

Couple travels from New Zealand to study family history

Cloisture of 'Monks' in Terrace Bay

I traced my family tree...and found out I was the sap.
Rodney Dangerfield

By Greg Huneault
the News

It's been a long trip from 'Down Under,' but for New Zealanders Linda and Bernie Monks it has been one of uniting and strengthening family ties.

The Monks travelled from Auckland, New Zealand to Terrace Bay as part of a vacation which will take them back to the west coast of Canada and down through the United States.

The couple arrived at Vancouver on May 29 after flying over the Pacific Ocean to begin not only a leisurely vacation, but a "fact finding" mission as well.

New Zealander Bernard Monks is the first cousin once-removed of Peter Monks, a Terrace Bay resident who was featured in the May 4 issue of the *News* as northwestern Ontario's Pearly King.

Peter wears a unique suit of buttons as a statement of not only his own cultural background, but also as encouragement for others to study their own culture and traditions.

For Peter and Bernie's wife Linda, using proper jargon such as "first cousin once-removed" is important. (The term describes the relationship of two people whose grandparents were brothers, sisters, or brother and sister. In this case, Peter's grandfather was the brother of Bernie's grandfather).

Fancying themselves as family historians, Peter and Linda began corresponding to each other after Peter wrote to obtain information about Bernie and his family.

Peter discovered that Linda had quite a bit of information about his family that he did not have. The two began exchanging photos and correspondence of the Monks' lineage.

The New Zealand couple decided to visit Terrace Bay and share information with Peter and his wife Daphne.

As amateur genealogists, Peter and Linda in particular have studied their family history with a passion.

Do you know the name of your great, great, great, great, great grandfather? Linda knows the name of her's on her father's side. She has traced her paternal



G'day mates: Peter Monks of Terrace Bay (left) recently hosted New Zealand relatives Linda and Bernie Monks who are not only enjoying a vacation, but are on a "fact finding mission" as well.

(father's) family "tree" as far back as 1693.

With a documented family history extending that far back, it is certain there are a few compelling and interesting stories.

"There were so many disasters," said Linda of her family's background.

Her great grandfather was accused of being a deserter of the British Royal Navy in 1863. Actually, he made it to Australia after being shipwrecked while on the maiden voyage of the Royal Navy Ship Orpheus.

He apparently did desert in 1866 at which time he began mining for gold.

The little stories and pieces of information add up to provide a colourful picture of the past, and Linda says there are a few methods that should be used by those interested in discovering their past.

By far, the greatest source of information will come from older relatives and friends. Linda suggests writing to and talking with as many family members and friends as possible.

"It's like being a detective," Bernie said. "There's a lot of digging."

Linda agrees. She suggests starting with your own birth certificate and working back from the names on it. Libraries also provide some help, particularly history books, but there are a few pitfalls along the way.

Cost is definitely a big factor. Throughout her search, Linda has spent quite a bit of money on postage for correspondence, copies of birth certificates, and memberships to genealogical societies. She had also hired a researcher in England to help her obtain information in that country.

Linda said there are other obstacles as well. Name changes, children born out of wedlock, remarriages and other 'family skeletons' make the quest more challenging.

The stuff that television miniseries are made of might be part of your own family history.

It really shouldn't come as a surprise then when Linda says she enjoys reading history books and fiction based on fact. It really isn't that surprising also to see the almost addictive nature with which she and others pursue this fascinating hobby.

"Once you start," she began before trailing off with a smile and a shake of her head.

It redefines how one thinks of different nationalities, countries and individuals. "You find you've got family all over the world," Linda said.

I thought about that statement and realized it was true. As I bade them farewell, I told them I would visit if I was ever in Auckland, New Zealand. But I didn't have the nerve to ask them if I could borrow 20 bucks 'til payday. There's just some family members you don't do that to.

This Week in Fire!

Norm Gladish
MNR Fire Prevention Technician

The week ending June 3 was possibly Ontario's busiest with respect to fire occurrences since 1980. Over 227 new fires were recorded, including 69 within a 24-hour period on June 1. Effective initial attack by MNR fire crews with a water bomber support prevented any of these fires from causing damage.

As Minister of Natural Resources Vince Kerrio said: "Our efforts to suppress fires on initial attack have been tremendously effective, despite such obstacles as multiple fire starts, extreme fire danger and very erratic fire behaviour."

"We've had to contend with extremely hot, dry weather conditions and a lot of lightning-caused fires," he added.

That last statement was no exaggeration. More than 51,000 strikes were recorded that week, causing 197 new fires.

Again, the northwestern region of the province was the target of the heaviest fire activity. The MNR was required to deploy 133 of its 170 fire fighting crews, 14 CL-215 heavy water bombers and one twin engine Otter water bomber.

The regular fleet of nine CL-215's had been increased by loans from Newfoundland, the Northwest Territories and Yukon at the request of Ontario.

Locally, Terrace Bay saw fire fighting action when smoke was reported Friday, June 10 at 4.15 pm. Mother Nature had saved MNR the cost of igniting the Roger Lake Prescribed Burn. Lightning was found to be the culprit.

Smoke from this fire was not detected earlier because smoke from far northern fires had filled the air in the Manitouwadge area all day. Extreme winds quickly fanned the flames to a good sized fire of 270 hectares by nightfall.

An extensive tramping of dead balsam fir by bulldozer had been done last winter in preparation for a

prescribed burn. It had been scheduled for ignition this summer when weather conditions were appropriate. Thusly, a good supply of dry forest fuel was ready to be burned. Now it had been lighted prematurely. The problem was to contain it.

To this effect, one five-man crew was dispatched from Manitouwadge by air with a follow-up crew by truck.

Seeing the smoke column, the crew leader quickly requested further help. Two more crews were immediately sent and were augmented soon after by crews from Terrace Bay and Geraldton, the nearest fire operations bases to Manitouwadge.

Two CL-215's (one belonging to Newfoundland) and a Twin Otter arrived at the fire from Thunder Bay at about 8.30 pm. They quickly cooled flames at the head of the fire by water bombing, which allowed ground crews to establish a hose line around its perimeter.

A second bombing early Saturday combined with cool temperatures and light winds allowed fire fighters to hold their hose lines. Terrace Bay Fire Number Six was being held to the original prescribed burn boundaries.

Under normal fire fighting conditions, an initial attack on a fire might involve one or two 5-man crews plus a water bomber. During the past two weeks, however, several fires (such as Terrace 6) have required an initial attack force of up to 15 crews and 5 CL-215's to prevent a major fire from developing.

This is a good indication of the extremely dry forest conditions in parts of Ontario. Our crews are to be congratulated for a job well done.

With no immediate rain in sight, the Restricted Fire Zone status imposed on June 6 across Ontario was extended.

Continued co-operation, caution and good sense by the public will be needed to minimize fire starts resulting from human carelessness. Aggressive initial attack is our only recourse to lightning fires.

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The Township of Terrace Bay invites quotations for the supply and installation of a neon illuminated sign for the Terrace Bay Recreation Centre. Interested parties should contact the undersigned by 12:00 noon on Monday, June 27th, 1988 for details.

Dean Main
Recreation Co-ordinator
Terrace Bay Recreation Centre
P.O. Box 10
Terrace Bay, Ontario
P0T 2W0 825-3542

