

HISTORY OF ROSENE'S TOURIST CAMP

I was asked to remember when we started Rosene's Camp. My earliest recollections of the business were back in the summer of 1945.

My father was a fishing guide, employed by Samoset Lodge on Lake Nipissing. He was guiding a group of Americans that were staying at Samoset Lodge. These fellows came from Akron, Ohio. Their names were Bill and Paul Moodie and Bill Jr. and two others whose names I cannot recall.

My father took them all around the West Arm of Lake Nipissing but they didn't have much luck. After a few days of poor fishing my dad said, "*I'm going to take you to a good place to fish*". He brought them to our farm where we had an old boat and motor. Dad took them to a few spots that he knew about and as it turns out the fishing was excellent. Everybody caught their limit of bass and pike.

The Moodies were so impressed with the lake and the farm that they told my father, "*If you can put us up, we will come back here next year*". My father made arrangements with Mr. Bert Batsford to let these gentlemen rent his cottage the following year. My mother cooked and served them their meals up at our house.

By this time, my brother Ernie was home from World War II and had applied for a Tourist Camp Operators licence. He began to build cottages in 1946 and this is pretty much how the business got started.

Paul Moodie came up here at least once a year for nearly 30 years until he passed away. The Moodie family told many of their friends about the great fishing and of course about my mother's wonderful cooking because she used to prepare most of the meals for the fisherman in the early years.

For many years, most of our business came from Ohio,(Akron, Toledo & Cleveland). We never had to advertise because all of our business was by word of mouth. We had many people that came back for 20 to 30 years so they must have liked the place.

By 1949, Ernie had built three or four cottages and we now had hydro. We had a fairly good business by then, including deer hunters in the fall as there were a lot of deer around the lake at that time.

My mother cooked for 10 to 15 hunters at supertime; could those guys ever eat ! She cooked meals for tourists right up into the late 1970's and baked bread, buns and pastry until she was not able to do the work anymore. She was a great lady and always had a smile and a kind word for everyone.

Thus were the beginnings of Rosene's Tourist Camp. The beauty and charm of the lake and surrounding area continue to draw patrons to our establishment. We are consistently rewarded by the happy people we see leaving our camp and the friends we have accumulated over the years.

JIM ROSENE