

## Musselman's Lake

# SUMMER RETREAT FROM CITY HEAT



Mr. George Davies — the designer and developer of beautiful Cedar Beach. This portrait, hangs in the entrance to the spacious pavilion. The building was erected in 1929.

## Cedar Beach, 8000 visitors daily

By Bob Hastings

**MUSSELMAN'S LAKE** — In 1923 it may have been a hundred acre farm but now with up to 8,000 visitors daily it has become a summer town. Today, Cedar Beach, crouched on the north shore of Musselman's Lake, provides a recreational outlet for hordes of Metro and district families.

The main attraction is the large, immaculate bathing area supervised by a crew of four lifeguards. Volleyball, tennis and shuffleboard courts, horseshoe pits, swings, slides, canoes and rowboats are among the other features of summer fun. Company picnics are almost a daily occurrence.

This area did not develop overnight. In fact, it was 47 years ago that George Davies, a housebuilder in Toronto, realized the recreational potential of Edward Gray's farm. He soon purchased the property. The following year, 1924, horses struggled in harness pulling turnpikes to carve out a rather primitive beach. Randolph Chapman, a farmer, turned businessman, became the concessionaire of a small refreshment stand.

With the onset of the depression in 1929, George Davies kept his carpenters in work by having them construct the pavilion which still stands at the beach entrance. Ten years later, war broke out and the place was dormant until 1945 when Mr. Davies' son Vern returned from the war and with his wife Audrey re-established the business.

In 1957, Cedar Beach came under the control of a private company with Vern and Audrey as majority shareholders. Six years later the senior Mr. Davies passed away and his wife Venetia, who was very active in the business, followed in 1968.

The development of the property was not without much sweat and tears. The major problem was combatting the beach washouts caused by spring floods and severe storms. The present terraced effect along the bank is a stark reminder of the early headaches. This fear no longer exists. In 1954 a large storm drain was installed and the problem overcome.

Musselman's Lake itself is a very high point — 1075 feet above sea level — and is part of the Holland River system fed by underground springs. More accurately, it is a kettle lake on a ridge of land between the major lakes, Simcoe and Ontario. It has a surveyed area of 118.2 acres and is privately owned.

Regardless of the historical or geographical significance, Musselman's Lake is meeting the needs of thousands in search of an escape from the summer heat.



Mr. Vern Davies — who with his wife Audrey, have continued to improve the property, making it one of the most scenic resort sites in Southern Ontario. Jas. Thomas.

## Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Di Rocco

### Lovely cottage nears completion

By Bob Hastings  
**MUSSELMAN'S LAKE** - Cedar Beach, on the north shore of Musselman's Lake has become home temporarily or permanently for a growing number of people. Their reasons for situating here, although varied, usually hint of displeasure with the by-products of the big city environment.

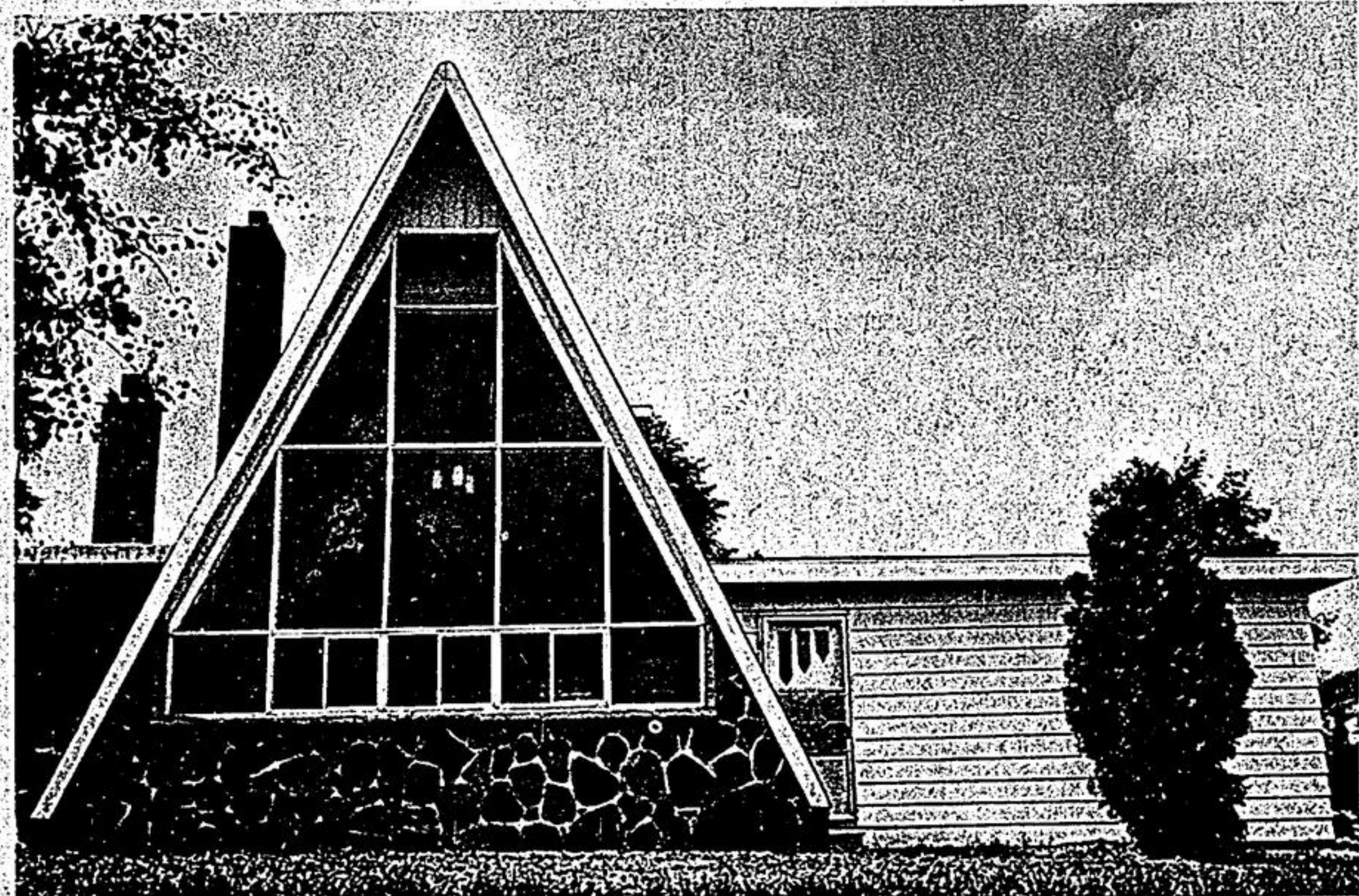
Di Rocco, it's an escape. And who can blame them for wanting to flee the heat, traffic, smog, noise and other urban irritants. Cedar Beach has one main advantage over the more popular resort areas - distance. It is only about forty minutes from the east end of Toronto. This allows the Di Rocco's to spend full weekends at their beautiful summer

home without the problem of battling the turtle caravan travelling farther north. "We even manage a few week days up here during the summer when business permits", he said. Mr. DiRocco is the owner of Central Contracting, a home building firm in the city.

It all started a few years ago when they visited friends at the Beach. Next

came a small cottage a few hundred yards from their present site. Now they have one of the most eye-appealing homes in the area.

Why Cedar Beach? "Fine natural setting, escape from spiralling property taxes in the city, closeness to family." Whatever the reason, it's fast becoming a haven for the anti-city dweller.



Nearing completion in the Cedar Beach cottage area of Musselman's Lake is the lovely summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Di Rocco. —Jas. Thomas.

## Editorial

### Vacation Guests

I never saw so many people in town and yet I hardly recognized a soul, commented a Stouffville native, watching crowds of shoppers stroll up and down Main Street, Saturday.

While the percentage will never be known, we would estimate, at least half were visitors from Musselman's Lake - and the majority of these from the 'campers community' at Cedar Beach. Such side-walk scenes are familiar in Stouffville every weekend, all summer long.

The increased popularity of trailer living and, in particular the site at Cedar Beach, is amazing. With an estimated 1,000 persons there at the height of the season, its a 'village' unto itself.

Vern and Audrey Davies, the co-designers of this camp and the Cedar Beach resort itself, are justly proud of this personal project. And it's expanding with each year.

Trailer life is family living in its most fulfilled form. Drive through the park and you'll see parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren working and playing together in the closest kind of co-operation.

And while the summer cottage resident still plays an important part in the life of Musselman's Lake, the trend is now to campers and trailers. There's plenty of room for both and Stouffville welcomes you all.

### Suffers back injuries

**WHITCHURCH TWP.** - a 25 year old Willowdale woman suffered back injuries in a two car collision, July 2, at the intersection of the Aurora Sideroad and the 7th conc. Laura Ann Chalk was attempting a turn when her vehicle was struck by a second, driven by Cerardo Fotorini, 68, of Greenwood. Total damage is estimated at \$1,000. The accident was investigated by P.C. George Heppel.



The fishing's great at Musselman's Lake. As proof, this 14 pound Northern Pike, caught Friday by Keith Perron, South Lake Road. It measured 14 inches long. —Jas. Thomas.

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