



Credit: Ruth Martin Papers



DWIGHT Heritage Walking & Driving Tour



Credit: Michael Lowe

Dwight Beach, 1920s

Map & Guide



Credit: Ruth Martin Papers

Welcome to DWIGHT in Lake of Bays

This tour takes about an hour and a half to walk through the main central region, with side trips by bike or car to the more outlying points of interest. Please park in the Municipal lot, take some time to explore the shops in the village itself, and do be respectful of private property.

Please refer to centerfold for a map of plotted locations.



“Nagatoagoman”, or the Lake of Bays, was well known to the First Peoples as a summer hunting and trading ground. Timber men moved into the region in the mid-1800s, following the coveted White Pine as the regions to the East were logged out. With the advent of the Free Land Grants, settlers began to arrive.

Assistant Provincial Geologist

Alexander Murray surveyed through the area in 1853. Edmund Gouldie took advantage of Free Land Grants to secure 202 acres on a crescent shaped bay called *North Bay* in 1871. Settlers soon followed Gouldie along the Bobcaygeon Rd. from Dorset, or working north from Baysville and east from Huntsville by boat to settle the third village in the region, Dwight.

Visitors through *North Bay* included not only the First Peoples and the early settlers, but legend tells of a failed Viking expedition in the 11th century, complete with sword play, dark plots, and buried Viking treasure left behind. While unconfirmed, it lends its own charm. Farming was a struggle on the Shield Rock and sandy soils, but hunting, fishing and logging kept the area busy – three sawmills operated in the Dwight area – and lead to the development of Tourism as the main industry. The beauty of the area drew visitors from far away. One early settler wrote of her new home: *“I thought I had reached the jumping off place of creation. The beauty was absolutely divine, beyond the power of brush or pen to express. It was to be shared.”*

While Gouldie was the founder, the settlement took its name from Harvey Prentice Dwight. President of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Co. in Toronto, Dwight wanted to stay in touch with his business while enjoying more time at his hunt camp. To further this, he extended a telegraph line to the Gouldie House. One of the Gouldie boys, Ralph, learned Morse Code, and (if he could be found) took messages. H.P. Dwight also introduced the first phone line from Dwight through to Fox Point to allow the Dwight Wiman Hunt Club to further extend their leisure time.

People got used to saying “go to Dwight’s, there’s a telegram,” or “while you’re near Dwight’s, send this message” and upon the granting of the official Post Office in 1885, the settlers decided on the name Dwight. H.P. Dwight was generous to the village, contributing towards the village’s first school on land donated by Edmund Gouldie, who in all honesty was responsible for the settlement of the village. Dwight also initiated the first library with monies accessed through the Carnegie Foundation. The Dwight Wiman Hunt Club was listed in the Toronto Star as the “oldest hunt club in America.”

In 1885, Algonquin Provincial Park officially opened. Dwight was situated perfectly on the access road, bringing a stream of tourists through the little settlement, the last stop before the Park. In 1958, *The Telegram*, a leading national newspaper of the day, described Dwight as “a village whose happy people give it a heart of Gold.”

The beauty of the land, the lake and the huge sandy beach ensured that this was a popular location, and that remains so today despite the many changes that have taken place over the years. In the 1940s and 50s there were 5 lodges, 7 restaurants, 2 grocery stores, 2 ice cream parlours, 6 gas stations, 2 marinas, a library and a school, and a dance at the community centre every Friday night. You could walk to everything. The little village Edmund Gouldie started remains a jewel in the Lake of Bays, a place of beauty to be shared.

1. Gouldie Park was the second location for S.S.#3 Franklin School. The building was moved to this location in 1938 and expanded to include luxuries such as indoor toilets. Both properties were donated by Edmund Gouldie. In 1954 the school moved to a location on Hwy 35, and the old school house continued to be the library until it was sold to the township to house Municipal offices in 1961, which were destroyed by fire in 1997. A vestige of harder times, records show that in 1908 the Secretary wrote to inquire if it was legal for the teacher to use a switch instead of a strap on the unruly boys. The park now is home to the Dwight War Veterans Memorial, commemorating all the local veterans who served in WWI and WWII and more recent conflicts. Adjacent to the park is the current post office built in 1967.



Credit: Michael Lowe

Sketch of first school, 1895.

2. Across the road is the Dwight Lakeview Seniors Hall, formerly the Dwight Women's Institute (D.W.I.) formed in 1910. The building is on one acre of land donated to the institute in 1918, and rebuilt on the same site following a fire in 1927. The ladies of the D.W.I. hosted many community socials to raise funds for the community and to construct the hall itself which hosted almost every wedding and funeral reception in Dwight, as the only Community Centre in the area. In 1940 they participated in the Tweedsmuir History Projects, recording the history of the village. After a century of service, the D.W.I. disbanded in 2011. The hall was passed to the Lakeview Seniors Club in 1979 and is still a hub of activity with many members and programs.



Credit: Michael Lowe

Gouldie Manor, 1940s

3. Downhill from the Seniors Hall is The Bradley House, formerly the Lakeview Inn, run by Taylor Bradley. Built in 1910, it operated as a hotel into the 1940s, and then became a private residence. The water used for the Hotel was carried from the lake in buckets by the Bradley boys, who used to maintain that their mother, Lucy, would throw the water out so they had to get more, just to get them out of the house.

4. At the bottom of the hill, on the right side, is the original home built in 1915 by Frank Keown and his wife Esther Gouldie and their 8 children. Esther ran the Gouldie House hotel, while Frank built many of the local cottages. Frank was a well known local guide in Algonquin Park, and was the first non-native guide to lead fishermen from Dwight Bay to Moosonee in 1942. To attend the birth of his fifth child, a daughter, Frank walked from Baysville through Dorset, at night, a distance of approximately 46 kilometres. Turn around and look back up the

hill. "Mount Baldy" or Baldy Mountain dominates the view. It takes its name from the "bald head" look after the trees were gone. Once stripped for lumber by the early settlers, the hill became a favourite toboggan and ski hill for the younger set.

Gouldie House, 1890



Credit: Muskoka Heritage Place, Town of Huntsville

5. The Municipal Parking Lot was once the location of the second school, before it moved to the uphill location. At the north east corner, across from the beach, once stood St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, built in 1889 on land again donated by Edmund Gouldie. The men of the village donated time and skills to build the church, while the women, lead by Janet Gouldie, provided the food. A belfry and bell were added in 1922 in memory of John Woodcock, another founding settler, who died Oct. 1, 1918, serving his country. The church was shared, with the Presbyterians holding evening services while the Baptists held morning prayers. When it was felt that one church was enough, St. Peter's was sold and demolished in 1967, leaving Stewart Memorial as the local place of worship. Monies from the sale aided the construction of the Sunday school room at Stewart Memorial, and the memorial bell still stands in that churchyard.

6. Turning left along Dwight Beach Road, the public beach is one of the Township's main attractions. Before the construction of the Baysville Dam in 1892, the Lake was much lower, and this crescent of sand far wider. At the southwest edge of the beach is Glen Manor, on land originally owned by Fred Quinn. A prosperous saw mill operated on this site from 1900 to 1938, when it was destroyed by fire and not rebuilt. In 1945, upon return from WWII, Glen and Mildred Cryderman developed the property for tourism with cabins moved from Birkendale. The cabins have been rebuilt and relocated over the years.



Regatta at Dwight

7. With the poor road conditions, travel by steamboat was the preferred option. The Dwight Dock was constructed in the early 1880s to accommodate the lake steamers. Over the years boats such as the S.S. Joe, S.S. Mary Louise, S.S. Iroquois and S.S. Mohawk Belle all made Dwight a port-of-call. Stacked wood was a common sight on the dock, used to fuel the boats. Stacks of hemlock bark en route to the Huntsville Tannery were also stockpiled here. A boathouse was located to the east of the Town Dock. Across from the dock was Gouldie House – a hotel that at its height boasted 27 bedrooms and a games room.



Credit: Michael Lowe

Dwight Dock with Steamer Wood

After it burned in 1908, Archie Gouldie, Edmund's brother, rebuilt it, eventually leaving the business to his daughter Esther Keown and son Golsby Gouldie in 1934. In 1942, Gouldie House burned again following the Church Picnic. Gouldie Manor, a smaller construction, replaced it and was briefly known also as North Land Lodge, but no trace now remains. To house the staff, a combination boathouse and living quarters was constructed along the shore, known as Showboat. It was eventually moved onto land serving as a cottage for several years. When the public steamer dock fell into disrepair, Esther Gouldie – to ensure there was a good dock to service her customers – gave up her ownership of the beach from the dock to Glen Manor in exchange for dock repairs.



Credit: Brian Sampson

8. Still existing across from the dock are two houses. The Archie Gouldie residence was on the left.

The house on the right sold to Norman Boothby in 1922 and for a time housed the post office. Mail was originally delivered by walking a foot path from Grassmere until the lake steamers took it on. It could be a long wait for the mail to arrive, and Mrs. Archie Gouldie would happily sell you a hot meal for 0.35 cents. Being near the steamer dock was an advantage – when the Eaton catalogues arrived, they were moved by wheelbarrow from dock to post office. The post office moved to its current location in 1967.



Credit: Michael Lowe

Archie Gouldie would happily sell you a hot meal for 0.35 cents. Being near the steamer dock was an advantage – when the Eaton catalogues arrived, they were moved by wheelbarrow from dock to post office. The post office moved to its current location in 1967.

9. Logging Chain Lodge's spacious lawns dominate the waterfront. Edmund Gouldie built a cabin on the beach for his family in 1871 here, and in 1872 paddled his wife Janet and three children to Dwight from Minden, through Baysville. That cabin burned, and was rebuilt out of bricks farther up the hill, where the office for Logging Chain Lodge now stands. A larger home was needed to house the ten Gouldie children. In 1885 Edmund opened the first general store, boarding house, post office and trading post in this building. The first school for the village was built next to this as well in the 1880s. Gouldie's soon became the area's first tourist resort, known as the Halfway House between Dorset and Huntsville, advertising "Feed For A Team – One Night" and "Breakfast and Bed." (we are unsure of the order of those items.)



Credit: Michael Lowe

Dwight Inn, now Logging Chain Lodge

10. Shortly past Logging Chain Lodge is the site of the old Pine Grove Inn, now re-developed as Corbett's Cove, a fractional ownership establishment. Built in 1906 by Harry Corbett it originally acted as an outfitter for hunting and fishing parties with six rooms. Soon it expanded to house up to 116 guests, 16 staff and 8 family members. One of the third largest hotels in the area, it boasted "The Annex", 2 large cottages, an ice cream parlour, 2nd floor guest rooms, a tennis court and a garage. Luggage was moved by wheelbarrow from the dock to the Inn before cars and trucks arrived on the scene. Amenities touted included the finest sand beach in Muskoka and Mrs. Corbett's marvellous home cooking. In 1922 a Delco electric light plant was installed comprising 90 lights, and used until the arrival of Hydro in 1930. The Inn's dining room hosted dances, socials, pie & box fundraisers. It also was home to the first automobile garage in the Dwight area. Pine Grove eventually became the first bar in the area, in the 1970s – a fact that would have horrified H. P. Dwight. In 1906 he wrote Edmund Gouldie, *"I hear there is some talk of a liquor license for Dwight. I hope I shall never live to see it. It would be a curse to all concerned and permanent benefit to nobody. I know of nothing more disrespectful and demoralizing than a liquor store in a place like Dwight. It is bad enough in large towns, where there is a police force to keep order, but infinitely worse in a backwoods town frequented by idle lumbermen and sometimes other disreputable characters. Let it be known that you have a liquor shop, and the reputation of Dwight as a sober and respectable village will be sure to suffer. One drunken spree in the season will injure the reputation of the place as a summer resort beyond recover."*



Credit: Muskoka Heritage Place, Town of Huntsville

Asbury's Boathouse

11. Next door is Nor'Loch Lodge. Built in the early 1900s by Dr. Pauline Morton to allow her patients to take advantage of the fresh air and healthful waters of the Lake of Bays, it burned down the very first time the fireplace was used due to an exposed beam in the chimney catching fire. Everyone got out, but one man who ran back in to



Credit: Michael Lowe

Nor Loch Lodge, 1920

save his money sadly became ashes along with the rest of the building. It was rebuilt a year later: Dr. Morton's brother Monty built tent-like cottages for the overflow guests. Mrs. Norman Boothby commented that *"if you dig on that property, everywhere you dig, you find tin cans. They buried all their tin cans."* The property was dogged by misfortune – sold to the Hannett family, it burned again in the 1940s, again in 1959 – a fire that also took most of the trees. It burned again tragically during a wedding in the 1980s, claiming the lives of a bridesmaid and a wedding guest. Since then it has been rebuilt, and re-worked, and is currently operating under the name of the Bristlecone Inn.



Credit: Michael Lowe

S.S. Gramp Burrels, 1940

In the 1940s, along the waterfront where the road turns was a unique boathouse, called the S.S. Gramp, that featured a sturdy triangular shaped dock designed to deflect the ice that pushed against the shore each spring.

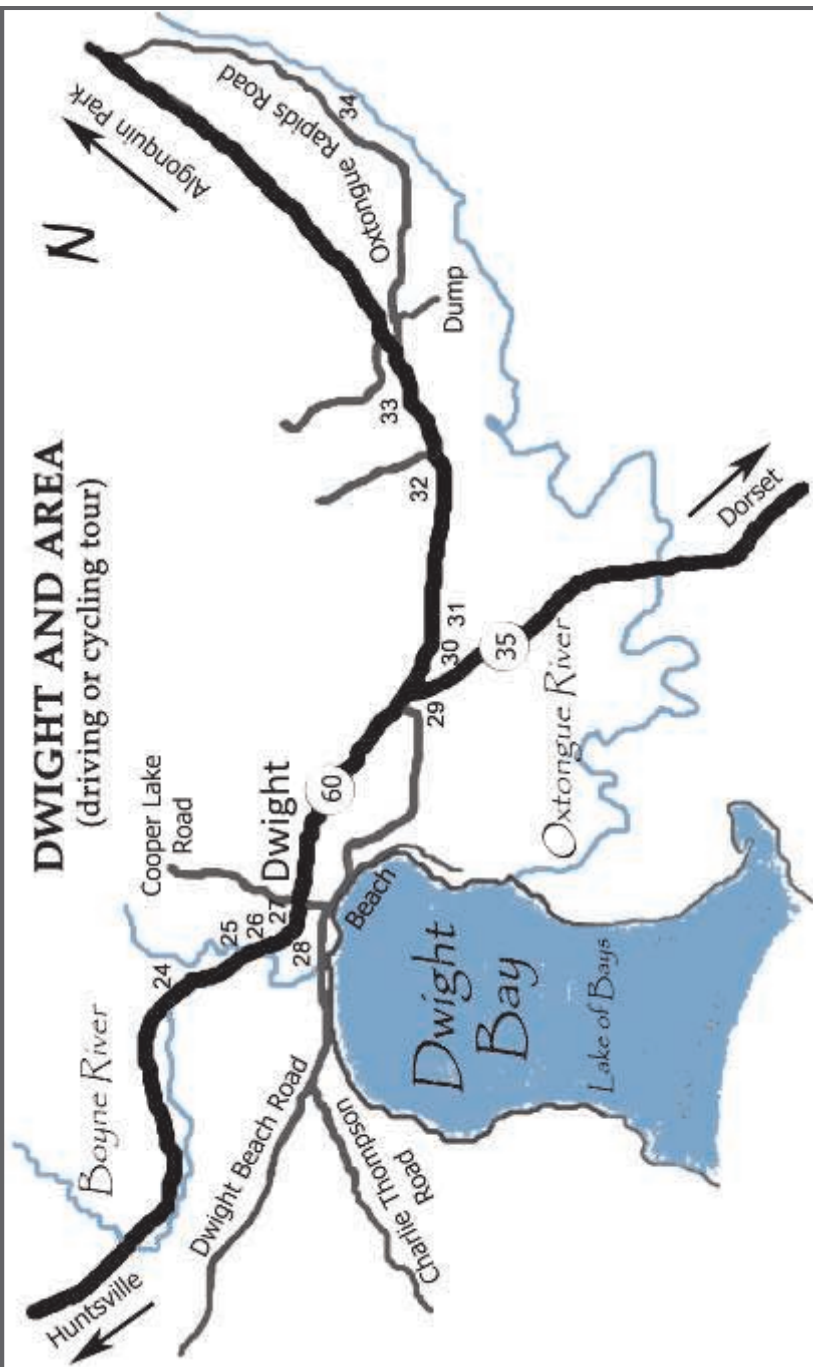
12. If you continue along the Dwight Beach Road you will come to the Township Offices, Community Centre and Library, but for now turn back and retrace your steps. This was originally the Old Bobcaygeon Road, or Colonial Road, and the only road to Dorset. In 1883, Mr. Grieves Robson built this road, from Dorset to Dwight, and also constructed the first framed bridge across the Oxtongue River. Turn left on Lake of Bays Lane. Originally this was better known as *Lover's Lane* - the darkest street with the best view of the full moon and leading to a secluded lookout point. While it now provides access to some 15 residences, its claim to fame is that it was summer home to famous author Earle Stanley Gardner, best known for the Perry Mason series of 'who-dun-its'. One of the oldest homes in Dwight still stands along this road, built in 1905 by Willard Woodcock. Dwight was home to a watchmaker in the early 1900s, Mr. Charlie Pratt. In addition to watch repair, he pronounced the Benediction at Church. When his wife developed tuberculosis, Pratt began to build a sanatorium next to his house, but only the foundation was ever completed. From memories of his childhood in England he created a northern English garden complete with round stone retaining walls.



Credit: Michael Lowe

Lover's Lane, 1930

DWIGHT AND AREA (driving or cycling tour)



DWIGHT BEACH POINTS OF INTEREST (walking tour)

22

21 20 19 18 17 16

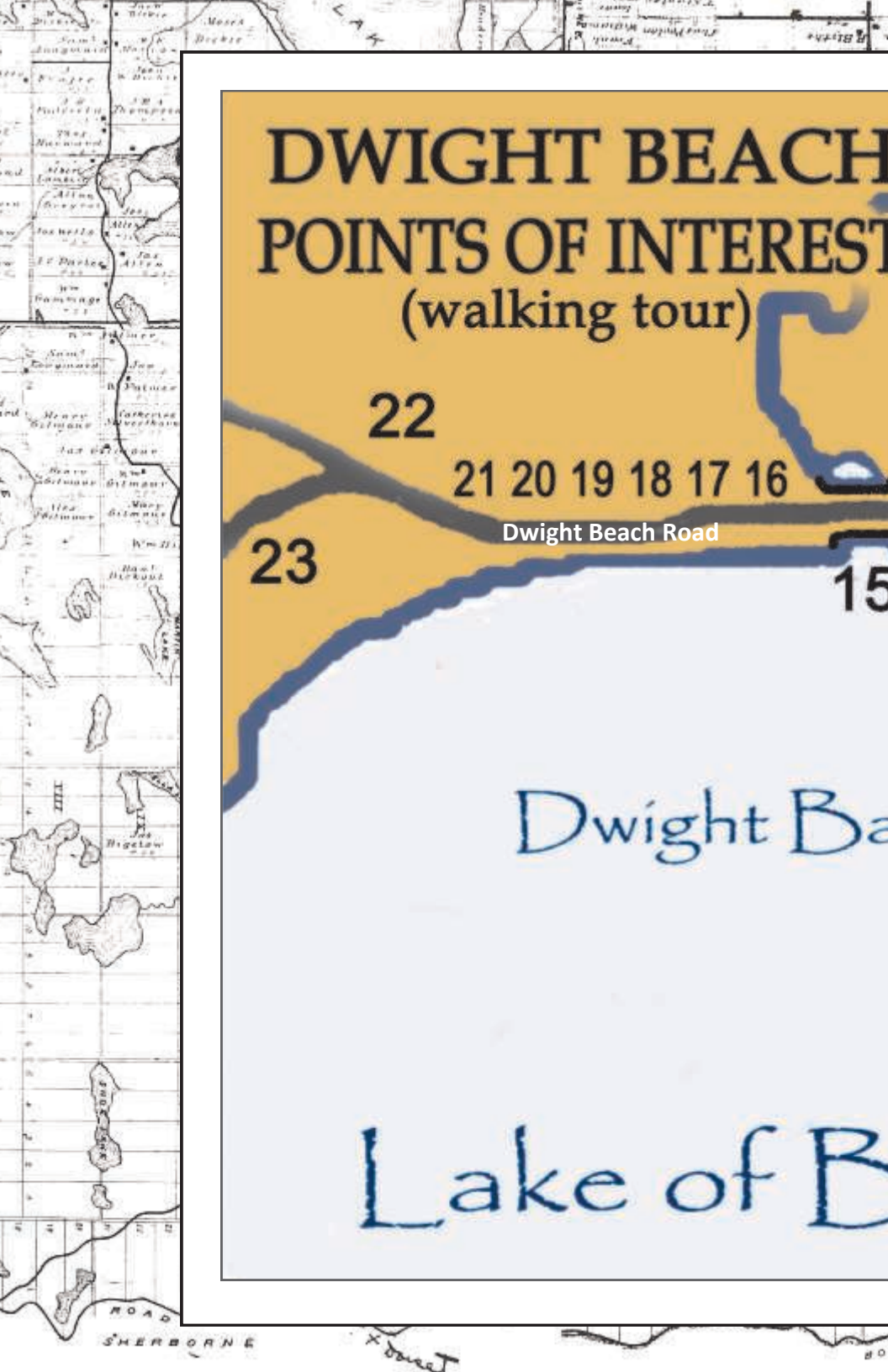
Dwight Beach Road

23

15

Dwight Ba

Lake of B





13. In front of Corbett Cove was the Dwight Boat Livery, owned by James Asbury and the first marina in Dwight. The floating dock was towed every fall to a bay on the Oxtongue River for safe winter storage. In full swing in 1910, the boat works was purchased by James' brother Vic Asbury. James' son Art Asbury, born in 1922, is arguably one of Dwight's most famous characters. It was one of Art's chores to deliver the groceries to the summer cottagers in a square stern skiff, powered by a small outboard motor. When Art was taking his load of groceries out on the lake, he travelled sedately, but coming to the end of his deliveries, he realized that if he put the remaining groceries at the front of the boat, he could really start to fly.



Credit: Art Asbury Family Archive

Art Asbury & Miss Canadiana

In 1942, Art joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, and saw service with the Royal Air Force Coastal Command. While in the RAF gained notoriety by giving Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth (mother of Elizabeth II) a drink of Coke in the Royal Canadian Legion at Edinburgh, Scotland. Flying Liberator B-24 bombers, he flew 37 operational missions engaging in action with enemy U-boats, destroyers, fighter aircraft and land based targets. The crew were credited with several successful engagements with the enemy resulting in the decoration of their skipper.

On November 1, 1957, Art set a *World Speed Record* of 184.54 mph driving Miss Supertest II for the Thompsons at Long Reach, Picton, Ontario. He was awarded the *World Medal of Honour* from the Union of International Motorboating, Ghent, Belgium. This was what you might call 'getting his feet wet' because he went on to set two more world speed records, three Canadian speed records, and one American speed record while driving for Aubert Brillant, of Rimouski, Quebec in the period of 1962-1965. In 1964 Art was inducted into the *American Marine Racing Hall of Fame*. (www.artasbury.com) One of his boats, *Miss Canadiana* was based in Dwight and conducted speed trials on the bay. Art also organized speed boat races at Dwight.

14. Jack Hatkoski started Glen Manor Marine, one of two on Dwight Bay along with Asbury's, located just before the bridge at the Boyne River, and built on the reclaimed grounds of the Quinn sawmill. Originally owned by the Secord family, this mill – one of 27 around the Lake of Bays, suffered the fate of most mills, and burned. In the Quinn home was Mr. H. P. Dwight's first telegraph station and telephone exchange. Across the road was a general store owned by Mr. Hood.



Quinn's mill burned in 1936

Wm. Hood, a colourful character, by all accounts enjoyed a surplus of charm and a shortage of ethics, referred to by some as "lawyer-like" (we leave this up to you). He operated a general store and was for one year the postmaster. He left Dwight in 1916, when a new location at South Portage sounded attractive. Obtaining a lumber scow, he loaded all his goods including his dog and his cow and set off. Frightened by the dog, the cow jumped overboard 'down in the narrow' and swam to shore. So Bill, short one cow, posted a notice in the post office that read *"If anyone finds my cow, milk her, or she'll go dry. Signed, Bill Hood."*

15. As you head west along the waterfront, you will come to the bridge over the Boyne River. Once known as Cooper Lake Creek, the name was changed by the many Orangemen who settled the area. At one point there were 95 members registered at this Lodge, who marched in every 12th of July parade, an occasion that meant more to many families than Christmas. A remnant of their past still exists in the ruins of the Orange Lodge barn located at Cain's



Credit: Michael Lowe

*Walkway Over
Boyne River, 1966*

Corners, on South Portage Road. The river drains from the Provincially Significant Wetland west of Dwight, falling through Shaeffer's Falls near Hwy 60, next to one of the area motels.

At the mouth of the Boyne, long since burned, was the Kemp sawmill, originally owned by the Secord family. This location became Hatkoski's Marina. For many years the bridge over the Boyne was merely a narrow footpath, only open part of the year.

Credit: Michael Lowe



Schaeffer's Falls, 1940s

16. As you cross this bridge, you come to a Heritage Corridor in the Lake of Bays where most of the buildings remain in their original state. Following the establishment of the Stewart Memorial Church, these cottages were built to house various members of the Stewart family, who have summered here for generations. Riverby, immediately across the bridge at the Boyne was built in 1923 by Fred Stewart, and takes its name from its location, facing the main lake, but backing into the Boyne River (Cooper Creek).

17. Cedar Chest

Built for Rev. Joseph Alexander Stewart's son Arthur in 1933, on land given to him by his father, this cottage continues the Stewart family domination along this stretch of shore.

In 1956, Cedar Chip was added to accommodate Arthur's son David's family. As the family grew, so, too, did the cottages.

18. Alderside

The 'grand-daddy' of them all is Alderside. The small log cabin, built in 1881 by Edmund Gouldie was used by Mr. Robinson, a sawmill owner from Dorset, prior to being purchased by Edmund Gouldie. It can make a strong claim for being the oldest building in Dwight, and at least one of the original walls still exists within

the expanded cottage.

Sold to Rev. William A.

Stewart in 1883 upon his arrival to the developing town, along with one acre of land, the cabin took its name from the many alder bushes that grew on the property.

In 1892, an addition was built on the front. The rest was rebuilt in 1906, using wood from the log cabin.

Credit: Michael Lowe



Original Cabin at Alderside

Twelve to fifteen guests were common during the summer in this large nine bedroom building. Alderside remains in the Stewart family in essentially the same state as in 1906, and is a designated Heritage Property under the Township of Lake of Bays Heritage by-laws.

It remains the focal point of the family properties along this Heritage corridor.



Credit: Stewart Family

Alderside

There are rumors that Alderside is inhabited by the ghost of the redoubtable "Grandma Ruth," second wife of J.W.A. Stewart. For those of less supernatural bend, it is more likely the sound of squirrels scurrying in the attic.

19. Barnaby Lodge

In 1922, Rev. Joseph Stewart's second wife, Ruth Quinby Stewart had Barnaby Lodge built by Mr. Thurston, tucked in behind the Church. Despite its Baptist connections, it was originally a location for teaching Ballroom dancing to the many Stewart boys. It soon grew to provide more accommodation as well. One of its notable construction features is a large fireplace that opens into two different rooms, which is pointed in pink mortar on one side and blue mortar on the opposite. This is also a designated heritage building in the Township, symbolic of the hospitality and spirit of the Stewart family through the generations, with a sense of timelessness in both construction and locale.

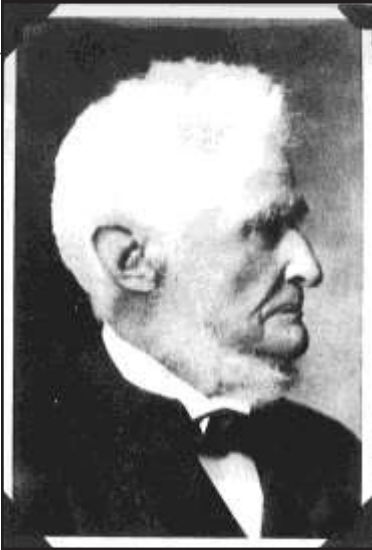


Credit: Michael Lowe

Barnaby Lodge, 1930s

20. Stewart Memorial United Church is one of Dwight's main attractions. Built and dedicated in 1887. On 15 Aug 2012, it celebrated 125 years when Baptist minister Rev. Stewart first came to the area, there was no church, and he preached from various houses, belonging to what was described as the

Credit: Ruth Martin Papers



Rev. Alex Stewart

"Peripatetic School of Theology", walking about his parish and easily covering 60 miles a day. He had come to the area at the request of some of his previous parishioners who had settled here, and found there was no spiritual anchor. Arriving at the age of 69, he carried few possessions and retirement savings of \$700. He used \$40 of this to purchase the old log cabin and an acre of land from Edmund Gouldie. The parishioners promised to build a church, so the Rev. stayed through the first winter, living in the poorly chinked cabin.

His best friend proved to be a fur coat, a gift from a member of the parish, which served him as a blanket through the long cold months. Awakening each morning

under the warm fur, Rev. Stewart had to dust off the snow and frost before he began his day.

His family recalled him fondly as "a stocky man, who loved a good pillow fight." As agreed, the church was built using the rest of his savings. Lumber came from the local Kemp sawmill.

Rev. Stewart's legacy lived on – as both his son Joseph and his grandson Harold served as ministers after him, leading to more than 74 years of Stewart service to this church.

In 1968 St. Peter's Presbyterian Church in the village was de-consecrated, and the congregations merged at Stewart. The windows from St. Peter's were used to build the Sunday school room, the pulpit also came to the new church, and the large memorial bell was mounted in the church grounds.

In the early 1970s the church was winterized and in 1976 its white picket fence was installed. In 1987, as a Centennial project, the windows were replaced with stained glass created by local artisan Charles Knapp. Each is unique with a distinctive Muskoka flavour.

This is the location of the first official cemetery in Dwight. Previously the first settlers were Presbyterian and were buried in Huntsville, although there are many unmarked graves along the Oxtongue River from the log drive days, and original farmsteads frequently had private cemeteries on their properties.

21. Buttermilk Hill took its name from the popular beverage purchased at the Cunningham Farm and cottages located part way up the hill and now home to the beautiful sculptured gate created by local artist Brenda Wainman Goulet.

“Orangemens” Day, July 12, was always an occasion in the early days. In a line of march from Cain’s Corners to Gouldie’s store, the marchers with determined faces usually passed in grim silence over the roads through the fields and forests until they reached Buttermilk Hill overlooking the home of Charles Cunningham, of Rochester, NY, all whose family were Catholics. Then, oh, then, and how the fifes and drums let out shrieks and blasts against their enemy. The next day, some of the marchers would be found cutting the hay peacefully on the land of the kindly Mr. Cunningham.” (from an interview with Mr. Sawyer in the 1940s)

22. At the top of Buttermilk Hill, Charlie Thompson Road is named for another settler, and pillar of the Dwight community, who acquired 200 acres of free grant land where he lived for 76 years.

A short distance along on the left is Cobble Cottage, a lovely example of fieldstone construction. This was built as the Club House for the Stewart Family’s Tennis Club and home to two grass courts. Beside it, Beacon Lodge was built in 1924 with the materials left over from the Club construction, to house staff. It takes its name from the beacon of light that was visible from down the lake, and also from combining the first names of Josephine Stewart Welch’s daughters, Beatrice and Connie.

Also located in this area is the Hurley Canoe Works, one of two canoe companies located in Dwight (the other being Langford Canoe) and still operated by one of the areas iconic canoe builders, Jack Hurley, crafting wood and canvas canoes that are works of art. Jack learned his art with legendary Dwight canoe builder and trapper Clarence Bouges who worked from his small shop on Hwy. 60.

23. Turning back, we return to the Parking area, as this tour now heads down the road, too far to walk.

Starting at the west end of the village, we begin with The Moose Café, originally a White Rose gas station and restaurant owned by the Walker family in the 1950s and 60s. Currently it is known to be the site of the best butter tarts in the area.

24. One of two original Trading Posts, this one once known as Injun Joe's, now Treasures Past and Present. Owned by Earl Boyden, a.k.a. Injun Joe, it was a major tourist stop along the road to the Park with gifts and souvenirs, featuring Indian Head-dresses and memorabilia. Injun Joe would meet the tourists in full native regalia (better suited to the tribes of the West). Catastrophe struck in the late 1950s when a tourist asked Injun Joe to pose for the camera, threatening the tourist with the old rusty gun that was on the wall. Jack Hawk, trying to help out, had loaded the gun – for unclear reasons. Unaware it was not only loaded but still capable of firing, Injun Joe, wearing a full Indian head-dress, brandished the weapon. It fired, and the tourist was killed. Injun Joe never recovered from his part in this tragedy and later committed suicide. Earl was the uncle to Joseph Boyden, Scotia Bank Giller Prize winning author of “Three Day Road”, “Through Black Spruce” and many other books. (<http://writer-in-residence.athabasca.ca/archive/JosephBoyden/bio/>)

25. The Dwight Trading Post is a “Western themed” souvenir shop. It began life in the 1960s as a Laundromat and restaurant owned by Glen and Mildred Cryderman. The building was purchased from Clare Emberson and relocated to this site from its original location at Marsh's Falls when the bridge was moved farther upstream. The property has changed hands many times since, and continues to be an interesting stop today.

26. The Old Palmer House was transported from Eastern Ontario and assembled on the current site. It is a wonderful example of early Ontario vernacular construction, and now home to a gift shop that is well worth visiting.

27. The Coffee Shop began existence as a Red & White general store. Currently operating as “Erika's” it is home to great coffee and treats produced on site.



Dwight Town Dock, 1915

28. Moving towards Algonquin Park, Irwin Memorial Public School sits across from the Community Centre and Municipal Office. Centralization of rural schools in 1956 relocated the school on property donated by H. E. Irwin's daughter Lorraine Hamilton. Following the fire that destroyed the Municipal office located in the old schoolhouse, the Township rebuilt across from the school, adjacent to the Township Public Works yard, with both an office and a new community centre. The Dwight Library was originally situated inside the Irwin School through a joint agreement with the Township and the Muskoka Board of Education. In 1983, the library relocated to the former Municipal office next to the current Post Office and was open for four hours a week in winter, six in summer. In 1994, a new library was constructed adjacent to the Community Centre and is now well-positioned as an important hub for community involvement, learning and enrichment.

Across the road, behind the screen of black spruce, lies the Dwight Peat Bog – an area of Natural Scientific Interest and major water recharge for the lake.

29. Across the road from the school, the Beacon convenience store, deli and marina sits on the site of the old Claremar garage and gas station owned by Clare and Mary McFall, one of the first buildings in the area to cater to the automobiles en route to Algonquin Park.



Credit: Michael Lowe

The Beacon

30. Henrietta's Pine Bakery, famous for its iconic Sticky Buns, established by Mr. Lewis Nelson, has been through several owners. Still in the original building, it remains a "must visit" for summer visitors.

31. The Cookhouse began life as another garage with an attached restaurant, first owned by George Cook – known as Cook's Service Station and Restaurant, and then purchased by Slim and Helen Geberdt. For many years, a sign hung over the door that read "Slim's Fine Food and Welding." It was a mecca for the local contractors and anyone looking for good home cooking. Or fine welding. Much of the original building remains, including the garage doors.

Boreham Wood, for those who know their Shakespeare, is a private lane that leads to a small privately owned lake, Wilson Lake. John F. Wilson and his family were early settlers, and among the most colourful, if not the most

affluent. The cabin was shingled with flattened tin cans, John carved his own false teeth out of wood, which worked well enough, he said, to chew tobacco, but the wood swelled and he couldn't remove them. It was a hard-scrabble existence. One severe winter, a deer fell through the thick crusty snow near the cabin. His wife grabbed a butcher knife and killed it. The tale was that John arrived close behind her, armed with a fork.



Credit: Ruth Martin Papers

John F. Wilson

32. Spring Lake, a small spring fed lake, is now home to a restaurant and motel, as well as several private residences. Originally a greenhouse was located here, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hancock. Just beyond Spring Lake is a small, open porched building with a false front, that A.J. Casson of the Group of Seven memorialized in one of his paintings, called simply "The Antique Store."



33. Turn onto the Oxtongue Rapids Road. While this road is a little roughly surfaced, it is well worth the drive to the Municipal Parkette along the river. Developed by the local Dwight Lion's Club, there is a cairn in place to commemorate the founders. A walking trail follows the rapids and there are picnic sites. The Oxtongue River rises at Tea Lake in Algonquin Park and drops over a series of waterfalls and rapids on its way to the Lake of Bays. Those who wish to "follow the river" should visit the Tea Lake Dam, and Whiskey Rapids in Algonquin Park, Ragged Falls Provincial Park near Oxtongue Lake, these Oxtongue River Rapids and also Marsh's Falls on Hwy 35 east of Dwight. Tea Lake and Whiskey Rapids take their names from the log drives. Whiskey Rapids was notorious for the broken barrels of whiskey that smashed along its rocks. Less accessible falls along the river course include Elbow Falls, which is shaped as the name implies, and the Hog's Trough, with steep sloped rock walls that resembled a feeding trough. Along Highway 35, the road crosses the river at Marsh's Falls, named for Capt. Marsh. Here there



Credit: Ruth Martin Papers

Capt. Marsh and Family

once stood both a sawmill and a boat works, all powered by the river. At this site Capt. Marsh built the lake steamer S.S. Mary Louise, named for his wife. Later rebuilt as the S.S. Mohawk Belle, this steamer saw service with the Lake of Bays Navigation Company under the ownership of C.O. Shaw and ran regularly from the railway terminus at South Portage to Dwight, Bigwin Inn and Dorset. At low water, some of the remains of the boat works are still visible. The Oxtongue River is one of the primary headwaters for the Lake of Bays, flowing into the Lake at the edge of Dwight. A boat trip from Dwight Beach up the river to Marsh's Falls is an excellent way to spend an afternoon. (The best way to see the river is from a kayak or canoe.)

This ends our tour of Dwight, and we hope you have enjoyed your exploration. Dwight truly is the Gateway to the Park, and to this day still enjoys the reputation of having a "heart of gold."

References for this Tour taken from: The Dwight Library Reference Dept.

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Thank-you for taking the tour.
We hoped you enjoyed the
Village of Dwight.



Credit for this project must go to the volunteers of the Heritage Committee and residents of Dwight for their invaluable insights into their hometown.

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We hope you enjoy this Historical Tour, and welcome your
comments at www.lakeofbays.on.ca
to help us make it even better.

Other websites that offer insights into Dwight's history include:
www.dwightmuskoka.com.

For more information regarding heritage in Lake of Bays please
visit the Heritage Register at www.lakeofbays.on.ca/heritage



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