

Farewell from the *Bard* and his *Muse*

I recall that on our first visit as a whole family in 1979, son Donald was outside on the grass, and all at once he jumped, danced in the air and shouted "We've got a Cottage!" He did not know it at the time, but he was doing the dance I felt like doing myself. We had a lake, we had a boat, we had our excited children, we had a dog and we had years of enjoyment before us. We were now a family with a great place to visit and stay a while.

The years all pass, and we had birthdays, a 50th Anniversary, even a Wedding. A lot of parties and celebrations took place here. More years passed and we moved here permanently, not only in this place but in the village near our house. More than any other location, this place on the lake has seemed more like a home than the other houses in which we lived.

It is safe to say that all Richardsons have a thread of their lives that is tied to Jack Lake and this cottage. Cars, motorcycles, boats, dingys, a sailboat or two, or just an air mattress on which you could just float and love it. A lot of people have joined us for a day, a week-end or a week. I became a local "name" via my poems and essays, and I became someone whose opinion was sought on many area issues such as pursuing a new Community Centre. Jack Lake and Apsley has been a life to us.

We are now committed to sell this place we presently call home. Tomorrow the search for the next place will commence and will likely find us in a place we can no doubt equally enjoy and with which we can be comfortable and content. But, it is hard.

We truly like this space and the life it afforded us. We have joined where we were welcome. We have contributed where we could, and we have made friends or become friendly with many good people. I

have been permitted to poeticize and put forth ideas that I sincerely held even if they were not always agreed with by all local readers. All in all we made a good life up here, including the enjoyment of having guests and friends in for a dinner or party. The pleasure and the honour was all ours.

The pleasure of small town life is that you get to "use" the whole town, whether it is the Community Centre, the Dump or the suppliers of those needs you can get withing 20 minutes of Wellington Street. The lack of heavy traffic is truly appreciated after you've had a trip to a big city. And for our health needs we have area doctors and a medical facility in Peterborough that contains one of Canada's leading Cardiac Clinics. What is not to like?

So, we say this now, before the madness of moving distracts us: Good Wishes to you all, friend or not. May you continue to appreciate and enjoy the natural and the human factors that make up this very interesting community. May you live in this natural nirvana for as long as you can - remembering this wonderful place.

Be well.

Barrie & Helen Richardson

Editor's Note:

Thanks Barrie for your many, many contributions to the Apsley Voice which have come on a fairly regular pace over the past 15+ years. We especially appreciate the exposés you wrote on the unapologetic pedophile who was living in Apsley, the deteriorating state of health care and our future prospects when the US remarkably elected a person who has proved to be a self-serving liar.

Wherever you land, we wish you continued good health, prosperity and appreciation for your fine work.

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