

# TROUT LAKE TIMES



**Companionship, Safety, Conservation**



**Where did the summer go?** “Those were the days my friend, we thought they’d never end”. Hope you have been having a great summer so far. The past week was the last blast of summer temperatures for the season. September is one of my favourite times on the lake. It tends to be quieter with the kids going back to school and it can still be warm and summer like before the chill of Autumn comes in October.

We have another “real time” newsletter from the lake. In this issue you’ll find:

- Silvery Moon Lodge, pictorial history
- 5 Questions with....

And more!



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# 100 years young!

This year, Silvery Moon Lodge celebrated its 100 year anniversary. For those of you who attended the picnic this year, you might have seen a display of photos depicting the lodge's history. Each caption is part of the narrative of the rich history and memories from the lodge. We thought we would share some of the pictures and story with you.

And it's quite a story.

Don & Diane Mayer's Aunt Edna, a single lady, purchased the land to start a fishing camp on her own, in 1923. There were no roads to the lake, no hydro, etc. It must have just been a trail from Noelville (maybe a logging trail as this occurred earlier at the lake. There are photos of logging with horses here). This just boggles my mind. She ran it somehow, and in 1961 Don & Diane purchased the lodge. At that time there was still no road, and no hydro. Some of their early guests who were Americans driving up from Ohio, Michigan and so on. Some of them were coming here before Hwy. 69 was built (via Hwy. 17), and one family drove up the day the highway opened (a gravel road!). They'd come with all their kids in a car and few extra kids for good measure. They fished all the back lakes too. One guy came up every year in his antique car. The original lodge burnt down (2001) but was rebuilt faithfully resembling the original lodge. Diane Mayer still lives on the lake.

Other lodge owners were: Bill & Linda Bowman  
 Bill & Sylvia Tomlinson  
 Samantha & Sandy Lindsay  
 Devin, Wes & Sue Stillar



At the age of 30, Miss Edna Mayer purchased her tourist camp from William Burke and named it "Edna's Camp." Not only did she fish and hunt, she was renowned for her piano playing. Her talents were recognized at the age of 7 and, by the age of 16 she played the piano in theatres introducing silent films. There was no road access to the camp so her piano travelled with her by boat in the spring and fall. Edna was also a school teacher.

The following two pages are the photo boards outlining the history of the lodge. They were originally one display at the picnic but we thought you might want another look. Apologies for the size but if you set your screen to a maximum zoom everything should be legible.

# Silvery Moon Lodge 1923 - 1961

## Edna's Camp

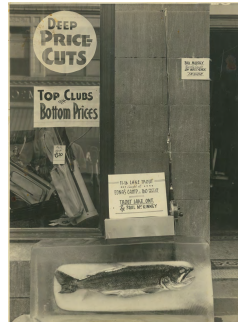


Edna's Camp 1923

At the age of 30, Miss Edna Mayer purchased her tourist camp from William Burke and named it "Edna's Camp." Not only did she fish and hunt, she was renowned for her piano playing. Her talents were recognized at the age of 7 and, by the age of 16 she played the piano in theatres introducing silent films. There was no road access to the camp so her piano travelled with her by boat in the spring and fall. Edna was also a school teacher.

Guests used to be picked-up at the French River Train Station prior to road access via Highway 69. They would then be brought to Happy Landing and get to Edna's Camp via boat.

The main lodge underwent many transformations over the years before it burned November 10, 2001.



A tourist caught this 11 lb. lake trout that was frozen in ice and on display at a store in Miami Florida.



To the left, Roger Mayer (nephew and employee), Edna and Guest.



The cabin on the point was always a favourite with fantastic views of the lake.



There was great fishing in Trout Lake making it a perfect destination for avid anglers from the USA.



Edna's boat to bring guests from Happy Landing government dock to the tourist camp. Edna is seated first row in the middle with her guests.



Edna's Camp was truly a place for the family to gather. She also relied on family to help with work. Left- Edna with hat standing up; first lady seated in the boat to the right is Mirza (Rosanne) Mayer, wife of Oscar (Edna's brother) who is standing on the dock to the right. Behind Oscar are his sons Donald, Raymond followed by Roger seated in the boat with glasses. Donald and his wife Diane (Carrière) would purchase Edna's Camp in 1961. Raymond was a fishing guide for both Edna and Donald/Diane. Roger and his wife Lillian (Carrière) both worked for Edna and Lillian would later work for Donald and Diane. Yes, two brothers married to two sisters. Roger and Lillian's children Aline, Diane, Denise, Louise and Jacques were raised with Donald and Diane's daughters Nicole and Carole. They spent their summers together and to this day consider themselves siblings.



# Silvery Moon Lodge 1961 - 1979

## Silv'ry Moon Lodge



Donald Mayer, Edna's nephew, purchased Edna's Camp in 1981. Donald Mayer worked at Home Hardware in Norville and Diane worked in the home taking care of their mother. Diane's mother Carol also, Diane's mother Pearl lived with them. They later became the owners of the lodge. Donald and Diane both also taught driver's education at the French River home in Noebelle in the fall. Diane, Nicole, Carole and Donald, Donald and Diane changed the name from "Edna's Camp" to "Silv'ry Moon Lodge" at the recommendation of Donald's sister Wynone. She and her husband Brian Commons had spent the winter of 1979 at the lodge. Donald and Diane would move to the tourist camp every spring and return to their home in Noebelle in the fall. There was no road access until the road was dry usually in May therefore, Donald would take the girls via boat from the lodge to Happy Landing and bring the snow machine to work on the road. Donald and Diane would work on the road with a snow machine to make the road passable for the winter season. Silv'ry Moon Lodge was sold to two couples in March of 1979 however Bill and Linda Bowman shortly became the sole owners of the tourist camp. The name of the tourist camp was eventually changed to Silvery Moon Lodge.

Picture above starting on the left Diane, Nicole, Carole and Donald, Donald and Diane changed the name from "Edna's Camp" to "Silv'ry Moon Lodge" at the recommendation of Donald's sister Wynone. She and her husband Brian Commons had spent the winter of 1979 at the lodge. Donald and Diane would move to the tourist camp every spring and return to their home in Noebelle in the fall. There was no road access until the road was dry usually in May therefore, Donald would take the girls via boat from the lodge to Happy Landing and bring the snow machine to work on the road. Donald and Diane would work on the road with a snow machine to make the road passable for the winter season. Silv'ry Moon Lodge was sold to two couples in March of 1979 however Bill and Linda Bowman shortly became the sole owners of the tourist camp. The name of the tourist camp was eventually changed to Silvery Moon Lodge.



Left: Donald singing, Raymond (Beaver) playing the piano, followed by Bill Servant singing.

Like the room of the main lodge where the tourists gathered to play games and where many parties were held. Raymond Mayer, Don's brother, played the piano and sang songs and played the harmonica. Everyone's favourite request, "From a Jack to a King".



Donald Mayer



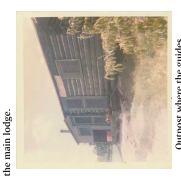
Left: Lillianne Mayer and right Diane Mayer. Weekly bill by wind tourists, which was held on the front porch of the main lodge.



The main lodge before it burned November 10th, 2001.



Refrigerator counter at the front of the main lodge.



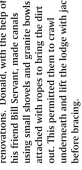
Outpost where the guides brought the fishermen.



Ice shed at the right, still standing today.



Back of the main lodge before renovation. Donald, with the help of his son, Sam, used a chainsaw using small shovels and granite blocks attached with ropes to bring the dirt out. This permitted them to crawl under the lodge and lift the lodge with jacks before burning.



Windstorm with many trees uprooted on the property. Front Right: Nicole Mayer and Jacques Mayer. Back right: Raymond Mayer, Donald Mayer and Thyse Mayer.



Windstorm with many trees uprooted on the property. Front Right: Nicole Mayer and Jacques Mayer. Back right: Raymond Mayer, Donald Mayer and Thyse Mayer.



Donald and Diane Mayer, both enjoyed fishing.



When Donald and Diane sold the tourist camp in 1979, the lot did not have the road because they did not have the space to accommodate at their house. When Aunt Edna visited their house, she asked where her nephew was. Donald told her that he would sell the land to the new owners, Bill and Linda Bowman, and explained the situation. They had bought another piano for them. Donald bought another piano for them. Carole, their daughter, continued to play the piano and it remains in the family home in Noebelle.

1968

1968

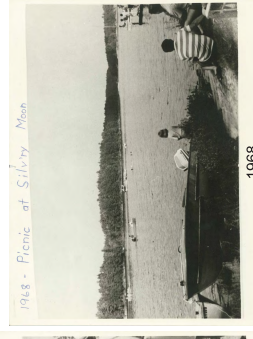
1968



1968 Picnic of Silvery Moon



1968 Picnic of Silvery Moon



1968 Picnic of Silvery Moon

The Trout Lake Association picnics held at Silv'ry Moon were always a big hit with the shoreline filled with boats and the grounds full at capacity.



Allye Mayer, daughter of Roger & Liliane, served meals in the dining room.



The main dock was always full of tourists and campers for cottages on Trout Lake. It was the gathering place for many who as Charles Lumbis, Bill and Perry Whitwell, Jacques Mayer, Don John Veethies and many others. Some of them would land on the dock to get their mail, have their laundry done, get their repairs and painting yet be always enjoyed seeing these young themselves.

After skiing, many of these friends gathered to play horseshoes. The main dock was always full of tourists and campers for cottages on Trout Lake. It was the gathering place for many who as Charles Lumbis, Bill and Perry Whitwell, Jacques Mayer, Don John Veethies and many others. Some of them would land on the dock to get their mail, have their laundry done, get their repairs and painting yet be always enjoyed seeing these young themselves.



Bill Whitwell 1976



Donald and Diane's granddaughter, Taylor V Mirka on September 3rd, 2023 at Silvery Moon Lodge. Taylor and her family had the opportunity to return to the land that holds special meaning for the family. Quite fitting for August 5, 1982. It was the last time the family was here when Donald died September 6, 2017. Diane continues to own her cottage on Trout Lake.

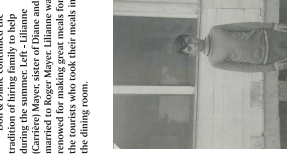
Donald and Diane's granddaughter, Taylor V Mirka on September 3rd, 2023 at Silvery Moon Lodge. Taylor and her family had the opportunity to return to the land that holds special meaning for the family. Quite fitting for August 5, 1982. It was the last time the family was here when Donald died September 6, 2017. Diane continues to own her cottage on Trout Lake.



"Diane's kitchen", where the tourists loved to gather. Don Walters, from Detroit Michigan, married to Fernande, Donald's sister, is holding the fish.



Don & Diane continued the tradition of hiring family to help with the lodge. Don Walters (Charles) Mayer, sister of Liliane and married to Roger Mayer. Liliane was renowned for making great meals for the tourists who took their meals in the dining room.



Liliane Mayer, wife of Don and Diane, worked at Silvery Moon starting when he was a teenager. He also worked subsequently for other owners.



Left: Daughter Nicole standing, with Dennis Ashby, Diane seated in front. Right: Daughter Nicole standing, with Dennis Ashby, Diane seated in front.



Wedding Anniversary August 5, 1982. It was the last time the family was here when Donald died September 6, 2017. Diane continues to own her cottage on Trout Lake.

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**Miranda Virtanen** is Lake's Director of Forestry and Environment. As a long time Trout Laker, we thought the membership should get to know her a little better, so we asked her....



# 5 Questions

## 1) How long have you lived on the lake?

All my life. My family has had property on Trout Lake since the 1950s. I grew up spending most of my summer and winter Holidays on the lake at my grandparents (aka "camp").

## 2) What are your favourite activities while at camp?

My favourite activities include enjoying a sauna and swim, discovering different wildlife, and spending time with family and friends.

## 3) You seem pretty passionate about the lake and keeping it as natural and pristine as possible. Is this profession or personal interest based?

Both. I've always had a personal interest in nature and wildlife. I was fortunate to follow my passion in academic studies, majoring in Wildlife Biology and Natural Resources Law Enforcement. My professional career focused in species at risk reptile conservation and more recently, water stewardship in my role as the Executive Director for the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee.

Throughout my professional career, I've had the opportunity to spend my time working closely with nature and see first-hand the impacts of biodiversity loss and water quality on ecosystems and the community. From this, I have gained a greater appreciation for the natural world - understanding the importance and responsibility of taking care of the land and water for both present and future generations.

## 4) What is your assessment of the health of the lake? Is the health changing?

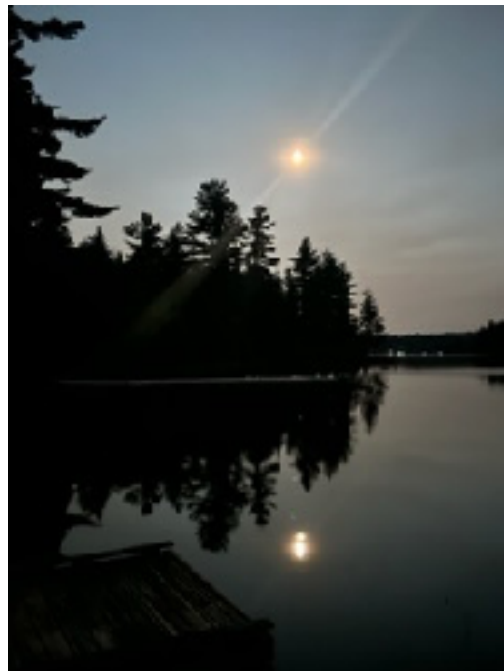
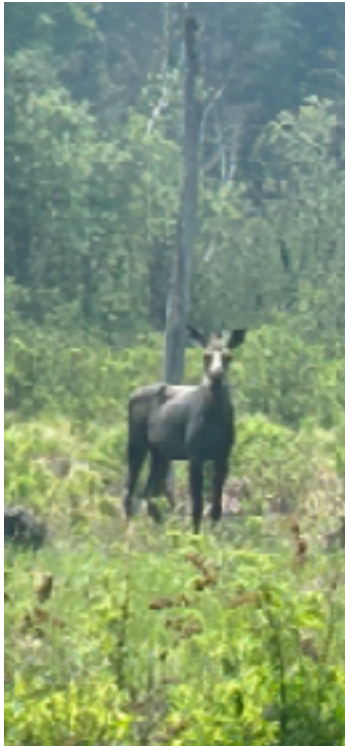
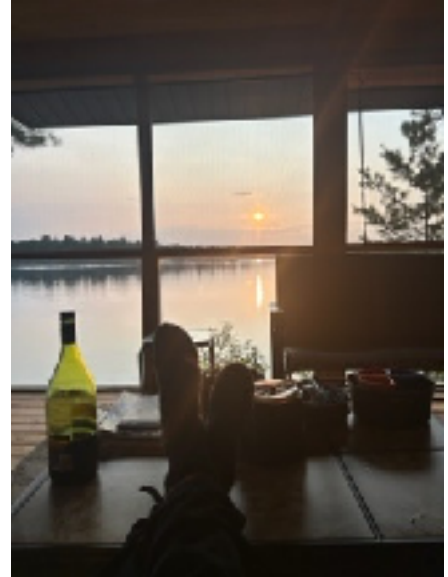
A comprehensive assessment of lake health would require more research, however, based on the available water quality data, the overall health of Trout Lake is relatively good. The phosphorus and water clarity levels are within the water quality standards for a deep, cold water lake, and the calcium levels have been improving. However, there is a concern for rising levels of excess nutrients and low dissolved oxygen levels associated with an increase in shoreline development. The spread of aquatic invasive species is another concern for lake health.

## 5) Name one thing that if everyone on the lake did, would help the lake be healthier.

There are many things that people can do to help the lake be healthier, including supporting TLCA (membership, donation, volunteering, staying informed, and raising awareness). If I were to choose one thing though, it would be for everyone to be more mindful of their actions; always ask yourself "how will this impact the water and wildlife?" This is applicable to everything we do at the lake, such as the products we use, waste we make, landscaping work, and alterations to shoreline habitat. We all have an impact on the health of the lake; we must choose whether our impact is going to be a negative impact or a positive impact.

**Editors Note: Do you know someone the lake should get to know better? Let's ask them 5 Questions. Send me an email ([michelle\\_peter@mac.com](mailto:michelle_peter@mac.com)) and tell me why they should be asked 5 Questions.**

# Trout Lakers - Show us your pictures!



Send your pictures of good times at Trout Lake and we'll print them in the October issue. Due to size and space limitations, sometimes we cannot print all the photos.

Send to Peter Stewart - [Michelle\\_peter@mac.com](mailto:Michelle_peter@mac.com)

# Brain Teaser

I left my campsite and hiked south for 3 miles. Then I turned east and hiked for 3 miles. I then turned north and hiked for 3 miles, at which time I came upon a bear inside my tent eating my food! What colour was the bear?



## Answers to What is it? (August Newsletter)



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# Please slow down and save our shoreline.



**!!!** Notice from the TLCA Director of Safety, Joel Desmarais:

I would like to inform all of our members that 2 new markers have been placed at the narrows of the west end of the lake reminding everyone of the legal speed limit when boating close to shore. The TLCA is looking for a volunteer to take care of these markers (putting them in/taking them out, spring and fall). Very quick and easy to install, sign post simply slides into holes we have drilled in the rock. I ask that anyone willing to take care of these to contact me by phone or email. Joeldesmarais@gmail.com or 705-507-6123. Thanks!

## See you Next Month!



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