

Tidbits from John Sinclair on his Ril Lake History...

Here is just a tidbit of the fascinating stories that are starting to come in from our friends and neighbours on Ril Lake, as they start to compile their Family Histories and memories for our Ril Lake History Coffee Table Book! Don't be left out of this amazing publication that will become a treasure on your cottage bookshelf. Remember to submit your Ril Lake Cottage Story/History with few pictures in color or black and white. Your history contribution on Ril short or long, recent or old will document your family History on Ril. Get your Family story on Ril Lake written and submitted to Barb Billingsley: bbillingsley@sympatico.ca

Synopsis From: John Sinclair's Family History on Ril Lake ...

Greetings from 1212 North Ril Lake road, which I believe was the first cottage to be built on the lake. In 1948 my mother and father were looking for a cottage in Muskoka, when they met Jim Watson. Jim lived at the corner of Echo Lake road and the Dickie Lake road. He took my parents to see a cottage, which they did not like, then offered to show them a piece of property on Ril Lake. Dad understood Jim to say that there was a long distance, or Olympic, swimmer who trained at the other end of the lake.

Obviously in 1948, there was no road into Ril. They parked the car in a meadow just off the Browns Brae road and walked on a trail down to the lake where there was a sawmill, and where Jim had a Canoe. Jim was going to 'canoe' them to the Crown land property he wanted them to see. Mother was having nothing to do with the canoe, so Jim said she would have to walk down a path to a hunting shack of his at the other end of the lake, and he and my father would take the canoe and meet here there. The property was perfect. Dad bought 600 feet of lakefront from the Crown, and Jim Watson agreed to build a log cottage All of our furniture, wood stove, coal-oil stove, chairs, tables, 'no flush' toilet, mattresses and a wheel barrow were shipped to Norm Kelly's in Baysville, then to Watson's and finally by horse and wagon to the cottage. (The wheel barrow was later for smaller loads, it was a long walk!) When we arrived at the cottage shell for our first 'vacation' we found a young boy, peeling pine logs which were to be made into our first partitions. About 50 pine logs, 5-6 inches in diameter, and 20 feet for each pole. By 1950 the cottage was complete, the assessment had gone up to \$1000.00 and the taxes were \$34.00.

To Be Continued in The Ril Lake Coffee Table Book...