

1910

The Holt Lumber Company of Chicago, who owned timber rights on Ontario Crown Lands in that area, put up great deal of opposition saying summer camps were a fire hazard. E. C. Kenning carried on discussions with The Holt Lumber Company's solicitors and the Ontario Crown Lands Department stating that the Camp would not be a fire threat any more than permanent summer homes in the area. After long correspondences with all parties, the Ontario Crown Lands Department granted the petitioners Patent to two parcels of land. The existing camp and 5 acres of land at Lovesick. Relationships between the Holt Lumber Company and the members of Camp from the time of commencement ended up being very pleasant in nature with officials and bush men who were always given a glad welcome, meals and beds in Camp and in return they offered members useful information and a great service they performed for us in fighting a serious bush fire in 1921.

The original Crown Patents are dated February 25th, 1910 at a cost of \$5.00 per acre. Sites under 2 acres were at \$10.00 per acre.

The group (9) had decided on a name for the fishing camp which was "The Deer Lake Syndicate" as Wahwashkesh translated to "deer" in Ojibway *. The group consisted of Robert M. Morton, Edward Campbell Kenning, Colonel Sidney C. Robinson, William Henry Isaacs, Abram D. Green, Dr. Herman H. Sanderson, William J. Burns, Walter Leishman McGregor and John Northwood. Each member contributed \$125.00 for their membership. Also buying shares in 1910 were Major Ebenezer Michael McLean and Gordon Michael McGregor who did not join as members of the club until 1918 for McLean, and 1915 for McGregor. They were not listed as founding members so I presume they were purchasers later in 1910 than the rest.

Edward Kenning received the parcel of land we now know as Morton's Point Camp. It was 12 acres of land and the group chose this as the site for their fishing camp. Robert Morton's parcel of land was five acres on the north shore just below Lovesick.



Main Lodge.
Picture taken in 1911.

Paperwork I have found suggests that the main lodge was ordered and started in the spring of 1910 to be built by a contractor, John Broderick, for \$750.00. The work was completed by the members. All the logs used on the lodge were from timber on the property. The group started the building of the fireplace which was completed in 1911. John Broderick, the contractor, had also built the Cameron Island cabin which has the same design of the main lodge at our Camp.

The mode of transportation in 1910 was canoes only from Harrison's Landing on the big lake, south of Parkers Bay, below Gooseneck Lake (see map). That made for a long ride in with supplies and materials.

From 1910 to 1923, the management, while in Camp, was carried on by Robert Morton who spent most of the summer in Camp. After his death, the Camp Manager position was held by members and split into the first half from July to the beginning of August and the second half from the beginning of August to the end of August.

The cook for the group was Thomas Longley.

Robert M. Morton owned Morton's Tobacco Co.

Last Modified May 28, 2012.



Rear of Main Lodge. Original kitchen area and before the addition of the fireplace.
Picture taken in 1910.