

# #1 THREE PEAKS COTTAGE – circa 1930

## Little Lake on the Severn River



Find it on Map L as L14

Identifying Question – What colour is the roof? \_\_\_\_\_

This charmingly eccentric cottage has grown but the original 14' X 20' cottage has remained the cornerstone of the design. In 1934 Dave Quellette and his brother Frank moved the cottage they had built on Gloucester Pool near Jesus Creek to its present location on Little Lake. A team of horses pulled the building over the ice and then a stone foundation was built and the cottage with one peak became a permanent part of the landscape. With Arts & Crafts style windows on the main floor and three pointed windows in the loft, this part of the cottage remains original.

In 1941, Elodia Sheridan and her husband Robert purchased the cottage for \$500. The price included having an addition of two bedrooms built. Elodia's kitchen was on ground level and had stone foundation walls with a wood stove against one wall. It was accessed either by the trap door in the main room or from the outside through the large double doors. In the 1970's Elodia sold the cottage to her niece, Beverley who, together with her husband, Michael, added two more peaks.

The original main room, with its cedar pole walls, beams and pine floor, became the kitchen.

## #2 BEECHWOOD - circa 1920



Now owned by Mark & Leah Read

Find it on Map I as I-81

Identifying Question –  
What colour is the roof?

---

Beechwood Island has a long history beginning sometime in the early 1920's with the earliest survey in 1922. Copies of the record of purchase and sale over the years are found at the cottage. The first recorded sale was on Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, 1925, the parcel of land including Beechwood Island, Beechwood Island 134 and 9 and 3/10<sup>th</sup> acres of lot 20 Baxter were sold to Harry William Parker for the sum of \$132. The land was sold in 1927 to Anna Wood. At some time in 1937, John Hubert Kent purchased the Beechwood Islands for \$775. It appears that there was a legal dispute in the following year, which resulted in JH Kent winning the right to keep the Islands but the remainder of the Baxter land was forfeited to the Crown.

Over the years, the island has had several owners. One period of interest was the years 1960 to 1974, when Beechwood was purchased as the Beechwood Club by an American company in Dayton, Ohio. The owner was Huston Brown who caught the 540lb tuna displayed in the ping-pong room of the cottage. During this period, salesmen would bring their best customers up to Beechwood for a week of fishing, swimming and relaxation. Joe and Marion Ball served as the hosts for these guests. To our delight, Marion came back to Beechwood to celebrate her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday! Marion brought us the records of the 1960 visits, including the letters of instruction on how to travel from Dayton (plane or train), how to book transportation from Bush's Boat Livery in Port Severn and limits on cigarettes and alcohol at the border. In addition, she brought the guests logs which are very entertaining reading! Likely at this time, the large games room which is the portion of the cottage on the right was constructed. Beechwood continues to be a wonderful place for entertaining and relaxing. The cottage has 6 bedrooms and plenty of space to relax, play pool or ping pong! The Beechwood Island cottage was surrounded by stately beech trees; however beech bark disease has recently claimed most of these trees. We are hoping that we can find a way to control this disease and restore the beautiful beeches.

Leah Read, May 2018

### #3 GLEN NESS – circa 1923

Photo circa 1980



Now owned by Glenn Mackay  
& Heather Davidson

Find it on Map I as I-97

Identifying Question – What is the  
new building to the left of the  
cottage?

---

Built by Norman and Rosa Gray. The original cottage name, Glen Ness, is written in pink quartz on the centre of livingroom fireplace along with the initials N and R in the upper corners. We've been told that during the Depression, Norman and Rosa stayed for two years in the cottage. Norman did not like boat wakes and legend has it that he would chase offenders with his Ditchburn Gentleman's Cruiser.

After Norman died, Rosa sold the Ditchburn to the Breckbills of Severn Lodge. It is now called the Sevlo. Rosa came to the cottage for two years with Norman's ashes and Elgin White said it was a bit of a joke at Lock 45 to be careful carrying Norman when loading the boat with Rosa's suitcases for the trip from the lock to Glen Ness.

In 1946, Rosa St Clair Gray sold the cottage to the Keels and they renamed it Keel Inn. Their extended family was large and the cottage was a very busy place.

During a 1999 renovation (after being purchased by Ken and Francine Albrough), the names and heights of the Keel children and visitors' children were found on an old door jamb under layers of paint and was given to the Keel's relatives when they were holidaying at Severn Lodge.

Glenn Mackay and Heather Davidson began renting Glen Ness in 2001, for the entire season May until October each year. They eventually purchased the property in 2007. Several additions have been added to the cottage property to enhance it and in appreciation of its Heritage Roots; however, the integrity of the original cottage has been left untouched

## #4 TREASURE ISLAND – circa 1930



Now owned by  
Cam and Linda Bailey

Find it on Map I as I-95

Identifying Question –  
What colour is the roof?

---

Treasure Island is located at Buoy # 52. There is a pirate flag hanging from the upper deck. Cam and Linda Bailey have owned this cottage since 2001. The island was originally purchased by Wilford and Muriel Elsey in 1930 and construction of the cottage was in 1933 and 1934 .

There is a beautiful stone fireplace in the living room that rises from the rock base through the roof

There is also a remaining large rock under the back deck that was originally part of the step entrance The bunkie and dock were constructed in 1936 Hydro did not arrive until 1952

Other past owners have been:

Vikki Elsey Walder 1984- 1985

David Elsley 1985- 2000

John McGill ( first owners outside the family) 2000 -2001

We have done many renovations and updates to this wonderful cottage but the base and the history remains as our family makes new memories.

Linda & Cam Bailey

## #5 ISLE O'DALE - circa 1920



Now Owned by Ann Bythell

Find it on Map I as I-96

Identifying Question – What is built on the highest point of the island?

---

In the late 1800's logging left Gloucester Pool. At the turn of the century, the Leatherdale families built "camps" - Jubilee, Bonnydale, Ferndale, Erindale, Honeymoon Shack, and Guerndale. There are wonderful stories of fishing, hunting, boating and partying at the Dance Pavilion.

After World War I, in 1919, young Elsie (Leatherdale) and Bert Livingstone settled more Leatherdale land. They paid \$50 to the Crown for a tiny island. Isle O'Dale is on the channel opposite Dog Point.

The cottage has a mounted muskie that is the arms length of a 10 year old, and a deer head draped with Mardi gras necklaces and hats. The old cylinder gramophone has disappeared but partying and story telling continues. Elsie's father, Luke Leatherdale, would be happy to see the sixth generation loving the Pool.

Ann Bythell  
June 2018

## #6 OROMOCTO – circa 1930



Owned by Stan & Eileen Snider

Found on Map I as I-107

Identifying Question – What colour is the log siding?

---

My father, Bill Pheasant, of Coldwater built this cottage during my early childhood. Quite a few friends were willing, even eager, to help with building the cottage from logs cut from the property, so he rarely worked alone.

I was lucky enough to be able to help a bit and remember peeling small poplar branches for completion of the stairwell leading to the loft, a room above the outdoor porch with space for two double beds. I have watched many a beautiful sunrise from our bed in the loft. At first we had a rigging of mosquito netting making a tent over our beds but later we had windows which we could close.

With no family car we were lucky to get to the cottage. Art Cornell, my Dad's friend, would give us a ride to Port Severn after he closed his Coldwater bakery then boat us to our cottage before crossing the water to his own cottage

When my sister and I owned the property with our husbands, we would arrive at the end of June with the six cousins for a wonderful summer. Diane and I each married a teacher, so we were able to stay at the cottage while our husbands worked a variety of summer jobs. Sometimes I would take two cousins home while I washed loads and loads of laundry and shopped for the next week's food. Then get back to where we all loved to be. Our sons, one hers and one mine are both named Bill, for our Father, and that caused a lot of amusement at times. The neighbourhood kids (when you have a household with 6, you gather more in the daylight hours) all called us Uncle Stan and Aunt Eileen and still do to this day. With six kids plus friends in swimming, a sharp eye was required to watch and count heads. One day, my heart was hammering when one head went missing but he was only very good at swimming under water and all was well. Gloucester Pool played a big part in the raising of our children. The cottage, their favourite home, was there, something akin to heaven. They played cards at night with the adults – everyone together. I think these things gave them a sense of their own worth.

Thank you Gloucester Pool, Eileen

## #7 KINGSBOROUGH COTTAGE – circa 1930



Find it on Map I as I-112

Identifying Question – What colour are the Muskoka Chairs on the dock?

---

At the turn of the century, my grandfather, James Kingsborough, owned the hardware business in Coldwater. Every Wednesday afternoon, the town closed down and he would invite his fellow merchants to join him on his boat to go fishing. They would make their way up the river, through the lock at Port Severn and on to The Pool. They fell in love with the area and this resulted in the Kingsboroughs, the Leatherdales and the Robinsons all purchasing packages of crown land for their cottages.

The year was 1935. He knew that he wanted to build a log structure but getting the logs to the point remained a challenge. In the fall of the year, he loaded a team of horses on to a barge and towed them up to the point. The first building erected was a log stable to house the horses over the winter and if you look carefully, you will see that it still stands today. When The Pool froze over, they took the team out over the ice and selected the trees that they wanted.

My grandfather had read that if you left the bark on felled logs until such time as you were ready to use them, the logs would be heavier to handle but they would keep their light colour. In the spring, they peeled the logs and began building. To this day, the logs inside are still the natural light colour.

Being on such a beautiful point of land, we are treated to the sunrises in the morning on one side and the sunsets later in the day.

Sadly, James Kingsborough only lived to enjoy two summers at his cottage but five generations of his descendants have treasured what he has given us.

Patricia Warren

## #8 ROBINSON COTTAGE – 1939



Owned by Russell Robinson &  
Ronald Robinson, cousins

Map I as H-34

Identifying Question -  
What colour is the roof?

---

Lot 4, M Plan 107, a 2.66 acre property, was purchased from the Crown in March 1939 for \$75 by T.D. Robinson, a farmer and Medonte Township clerk from Moonstone. The cottage was built by the seven Robinson brothers and two sisters in that same year. The family bought a motor launch in Orillia, loaded it with brick for the fireplace, and brought it to the cottage through the Trent Canal. Later, windows were installed in the screened in porch, a bedroom was added and a sunset deck was built to enjoy the beautiful views.

In the early years each family would take two week vacations, rowing by boat from Port Severn, portaging through Sweets Portage into Gloucester Pool. Entries in an old cottage log tell stories of simpler times with notes about visitors, poetry, weather reports and fishing successes.

By the 1960's only two brothers, Howard and Maxwell, were left to use the family cottage. Howard then purchased a Crown lot adjacent to the original property and built a family cottage. Maxwell's family continues to use the original cottage

## #9 LOCKERBIE ISLAND – circa 1917

Photo circa 1920



Now owned by Ann Cossar

Find it on Map G as G19

Identifying Question – What does the sign above the boathouse door say?

---

My grandfather, Arthur S. Leitch, and great grandfather James. bought the island in 1917. Apparently James wanted a quiet place to retire. At that time there was a building on the property that was a "hunt" camp where they went with my Dad, quite young at the time, to hunt ducks over in the Green's point area. They fell for the area, and when it came up for sale, they bought it, lock stock and barrel, in 1917. I have heard that the price was very low, varying from \$35 to \$200, depending on which member of the family, you spoke to. To reach the island involved taking the train from Toronto to Waubaushene (I think) and from there a boat taxi up to Port Severn, where another boat transferred them to the island. They took everything with them as the nearest centre for any kind of shopping would have been reachable only by boat. Consequently, huge bins (we still have) of flour, sugar, lard and all baking ingredients, kerosene, for fuelling lamps, canned goods, and meat and some vegetables wrapped in ice for the long journey.

Besides the cottage, there was an ice house which the local fellows filled with blocks of ice from the lake every spring, enough to last the whole summer, supplying the ice box with the necessary cold temperature. One of my favorite stories of that time, is of grandmother going out the kitchen door, to be met by a cow, coming down the path from the north end of the island. My grandfather took a boat up to Whites to report said incident, and ultimately a barge arrived to retrieve "Bossy". Can you imagine?! My Dad and family spent many happy years there growing up and being involved with the few neighbours on the lake. My grandfather helped found the Gloucester Pool Cottagers' Association in 1918, and was its secretary treasurer for a number of years and was instrumental in making the lake a much safer area by employing local men to circulate members' properties during the off season checking for any break-ins, or weather damage. The boathouse, the Lockerbie launch, And the Peterborough canoe, all of which are still in the family and still being very much used, were added to Lockerbie island inventory during the 1920s and early 30s.

My Mom and Dad took the island over in 1939 and began spending every summer there with their young family (6) of us, in 1940. This coming summer 2018, will be my 81st summer on the island. Lucky lady ! And this past summer we celebrated 100 years of the cottage being in the family--- 5 generations of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters being together in a place we all love so well.

## #10 DEER ISLAND COTTAGE - circa 1900



Owned by Doug Joblin & Anne Kreutz

Find it on Map G as G-24

Identifying question - What colour is the flower pot in front of the cottage just by the breakwater?

---

Judge Benjamin Franklin Justin from Brampton Ontario purchased the lot in 1906 and built the cottage in 1908 several years before the water was raised for the Trent Canal in 1915.

From pictures discovered incredibly serendipitously during a visit with John Ferguson in Smooth Rock Falls in 1974, he asked where our cottage was. He had visited the Justin cottage when he was a young teen and had 9 pictures from that visit in 1929. The cottage in 1929 was much the same as it is today with its wrap around veranda and two stall, two story boathouse with balcony. What a find!

Benjamin died in 1933; his wife Mary in 1936. The family abandoned cottage life in 1938. My Dad (Fred) bought the cottage site unseen on the advice of Dr. Alan Bull of Broadview Island on July 15, 1946 for \$600. It had been abandoned for eight years.. Mom wrote in her memoirs: “They would not let me see it, since I was pregnant (5 months), until they had cleaned it up...The cottage was a mess, the foundation had to be repaired, and the bats and mice had taken over...We did stay there for several weeks and that was the beginning.”

What you see today, as you cruise by, is quite the same as it would have appeared 100 years ago. The dock on the east side of the cottage is gone, but part of its crib remains 4' below the current water level. Could it have been an original crib for the cottage dock before the water level was raised? The steps for swimming in front of the cottage are also gone. The screens and canvas curtains on the veranda have been replaced by windows. A 500 gallon water tank disappeared with the advent of the jet pump. Boathouse, docks, tool shed and outhouse are all the same. We have been fortunate. We have been able to preserve these basic structures begun 110 years ago reasonably close to their original state. What we have certainly tells stories of cottage life as it unfolded at the beginning of the last century and on into this one. If only these structures could talk!

## #11 ROCKCLIFFE – circa 1910



Now owned by Keith Hurlburt

Found on Map G as G-14

Identifying Question – What new has been added since this photo?

---

Colonel John Thomas (J.T.) Thompson first came to the Pool in 1905 and in 1908 he purchased a large part of Deer Island from the Crown via a land grant in recognition of his military service. He built the cottage and named it Rockcliffe. Because of the acreage, the bay was known as Thompson's Bay.

From a wealthy family, J.T. and his wife Jane were used to living well so everyone was expected to "dress" for dinner each night. Rockcliffe was very elaborate with hot and cold running water provided by a water tower (hot, by running the water through a wood stove and cold, by running the water through the ice house), and a gasoline generator powered large Delco batteries on the property. The trip to Deer Island was by train from Union Station, Toronto to Waubaushene, then rowboat to Port Severn and another rowboat to Rockcliffe.

In 1933 knowing he didn't have much time left, J.T. went to Rockcliffe to say his good byes but after leaving the cottage returned to take care of something and died. His second wife Eliza died a few months later. Legend has it that J.T.'s ghost still haunts the cottage.

After J.T.'s death, Rockcliffe was almost lost to the Thompson family twice due to tax arrears. Once saved by a relative who won a lottery at Union Station and then in the 1950's by Harry Weale who paid the back taxes in exchange for his wife, Gladys, receiving her share of J.T.'s property from her mother immediately. A lot was parceled off and they built their own summer home now owned by their son, Kent Weale, and his family. Rockcliffe cottage itself was eventually sold out of the family due to a divorce settlement.

Rockcliffe cottage is now owned by Keith Hurlburt and another story begins.

## #12 - RESTMORE – UNION JACK ISLAND - 1906



Owned by Casey & Donna Urbonas

Find it on Map D as D-48

Identifying question – What colour is the birdhouse?

Photo circa 1906

Restmore was built in 1906 by Alexander Stewart of Hamilton, Ontario, a founding member of the GPCA. He never married, but had two sisters, one who married a man named Davenport. The Davenports had 2 children, Ella and John. While John never married, his sister Ella married Charles Newell. The Newells owned the cottage until the early 1970's when the cottage was finally sold outside the family. Today, Restmore is owned by the Urbonas family.

Situated on the west side of Union Jack Island, the cottage was built 10 years before the water levels were raised on Gloucester Pool ( 6 feet when Trent Canal was made). Because of that, it sits very close to the water's edge. Restmore was, and still is a "grand Muskoka cottage" boasting a beautiful stone fireplace in a spacious livingroom, large wrap around screened veranda, 7 bedrooms (including 3 above the boathouse) and a kitchen built separate from the main cottage and connected by the screened veranda probably for safety and to keep heat from the wood stove away from the main cottage. The large double slip 2 story boathouse also has a large attached workshop with a system to hoist boats from the wet slip into the shop for repairs very handy in the days of wooden boats, as well as the 3 upstairs bedrooms. Beautiful shallow, sandy bottom shoreline is a reminder of the expansive beach that once rimmed the island before the water was raised.

Restmore is truly one of the historic gems of Gloucester Pool!

## #13 GALLAGHER COTTAGE – circa 1940



Now owned by Bill Gallagher and Michael Gallagher

Find it on Map C as C-50

Identifying question –  
What colour is the roof?

---

While the cottage is typical of its era, the history is definitely unique. In the early 1900's comedian, Harry Watson Jr., was a vaudeville star of some repute having played at New York's Palace and in the Zeigfeld Follies. Harry Watson Jr. was a star who wanted to retire at the height of his career. So in 1930 at the age of 55, that is exactly what he did. After several years of living in Penetanguishene and spending summers in his houseboat on Gloucester Pool, Harry bought land from Ben White and proceeded to build this cottage.

In the beginning, the cottage was water access only and there was a government dock by their property. Harry docked his cruiser at Camp Rawley in Port Severn and would attend dances at that establishment as well. At these dances it was not unusual for this vaudeville actor to provide some impromptu entertainment.

Renee Gallagher's mother and Harry Watson married and eventually Renee and George Gallagher, inherited the cottage. The house has changed very little since the 1940's.

## #14 SEVERN LODGE – circa 1890



Find it on Map D as D-15

Identifying Question –  
What is on the corner of the  
dock, beside the boathouse?

---

Photo circa 1950

In 1850, timber rights were granted to the Georgian Bay Lumber company for this area. At the North end of Gloucester Pool in a south facing bay known as Golden Beach, the lumber company established a camp that would serve as winter camp for the loggers that were cutting timber on the Upper Severn, Six Mile Lake, Gibson Lake and Gloucester Pool. Just before the turn of the Century (c1890) the lumber was depleted and the mill at Port Severn was destroyed by fire. Lumbering was done! A club from Pittsburgh, the Moredolphtons (the name comprised from the last syllables of the 3 founders...**Filmore**, **Bardolph** and **Morton**) purchased the property and began a 30 year love affair with Gloucester Pool. By 1925, the Moredolphtons moved north to Little Current and the property was purchased by two men from Ohio and renamed Severn Lodge.

Two of the original lumber Company buildings still remain and are being used in the Lodge operation. The Main Lodge and the small cabin to the left of the main lodge building, “Hemlock”.

The 2 storey section of the main Lodge was a dining hall (still used for that today) and the upstairs was bunk accommodation, now the main lobby and reception area.

The Hemlock cabin was field office of the Georgian Bay Lumber company.

Both buildings are a combination of Post and Beam construction and traditional framing.

There have been Breckbills working at Severn Lodge since 1928. John and Bill Breckbill purchased the Lodge in 1936, the Great Grandfather and Grandfather of the current owner, Sam Breckbill.

## #15 HORSESHOE ISLAND



Photo circa 1950

Find it on Map E as E82

Identifying Question – What can be seen on the right of the dock?

---

Horseshoe Island, known to some as *Fry Island*, is an 11 ½ acre island near Big Chute. The island was purchased in 1951 by Mary and Archie Fry for \$4200 with the help of Mary's mother - this amount was close to a year's salary back then. When the Fry's purchased the island a boathouse and a small log cabin were the only existing buildings.

Now painted grey with a red roof the cottage is affectionately known as the Big Cottage. If you look from the water the middle, with the boat slip and the rooms above make up the original building. A small kitchen, 2 bedrooms and sunporch comprised the layout – all sheathed in BC cedar.

With 11 children the original layout of the boathouse soon proved to be inadequate. With the help of girlfriends (now wives) carrying cement and small children avoiding the hammers and saws the cottage soon expanded to include a large great room that still houses a handmade ping pong table, and 7 bedrooms, while still maintaining access to the boat slip. Peter, the eldest, inherited the cottage from his parents when they moved out and down the island to the small log cabin facing Little Chute.

Over the years the children of Archie and Mary moved out; some moved away while some built cottages of their own on the island. Peter's children and grandchildren continue to use the Big Cottage and share it - and the diving tower - with anyone who asks.

Point of Interest -

## **Big Chute (Lock #44) – 1918-2018**

A lock system at Big Chute was contracted in 1914 but not completed due to WWI. Instead a "temporary" marine railway was built. The original Big Chute Marine Railway was completed in 1918, and could only carry boats up to 35 feet (11 m) long, preventing navigation by large commercial vessels.

In 1921 plans were made to build three locks at Big Chute, to be part of a new section of canal which would take boats from Big Chute and rejoin the existing waterway downstream from the Little Chute, avoiding the fast water in the Little Chute. However because of the post-war recession the scheme was put on hold once more, although remains of the beginning of the dams required to maintain the water levels can still be found in the surrounding forest. In 1923 the original railway at Big Chute was replaced, with the second carriage being able to carry boats up to 60 feet (18 m) long.

By the end of the 1960s it could not keep up with the amount of boating traffic in the area. Plans were made for a single lock at Big Chute but before construction began the sea lamprey, which had been devastating the fishing industry in the Great Lakes, was found in Gloucester Pool and plans were on hold. To prevent the migration of the sea lamprey into Lakes Couchiching and Simcoe, several impractical ideas were suggested, but no practical solution was found. A biologist sat at the bottom of the railway for days, checking the bottom of boats that locked through, and finally saw a lamprey attached to the bottom of a boat. The lamprey fell off after less than 6 meters, so the railway was determined to be effective at preventing the sea lamprey's migration. In 1976 it was finally decided that a new, enlarged railway would be built. The current carriage was opened to the public in 1978, and can carry a boat up to 100 feet (30 m) long and 24 feet (7.3 m) beam.

The 1923 carriage was used until around 2003, on days of extremely heavy traffic, or as a backup for the new carriage. Now the old carriage is no longer used but remains on display.

The Big Chute power plant has been producing hydroelectric power since 1911. Built by private enterprise it was sold to the Hydro Electric Power Commission (now Ontario Hydro) in 1914. The power dam and electric plant were rebuilt in 1993. If you haven't seen it, don't miss the display there.

Point of Interest

## **BONA VISTA – circa 1900**



Known today as Buena Vista Point, it was actually Bona Vista to the Loverings – Map F

Painting by Murray Lovering

There is a beautiful point of land on the Western shore of the “main” Gloucester Pool known as Buena Vista Point. Most of you have always known this as a vacant piece of land, but in the past, it was the site of a grand cottage called Bona Vista built by W.J. Lovering, a wealthy lumbering baron. This point of land was used as a mooring point for the many log booms that were waiting to be towed to the mill at Port Severn. After the forests were depleted and the mill destroyed by fire, the Loverings built a summer cottage on this lovely site. It was a very large cottage with an expansive living room, sunroom, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen and pantry, eight bedrooms and a bathroom and a large wrap-a-round screened veranda. Other buildings on the property included a double boathouse, pump house, large and elegant outhouse, water tower (filled by gasoline powered water pump) and tennis court. There were also extensive docks.

Three generations of Loverings enjoyed the property and then it was sold to the Ontario government and is now “Crown” land. In 1974, the cottage and all its’ outbuildings, docks and boathouse were torn down and Buena Vista Point has gone back to nature. The only remaining evidence of the cottage are the ruins of its’ grand stone fireplace.

Point of Interest

## **LOCK 45 – PORT SEVERN – 1915**



**Photo circa 1930**

In 1896 the Georgian Bay Lumber Company Mill was struck by lightning and burned to the ground leaving Port Severn without its only employer. As luck and fate would have it, another reason for Port Severn's existence was about to occur and, very likely, saved it from disappearing off the map. The Trent Severn Waterway, begun in 1833 was slowly expanding westward toward Georgian Bay.

In 1914 contracts were let to have 3 locks built to connect the Severn River to Georgian Bay at Port Severn, Big Chute, and Swift Rapids. With the start of World War I, however, there was a shortage of manpower and resources. Lock 45 at Port Severn was nearing completion, so it was finished as a small, "temporary" lock. On July 1915 to celebrate its opening a flotilla of boats belonging to members of the Midland Businessmen's Association was locked through into Gloucester Pool amid much fanfare. It remains in use to this day and is the smallest lock on the Trent-Severn. Measuring 25.4m (84') long and 7.0m (23') wide, it is the only hand-operated lock in the system.

From Lock 45 to Rawley Resort check out the blind dam that keeps Port Severn dry.