



**LIFE-LONG COTTAGE
MEMORIES ARE MADE AT EVENTS LIKE SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE
FIERY GRILL AND FOXWOOD RESORT'S OPEN MIKE**

Music **AROUND THE LAKE**

by Andrea Duncan

My husband is a true musician. By true, I mean he must make music. It's inside him and a necessity for his soul to make a little music every day. I, on the other hand, am an enjoyer of music. I have always been fascinated by the creative drive of musicians that compel them to express the world around them in song. Recently, I had the opportunity to chat with three other true musicians who happen to share a deep connection to Lake of Bays.

Bill Colgate is a true musician and a long time cottager at Lake of Bays. Bill has spent the last 50 summers at his cottage at the south end of the lake, across from Bigwin Island. Bill expressed the same need to make music as my husband and actually calls himself a musical addict. Bill makes his living as a singer, songwriter, and actor. His band, the Urbane Guerillas, play in the city about twice a month and have developed quite a following. I was interested in chatting with Bill because I found a song on his website (www.billcolgate.com) called "Lake of Bays." I thought I'd have a listen and when Bill sang that first line "Slow dancing on a summer night..." I was immediately filled with a collage of memories of dancing, singing, and listen-

ing to music at our water's edge. I asked Bill about the inspiration for the song and he said, "I was doing summer theater in Port Dover and really missing the cottage." He said that he would walk into town each day and the song was written in his head before it was on paper. The chorus line, "And dance with me baby the way we did that night on the shore of Lake of Bays in the hot moon light," speaks of a time in one's life when things are simple and the love of a sweetheart is intoxicating.

"I was immediately filled with a collage of memories of dancing, singing and listening to music at our water's edge"

I was not surprised to find that there are other musicians at our beautiful lake who also have a song called "Lake of Bays." Betty McDonald, our Lake of Bays Association President, while ensuring that the Association meets the needs of the members and running her own consulting practice, Betty also finds time to write and create music. She would describe herself as an amateur musician, but when I heard Betty's song, while looking out my snowy window in the city, I can tell you that it sounded not at all amateur. While Bill's song is about the finding love at Lake of Bays, Betty's is

about her love of the lake itself. Both songs however were inspired by a longing for the lake when away from it. Betty described a time when she was traveling a lot and would look out the window of her hotel room to see only concrete. She would think about how much a person can miss the place that makes you feel connected and gives you joy. *continued next page*

photo by Bev McMullen

left: Bill Colgate, guest singing with Papa John at the Fiery Grill in Dorset. **above:** Playing at the Foxwood Resort's coffee house; left to right, Dave Pangborn, Andy McClelland and Chuck McClelland.

“It brings me home,” describes Betty about her connection with Lake of Bays. It is no wonder that Betty wrote the line “I hear your music, I hear your sound, My Lake of Bays...Our Lake of Bays.”

What I realized when I started talking to musicians around the lake is that there is music everywhere. From Papa John’s music on Sunday afternoons at the Fiery Grill, to The Price Brothers at the Bush Company, to the regular talent at the Moosewood Café or Lumina Resort, there are amateur and paid musical performances everywhere. One place where musicians, amateur and professional alike, can participate in a fun night of music is at the Foxwood Coffee House.

The Foxwood Resort is located on the Fox Point Road. It is the oldest resort on the lake and the current owners, Rob and Julia, have owned the resort for ten years. It’s the history of Foxwood that makes it so interesting.

Chuck McCelland remembers summers in the 60s at Foxwood and says that evenings were spent learning guitar with his cousins. They’d play Beatles hits and even had the opportunity to play a few times at Foxwood’s tuck shop. Chuck wanted to recapture his musical time at the lake and so three years ago, he called up his cousin Andy about playing together again, even though they hadn’t played in 40 years. Chuck approached Julia and Rob at Foxwood and asked if they would be interested in hosting and the Foxwood Resort Coffee House was born.

The coffee house takes place on the Sunday night of the August Civic Holiday long weekend and this summer will be the fourth year. The event draws about 100 people, who are either guests or neighbours of Foxwood. All musicians and guests have such a good time, that they typically need to “kick people out after midnight,” said Rob. It’s open mike, so all musicians and enjoyers of music are welcome. The cost is \$5, and all proceeds go to a charity. Last year’s charity was the S.S. Bigwin restoration, an event worth supporting. For more information on this summer’s event, please contact Chuck McCelland directly. His name can be found in this Yearbook’s directory. Chuck and Andy will be there this year, and so will Betty! Perhaps we can convince Bill to join and they can both play their Lake of Bays songs!

In all my discussions with the musicians around the lake, one common theme kept coming up; nostalgia. When I asked Bill what became of the girl who was the inspiration for his “Lake of Bays” song, he said “ahhh, I married her.” It’s been 35 years, and I’d say that’s something to sing about! 