

.....The Nathan Doran Family.....

The Nathan Dorans moved to Stokes Bay in 1912. Mr. Doran had bought the F.Y. Dealey sawmill which was located where the Izzard Tourist Camp site is. At that time, Dealey had a store in Owen Sound, but still owned the mill and fifteen acres of timber limits at Stokes Bay.

The day Mr. Doran came to look over the timber limits it was pouring rain, and he only looked at the timber on the Alderson lots which he found had a very good stand of maple. After he purchased the mill, and looked over the lots carefully, he found that the rest of the limits were mainly balsam and cedar and not what he had expected at all.

It did not take long to use up the good timber, and the mill had to start making up lath and basket bottoms. Mr. Doran also bought logs from Danny McDonald and Kenny Murray and others in the district who had still some good timber on their properties. His head sawyer, at that time, in the mill, was Phil Chambers.

After the mill was in operation for only two years it burned down under very mysterious circumstances - arson was suspected, but impossible to prove. With the help of Bob Golden, the mill was rebuilt. From the Bay they gathered hundreds of feet of "sinkers", logs from sunken rafts, and cut them into lumber. By this time the first Great War was on or getting underway, and there was no money to buy logs. At this time Mr Doran quit the mill business, and started fishing with George Golden. (Some of the men who worked for Mr. Doran in the mill included Adam Smith, Dick McIver, Duke McCallum, George "Kenny" McLay, Billy Cooper and Rupert McLennan - a Mr. Arthurs was also associated with Mr. Doran in the mill business for a time.)

Fishing in those days was much better than it is today, Mr Doran recalls catching ten tons of trout fishing with ten nets of Greenock Point -north of Stokes Bay. While fishing at Stokes Bay Mr Doran was one of the first to fish with pound nets, called "pond nets". He caught a number of sturgeon, one of which weighed one hundred and seventy pounds, and contained twenty pounds of roe (fish eggs). He made over one hundred dollars on this one fish, which was quite a good sum at that time.