

Cottage memories of trusty Teresa and a cheque will linger

There's probably a story behind the cheque that hangs framed on the bathroom wall of the cottage of Dave and Carolyn Duggan on Lake Haliburton.

Although when Dave called from his Stouffville home to make sure we had settled into the lakeside retreat without difficulty last week, he simply laughed when I mentioned the 18-year-old keepsake.

The \$77.14 cheque which adorns the bathroom wall is dated April 18, 1877. Everything was in order, the payer and payee were clearly printed, as was the amount, in writing and in numbers, along with bank and the account number the money was to be drawn upon. The bank stamp authorizing that the funds were paid had been imprinted May 9, a full three weeks after the cheque was written.

The only reason I can come up

with as to why it took as long as 21 days to process the cheque is that it was written out on a pair of women's pink panties.

But while the unusual cheque definitely added to the charm of the cottage, it was Teresa who ended up contributing the most to our stay. After sitting idly and without purpose next to a tree the past few seasons, Dave finally rolled Teresa via a makeshift dolly of logs, back into the water to take her rightful place in front of the dock this summer.

Teresa is not much to look at. Her metal hull has been painted a flat white, with basic black seats and a plastic outdoor carpet resembling early astroturf on the floor of the craft. We were a little apprehensive when Dave went to the trouble of videotaping himself starting Teresa's old 45-horse power outboard motor so we would be sure to get the



From where I live

Bruce Stapley

hang of it.

Much to my surprise, Teresa responded to my first advance by firing up like a well-tuned sports car. Over the next week or so, she escorted us in all her radiant plainness to the high spots of the lake, never failing us.

Years from now when I think back on our holiday spent at the Duggans' cottage, I'll reflect upon the sun-drenched beach at Sand Bay, the spring up the lake where water from an artesian well can be had and all that warm, knotty pine

Dave worked so hard to on the bathroom wall and cover the ceiling and Teresa's gracious hospitality that will linger longest in my mind.

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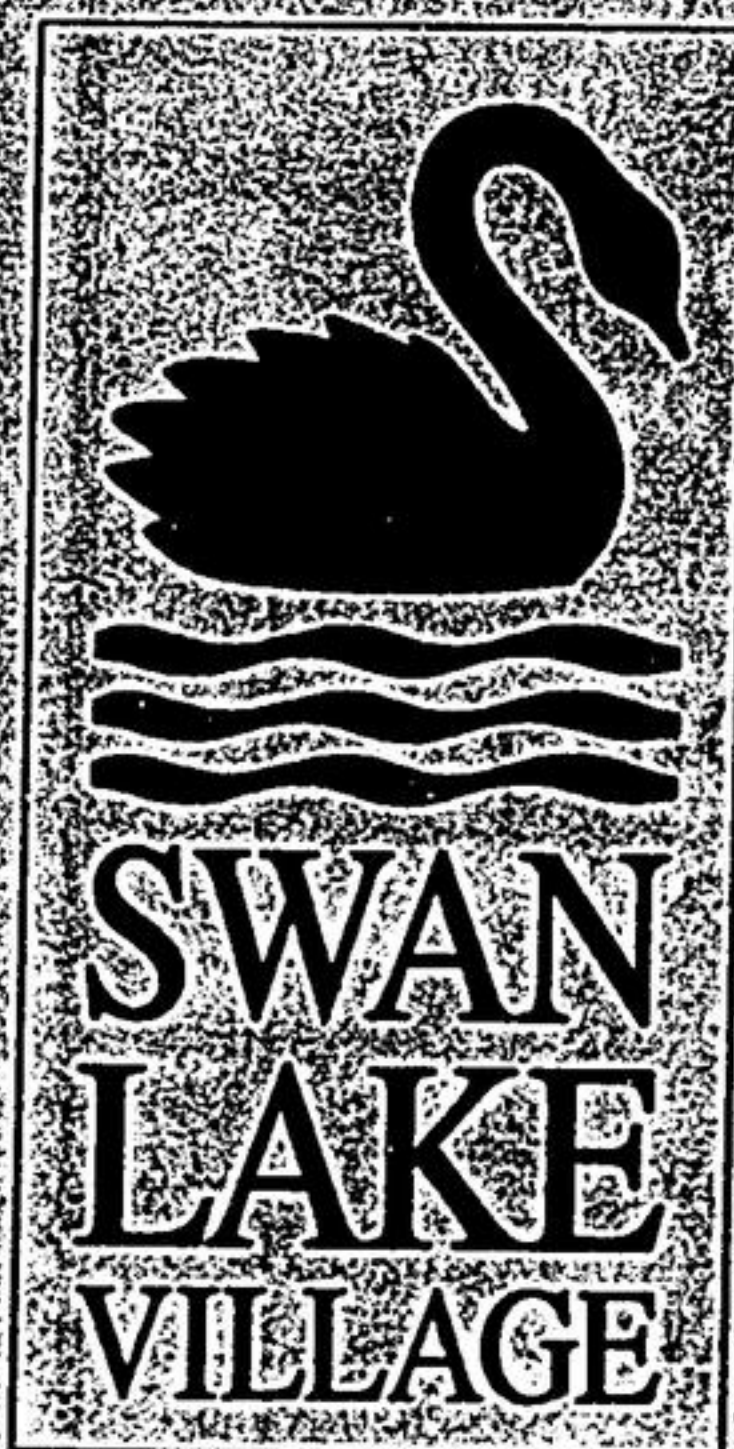
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