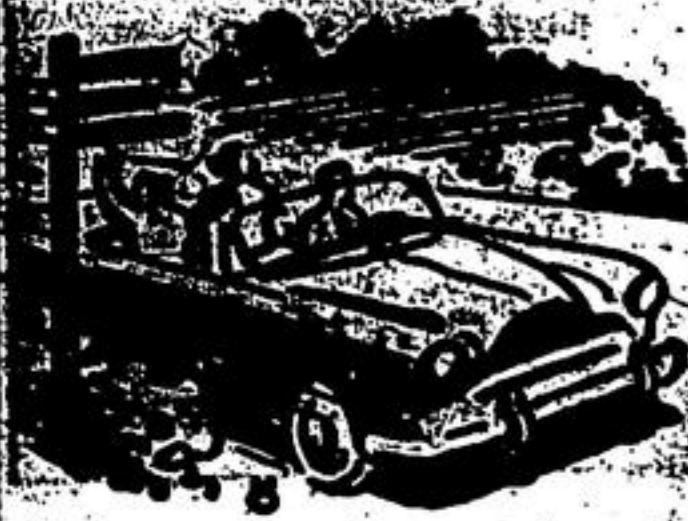


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It seems to me that a lot of the joy has gone out of summer cottage life, with the introduction of hydro, running water and other symbols of progress.

Twenty or thirty years ago, Father would pack the family in the car and head for the cottage as soon as school was out. The car would be loaded down like a prairie schooner. He'd have three or four blowouts on the way. Mother, under pretence of getting the children out of earshot of the profanity, would talk them all over the fence and into the bushes, where they would all do their trick.

The cottage was just that, not a palatial summer home. Today it would be called a shack. The kids would be out of the car and racing around like rabbits. Mother would be airing bedding, cleaning lamps and getting a fire started and some supper on. Father would walk around the shack giving it a kick here and there. Then he'd walk over to the neighbor's and join him in a pipe and a cold one.

After supper, while mother was doing the dishes, he'd take the water pail and the kids, and walk over to the farm to draw some drinking water from the well. The farmer was an old

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friend, not an amusing character. After a chat about the winter's happenings, he'd round up the kids and take them back to the cottage, at dusk. Then he'd light the fireplace and sit there smoking with dignity, while mother removed slippers, made everybody wash their feet, dug out pyjamas and nighties, and sent them in to kiss Father goodnight.

Later, they might sit and chat quietly about things that needed doing, or the old friends in the next cottage might drop in for a game of hearts and a cup of tea. They retired early and slept well.

Next morning, while Mother was getting sorted out, Father would get out some ice. This was always a big deal for the kids. The ice-house was behind the cottage. Each winter the farmer put some ice in. While Father roared orders, the kids scraped away the clean-smelling sawdust until that thrilling moment when the ice appeared. Then, with much grunting and the odd oath, Father would dig out a big chunk, wash it off, and stagger with it to the icebox, looking as though he'd just conquered Rome when he finally got it wedged in.

Then came the launching of the boat. Father pulled it out from under the cottage and kicked it once or twice. Next there'd be a great family effort as it was hauled, shoved and bullied down to the lake, with the use of rollers. It had to soak for a day. If it still leaked, the seams were patched with oakum and tar. There was always a great search for the oars, nobody remembering where they had been left last year. Mother always produced them from the ice-house or the rafters.

"WITTEE WOLLE"



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CHICKEN BARBECUE WILL FEATURE PARK OPENING

St. Stephen's Guild met at the home of Mr. Ted Robinson on Tuesday evening, August 6th with ten members present.

The president, Mrs. Arthur Plant opened the meeting with the Guild Prayer. The president had all the names of the members in a box and drew names for the conveners and helpers for the different tables at the bazaar which has been planned for October 26. Two members were chosen to represent the Guild at a meeting for the Community Park barbecue to be held in the Orange Hall.

The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Edward Robertson on September 3rd.

The meeting closed with prayer and lunch was served by the hostesses assisted by Mr. Ken Ella.

Harold Dennis has been quite ill with the mumps this week and Nancy Robertson has the measles. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Saunders, Johnny and Judy spent the weekend at Wasaga Beach and visited with Mrs. Jim Hill of Angus.

A turkey dinner was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Leslie on Sunday evening in honor of their thirty seventh wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Leslie's family and grandchildren attended the dinner.

Elva Howden, Shirley Downs, Yvonne Simpson and Beverley Royce coached the junior girls of the community in a ball game held at the ball diamond on Saturday afternoon. They are planning to teach the little girls how to play ball each Saturday.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. James McKay on the birth of their son on Sunday, August 11th.

The wooden bridge on the 6th line below Hornby fell through just after a gravel truck had crossed the bridge.

Hornby was a busy place last Friday. A new tarvy pavement was being made on the seventh line. This new stretch of road starts at the Hornby garage then across the base line to adjoin the cement pavement at the upper corner.

Bill Speck drove his stock car in the fire car races again last Saturday at Wasaga.

On Wednesday evening, August 7th a meeting was called by the community park board held at the Orange Hall. Representatives from local organizations were present. The meeting was to organize an official opening of the new park by holding a chicken barbecue. All present were in favour of helping and planned to hold it on September 7th.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bradley and their daughters attended a family reunion in Welland on Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard. Mrs. Bradley's sister, Mrs. Ron Calder, of Watertown, Mass., and her son, are spending a few days at the Bradleys.

Fourteen of the St. Stephen's Guild members called on Mrs. Ted Robinson on Monday evening and had a real surprise party for her.

Miss Dorothy Course showed a few pictures of her sister's wedding and reception at which the Guild had catered.

The ladies gave Mrs. Robinson a personal going away gift and then served lunch that they had provided. Mrs. Robinson is taking a trip home to Scotland.

Mrs. Ken Ella had the misfortune to step on a nail and needed medical attention.

And that was about it. The family was all set for the summer. There was lots of firewood in the bush. Eggs, milk, chickens and vegetables could be obtained at the farm. A grocer-butcher called twice a week with his wares. And if anything special was needed, like coal-oil, friend farmer would pick it up on his Saturday night trip to town.

Next day, Sunday, Father would give Mother some money, kiss everybody, and head for home, and the golf links or bowling green, with a gladsome heart. He might be up for Civic Holiday week-end, and a week's holiday in August, but otherwise, he was a summer bachelor, and quite happy about it, for the next two months.

During those two months, Mother would cope with cut feet, poison ivy, summer flu and voracious appetites. She would take the gang swimming twice a day, keep their bowls open, fill them with unpasteurized milk, ungraded eggs and uninspected meat, and wash their dirty clothes once a week, over a scrub-board. And - here's the funny part - Mother was happy, the kids were happy and Father was happy at home.

What a difference a generation has wrought in the summer cottage scene! Now the family races two hundred miles in a big car to the cottage, towing a dirty great boat behind. No blowouts, no trips into the bush. On arrival, Dad starts charging around like a construction foreman, putting on screens, hooking up the pressure system, blowing fuses in the hydro system, trying to get his dirty great boat into the water, and lugging vast motors, cans of gas and cases of beer here and there.

Mum complains about the hole in the screen, the mice dirt and the fact that there's no ice yet for her gin-and-lime. The kids have read all their comic books on the trip, and are bewailing the fact that there's no TV set at the cottage. Mum switches on the electric stove, shoves some frozen dinners in the oven and sinks, exhausted into the chaise longue on the screened-in verandah, to look with bored disdain at the lake.

After dinner, the children in bed. Dad and Mum sit there looking rather uneasily at the fire, slightly woeful expressions blaze into delight when there's a bang on the door, and in walk good old Dot and Dan, from three cottages up, with a jug, just bubbling over with "you old so-and-so's", and "let's have a ball" and "whatsamatter, ye getting old?"

Next day, Dad crawls about his chores, rigging up the barbecue for the party. It seems they're having that night, arranging with a farmer's wife to do the washing, rearing at the kids to leave Mummy alone because she's not well, and driving 12 miles to the village to get a bottle of coffee, a box of pretzels and some salser for the gin, all of which are indispensable.

Well, space forbids labouring the

500 Chicks Destroyed in Milton Barn Fire

A Sunday afternoon fire, believed started by a brooder stove, caused loss of 500 week-old chicks and completely levelled a barn on the Chester Service farm, R. R. 3 Milton.

Mrs. Service, who was on the top floor of the barn when the fire broke out, singed her hair in escaping from the burning building. Milton firemen answered the call to the fire which could be seen for several miles around. By pumping water from Sixteen Mile Creek nearby, they saved neighbouring buildings, some containing older chicks.

Power in the area was disrupted following the fire when lines were cut from the burning building.

Dad gets home after the week-end, exhausted. But the horrible part of it is that he has to be at the cottage every week-end, plus his three weeks' holiday in August. At least twice a week he gets a phone call from Mum, containing a list of complaints that she's bored, things to bring, and people who are going to "drop over" on Saturday night. Some of them should drop over a cliff, he thinks.

Sure, they have lights, water and indoor plumbing now, but they've lost a lot of other things. Today's cottage, in his frantic search for ease and convenience, has created a Frankenstein. No longer does he walk around his shack and give it a couple of friendly kicks. It would probably kick back. He's a slave to all that machinery, and a captive of all that social life - about as vital and meaningful as an indoor toilet - that seems to go with it.



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THE MAIL BAG

Thinks Pet Poisoned Complains to Police

Georgetown, Ont., August 12th, 1957

Dear Mr. Editor:

It would appear that someone in the Albert Street - Durham Street area is knowingly, or unknowingly disposing of some of our pets... Our pet cat which we have had for some years was found dead on a neighbor's porch one day last week, apparently poisoned, and on Friday last, I found the pet cat belonging to the neighbour behind us on Durham Street in our garage, apparently also having died of poisoning. As well as this, I understand that one of the Durham St. residents lost a dog through the same cause and an Albert Street dog was very sick for some days, but as of now, seems to have overcome the problem.

I notified the police of this matter, but would also appreciate your giving the situation some publicity with a view to avoiding further suffering in the area.

Thank you,
 Yours very truly,
 CEC DAVIDSON

3 - CABS - 3

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