

Lake's Glendale pavilion for sale

By Ron Miller
Simcoe Real Estate Limited
MUSS LAKE — Glendale Beach dance pavilion overlooking Musselman's Lake is listed for sale at \$295,000.00 in district X42 of the I.C.I. section. The almost 14,000 square foot building with 35-40 foot high ceilings, is situated on about 11 acres with a sandy beachfront beside the Lake. The interior layout includes a massive windowed ballroom with raised bandstand, a large arcade or dining-room area and a spacious manager's apartment. There are gleaming hardwood floors throughout the entire building.

Reflecting back to the big band era, creates a feeling of nostalgia to any of us who are over 40 years of age. Memories of old stomping grounds where we met new friends include: Palace Royal, Palace Pier, the Brant Inn at Burlington, Dunn's at Bala, Bigwin Inn at Dorset, Glendale and Cedar Beach at Musselman's Lake. Names of orchestras include: Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians—who could forget New Year's Eve at the Brant Inn with Guy; Ron Bagnato, Bobby Gimby and Jack Evans, just to name a few. And,

who could forget the music: String of Pearls, American Patrol, Don't sit under the Apple tree, Pennsylvania 6-5000; Marie, Woodchoppers Parade and In the Mood. There were different music eras including Charleston, Swing, Jitterbug, Latin American, Country Dancing, and last but not least "The Last Waltz With You".

Fred Coultice bought the Musselman's Lake resort business in 1929. It included the park, a decrepid old dance hall and old hotel and a cabin. He moved his wife, five year old daughter, Evelyn, and infant son, John, from the ancestral farm at Brooklin to the hillside cabin overlooking the Lake. Around 1934, the hotel burned down and a few years later Mr. Coultice decided to build a new dance pavilion.

Jim Coultice was born at the property and he remembers helping his father and older brother, during the period of construction. It took several years to complete, and "I remember bringing water in my sand pail to help mix the cement". "I can also remember a popular band called Billy Hole and his Live Wires being featured at our place".

Evelyn (Mrs. Dorcus) recalls the long hours involved in running the business. "We made a good living, but we worked until 11 p.m. every day. The boys helped by selling food, snacks, ice cream and cigarettes, in the arcade area of the hall, and also cut ice with dad during the winter months. We held midnight dances on special occasions and Civic holidays. I will never forget washing dishes through the early morning hours on these occasions. Perhaps, that is why I didn't like Musselman's Lake and preferred to work at the store my father bought in Zephyr".

Fred Coultice built a house nearby on Lakeshore Drive, and in 1952 he sold Glendale Beach to Stu Patrick a notable meat retailer, Reeve, and Deputy Councillor from Aurora.

Mr. Patrick says he operated Glendale Beach as highly profitable venture over the years. Only summer operation made sense at that time. Picnickers were required to enter the main gate by the store. They paid admission, had their hand stamped, bought groceries, and rented boats. By noon on Sundays, we filled the westerly side of the park with 3,000 to 4,000 people.

Only then, would we open the easterly side for further patrons. Once a week, we held a mixed dance: country & popular music. Art Selsie and the late Bob Scott's bands were a mainstay at the pavilion.

Mr. Patrick says: "Fred Coultice built a solid pavillion. There was never a vibration in the dance floor. The foundation will remain after we are all gone. Boy was it built".

In 1973 Maxwell and Ann Ewart purchased and operated the park and they still conduct the Saturday night dances on behalf of the owners. "We enjoy running the hall but we were under-capitalized to promote the business in the right way".

Vern Davies owns Cedar Beach pavilion on the opposite side of the Lake. His parents built the dance hall in 1929 and Vern and Audrey took over the business in 1945. "We have conducted friendly competition with Glendale over the years," says Vern. "We feature Saturday night country music dances, and rent the hall for banquets and Christmas parties. All the big bands have played here at one time or another including Don Messer and his Islanders, Jack Evans, and Bobby Gimby".

Recent events should make Glendale Beach an excellent investment for an owner with a promotional flair.

"Today, big band music is being rediscovered by young people, and is being featured on radio stations CKAN, CJCL, and FM108. I am sure young people would like to dance to a live orchestra," says well known Toronto bandleader Ron Bagnato (Palace Royal).

Recently, Hwy. 404 and other paved roads have brought Musselman's Lake to the doorstep of Toronto, Scarborough and Markham. Simply exit easterly off Hwy. 404 at the Bloomington Road, continue to the Ninth Concession, and north to the front door of Glendale Beach—good pavement all the way.

To-day, a regular liquor license from L.L.B.O., is obtainable for the premises. Glendale Beach could be operated as an entertainment lounge with at least one hour live entertainment for every four operating hours or as a dining lounge with an expandable license.

I feel the property has a great potential considering the recent developments mentioned.

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NOTICE OF HEARING

The Conservation Review Board will hold a public hearing under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, Section 29(8) at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, 1983 in the Council Chambers, 8911 Woodbine Ave., Markham, Ont., to determine whether the John Galloway House located on the west side of Woodbine Ave., south of Hwy. 7 (Pt. Lt. 10, Con. 3) and Harrington House, located on 14th Avenue, RR1, Milliken (Pt. Lt. 6, Con. 7) should be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Board may proceed in the absence of parties to the hearing to whom this notice applies and they will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

DATED at Toronto, this 10th day of November, 1983.

K. Joy Levison
 Chairman
 Conservation Review Board

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