

# There's magic out there

By Anne Todesco

Fifty or more virgin islands are in our bay. One majestic island, the Quarry, appears as a huge humped animal guarding the entrance to our harbour.

The harbour is practically landlocked, with Nicol Island on the east, the point of land on the west and our faithful guard the Quarry on the south side.

This gives us two entrances to the harbour, which present magnificent scenes.

The stones from here were used to make homes, bridges, buildings and headstones. They also provide havens for yachts to shelter from storms.

For those who like climbing and exploring, there are many trails, caves, large fissures and old building sites to explore and enjoy. The beautiful, panoramic scenes afford one the opportunity to spend many a happy hour on the sites.

High cliffs with birds soaring and gliding on air currents like planes on the horizon before seeking the entrance to their well con-

cealed nests on ledges are a sight.

Watching the amazing pageants put on by water fowl ducks, herons geese and loons as they perform their courting antics are an added treat. It is entrancing to watch the parents take their young to sheltered coves to teach them how to search for food or hide from danger.

The cool waters provide refreshing bathing, but only for shorts periods of time as the water is cold in Lake Superior!

Little Lake Harbour on Wilson Island is like a deep, small lake where some derelict boats are anchored or hauled upon the beach and tied to trees. They slowly slip off the rollers when the rope has decayed and end up sinking in the water to forever cease their days of usefulness.

Often, Little Harbour is known as the graveyard for old boats. Some tugs and large cruisers can enter this sheltered spot, but sailboats are unable to do so because of their deep keels.

It is quite an experience to witness the otters ducking and diving

under our boats while sort of hissing at us. They can put on quite a show by sliding down a muddy bank or disappearing into the den entrance under water.

Sometimes our boat would rock from their diving antics. The otter is truly in its element when swimming and diving.

On one trip to the location, we found old, rusted traps fastened to trees. One had not been sprung, so we set it off for the safety of others who might not see it and be injured. Some time long ago, a trapper had left them there.

Muskrats, beavers, frogs, crayfish and trout were plentiful in the wee harbour and provided food for the otter.

Nearby lighthouses are an attraction to the tourists. Those on Battle Island, Lamb Island, and the site of the old Talbot Lighthouse on the island of the same name near Bowman Island, which is about 30 miles from Rossport are popular sites.

The Talbot Island was built in 1866 and closed in 1872. It was nicknamed "Light of Doom" by

some mariners as three lightkeepers were lost during its time.

It was the only lighthouse on Canadian shores of Lake Superior at that time besides the one at Point Porphy.

One lightkeeper and his wife decided to remain at the light for the winter one year, and after putting in their supplies and cutting several cords of wood, they settled in for a winter of rest and ease.

The lightkeeper's name was Thomas Lamphier. He took very ill during the winter and died. With no way to call for help, his wife wrapped his body in a sheet of canvas and hauled it to a rock crevice by sled. Once there, she pushed the body of her dead husband into the crevice and covered it with brush.

Her hair turned white through that lonely vigil. When some Indians came by in the spring, they buried her husband on Bowman Island. Captain Fred Gerow and Joseph King shared this historical episode with me several years ago, and I had published it then.

Veteran fisherman William Schelling put a cross on the grave

and kept it tidy and painted. I often wonder who shares this type of kindness, now that Mr. Schelling is retired.

The empty lighthouse helped fishermen for many years. During a storm, the first one to reach the shelter of the bay at Talbot Island

would knock or bang on the empty lighthouse with a stick to guide other commercial boats around the shoals and to safety.

The building supplied lumber for many an islander to build a shelter or fishing shack.

The first lighthouse keeper was Mr. Perry; the second was an Andrew Hymes. The fixed light slowly disappeared from the channel, but it is not forgotten.

Centuries of French, Scottish and English culture came up the lakes and settled along the Northshore. Small communities, friends and friendships left long and strong historical ties with us.

There are many secret places, natural splendours and scenic marvels — there's magic out there among the islands!

## Bits 'n Bites

By Helene Ballard

Hello Folks; I hope I can make sense out of this week's writing, but I am still not quite myself, so please bear with me.

One thing for sure is that our weather has been grand. It's so nice to see the leaves on the trees. Of course, we must also have dandelions to spoil the nice green lawns. Our Home is looking nice; the green grass has been cut and the garden is almost planted.

Cliff Barker and our devoted Mina have been busy, and we will be happy to eat fresh vegetables again.

On Monday, May 30, we held our monthly Resident Council meeting, which was well attended.

Different things things were talked over and settled; after all, that is the purpose of these meetings.

Our card playing friends were in for their weekly visit to play Bridge, to which our residents look forward. Our thanks to these ladies.

One of our residents, Stewart Anderson, received a nice plaque from the Fun Run. He was the oldest person taking part in this event. Congratulations, Stewart, we are proud of you!

As June is Senior Citizens Month, we will have several events planned at Birchwood. Look for more information in this column at a later date.

Until next time remember: "There's no tomorrow. Today is the 'tomorrow' you worried about yesterday. So long!

I . MURRY DODICK R.O.  
**Optometrist**  
 1119 Victoria Avenue  
 Thunder Bay, Ontario  
 P7C 1B7  
 Telephone (807) 622-7726

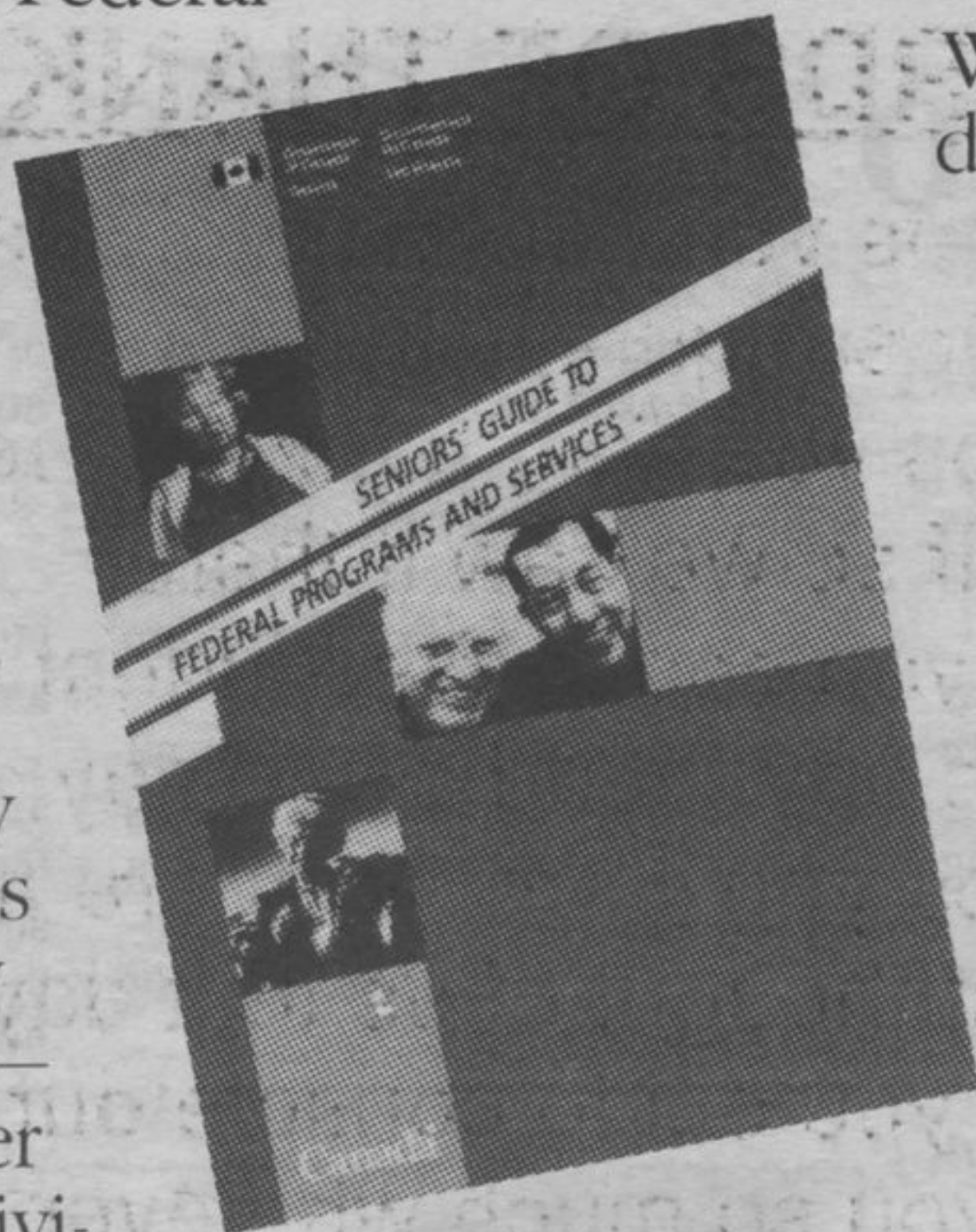
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ensure that all programs were included. Watch for the Guide during the month of June at Infocentres in selected supermarkets across Canada. It will be available along with other publications that you will find useful. Or, you may obtain a copy of the Guide, free of charge by filling out the coupon below and mailing it in an envelope to:

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