

OJIBWAY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY 2021



I am pleased to report that 2020 was another year of big accomplishments for the OHPS. My only regret was that the border was closed to so many friends in our cottage community. How you were missed! May the summer of 2021 bode better.

1. The Gift Shop opened for business in July.
2. Pinewood was furnished and ready for rental in July.
3. Plans for an Indigenous Talking Circle at The Ojibway in 2021.

BOARD CHANGES

OJIBWAY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1	President	Bill Watts	705 257-6016	billwatts@shaw.ca
2	Vice President	Sean Clarke	416 606-4404	seanmclarke@gmail.com
3	Treasurer	Bob Kilgour	416 804-1550	bob@kingswoodgroup.ca
4	Communications & Secretary	Celia Milne	416 358-6120	celiamilne@rogers.com
5	Historical	Nancy Lang	416 964-7888	nancylang9@gmail.com
6	Facilities	Sam Skuce	647 621-6702	sam.skuce@gmail.com
7	Facilities	Leslie Prior Taylor	901 826-6036	contactltaylor@gmail.com
8	Director at Large	Patrick Findlay	647 402-7907	findlay_patrick@hotmail.com
9	Fundraising			
10	Legal			
11	Community Outreach			

In 2020, **Jenni McIsaac** and **Martha Hall Findlay** stepped off the board after many years of valuable service. Jenni led the challenging task of fundraising, but with her enthusiastic, organized, can-do approach, for two major projects - the grocery store and the gift shop. Martha was diligent, vigilant, kept the Board apprised on all matters legal, and always weighed in thoughtfully on every discussion. Enormous thanks to Jenni and Martha for their commitment and expertise.

We are delighted to welcome **Patrick Findlay** to the OHPS Board. Patrick brings a lifetime of Point au Baril experience, as his family has 'cottaged' and served in this community for generations. Patrick follows a long family tradition. (yes, he is Martha's son)

If **YOU** are interested in history, the preservation of these extraordinary buildings, and might like to join a terrific group of like-minded souls, please consider a nomination to The OHPS Board. Approach any Board Member, especially for legal, fundraising and donor recognition which are open as this goes to press.

THE GIFT SHOP RESTORATION



The Gift Shop, along with the Grocery Store, is a vibrant part of dock life at the Ojibway. It is as important today as it was in times past. Thanks to generous

gifts from donors, the gift shop has been restored. We'd also like to extend our thanks to Ian Cooke of Watt Retail for his concept and flow-through design, to Architect Peter Ortved of CS&P for maintaining the historical elements, and to Rolar Construction for getting the job done on time. Demolition started September 2019; the building was closed in for winter, and it was completed between April & July.

It re-opened the first week of July. On the original footprint, with a layout that provides more space and light, beautiful interior roof trusses and tilt-up windows facing the dock. Through these windows, coffee and ice cream cones can be ordered and picked up. Like the original Gift Shop, this one has the same concept shutters for sales directly to customers on the dock. FYI Reports from the 2020 gift shop staff - *'love working by the open windows'!!!*



Due to COVID shipping delays, we had to use makeshift inside counters and displays for the summer. Below are the fixtures installed in September by Rolar.

1. Counter corral for the staff to serve customers inside and at the service window.
2. Ice Cream freezer and cleanup sink for coffee and ice cream service.
3. Display racks and shelving along the walls with product storage cubbies top and bottom.
4. Unique focal wall with box-style display units.



This panoramic view inside shows the open-truss construction, spacious and clean. The open scissor trusses were made on Manitoulin Island by IWS Wood Products. Fir, which was used by Hamilton Davis in the original construction of the Ojibway buildings, is the material for the Gift Shop trusses.

This 1910 photograph shows the first iteration of the open window concept, and proof that gathering on the dock is a long-held tradition.



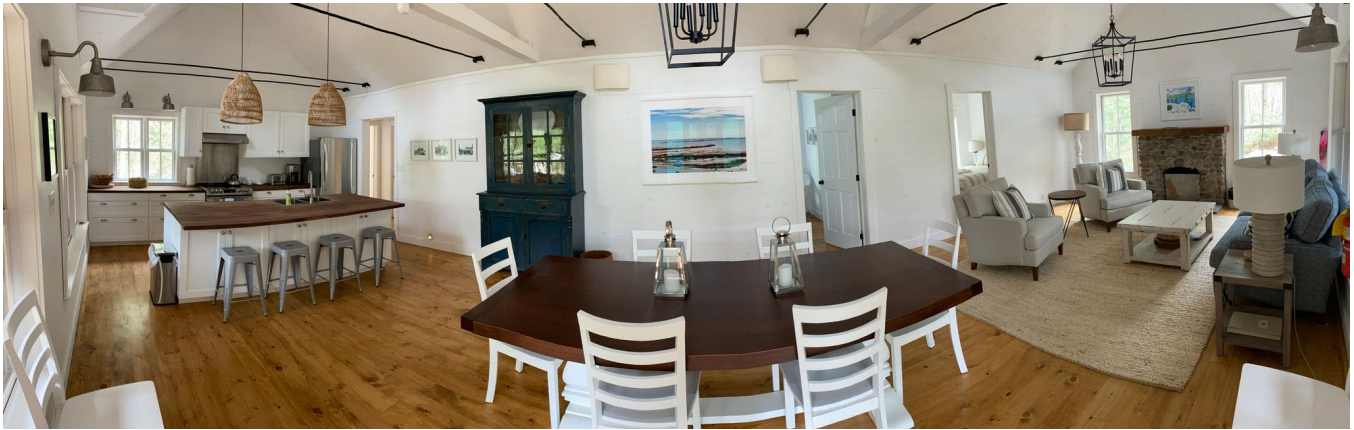
PINEWOOD



Pinewood, originally built around 1910 for **Hamilton Davis** and his wife **Millie MacIntosh Davis**, was tucked away on a quieter part of the island. Perhaps to provide a brief respite from running a very popular and busy hotel? Pinewood later became home for Davis' most important employees. **Bert Bruckland**, his right-hand man since the hotel opened in 1906, and later in the 1940's for **Albert Desmasdon**, who ran the boat works (now grocery store), where engines were repaired and guided fishing expeditions organized. Pinewood fell into disrepair and was torn down in the 1990's.

Today's Pinewood is constructed on the same footprint as the original cabin, with the restoration of the stone fireplace and chimney, which thankfully was preserved. The full screen porch and dormers match the design of other cabins built by Davis in the first decade of the hotel operation. A washroom and outdoor shower are attached on the back left. Pinewood sits back from the water on raised ground and has a fine view of the channel.

We'd like to thank heritage architects Scott Weir and Lindsay Sneddon of ERA for their expertise, and Ballentine Construction for getting the job done on time. Construction started September 2019, stopped December & January, continued in February, paused for March, and was completed between April & July. Pinewood was ready for summer rental!



This panoramic view of the interior shows the cottage's high ceilings with dormers and many windows, making it bright inside. The fireplace is the original stone and the floors are the traditional pine. The kitchen counters are walnut. Cottager and interior designer Stacey Sharpe oversaw the installation of the beautiful furnishings and décor.

Generous donations made to OHPS covered the full cost for the Pinewood restoration. The donor family has been given the opportunity to rent this magnificent cottage. As agreed, they pay rent the same as other renters. And Pinewood becomes new revenue for The Ojibway.

Talking Circle at The Ojibway Garden of Pines -- gitiganing shiingwaakoog

The primary *raison d'être* of OHPS is to preserve the historic buildings on Ojibway Island, as well as the stories of those who imagined it, built and inhabited it.

As the Indigenous people of Shawanaga First Nation were integral to the building of the Hotel (the east and west wings were constructed during winter on the mainland), and lived on the island to help operate the Hotel for decades, as fishing guides and staff, we thought it was high time to host a Talking Circle.



The “Talking Circle” is a customary Indigenous way of learning and sharing history. Each person has a chance to address the group sitting in a circle. Marilyn Capreol has kindly offered to lead it.

Marilyn (nee Longlade) grew up on Shawanaga, had a family cottage near the Ojibway Island, attended class on Schoolhouse Island and Saturday night dances at the ‘Jib. Marilyn moved to Toronto in 1963, but in 2007 returned to Shawanaga. Marilyn is now on the board of The Georgian Bay Biosphere, which has a mandate to protect the Bay’s fragile environment.

Talking Circles are given a spirit name, and Marilyn has suggested this gathering be named “Garden of Pines”. In honor of the much beloved white pine whose tenderness and flexibility gives it the resilience to survive strong winds.

Everyone is invited.

We hope the Talking Circle will give everyone a chance to share stories and learn.

ONGOING SUPPORT

The Ojibway is clearly the beating heart of Pointe au Baril. We all know and appreciate how it adds to our summer experiences.

The OHPS’s role is to ensure The Ojibway remains standing – both its treasured heritage buildings and in its role as a community centre. The establishment of OHPS in 2001 has resulted in the restoration and rescue of many buildings and their history, for future generations.

The Gift Shop had deteriorated to a sad state and Pinewood was lost almost 30 years ago. Thanks to generous donations, both these buildings will continue to serve our community. Thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause.

Information about the OHPS and the history of the Ojibway is available to you anytime at www.ohps.ca. When it is safe to do so, you can view the website on a console inside the front doors of the original hotel, at the top of the stone stairway. You are also invited to attend the Annual Community Meeting of the OHPS on Saturday July 10 immediately following the Board Meeting of the Ojibway Club. Please come and meet the Board members and participate in the discussions shaping the work of the OHPS.

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE
OJIBWAY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
SATURDAY JULY 10, 2021
Approximately 9:30 AM after the OJC meeting
OJIBWAY MOVIE HUT**

Bill Watts
President & Board Chair
The Ojibway Historical Preservation Society