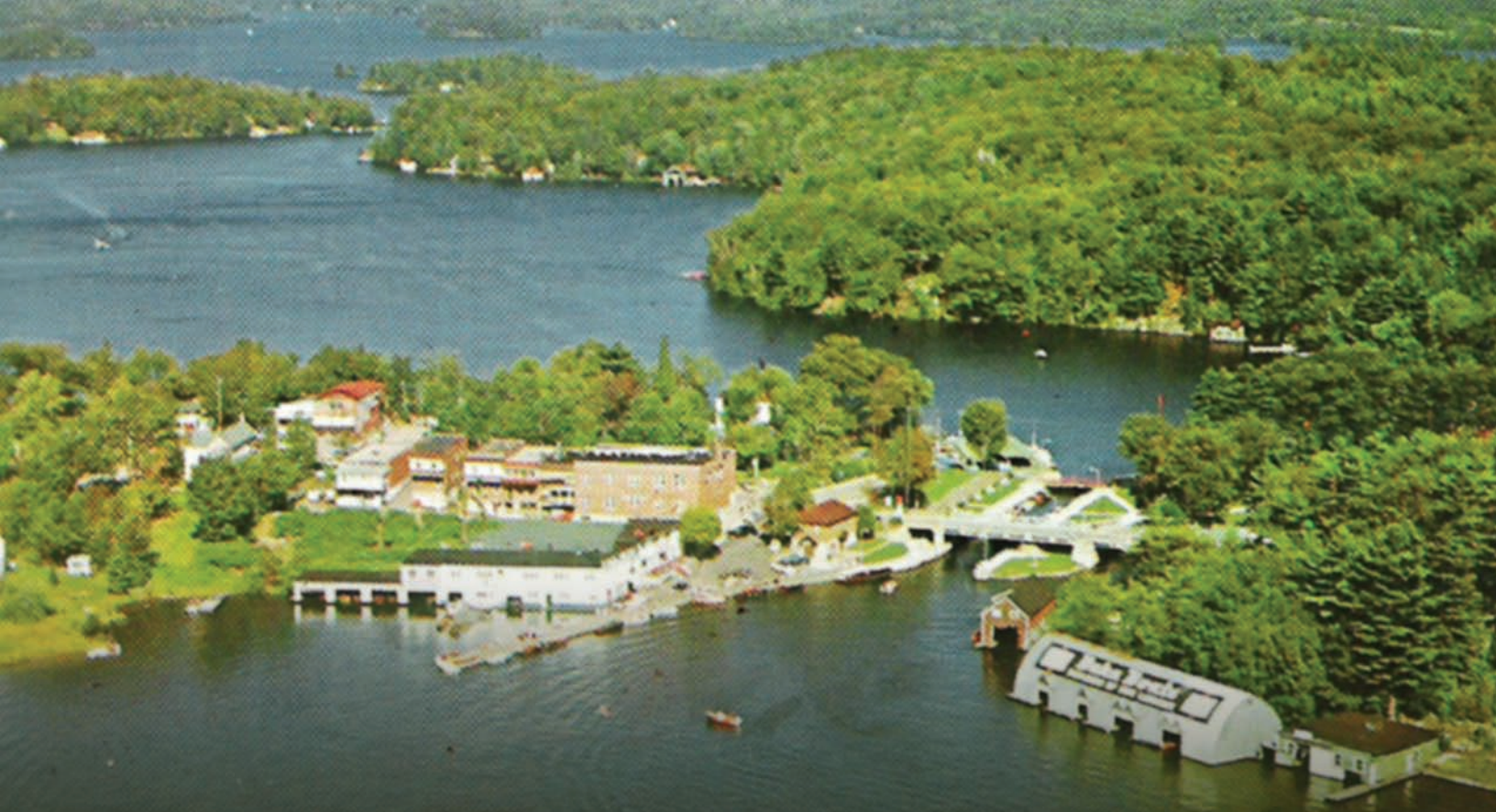




John and Thelma Jarvis

Sales Representatives

MAKING THE JOURNEY AS REWARDING AS THE DESTINATION



THE WAY WE WERE

I hope you enjoy this old picture of Port Carling.

The Port Carling locks are rich in history and are the source of the Town's nickname- The Hub of the Lakes. These locks were started in 1869 and finished in 1971, making the trip possible from Gravenhurst to the Village of Rosseau.

It is still fabulous to watch the bridge lift and see the Segwun or Wenonah pass through the middle of town.

How many changes can you see in this picture from how the Town looks now?

What year do you think this picture was taken and why do you think that?

It is always fun to have a long forgotten picture start a trip down memory lane for cottagers who have spent many years in Muskoka, and can relate the stories of the old days. I never tire of hearing the stories and learning more about this place I love.

John and Thelma's Helpful Tips

What We Learned in the 2013 Spring Flood

Perhaps putting out barrels on docks that do not have boathouses to weigh them down should be a regular fall activity at cottages. Weighing your docks down with barrels full of water really helps to stop a dock top from popping off and floating away in flood conditions. Buy your plastic barrels now, as supplies get low quickly when they are most needed, during flood conditions



Leave nothing on the floor of your boathouse, or on low shelving, that high water could knock over and float away. The water came up more than 16 inches in our boathouse, so our low shelving is being moved accordingly.

Establish a way that your boathouse doors can be raised should the lake levels rise quickly. Best not to have your beautiful wooden boathouse doors soaking up water for days at a time

Have the keys to your buildings accessible, on site in a lockbox, so that friends and neighbours, who are available, can get access to them for you. They can't help you if they can't get in, and maintenance people have their hands really full during a flood. Best to be able to access any help you can.

Imitation decking sinks and will not float away like wood decking.

Use Your Camera for Protection- A Fall Project



In case of theft and/or fire, make sure you have pictures of all the furnishings and decorating at your cottage, boathouse, and at your home, that you could be making a claim for. With digital cameras, it is so easy to simply move around rooms taking detailed pictures.

Don't forget to spread out your jewelry and other precious pieces and take detailed pictures of all of it. If you don't already have a good record of your possessions, put this task on your calendar, so that you may be sure it is completed as soon as possible, and stored digitally, so you have it there when you need it.

Cottage Fire Safety Assistance

Fires can be devastating, particularly in remote areas like Muskoka, where by the time professional help arrives, a relatively small, self-contained fire can quickly become catastrophic, spreading throughout an entire cottage, and often, to outlying buildings and neighbouring cottages. We recently learned of this new product that could be helpful.

A new product by AFG Flameguard Ltd can knock down a fire quickly. The unit is stored outside your cottage, as evacuating the cottage is the first thing that must be done in case of fire. It is as simple as taking the unit out of its case, pulling the pin on the unit, and throwing it back inside the cottage. The following links will provide you with video demonstrations. <http://www.afg5.com/videos.htm>. We have not personally experienced the use of these units

These Flameguard canisters can be viewed and purchased at Sturgeon Paint & Decorating in Rosseau. They are not inexpensive, but neither is a loss from fire.

Let Alarm Pro Help You See Your Cottage All Winter

Several of our friends have been very impressed with the services of Alarm Pro. This company installed cameras on their thermostats and on their bubblers so that they can see how everything is working at the cottage when they are away in the winter. They take great satisfaction in taking a peek at their cottage first thing every morning, regardless of where they are. **Alarm Pro 705-645-7000 in Bracebridge**

GEMThane Siding and Decking

Several of our clients have worked with Gemthane products, made in a plant in Bracebridge, and called us to say they have been very impressed with how well this product stands up to harsh Muskoka weather, and the way the company stands behind its product.

Gemthane ads say "GEMthane produces long lasting low maintenance wood siding by incorporating leading edge and thoroughly proven industrial and marine coating technology". They have products at a variety of price points and say that their product is much less expensive to install, as no strapping of the building is required.

The performance of the decks in service provide word of mouth advertising for the Gemthane Dex-N-Dox product. This might be a product you should check out.

705-646-1796 • www.gemthanesiding.com



Twins!

Is anyone in your family expecting, or parenting, twins or multiples? It can be a challenge!

www.babiesinbelly.com offers convenient, online prenatal classes for families expecting twins, triplets and more, as well as a free podcast series for those already parenting multiples. Facing a multiples pregnancy in rural Ontario can mean limited access to hospital classes or other multiples-specific resources.

Babies in Belly is a personal course taught by a professional educator and mother of monozygotic twin boys. It is accessible anywhere you have internet.

You can visit **www.babiesinbelly.com**, or visit the iTunes stores and search “twins and multiples” in the podcast section to learn more. This podcast and course was created by one of the most extraordinary teachers I ever had on my staff, when I was a school principal. After she faced the daunting challenges of parenting twins, and realized how few resources were readily available for new parents of multiples, she created this resource.



Goldenrod for Fall Colour

non allergenic, deer proof, likes poor soil

Contrary to popular belief Goldenrod does not cause allergies, as the pollen is way too heavy. It is however a wonderful addition to any Muskoka garden for gorgeous autumnal brilliance and for ease of cultivation, as it is a Zone 3 plant. Good insects

love it and the colour range is spectacular from butter to ecru. It makes a nice clump about 120 cm tall and 60 cm wide, so give it some space or use it as a border. It is wonderful combined with grasses, or is good on its own. Goldenrod requires full sun to part shade and it puts up with terrible soil, making it a natural for Muskoka. It blooms from late summer through all of September. The best news is that deer do not like it, so you can be assured of maintaining its beauty in your garden. Look for a cultivar called “Fireworks”

Viburnums and Ninebarks

This is a good time to year to get deals on shrubs and perennials for your Muskoka cottage garden.

Viburnums are a native shrub and so are wonderfully hardy in Muskoka gardens. They have creamy blossoms in the spring, glossy green leaves through summer and nutritious and attractive berries for the birds in the fall. If you plant two varieties together you get more berry production. Look



and see what our local nurseries have. Some good varieties are Blue Muffin which gets blue berries and Cardinal Candy which has red berries.

Ninebarks are another variety of native shrub type that has a lot of cultivars to offer interest, beauty, and hardiness to your Muskoka landscape in all seasons.

Need to Get Away this Winter?

Check out flight prices on Wednesdays 1:00 am. Sales are announced Friday and by Tuesday **they usually reach their lowest**

Airlines usually instigate price jumps on Friday and wait to see if other airlines will match the higher fare over the weekend. If not, the fares will drop again on Monday, and other airlines might try to start a “fare war” to keep lowering prices on Tuesday. By Wednesday, competing airlines will have had a chance to match the price drop. But sales are often pulled by Thursday to make room for weekend price-gouging.

You’ve always Got Time

Tim Horton’s is coming to Port Carling next year, in a Muskoka styled building located between Foodland and 118. This particular restaurant will have upgraded seating, a fireplace and an in-store bakery, along with a drive-thru.

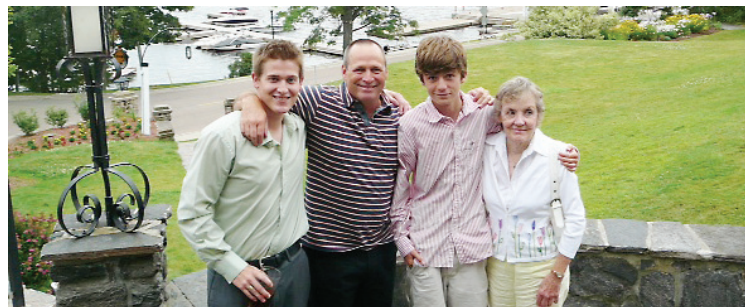
Volunteers Needed

We are so fortunate to have a wide variety of trails to use for our enjoyment across Muskoka. These trails have been built through the hard work of many volunteers over many years. The Township is now seeking applications from cottagers to participate as members of a Volunteer Recreational Trails Committee. If you can offer some of your time, contact Cheryl Mortimer, Clerk, Township of Muskoka Lakes.705-765-3156

When Families Start Talking

The cottage is the place that brings family together, so use some time to plan discussions on things that really matter in your family’s future. The CBC **Ideas** Series Podcast “**When Families Start Talking**” provides guidance for families to broach the delicate subject of caring for parents as they age. This is an excellent series that offers a lot of guidance for families to have productive family discussions and meetings that help all generations to be prepared for the future.

<http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/episodes/2012/11/27/when-families-start-talking-part-1/index.html>



We are ready to work for you.

Call us for all your real estate needs.

We make it our business to know the Muskoka Real Estate market, thoroughly.

We are never too busy to receive your referrals.

Count on us to work hard for your family & friends.



LAKES OF MUSKOKA
BROKERAGE

Royal LePage, Lakes of Muskoka Brokerage
is Independently Owned & Operated.

Thelma & John Jarvis
Sales Representatives

705-765-6855 Port Carling

705-645-5257 Bracebridge

705-645-2110 Home

thelma@royalpage.ca

JohnAndThelma.com



Stairway Danger

We are constantly surprised by how many exterior staircases at cottages do not have hand railings. I lost my grandfather through a fall down exterior stairs so I am especially sensitive to this hazard. There are many locations at which I do not feel safe walking down the extensive stone steps, with no handrail to guide me. We have also



been told that lots of cottagers are being informed by their insurance companies that they must have railings to continue to be insured. Good hand railings are really just a matter of safety for your family and friends.

If you are looking for traditional metal hand railings, at a good price, try contacting Sean Church. He has made wonderful railings that follow the contour of the land, for several of our friends. The style is minimalist and they resemble what was traditionally put on stone stairs at the old Muskoka cottages. This spring, he also made a wonderful cottage railing that goes down into the lake and the owners were thrilled with both the results and his price.

Sean Church 705-644-4776.

To Bubble or not to Bubble

Your dock system is an expensive investment which requires care. To avoid winter damage, it can be a wise choice to put a bubbler system in the lake to protect your docks. However there are safety precautions that must be taken if you bubble your docks. Bubbler warning lights must be flashing amber, not red.

Visit the MLA website at www.mla.on.ca for information on the legal implications of using a bubbler system. Property owners should adhere to the following guidelines when operating a bubbler system:

- Place your bubbler such that the bubbles go straight up rather than out from your dock;
- Display signage that designates "Danger: Open Water", and is visible from a distance;
- Mark your bubbler with a flashing amber light that is clearly visible in the dark;
- Install timers and thermostats to minimize impact —your bubbler does not need to run 24/7 in order to be effective
- Turn your bubbler off when the water levels are lowered in early March.

Snowmobilers, skiers, and hikers should exercise extreme caution when on the ice:

- Test the thickness of the ice before venturing out on to a lake or pond. In general, the rules for ice thickness measurements are:
 - 3" (7 cm) (new ice) - KEEP OFF
 - 4" (10 cm) - suitable for ice fishing, cross-country skiing and walking (approx. 200 pounds)
 - 5" (12 cm) - suitable for a single snowmobile or ATV (approx. 800 pounds)
 - 8" - 12" (20 - 30 cm) - suitable for one car, group of people (approx. 1500 - 2000 pounds)

- 12" - 15" (30 - 38 cm) - suitable for a light pickup truck or a van

