on the back cover. The Muskoka Airport, 15 miles away, also affords easy access by air.

**Cottages and Apts.** 2 Bedroom Housekeeping Cottages.  
2, 3 and 4 Bedroom Apartments in Main Lodge.

2 Bedroom Sleeping Cabins.

**Activities** Fishing, Hunting, Boating, Hiking, Volleyball, Tennis, Swimming, Recreation Building.

**Rentals** Boats & Motors by the day or week

**Informality** Is the keyword to make your Holiday a most Relaxing one.

**Beach** Safe, Sandy Beach which is ideal for Children.

**Our Store** Groceries and Sundry Items to meet Daily Needs are carried in the General Store. Snack Bar is also Open.

**Unlimited** Are the Possibilities for people of all ages to Discover a truly Rewarding Atmosphere Year Round.

# CARIBOU LODGE

Wood Lake — Vankoughnet

Phone 645-4841

## RATES

### Cottages

	Day	Week	Month (4 wks.)
LODGE APARTMENT (2 bedroom)	\$9.50	\$60.00	\$225.00
LODGE ROOM	4.00	18.00	
LARGE COTTAGE	9.50	60.00	225.00
SMALL COTTAGE	8.00	50.00	190.00
BOATHOUSE APT.	9.50	60.00	225.00

*(Above have inside conveniences, electric or propane cooking and heating facilities. Are equipped for housekeeping with the exception of silverware. All bedding supplied.)*

### SLEEPING CABINS

1 Bedroom .....	5.00	\$25.00
2 Bedroom .....	6.00	30.00
Extra Cots .....	1.00	5.00

*A boat is NOT included in above rates for cottages.*

*When making reservations please state preference as to boats and motors.*

### Boats and Motors

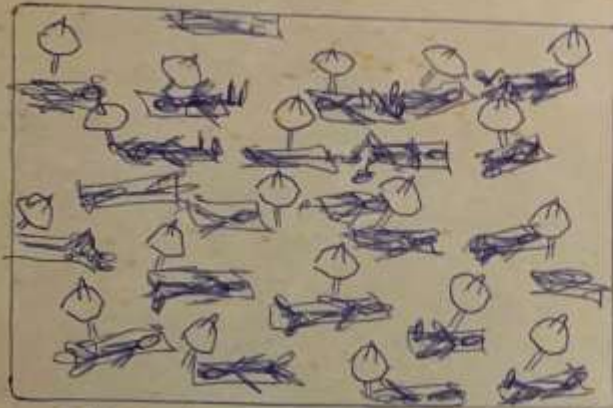
	Day	Week
BOATS .....	\$2.50	\$12.00
MOTORS, (5½ h.p.) .....	2.50	12.00

*(Gas and Oil available).*

### Meals

*Our diningroom is open from the last Saturday in June until Labor Day.*

1960s




### THE WEEKEND BANG.

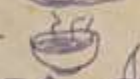
Visitors throng the Caribou Lodge Beach last weekend.


Most of these people are staying in rented cabins at the Wood Lake resort.


They come from all over Ontario, and some even come all the way from the U.S.


THE LOON PUBLISHERS,  
100 MACBETH ISLE,  
WOOD LAKE, MUSKOKA.

DAILY 

DIET 

BY 

L'ESLIE 

WATTS. 

LUNCH:  
MACARONI  
COTTAGE CHEESE  
FRUIT  
MILK: 1 glass  
COOKIES

DINNER:  
MEAT  
VEGETABLES  
JUICE  
POTATOES  
SALAD  
ICE CREAM

SHOP AT  
PATCHETT'S!!

1973 Newsletter referencing Caribou Lodge  
Credit: John Watts

# CARIBOU LODGE

R.R. #3, BRACEBRIDGE — MUSKOKA, ONTARIO  
PHONE 705-645-5634

## ACCOMMODATIONS AND RATES

### Lodge

Two bedroom Apartment  
per day \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 18.—  
per week \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 85.—  
4 persons

### Lakeview Holiday House

Three bedroom Apartment  
per day \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20.—  
per week \_\_\_\_\_ \$110.—  
6 persons

### Large Cottage

Two bedroom  
per day \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 18.—  
per week \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 80.—  
4 persons

### Cottages

Two bedroom  
per day \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 16.—  
per week \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 70.—  
4 persons

Each Additional Person — By Arrangement  
\$1.00 per day plus \$2.50 Bed Linen

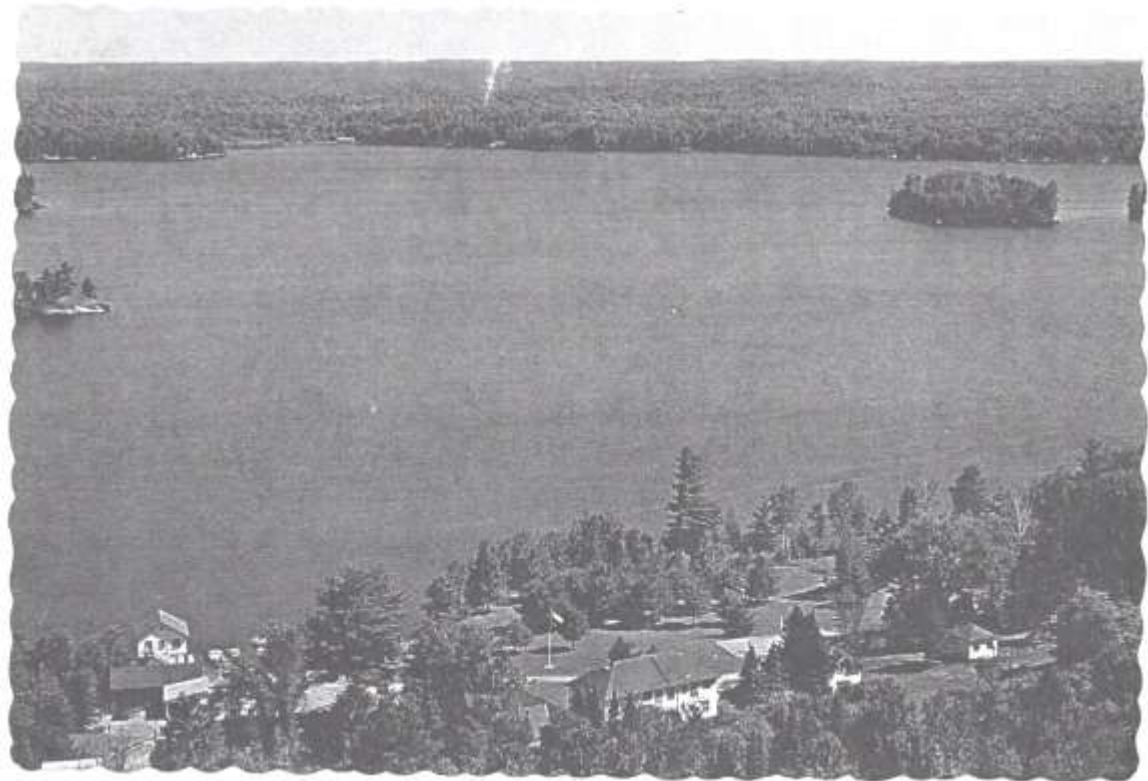
Above have inside conveniences, electric cooking and heating facilities. Are equipped for housekeeping with the exception of towels. All beddings supplied.

Each reservation should be accompanied by a \$25.00 Deposit refundable if notice given 2 weeks prior to arrival date.

Check-in-time 3 p.m.  
Check-out-time 12 noon

### SPECIAL OFF SEASON RATES

GROUPS WELCOME



1974

# Caribou Lodge

R.R. 3, BRACEBRIDGE, ONTARIO P1L 1X1  
(705) 645-5634 • (416) 449-2351

## RATES OF ACCOMMODATION 1994

LODGE	TWO BEDROOM UNIT (FOUR PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 65.00 PER WEEK...\$375.00
	THREE BEDROOM UNIT (SIX PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 75.00 PER WEEK...\$410.00
	FOUR BEDROOM UNIT (EIGHT PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 85.00 PER WEEK...\$440.00
HOLIDAY HOUSE DN.	THREE BEDROOM UNIT (SIX PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 75.00 PER WEEK...\$440.00
HOLIDAY HOUSE UP.	THREE BEDROOM UNIT (SIX PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 75.00 PER WEEK...\$425.00
THE BIRCH	TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE (FOUR PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 75.00 PER WEEK...\$470.00
THE MAPLE	TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE (FOUR PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 70.00 PER WEEK...\$445.00
THE CEDAR	THREE BEDROOM COTTAGE (SIX PERSONS)	PER DAY ...\$ 75.00 PER WEEK...\$470.00
COTTAGES # 1/2/3	TWO BEDROOM COTTAGES (FOUR PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 65.00 PER WEEK...\$370.00
COTTAGES # 4/5	TWO BEDROOM) (FOUR PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 70.00 PER WEEK...\$425.00
COTTAGE # 6	TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE (FOUR PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 65.00 PER WEEK...\$380.00
HILLTOP CHALET	ONE BEDROOM COTTAGE (TWO PERSONS)	PER DAY...\$ 50.00 PER WEEK...\$290.00

EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON BY ARRANGEMENT ONLY \$6.00 PER DAY.  
SPECIAL OFF SEASON RATES, MAY & JUNE 20 % OFF. AFTER  
LABOUR DAY WEEKEND 20 % OFF. DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY ON  
LONG WEEKENDS OR FOR SINGLE NIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS.

ALL RATES ARE SUBJECT TO PROVINCIAL SALES TAX AND G.S.T.

### 1994 Price list

### Caribou Lodge Restaurant

Chief Gary Mangus invites you to come try Muskoka's newest restaurant with a menu featuring mouth-watering steaks, ribs, burgers, seafood, and fish & chips. Our hearty Big Bear breakfast special is the perfect way to start the day! Relax in our comfortable pine dining room with panoramic views of Wood Lake.

### Additional Services

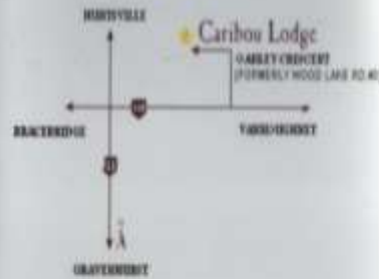
Restaurant & Variety Store Hours:

Summer: 10am-9pm daily

Winter: 10am-9pm Fri/Sat/Sun

Gas Bar: 10am-9pm year round

Our Rec Hall is an excellent venue for weddings and special occasions.



### Location

From Toronto: Take the 400 north to highway 11. Follow 11 to the highway 118 turnoff; turn right onto Hwy 118 east towards Vankoughnet; travel on the 118 for 22 kilometers to Oakley Crescent (formerly Wood Lake Road #3). Turn left onto Oakley Crescent, then turn left again onto Caribou Road, and follow it towards the lake. Caribou Lodge is at the end of the road on your right. We look forward to seeing you!



# Experience Caribou Lodge!



Caribou Lodge, Muskoka

1200 Caribou Rd  
RR3 Bracebridge, On  
P1L 1X1  
(705) 643-5614 • 1 866 888 1166  
[www.muskoka.com/cariboulodge](http://www.muskoka.com/cariboulodge)  
[cariboulodge@muskoka.com](mailto:cariboulodge@muskoka.com)



2005 brochure

### Accommodations

Caribou Lodge has 10 private cottages on the lake accommodating 2-8 people. We also have 4 spacious suites that sleep 6-8 people comfortably. All of our lodgings are self-sufficient, complete with linens, and each has its own spectacular view of the



Holiday House



Loon



Scenic view of the Birch



### Recreation

Caribou Lodge invites you to spend your days relaxing on our sandy beach overlooking beautiful Wood Lake. For our more active guests, Caribou Lodge offers several summer and winter activities: fishing, four-wheeling, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, boats, canoe, horseshoe pits, badminton and tennis on our own private court. We are located on O.F.S.C. trail "B", near several golf courses, and our docks provide loading facilities for watercrafts free of charge.



### Winter at Caribou Lodge

Caribou Lodge is conveniently located on O.F.S.C. trail "B", and we are a favorite pit stop for fuel, and a bite to eat at Caribou Lodge Restaurant. We provide affordable lodging for all winter enthusiasts, and offer Modified American Plans. Guests can also ice fish, snowshoe, and cross country ski.



#### *Caribou Lodge Muskoka*

1100 Caribou Rd  
RR#5 Bracebridge, ON  
P1L 1X1  
T 866-888-1166 or (705) 645-5634  
Fax (705) 646-0748  
[www.muskoka.com/cariboulodge](http://www.muskoka.com/cariboulodge)  
[cariboulodge@muskoka.com](mailto:cariboulodge@muskoka.com)

## 6. "Mother" tree



1940s



1950s



1952



1965



1960s



1976



2023 (June) - "Mother" tree comes down, struck by lightning decades earlier  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue

## 7. Narratives/traditions

### a. At <https://thegreatcanadianwilderness.com/business-listings/caribou-Lodge/>:

Since 1910, guests have felt the gentle lure to experience new adventures in the magnificent wilderness surroundings of Caribou Lodge on scenic Wood Lake in Muskoka. The Caribou Lodge property was first established as a sawmill and as the years went by, it gradually went from lumbering to the tourist industry. By 1930, Caribou Lodge had grown from a hunting and fishing camp to a family Lodge with guests returning year after year

### b. Life at Wood Lake – 45 Years

#### By Doctors Alberta and William Cross – 1958

Page 1 reference

At that time (summer of 1913) Bill Tingey had a log house near the well at Caribou Lodge and a saw-mill about where the boat storage house stands. The log house referred to was originally owned by Jim O'Hara. He sold it to Mr. Landon, the father of Mrs. Harry Rice.

Page 2 reference

Bill Tingey bought it (log cabin) and was occupying it when we first came up.

### c. Marg Jaroscak narrative in The Vankoughnet Community Quilt 1988

#### By St. David's W.M.S & St. Stephen's A.C.W.

Page 62 references

Bell at Caribou Lodge

... We had no hydro or running water in the cottage at that time (1946).

... The bell was on a post in front of the kitchen window. Many of the children pulled the rope that rang the bell for the tourists to come for their meal.

### d. Ellen Tingey narrative in The Vankoughnet Community Quilt 1988

#### By St. David's W.M.S & St. Stephen's A.C.W.

Page 63

The original owner of Caribou Lodge was William F. Tingey from Ryde Township who came to Oakley to work in the lumber business. He met and married Isobel Boyes, the boss' daughter.

Eventually he bought the Wood Lake property, now known as Caribou Lodge, and in 1910 built a sawmill there. His wife cooked for the men who worked for him. At that time, they lived in a log cabin built by an original settler, an Englishman named Mr. O'Hara.

Like all lumbermen in the area, William moved around a lot, cutting logs and driving them to the mill on Wood Lake. The bark was peeled from the logs and drawn by horses to the tannery in Bracebridge. Then the logs were sawn into lumber at the lake.

Prior to this he had been caretaker at Longford Reserve for awhile, where he worked for some American tourists.

Page 64

As the years went by, he gradually went from lumbering to the tourist industry. His first wife died in 1925, leaving him with three children, Harold, Clifford, and Ellen. Then in 1930 he married the second time to Edith (Robson) Dixon, who had eight children of her own. Together, with the help of their children and much hired help, they went from a hunting and fishing camp to a family lodge, with people returning year after year.

In 1932 they built a store, dining room, laundry house, ice house and generator building. In 1945 they sold to Laura and Jack Neville and Elsie and George Blenkin, and moved to Bracebridge. Subsequently, the Lodge was sold in 1969 to Bonnie and Ken Slack, then in 1972 to the present owners, Theresa and Otto Stampher.

**e. From Wood Lake Cottagers' Association The Year 2000/50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition  
By Bill Rapson 2002**

Page 4 references

In 1879, property owners abutting Wood Lake were J.R. Silliman and Henry O'Hara on the southwest, and Jas. Wells on the Northwest

William Landon purchased the O'Hara property to be near Wood Lake for logging, but he died of typhoid. William F. Tingey was the next owner, and his legacy was to be Caribou Lodge.

Page 5 references

William F. Tingey of Caribou Lodge became a director of the newly formed Muskoka Tourist Development Association in 1935 and took Wood Lake beyond Ontario to the United States. In a major promotion, more than 5,400,000 newspapers circulated information and maps provided by the Association in American cities surrounding the Great Lakes to encourage visitors to come to Muskoka tourist resorts. The Association presented Muskoka in all its beauty from east to west and the following year, Caribou Lodge reported that his resort was filled all summer, through to October. The successful result of this advertising was the beginning of the U.S. migration to Wood Lake.

Page 6 references

Laura (Neville) recalled that when they bought the Lodge, there was water to the small cottages, but no hydro. The guests cooked on pot-bellied stoves and used concrete boxes dug into the ground to keep the food cool. When they put electricity into the cottages, small electric stoves were installed.

P.11 references

There is a big rock between Dr. Day's boathouse and Caribou Lodge which Mr. O'Hara used as a back-wall in building his first cabin. A cavity in the rock served as a fireplace for cooking. The floor was of earth. Their first three children were born and raised there. Later the Bell-Ewart Lumberman, from the depot that was located between Ernie Conway's house and the lake, came down on Sundays and built the log cabin for Mr. O'Hara. Will Tingey bought it in 1910 and was occupying it when we first came up.

Page 14 references

During the summer of 1950, the seeds of the Wood Lake Cottagers' Association were sown.

Page 17-18 references

On the site of today's Caribou Lodge, there stood at the time a log cottage occupied by the late William F. (Bill) Tingey, who operated a sawmill nearby.

He (Bill) began to build the original Caribou Lodge about 1928 and by 1940 had developed a flourishing summer Lodge business.

Page 19 references

Jack and George purchased Caribou Lodge from Bill Tingey on "D" day, and in time completely rebuilt or replaced the original buildings.

**f. Graydon Boyes**  
**From The Boyes Family in Oakley Township**  
**By GraydonBoyes2014**

Page 269 references

Bill (Tingey) and Isabel Boyes married Dec. 20/1900. Isabel passed away in 1925.

In 1918, he (Bill) became the originator and proprietor of Caribou Lodge, a small camp where hunters could stay while they took part in seasonal hunting.

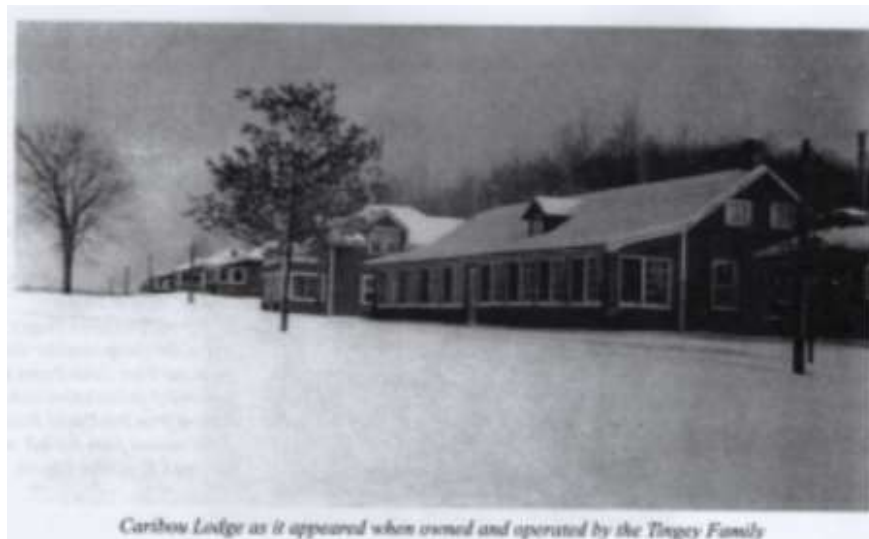
Page 270 references

In 1930, Bill married for the second time. His second wife was the former Edith Robinson.

They went from a hunting and fishing camp to a family Lodge with people returning year after year. In 1932 they built a store, dining room, laundry house, ice house and generator building. The Tingey family sold Caribou Lodge to Jack and Laura Neville and George and Elsie Blenkin and then moved permanently into Bracebridge.

Page 271 references

The sawmill on Wood Lake was replaced with a hunting and fishing Lodge and eventually turned into an attractive and viable summer resort which he (Bill) named Caribou Lodge. This Lodge on Wood Lake is still operating today.



## **g. Graydon Boyes recollections Feb. 2024, next two pages**

For references for the attached material, Graydon's great grandfather was Thomas Boyes. Thomas had eleven children, and one of Thomas' daughters was Isabel, who married Bill Tingey, the originator of Caribou Lodge. That makes Graydon the great nephew of Bill and Isabel. One of Isabel's brothers was Dougald, who was Graydon's grandfather. One of Dougald's sons was Claude, who is Graydon's father.

### **Bill Tingey years**

When the saw mill was dismantled, Graydon remembers going with his Father and seeing large wooden rollers on site (where the boat launching area is now). These rollers were used at the mill to roll the lumber (or slabs) from the mill works in the early 1940's.

A fire burned through the area east of and relatively close to Caribou Lodge in the early 1910s (era 1913, Longford and Oakley). It burned down a number of houses, Toll family house burned down but the Boyes homestead was spared because of the persistence of Thomas, Graydon's great grandfather (and the help of a worker from Longford).

After the fire, permission was given to cut down the trees between Oakley and Longford lines thus straightening the road and making the roadway more accessible.

The logs were taken to Tingey's mill at Caribou and sawed into lumber. This lumber was used to rebuild some of the houses burned in the fire.

Many people fled the fire – some had wagons loaded with possessions – ending up at Caribou landing where Wood Lake offered a sense of protection from the fire.

This is recorded in a booklet (ref. 7b) written by Drs. William and Alberta Cross who had property on the lake. They eventually built a cottage off Fox Point Road.

In 1910s and 1920s, Bill Tingey and Isabel (Boyes)Tingey built Caribou into a hunting and fishing resort which eventually became Caribou Lodge – a cottage resort. Isabel was known as (Aunt) Bella. She worked at cooking excellent meals while Bill was responsible for guiding hunting and fishing groups.

Isabel died at 52 years of age in 1925. Bill married Edith Dixon (a widow who had several children). The resort was increased with buildings added and meals were then served at the main building. Edith was the main cook. Graydon knows his father Claude (and a man named Russel) worked at building many of the cottages on site.

### **Neville and Blenkin years**

Jack and Laura Neville, George and Elsie Blenkin bought the property. Laura and Elsie were sisters. The Boyes family had a close association with the Neville and Blenkin families.

Jack had been an airplane mechanic during WWII – servicing Mosquito bombers which had Rolls Royce engines. Jack was foreman of a four man team.

Jack eventually owned his own small plane and took local kids on rides – naturally this was an amazing treat.

In these years, the Neville and Blenkin families:

- continued to serve meals to the resort guests and cottagers on the lake
- established the Marina
- hosted the Regatta which was held each summer with many events (though the Regatta was not open to general public, the Councillors of Oakley and families were invited to attend)

Since George and Jack had both played recreational hockey, they were interested in community endeavours in outdoor sports. They would clear off the ice – (large area) on the lake to provide a skating rink for the community and thicken the ice also for refrigeration use.

Wood Lake had been used for ice recovery for years when electrical refrigeration was unavailable.

Jack and George purchased a Mercury station wagon to provide transportation to Bracebridge for high school students (previously students would have had to board in town to attend school). Later a small bus was purchased and they took turns driving to town.

Jack also drove the township snow plow, a second person had to drive along (usually George) who could raise or lower the “wing” part of the truck.

Events held at Caribou included:

1. Square dances – held in constructed club house – open only to Caribou clients, cottagers and a few invited guests. George “called” the squares and Graydon would spell him off. Neil Boyes would play the fiddle (violin), Lawrence Flaherty the Hawaiian guitar, Malcolm Boyes – guitar. Graydon would chord on piano at times. Trevor Boyes – played fiddle and banjo – mandolin.
2. Song services were also held at the clubhouse on Sunday evenings – open to Caribou, cottagers, and St. David’s and St. Stephen’s churches. The offering collected that evening was donated to St. David’s. Often at St. David’s Church, summer student or retired ministers helped at song services. NOTE: These Song services dated earlier – when Bill Tingey owned the Lodge, back to 1930’s.

Jim Ritchie was a summer student from Knox College who was the one who initiated the hymn singing. He came back for another summer, serving St. David’s church. Instead of having hymn sings at individual homes, Bill Tingey was approached for holding them at Caribou – allowing for more space. That request was granted. The Neville and Blenkin families continued the evening events in the summer. Graydon remembers how George loved to sing the hymns and often it was a daily occurrence on the school bus when George was driving to take the Boyes kids on the longer route home, just to prolong the singing.

3. Jack ran the marina.

4. Swimming lessons for community children were held in the summer in later years through Bracebridge recreational services, until the early 1970s.

End of Graydon Boyes recollections

**h. Some cottager traditions:**

- i. Wednesday night bingo in one of the rec halls, cottagers around the lake would participate up until the 2010s. In more recent years using the equipment provided by the Lodge, Bingo has been done by groups of families during their stays
- ii. Visiting the nearby garbage dump to see bears
- iii. Children climbing on the big rock near the Wolf/#4/#10
- iv. Taking pictures on the big rock near the Wolf/#4/#10

## 8. 2025 (June) edition – Additional pictures



1940s  
Holiday House and surrounding buildings  
Photo credit: Jim Colvin



1940s

Main Lodge building (right) and Holiday House (left)

Photo credit: Jim Colvin



1940s  
Main Lodge building (left) and Cottage  
Photo credit: Jim Colvin



1950s  
Behind Main Lodge building  
Photo credit: Heather (Blenkin) Millar



1950s  
Caribou clubhouse party  
Photo credit: Bernie Jaroscak



1969

Photo credit: Rick Loiacono



1969

Looking down past rock by Wolf/#4  
Photo credit: Ockenden family



1981  
Wood Lake Regatta  
Photo credit: Andy Heics



1981  
Wood Lake Regatta  
Photo credit: Andy Heics



1986

From tennis court, Main Lodge building in background  
Photo credit: Mary Louise Learn



2002  
Store

Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Construction - Main Lodge  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002

Construction - Main Lodge  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Construction - Main Lodge  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Construction - Main Lodge  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



Drilling new well



Mother tree

2002

Photo credits: Brian Middleton



2002  
Rear of Main Lodge  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Dining room  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Dining room  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Dining room  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Dining room  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Dining room  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Lodge Store  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Lodge Store  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Lodge Store  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002

Main Lodge, Dining room, Store and Rec Hall  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002

Looking out on Wood Lake  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002

Looking out on Wood Lake  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Looking out on Wood Lake  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
From Wood Lake looking to the Main Lodge  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Rec Hall  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Behind Main Lodge building  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Relocating storage shed  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Hilltop Chalet  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Wolf

Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Birch

Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Cedar  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Maple  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Cedar, Maple, Birch  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002

Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2002  
Hand Well with lights  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



2024

This rock is behind the cottages to the West of the Main Lodge building, that were split off in the 1960s. It is believed to be the rock referenced on page 185, as being the rock where cooking was done in the very early days of the lodge. The photo was taken with permission of the current (2024) owner of the property

Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

View of the entire Caribou Lodge lakefront, from East (left) to West (right)  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

View of the Caribou Lodge lakefront, East end of the property  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



View of the Caribou Lodge lakefront, West end of the property  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

View of the Caribou Lodge lakefront, West end of the property  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

View of the Main Lodge from Wood Lake

Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

View of the Hilltop Chalet, reference on page 96  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

View of the Hilltop Chalet, reference on page 96

Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024  
View of the Basketball (formerly tennis) court  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

View of the Caribou Lodge beach, Bear/#6 cottage in the background

Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024  
View of the Wolf/#4  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024  
View of the Birch  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024  
View of the Cedar and Beaver/#3  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024

The photos on this page, and on the next few pages show the current structure and area that comprised the “pump house”, location shown on page 96, and which was the original mechanism for getting running water from the lake, to the cottages

Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024  
Pump house  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024  
Pump house  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024  
Pump house  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2024  
Pump house  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



2025  
Main Lodge  
Photo credit: Brian Middleton



Hand Well



Road light near Cedar

2025

Photo Credits: Brian Middleton



2025

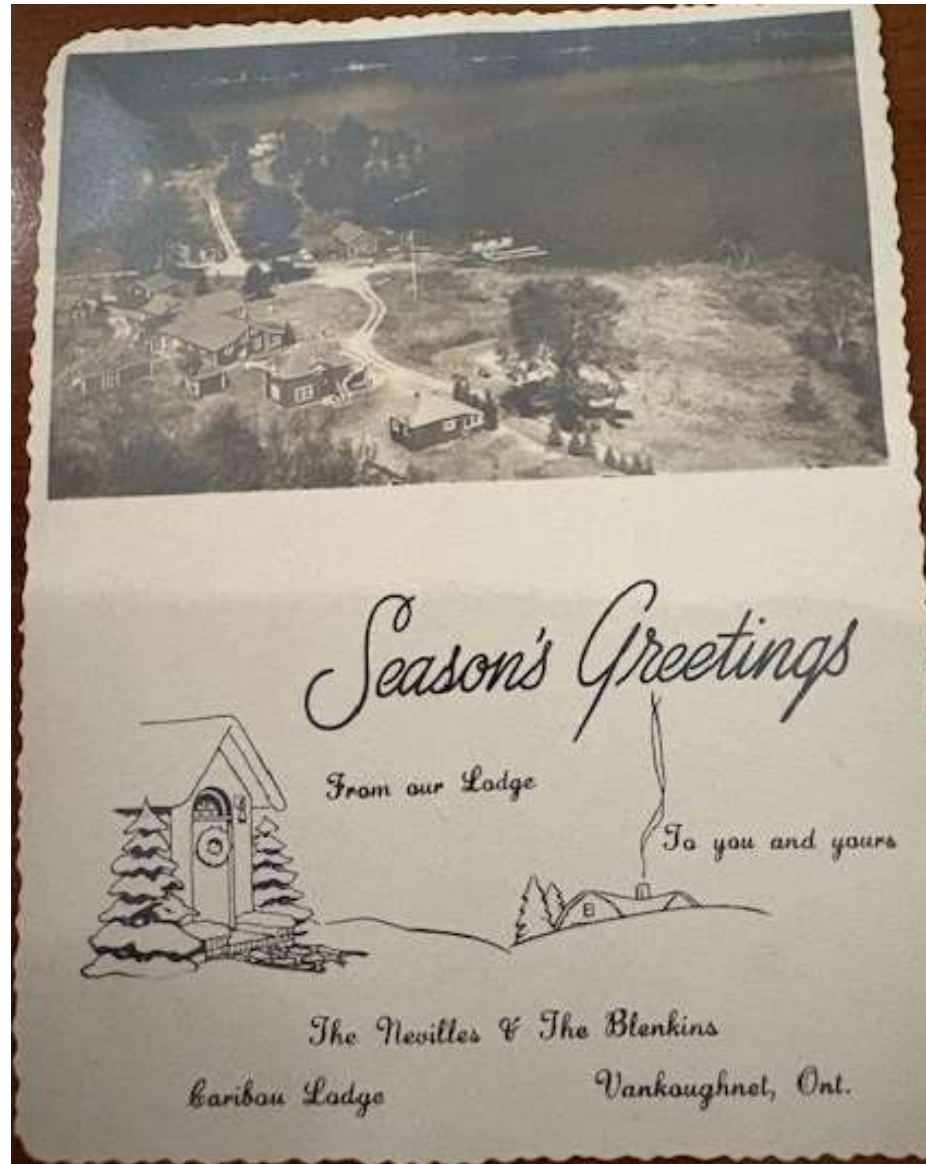
Photo Credits: Brian Middleton



2025

Photo credit: Brian Middleton

## 9. 2026 edition - Additional pictures



1960s



September 2025  
Near Cedar, Maple and Birch cottages  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



September 2025  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



September 2025  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue



September 2025  
Photo credit: Paul LaRue