

Jamming It for 50+ Years

Pat's Jams is an institution in the County. If you haven't heard of it and more to the point purchased jams and jellies from Pat's, then you haven't "tasted" the County at its most flavourful.

Fifty plus years ago, Pat York (nee Minaker) started the fledgling "cottage" trade of making jams and displaying them for sale on a picnic table in front of her home on Morrison Point Road at Black Creek. It wasn't long before the picnic table could no longer hold

the growing number and variety of jams and jellies and the stock was selling out rapidly. To the rescue came Pat's husband, Bob, who built her a tiny cottage-like shed that for decades stood as a road-side destination for County residents and visitors.

Bob and Pat had operated a

dairy farm previously but decided to sell at the time when farmers had to increase the size of the herd to get more industrial quota. Since their waterfront property extended to Black Creek, they decided to turn to the hospitality industry as a family business.

"In six weeks, we built four cottages. It was nuts," Pat remembers. Once the cottages were going, she added the sweet side to their business by starting Pat's Jams. As it grew, she had a few kitchen helpers including niece Miranda Miller, who started as an apprentice jam maker at 14 years of age.

"One year, we made and sold \$50,000 worth of jam. That was nuts, too." To put that in some context, at an average of

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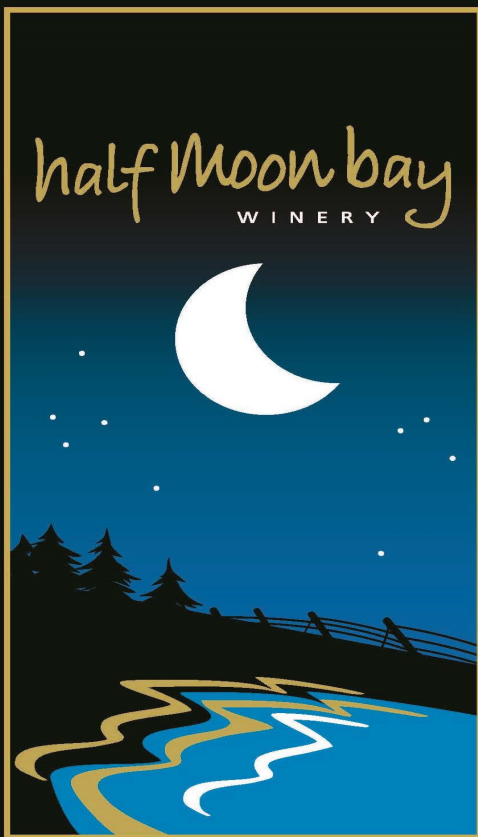
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