

## Delta Island

The Holtby family established themselves on *Bluebell Is.* in 1906. In 1909, they had a young man by the name of Fred Hagerman (the son of friends in the city) accompany them to Otter Lake to work as their 'boat boy' for the summer – to run and maintain the boats for the summer. Fred fell in love with Otter Lake and had his eye on a certain island. Sure enough, at the end of the summer, he purchased that island, identified on the charts as *Island D*, and named it *Delta*.

A small cabin was built on *Delta* in 1910 (see photo). As you can see in the photo, the trees were very small in those days, due to the logging on the lake as well as a great fire that had spread through the Parry Sound area a few years before.



Gradually added onto and well maintained over the years, the original cabin remains as one of the oldest and prettiest cottages on the lake today. *Delta* was enjoyed throughout the years by Fred's family – his son Jack, his grandson Jon, as well as his 1<sup>st</sup> cousin J.P. Hagerman (who later owned the boys' camp on the lake, *Camp Nigge-Cu-Bing*, where Resort Tapatoo stands today).



In 1935, they began building the lighthouse – a scaled down replica of a lighthouse built near Scotland around 1840, called the Skerryvore Lighthouse. *Delta's* lighthouse was completed in 1942, and remains a familiar landmark on the lake.



In 1946, construction of 'The Shop' began. The Shop's design required it to be constructed completely of concrete blocks. As these blocks were not readily available, they were made right on the island. The concrete was mixed by hand and poured into moulds. This extremely arduous project was finally completed in 1951.

Of course, the Hagerman family owned various boats over the years. This photograph of *The Dolly* was taken in 1925.



The Holtby and Hagerman families socialized at Otter Lake for many, many summers. They were known at times to communicate back and forth between their islands with the use of megaphones. *Delta's* megaphone still hangs on the wall on the island and the island remains in the Hagerman family today.

*Written by Cathy Morrison*