

History of the ruins at Lac Philippe - by Ruth Heggtveit

The property was owned by my Grandfather, Carl Heggtveit who immigrated here from Norway. He bought a large acreage using an inheritance, I believe in the late 1920's. There were actually four family cottages on the property at one point. I don't know which one is in the photograph but the one further up the hill from the lake is the one my Grandfather built with the help of his sons, one of them my father Bruce, during the depression. Carl worked for a lumber yard and used rejected lumber from the lumber yard and stone from the property to build the structures. Carl's place had a wide front porch with 2 staircases. My father said the family "vacations" were terrible during the construction of the cottages as they entailed long work days of hauling stone. The summer they built the huge fireplace was most arduous. Because of the depression and lack of money, they lived on porridge and trout from the lake. My Grandmother, Helga, bleached flour sacks and tatted lace to the edges to make curtains for the cottage.

The large stone remains closer to the water were built by Halvor Heggtveit, Anne Heggtveit's father.

The third remaining structure of which there is little (the NCC has placed a bench in the middle of it) was constructed by my Aunt, Grace Heggtveit and her husband, Arnold Richter.

The fourth structure, which is no longer standing, was a cottage built entirely of wood by my father Bruce.

They had many family gatherings there and my uncle Eugene who was a pilot in the air force often did early morning flyovers of the cottages while on manoeuvres with his crew. My cousin Anne fondly remembers him purposely doing a flyover in acknowledgement of her birthday. There was a cottage on the opposite side of the lake and friends there also remember being roused out of their sleep on weekends by low flying aircraft sweeping their cottage!

They also used the cottages from time to time in winter as they were all big cross country skiers. My Dad often recalled the time they had unexpected visitors in town (they lived on Bayswater) and needed extra blankets which had been left at the cottage. Halvor skied from Bayswaterup to the cottage and back to retrieve the blankets!

Unfortunately, they were expropriated in the early 1950's. It was a very sad event for the family. By then my father Bruce had built a home in Kingsmere and he and his brothers then proceeded to build one next door for my Grandparents. They settled in the Ottawa area because they said it reminded them of Norway. The NCC tried to tear down all the structures but were unable to disassemble the stone walls. As you saw, they are exceptionally thick!

