



**BEVERLEY LAKE CAMP,
1940**

**I-SECTION ALONG MILL CREEK,
1978**



*Celebrating 50 Years
of
Camping Memories*

at

*Lower Beverley Lake Park
Delta - Ontario*



**MAIN GATE and FLOWER BED,
1980**

**PARK AERIAL VIEW,
2004**





Lower Beverley Lake Township Park

“Visit the Beautiful Park in Bastard Township”

The development of Lower Beverley Lake Park began in 1967 as a centennial project. At that time, the tourist industry in Leeds County was expanding tremendously. In 1957, it was estimated that there were 15 cottages on Lower Beverley Lake while in 1967, there were 280. Although Delta has long been recognized as an area of economic stability, it had not grown with the tourist industry and conversely its population has been declining. Like many small communities, Delta had suffered from the expansion of neighbouring urban centres such as Kingston, Brockville, Smiths Falls and Perth. In order to revitalize the community of Delta and its environs, it was felt that the stimulus could come from the tourism industry and the impetus through a locally developed park.

The first phase was the dredging of the Mill Creek and the purchase on an 85-acre parcel of land from Mr. Warren Henderson in 1967. A.R.D.A funded 75% of this phase while the remaining 25% was paid through a Centennial Grant. The dredged material from the Mill Creek was used as land fill and levelling material. The second phase in 1967 was the purchase of the Beverley Lake Camp from Mr. William Burega. This phase was funded 75% by A.R.D.A., 12.5% by Energy and Resources Ontario and 12.5% by the Township of Bastard and South Burgess.

The Council of the day appointed a Park Management Board in 1967. The Board, which was comprised of Chairman Gerald Cross, Secretary R.B. Butcher, and Directors Eldon Coon, Raymond Gamble, David Halladay, Rupert Halladay, Muriel Jones and Betty Ostrom, held their inaugural meeting on September 15th, 1967. All subsequent meetings were held on the 3rd Friday of each month starting at 8:00 p.m. in the Clerk’s Office.

The park was designated as an “Approved Park” by the Ontario Parks Integration Board on January 18th, 1968 and by Order-In-Council number 615-68 dated February 15th, 1968, the Treasury Board approved a grant towards limited development work. The grant was to cover 50% of the total cost of converting a public camp and developing an Approved Park, up to a maximum of \$100,000.

In March 1968, the Council of the day contracted Canadian Mitchell Associates Ltd., Consulting Engineers and Town Planning to make a study and prepare a development plan for the park. The plan was presented to Council in June of 1968. The development plan included dividing the area into Park Use Zones, to provide facilities for administration, camping, beaches, games, picnicking, nature exploration, roadways, fencing, re-forestation, special day camps and a marina. Rates would include \$2.00 per night without electricity and \$2.50 per night with electricity.

The park was officially opened on August 5th, 1968 by Mr. Fred Lawson. Invited guests included M.P. Desmond Code, M.L.A. James Auld, John Matheson Q.C., Reeve Gerald Cross, Herb Crown, and Harry Christian. A chicken barbeque was prepared for 350 guests following the ceremony at a cost of \$1.75 per plate.

In 1969, a main service road was constructed along with a service building which included showers, toilets, vanities and storage. Development continued in 1970 and 1971 with the creation of campsites, roadways, installation of electrical and water lines, picnic tables, docks, boat ramps, fire pits along with the remodelling of eight cottages and the construction of the canteen. Playing fields and picnic areas were levelled and seeded while beach areas were developed. Trees were planted along the roadways within the park by students from Beverley Elementary School,

The Superintendent’s residence was constructed and one cottage was renovated into a day camp building in 1974.

1982 was the best year in the park’s history with record attendance and revenues cresting the \$100,000 mark! The former Brockville/Westport Railway, which ran through the park, was acquired by the municipality and a new workshop and storage building were constructed on site for staff use.

There were several capital upgrades completed in 1983 with the installation of new water lines and three water storage tanks along with the painting of all buildings. 14 campers enjoyed a new monthly camping rate.

New conceptual drawings were completed in 1984 for a new washroom / shower building which would be constructed behind the canteen. The Canadian Red Cross Swimming and Survival Program received 84 registrants for the summer program and an elementary school cross country run was held in the park with 310 students participating from eight different schools.

1987 saw the construction of the new washroom / shower building along with numerous projects being completed in the park with financial assistance from the UIC Section 38 grant from the Ministry of Employment and Immigration.

6 new street lamps were installed in 1993 through the Streetlight Smart Lighting Initiative. A record 80 players participated in the Labour Day horse shoe tournament.

In 1996, all cottages received new coloured flooring and pull-out sofa beds; washrooms were added to three units. A new piece of playground equipment was added for the enjoyment of the children. A new gate house and park office were constructed.

Seven new coin operated showers were added to the Main Service Centre in 1997 along with the creation of a new boat docking area which could hold up to 40 boats. The Lakersfield Ball Diamond was relocated to the park from the fair grounds.

Municipal amalgamation occurred in 1998 which saw the transfer of assets from the former Bastard and South Burgess Township to the new Township of Rideau Lakes. A major ice storm occurred in January of 1998 which damaged several trees, trailers and buildings.

In 2002, a new committee of Council was created to specifically deal with park related issues. In 2003, the committee was formally established through by-law as the Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board. Operating as a separate entity from the municipality with an \$800,000 budget, the Management Board which now employs 18 people during the peak operational period has reinvested \$1,475,000 back into the park's infrastructure for projects such as the following:

- Three phase electrical system upgrade
- 30 amp / 50 amp upgrades to sites
- Installation of a chlorination system
- Refurbishing of 8 Cottages
- Construction of 3 cottages / 2 bunkies
- Construction of an arcade building
- Installation of tile drainage
- Nature trail refurbished
- Installation of new playground equipment
- Installation LED streetlights
- Powered entrance gates
- Construction of a Ball Canteen/Washroom
- Expansion of the Pavilion
- Restoration of the Mill Creek shoreline
- Celebrating the Season Christmas Program
- Updated vehicle and equipment purchases

Lower Beverley Lake Park continues to be operated under the direction of a Management Board comprised of the following individuals:

- Cathy Livingston, Chairperson
- Hazel Wykes, Vice-Chairperson
- Ronald Holman, Rideau Lakes Mayor
- Cathy Monck, Rideau Lakes Councillor
- Rob Dunfield, Rideau Lakes Councillor
- Brent Rathwell, Community Member
- Penny Sawyer, Community Member
- Al Moorhouse, Seasonal Campers' Liaison
- Anna Greenhorn, Mill Society Liaison

Park Managers

Arthur Southin	1967 - 1971	Ken Wood	2000 - 2002
D. J. (Bud) Donald	1972 - 1994	David Huxley	2003 (March-September)
Pat Mathieu	1994 - 1998	William Morris	2003 (September) - 2017
Glenn Smith	1998 - 2000		



Celebrating 50 Years of Camping Memories

June 24th, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Welcome by Master of Ceremonies *Ron Kessler*, Seasonal Camper

Entertainment by the Brockville Lions Steel Drum Band

Greetings

- *Cathy Livingston*, Chairperson of the Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board
- *Ronald Holman*, Mayor of the Township of Rideau Lakes
- *Steve Clark*, M.P.P. for the United Counties of Leeds-Grenville
- *Gord Brown*, M. P. for Leeds-Grenville, Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes

Welcome Home and Introduction of our Invited Guests by

Hazel Wykes, Vice-Chairperson of the Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board

- *Bill and Beth Burega*, Owners of Beverley Lake Camp, 1967
- *Muriel Jones*, Member of the Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board, 1967
- *Shirley Bryden*, Former Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Bastard and South Burgess
- *Howard French*, Former Reeve, Township of Bastard and South Burgess & Rideau Lakes
- *Bud Donald*, Park Manager 1972-1994, and his wife *Pat*
- *Anders Carson*,
Chairperson, Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board, 2011-2013

Acknowledgement of Corporate Partners by *William Morris*, Park Manager

- *Steve Durant*, Customer Operations Manager, Hydro One Inc. for playground enhancements
- *TD Friends of the Environment Foundation* for nature trail enhancements

Rideau Lakes Town Cryer *David Boyd*

Birthday Cake / Iced Tea served by members of the Seasonal Campers' Recreation Committee

Entertainment by the Brockville Lions Steel Drum Band

Wagon Ride Tours available (weather permitting)

*The Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board
would like to thank everyone for participating in their
50th Anniversary Celebrations.*



PHOTOS FROM CELEBRATION DAY: JUNE 24TH, 2017



Master of Ceremonies
Ron Kessler, Seasonal Camper at
Lower Beverley Lake Park for 35+ years



Entertainment provided by the
Brockville Lions Steel Drum Band.



Greetings and Recognition received from

- **Cathy Livingston**
Park Board Chairperson and
Deputy-Mayor, Rideau Lakes Township
- **Ronald Holman**
Mayor, Rideau Lakes Township
- **Steve Clark**
M.P.P. for Leeds-Grenville
- **Gord Brown**
M.P. for Leeds-Grenville
- **Steve Durant**, Hydro One Inc.



Hazel Wykes
Vice-Chairperson of the
Lower Beverley Lake Park
Management Board recognizes several guests
from the past who were instrumental in
developing the park.



William (Bill) and Beth Burega

Owners of Beverley Lake Camp, 1967

Bill and Beth operated Beverley Lake Camp in the summer before returning to Toronto in the winter when Bill played for the Toronto Maple Leafs.



Shirley Bryden (left)

Former Clerk Treasurer from the former Township of Bastard and South Burgess

Shirley was instrumental in completing the necessary applications, reports and grant proposals to develop the park.

Muriel Jones (right)

Member of the Inaugural Park Management Board which was established by Bastard and South Burgess Township Council in 1967.

Muriel was one of eight dedicated individuals who spent numerous hours discussing the development of the park facilities along with guiding the operation of the park in the initial years.



Bud and Pat Donald (l-r)

Bud is the longest serving Park Manager as he worked and lived on site from 1972 to 1994.

During the same time, Pat with the assistance of several students operated the canteen within the park.



Howard French

Former Reeve of the Township of Bastard and South Burgess and First Reeve of Rideau Lakes Township.

Throughout his career, Howard has been a stalwart supporter of the park.



Anders Carson (right)

Immediate Past Chairperson Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board.



David Boyd

Rideau Lakes Town Cryer officially commemorated the 50th Anniversary.



Elbe,

Park Mascot joins in the celebrations.



Birthday cake and Iced Tea was served by members of the
***Lower Beverley Lake Park
Seasonal Campers Recreation Committee.***