

# WHAT'S your Sign?

*Last year, The Cottager asked readers to send in photos of their cottage signs and the stories behind them. We received so many creative signs that we're sharing them in a series throughout this year's issues.*

*As a bonus, our friends at Outset Media have donated the new board game called Canadian Trivia Family Edition ([www.outsetmedia.com](http://www.outsetmedia.com)).*

*We've picked a name out of a hat from this batch of contributors and one of the games is going to Dave and Louise Kennedy.*

*Hope you enjoy Part 3 of the series.*

My husband wanted to buy me a sign for the cottage as a birthday present. After doing significant research on signs and sign makers, we were referred to Edwin Crumpe at Beaconia and so we headed off to Beaconia to purchase a sign.

What we didn't expect was the interview that took place and the decisions we needed to make. What shape and size did we want? What hobbies did we enjoy while at the lake? What colour was our cat? We drove away a bit perplexed, but anxious to see the end result.

Basic to most signs is a name and street address, and our sign has that. It also has a hand-carved personalized picture. Our property is full of oak trees and one of our favourite pastimes is enjoying a round of golf at the Victoria Beach golf course. The carved cat that perches above the sign represents our now-departed cat, Willow.



Edwin garnered all this information from our interview and brought it together to produce our sign. What an incredible craftsman.

Carved on the back is Edwin Crumpe's name, the date of August 2000 and an indication of his sign-making productivity; seen here is his sign No. 302.

*Mary McIntosh*





Our cottage is at Hillside Beach. We had our artist friend, Lil Gibson, paint this sign for us about 10 years ago. Our only request was a beach scene with our grandson and granddaughter in it.

Several years later, we were blessed with another grandson and granddaughter and decided we wanted them to be on the sign as well.

Lil graciously added them in and, as a bonus, she surprised us by including our grand-dog and painted the reverse side of the sign showing us cross-country skiing at the cottage with all four grandkids. We treasure the sign and get a lot of comments from people passing by our yard.

*Helen and Bill Nemeth*

Our sign was purchased at Pine Ridge Hollow about six years ago. We share the sign with our neighbours, the Brownells, in the Bayview area at Victoria Beach.

*Adele and Barry Korolyk*





Our cottage is in the Village of Dunnottar and was originally built in 1920. It's nestled in a natural cove along the south basin of Lake Winnipeg and our seawall consisted of granite rocks loosely arranged on top of a concrete footing. It had been there for years and had withstood all the power of many past storms on Lake Winnipeg. But not on Oct. 27, 2010. That's the day the "weather bomb" and its 150 km/h winds ripped away our seawall, along with about six feet of property – and we were considered one of the luckier ones.

The following year, the Manitoba government offered permanent residents the resources to rebuild their seawalls and make other repairs. We are seasonal residents and therefore not eligible for these benefits.

As my husband and I contemplated our options, we both felt strongly the material we would use to rebuild the seawall had to be granite, the natural stone of the lake environment. The problem was, none of the contractors we spoke with had the time nor the interest in such a manual exercise.

Over a period of seven months, and with the assistance of approximately 15 young men (friends, friends of friends and sons of friends), we rebuilt our wall stone by stone. This time we made sure it was secure.

Last summer (2011), we organized a party to thank all those who helped us and erected a sign at the entrance to our cottage, giving it the name Granite Cove.

The boulder is representative of the granite wall we built. It came from the same farmer's field as some of the rocks we used for the wall. It was moved with a very large truck and then a type of forklift. We had only one chance to decide where it would go and which side of the rock we wanted to feature!

*Jan and Jim Legeros*



This sign was carved by chainsaw out of a recycled telephone pole and is western red cedar.

I carved it for Mark McHugh and Wendy Lavallee. Mark is a good friend of mine who helped me harvest wild rice for many years. They live in Great Falls, Manitoba.

I normally chainsaw carve sculptures of wildlife and decided to attempt making a sign and add something different to it. I had saved the picture of a running bear a few years ago from the Internet for a reference.

I liked the idea of a running bear on the sign because of the abundance of bears in the Great Falls area.

*Jim Niedermayer*



I'm a diesel mechanic with welding experience and also an artist in Cranberry Portage, Manitoba. I love building unique art for someone who would love to have a piece that they have seen in their minds, but cannot buy in a store.

Over the past year or so, Cathy and Gordie Fiedlerchuk from Cranberry Portage spoke to me about commissioning the sign. I sort of knew what they wanted, but Cathy was not to know she was getting the sign as a gift.

The sign is made out of 1/8-inch pieces of mild steel. It's three-dimensional, consisting of different levels of depth.

After 40 hours of drawing, cutting with a plasma machine, a lot of polishing, spray painting with clear Krylon and some advise/direction from my wife, Wendy, it was presented to Cathy.

*Gordon Kosmenko*



When my husband and I were successful in the cottage lot draw on First Cranberry Lake at Cranberry Portage, we couldn't wait for the road to be built. During the waiting time, our good friends heard from someone that the road was going to be called Blue Herring Road. We thought that was a strange name for our road, but figured it must be true.

When I decided to make a stained glass mosaic sign for our lake lot, I called the LUD office to get our street number. I was informed the name was not Blue Herring Road, but Blue Heron Road. My husband and I both had a good chuckle over this and had to inform our friends it was named after a bird, not a fish!

I proceeded to create our sign, which I call A Sign of Paradise. It now sits at the front of our driveway and greets those who come to visit.

My heron is approximately six feet high and stands seven feet tall on the metal stand. It's made using commercial sign board, which is cut to design using a jig saw. I then primed and painted the board. Stained glass is then glued to the board to create the design. Once all of the glass is glued down, the sign is grouted and sealed. The sign is made completely of stained glass using different colours and textures, including the feathers.

Connie Smith



Our cottage is at Lee River, Lac du Bonnet. It looks out at the Black Bear golf course.

The sign is painted metal and has our family name, plus the slogan relates to the Lee River and the Black Bear golf course. It was designed by our son Kurt at Speciallaser Tech.

*Janet and Norm Lofgren*







A late-life romance brought us together. While travelling to a lakeshore property for weekends, we would often park and explore places together along the way – waterfalls, old logging roads, lakes and trails, holding hands and stealing an occasional “smooch.”

One trip, with great laughter and joy, we came up with the phrase “park and smooch.” As our relationship grew, we christened our cottage at Wabigoon Lake in Ontario as our permanent Park & Smooch.

*Doug and Gloria Pronger*

When you invite people to your cottage, the first question always seems to be, “Are you lakefront?”

After hearing lakefront cottage owners talk about “being lakefront is not all it’s cut out to be” (i.e. worrying about water levels, erosion issues, geese leaving deposits on the beach, the noises from boats and Sea-Doos), I concluded that being secondary is not so bad. Our cottage at Gull Lake has a view of the lake without the added headaches.

So when people ask if we are lakefront, my reply is, “No, we are almost lakefront” – hence the sign.

*Karen L. Watson*



This sign hangs outside our cottage at Hillside Beach on Lake Winnipeg. When deciding on a name, we wanted to capture the essence of why we liked our cottage so much.

To us, the cottage was an escape from the pressures of our work and the demands of the city. We commented many times on how the tension and stress from the week just drained away as we drove to it.

At the same time, the Kennedy name had been made very popular by U.S. President Jack Kennedy and the naming of the Kennedy Space Centre (Cape Kennedy) in his honour.

Putting these two pieces together resulted in our choice of the name S’CAPE KENNEDY. Our close friend Tom Tait does woodworking so he created the design with the space ship and the name.

*Dave and Louise Kennedy*

