



Oakwood Park - Tour of Homes

Saturday July 30, 2022

10 am -1pm

We are excited about the tour of homes and would like to give a big THANK YOU to all the residents who have agreed to open their homes and cottages. There are a variety of homes - some original, some new and some newly renovated.

Please save to your phone or print the details so you can navigate from one home to another. There will also be green ribbons on each property. You can visit the homes in any order you wish.

To make things run smoothly and to respect the homes you are entering, please observe the following rules:

- Please no food or drink inside the homes/cottages
- Please do not open any doors that are closed
- Please do not take photos of the homes/cottages
- Each homeowner will determine if shoes should be on or taken off
- Tour is only open to Oakwood residents, their families and weekend guests
- And most importantly ***ENJOY THE TOUR !!!***

Below is a list of each home with some history and fun facts – 10 in total:

6 Forest Ave – Bob Earley

“Earley Days” cottage at 6 Forest Avenue is one of the log cottages in Oakwood Park that was built by Milton (Mickey) Webb. In 1941, the Martin sisters from Stratford acquired a lot from Clayton Walker and then contracted with Mickey Webb to build a cottage. In May 1945, Frank Papp, a grocer from Detroit, purchased the property and he and his family enjoyed the cottage until June 1984 when Bob and Susan Earley became the new owners. Wanting to retain the original cottage feel that Susan experienced as a child, when she visited her aunt and uncle, who owned 36 Forest Avenue, minimal structural changes have been undertaken inside the cottage. In the 1980’s the sand volleyball court was replaced, tree stumps were removed, top soil was added to the entire front lawn (with the assistance of Leo Ducharme) and Morris Webb built a retaining wall around the elevated front grass area. Subsequently, the front and back seating areas were refurbished and a workshed and treefort (Fort William) have been added.

19 Forest Ave – Pam Stewart and Dave Ross

The original home on the property called the “Pioneer”, was built in the early 1920’s. It was torn down and a new home was erected in 2016. Pam and Dave purchased the property in 2017 and made significant renovations and cosmetic updates. They added a walk-in pantry, moved the laundry room, added a sunroom and finished the basement. The special features of the home

include: a stone fireplace in the living room, which was made from the stones from the original cottage; a bunkie behind the garage that includes a full ensuite bathroom, wifi, cable and AC for guests; a large sandbox for the kiddos; a hot tub; a firepit; raised vegetable beds and a garden shed. Enjoy a walk on the garden pathway through the lower garden in the backyard and sit on the swinging bench among the ferns and listen to the birds. Added BONUS! Tour their RV, a Leisure Travel van, 2020 Wonder.

32 Forest Ave – Jan Kestle

When Marion and Jack Kestle bought the log cottage at 30 Forest Ave. in 1973 a bonus was the beautiful empty lot next door that was host to many birthday parties and croquet games. Many years later, neighbours MaryEtta and Harry built their home at 32 Forest. When the Hayman family members were ready to sell 32 Forest in 2019, Jan was delighted to buy it and create an extended space for her growing family. They were very fortunate to contract with the Oke Woodsmith team who renovated 32 Forest from top to bottom through the pandemic. Working with Matt, Randy, Steve, Kevin and Ryan and the others was a fantastic experience – nothing Jan would have expected to say about a reno – but when you see it you will agree – its amazing. Jan now has a year round retreat and lots of room for when they have traditional extended family gatherings in the summer. Jan’s sons and their families enjoy the basketball “court” – who needs a driveway? - and there is a great space for parties between the two properties. There is the very traditional Oakwood cottage at 30 Forest and something a bit different at 32 Forest. Jan and family are excited to welcome you to see the transformation of 32 Forest.

38 Forest Ave - Shannon Westgate and Jon Southen

Jon and Shannon began their cottage search in the summer of 2020. Unfamiliar with Oakwood Park, they were immediately enamoured by the quiet, kid-friendly sandy beach and shallow warm waters, not to mention the older, more traditional cottages scattered throughout the neighbourhood. Never ones to balk at a project, Jon and Shannon began the process of restoring 38 Forest Ave. to create a cozy family haven. Over the past two years, the entire cottage has been taken down to the studs and is slowly being put back together, with much of the work completed by Jon himself. They suspect the wood walls upstairs, that were hidden under ancient drywall, are original to the cottage. The cottage is believed to be built in the 1920's. The front sunroom is a favourite room, where the daybed is the sought-after spot for lounging - equally enjoyed by kids, cats and adults and particularly enjoyed as the sun sets.

11 Lake Shore Drive - Liz Goodenough and Dan Goodenough

The cottage was built in 1941 by Daniel and Margaret Goodenough, Liz and Dan's parents. The construction was done by Mickey Webb and others. Dan was 2 years old when the cottage was built and has very fond memories of his time spent there. He remembers kerosene lamps for light as electricity was not available and the hand pump outside the kitchen door to bring up well water. The “Ice man” arrived with large blocks of ice for the ice box, a milkman delivered milk and a man from Zurich came to sell his great selection of fresh vegetables. Years later, Lake Huron water was piped in and a telephone was added. He remembers watching planes celebrating over the lake on V-J Day, in August 1945. His best memories, however, were playing in the big waves and the huge thunderstorms swooping in and cooling off a hot day. Very little has changed in the cottage since those days.

26 Lake Shore Drive - Marc and Pauline Trudell

The cottage was built by the Walker family around the early /mid 1920's. It was originally used to house Oakwood Inn senior staff until such time as a section of the Inn to house guests/staff was completed. It was owned by the Walker family until the mid 1940's. Originally the cottage was considered lakefront and the gravel lane to the east of the cottage was Lakeshore Drive. The cottage was intentionally placed behind the second major row of dunes to avoid its direct exposure to the elements. About the same time the Walker family sold the cottage, Lake Shore Drive was moved to its existing location. The cottage is constructed of red cedar logs harvested from the Pinery Park area. The fireplace and chimney are also original and made from fieldstone and the mortar is 'spooned' and almost impossible to replicate today. In the mid 70's the attic area was expanded to create a second level to create 3 bedrooms and a washroom. In July 1997 Marc and Pauline Trudell, with their 4 children in tow, took ownership of the cottage. In 2015 the kitchen, main floor washroom and the entire second floor were renovated. This month marks their 25th anniversary of ownership. They hope to enjoy their "Oakwood Cottage" for many more years to come.

28 Lake Shore Drive – “Keloben” - Bob Coates

This building was one of the original log cabins in Oakwood Park. It was erected around 1927/1928. Initially it was a summer residence. Extensive renovations were undertaken in the 1960's to allow for year round use. The log structure and chinking were retained in most of the ground floor while panelling and electric heating were installed in the bedrooms on the second floor. The stone fireplace and chimney are prominent on the main floor and extensive windows in the front living room provide bright natural light and a great year round view of the outdoors, particularly the tree canopy and the cedar hedges. The lower stone wall was erected by Morris Webb along Oakwood Avenue in the 1980's. Since acquiring Keloben in 1980, the Coates family has enjoyed many gatherings with family and friends along with quiet retreats in Oakwood Park. Being on the corner of Oakwood Ave and Lake Shore Dr, it is only a few steps to their beloved Lake Huron sunset.

39 Lakeshore -Ray and Mary Anne Hatherell

Ray and Mary Anne have been active members of the Oakwood community for more than 20 years. The original cottage on the site was constructed of timber and barn board and was built in the 1960's by the Ballantynes, who resided in Michigan. The Ballantyne's purchased the lot from Fred Walker (developer and owner of Oakwood Park and the Oakwood Resort). At that time the Walkers had sold most of the sought-after lakefront lots and were finally releasing the last few for sale. Ray and Mary Anne purchased the property in December 2016 but wanted to upgrade and tore it down in the fall of 2020. The entire two storey home was rebuilt, including north and roadside sunrooms, by Oke Woodsmith of Grand Bend, and was completed in May 2022. The designers were David Bradstock of Toronto and Steve Poortinga of Oke Woodsmith. The extensive landscaping was carried out by Cobble Design Inc. Phase 1 of the landscaping was completed in the fall of 2018 with Ausable Bayfield Conservation approval and Phase 2 was completed in the spring of 2021. Come and tour the gorgeous, brand new lakefront cottage.

14 Summit Ave- Duane and Jennifer Dietrich

The Dietrich's purchased the lot from the Scatcherd family, owners of Oakwood Inn, in 2015. They had been looking for property and were very fortunate that the gate was open and even luckier that they noticed a For Sale sign. They built the residence in 2018. Duane and Jennifer were the general contractors and Jennifer drew up the design and did the decorating. KS Consulting & Design of Waterloo prepared the blueprint and Estate Builders, out of Wallenstein, built the timber frame. Duane stained all the flooring, trim and ceilings at their shop at home. The Dietrich's tried to use materials that were significant to them - the sand from the lot was used for the mortar for the chimney, the pine ceilings were made from trees from their lot, the upper staircase is made from cherry trees from the lot and the fireplace mantle is from a 150-year-old barn that they owned and tore down. Come and enjoy this lovely new cottage, overlooking Oakwood golf course.

18 Summit Ave – The Miller Family

This house was originally owned by Frederick Walker, son of Clayton McPherson Walker who had amassed 200 acres and 3/4 of a mile of lake frontage between 1919 and 1922, which became the present Oakwood Park. It is believed that the house was built in 1947. Fred Walker had an office in the basement of the house which was used in the winter when the summer club house at the Inn was closed. Blankets from the cottages belonging to the Inn were stored with moth balls in a separate blanket room in the basement over the winter. The two cottages to the north were also heated by the Walker house. A separate room was built in the basement to house the oil tank and boiler, which heated hot water to the two cottages at that time. Apparently the basement rec room was previously a garage where Fred Walker parked his 1951 Lincoln. The Walkers lived in this home until 1980 when they sold it to the Miller family. The house was built with a lot of character, and the Millers have maintained many of the original features. Recently a small renovation was done to replace some of the floors, update the bathrooms and create 2 bedrooms. The Millers have said they consider themselves very lucky to have landed in Oakwood Park and enjoy the beauty of the park as well as appreciate the historical significance of the Walker cottage.