

The Owner's Diamond Point history

This is a very emotional sale for us.

We were intrigued by the name "Diamond Point" when we first saw a satellite image of the peninsula sticking into the lake, in a real estate office. We had the intention of buying a small lakefront lot as an investment, not for ourselves, but for our children.

When we were shown the properties around the lake and arrived at Diamond Point, it was clear within a second that this was the only spot we wanted, even without penetrating the dense forest, although we needed to buy four properties to own the peninsula.

This old growth forest had only been touched only once in the 1950's when Mr. Duncan's lumbering firm, which did own large stretches of land in the area, removed the largest trees from the land to transport them on ice across from Diamond Point to his saw mill on Duncan Road. In the 70's a developer bought the land from Duncan and subdivided the properties along Cope Bay and Wentworth Bay into 58 lots of 100 feet each. The company, Bark Lake Estates, built a road on the south side of Cope Bay, today Duncan Road, and granted the buyers of properties on the opposite side access through a landing at the end of that road. This was already very controversial at that time.

Bark Lake part time residents, who came in the 1920's, using the lake as a hunting and fishing ground, have always been very protective of the lake. The lake was always only entered through Barkmere. Many of these original owners were Mc Gill University professors. The Jesuits priests built a large retreat close to the village. Others were well known people, like the founder family of Aluminum Company of Canada, or Sir Edward Beatty, the President of Canadian Pacific Railway, who had a cottage in Wentworth Bay. He arrived in his private train in Arundel to go by horse carriage to the lake. To protect the lake, these first residents achieved separation from the town of Arundel and formed their own town in

1926. Barkmere, at that time was the smallest town in Quebec and still today is one of the smallest. Already then the Bark Lake Protective Association existed and is still active today. We recommend to read the story of Bark Lake to get a feel for this very special lake which it remains to this date.

Our family came to Montreal in 1969 by transfer from the company's head office in Munich. We bought the land in 1974, about one year before the company called us back to Munich. Our family consisted us, a mother in law and three children. We fell so much in love with this place that we decided to use it immediately.

A week after closing we purchased a tiny boat with a 4 HP motor, a tent, picnic table, cooler and a chain saw. We arrived on a Saturday morning to take possession. The neighbours across the lake came over immediately questioning what we were doing on this beautiful spot so much favoured by Bark Lakers for picnicking including the priests rowing over from the retreat singing and picnicking and one famous Bark Lake couple even spending their honeymoon there.

By the time we had to leave this wonderful place in September of 1975 to return to Germany, we had cleared a larger portion of shrubs and had determined the spot where we would build a home allowing us to see the lake and the boats go by from one bay to the next. Three years passed before we were able to come back, dreaming of our lake all summers and designing a home while we were back in Europe.

When the owners of Bark Lake Estates considered developing the land behind the lake with hundreds of buildable lots and providing lake access to all of them through their private landing at the end of Duncan Road, we were very concerned of this changing the character of the Lake. We negotiated to purchase the company in order to avoid the consequences of this development and us looking at homes up on the hills surrounding Bark Lake. In fact, we closed this landing and convinced the owners on the other side to use the Barkmere entrance only as we did.

We did this fully knowing that giving up the development potential would ultimately diminish the value if the land we had purchased.

The most outstanding feature of the home we built is the round design with 20 corners, high on Diamond Point with windows allowing a 180 degree view over the two bays, a dominating 24 feet fireplace in the center holding the structure, with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms in the back to accommodate our large family. As life would mostly play outside or in the Great room we opted to install alcoves with 2 bunk beds in each bedroom, allowing to accommodate a total of 8.

During 1978 and 1979 while staying in neighbours' cottages we prepared for building our home. It took us two years to convince Gordon Miller to take on this project. The foundation and basement were built in 1979. In the summer of 1980 the fireplace was built on this foundation. While we had to leave in August for a new assignment in Egypt, Gordon Miller and his crew started building what we consider his most prestigious project. It took countless barge trips, 45minutes one way, and endless rounds of bulldozers pulling trucks up the hill with building material to get the structure in place. It took us over 10 years to complete this extraordinary home.

In the early 1980's, while in Egypt, the company I worked for presented the latest solar technology. I asked if this would work in Canada and they responded positively. In 1982 we received our solar system, at that time the largest private system in Canada. It was of such interest that the Federal Government sent two engineers from Edmonton on regular trips to monitor its performance with a laptop. This was the first laptop in our house. The system served us well for 30 years even though the life expectance was only 15 years. Three years ago, we replaced the system with a much larger one, with the possibility for a further expansion. It works flawlessly. In the meantime, through our promotion and inspiration, most of the homes on the lake run on solar power.

During our 7 years in Egypt our family spent almost 3 months every summer at the lake. Our boys knew every child their age and went across the lake on their own. They could identify each approaching boat by the sound of its engine. Water skiing was the big thing. One July 1st our children organized a waterskiing team of seven German children, going down the lake with a Canadian flag on a pole. They also build a two story tree house where they slept with a total of 7. The children had the best youth ever. They also helped very much with the construction, especially the boat house. Trees were cut and brought from our land across the lake and cribs built about 12 feet deep. They collected all the stones to fill the cribs. When the boat house was put on a year later Gordon Miller only sent one worker to construct the house with our children.

We brought a lot of antiques from Egypt which are now all displayed in the house and part of the inventory passed on. Grandmother came to the lake with us every summer. She was passionate in knitting rugs, one every summer. Sitting by the window and looking down at the lake while doing her carpet work made her very happy. The last rug she did was when she was 100 years old spending one more summer at the lake she loved as much as we did.

We have treasured this extraordinary Country home for over 40 years and maintained it in mint condition These happy years will always remain in our memory. Our goal is now to find a family who will appreciate, enjoy and maintain this spectacular property as we did for over 40 years.

The owners,

Spring 2019