

**The**  
**“Grand” Experience**

by

The Grand Lake History Committee

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**The**

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## The “Grand” Experience

“THE GRAND EXPERIENCE” captures some of our lake history and lore. The idea for writing a history of Grand Lake originated in the late 1980s. Like many fine ideas, it needed time to germinate. It entered a fallow period but a few years ago, the idea and its realization passed to fresh hands. What has emerged is not so much a historical record, with precise dates and times, but a narrative of our collective experiences at our beloved lake. It captures some of the events that have shaped our memories.

This is **our** story; this is the history of **our** lake from the first itinerant visitors to the current residents. It is about the individuals and families who have given the lake its character. It tells who they were, why they came, where they chose to build, and what they experienced.

As the project progressed, it became both a labour of love and a journey of learning. We marveled at some of the stories, events, and activities that we collected or that were shared with us - or in some cases that we accidentally uncovered. We quickly realized that many of our current Grand Lake residents likely know little of the socio-economic history of the lake area and were perhaps unaware of the existence of an Oblate camp on the lake at the turn of the last century. Many do not know much about our early pioneers who came to the lake in the 1920s - 40s or about some of the cottagers who followed to our Grand Lake shores after World War II.

Some may find it interesting to read and learn the history of the Sports Club, the Sailing Club, and the formation of the Grand Lake Home Owners’ Protective Association, the forerunner of the current Grand Lake Association.

As we know, history and legend run on parallel, yet paradoxically, somewhat divergent tracks. History is a written record of events as they happened. It takes time and careful study of documentation from many sources to verify accuracy. A legend usually originates with an actual historical event but is shaped as it is retold from the life experience of the teller. As stories pass from generation to generation, details often dim but the essence remains intact. What follows is a partly anecdotal, partly legend and partly true history - written and researched by a team of enthusiastic amateurs.

“The Grand Experience” is intended to relate the evolution of our lake community during the past 100-plus years. Our fondest hopes would be that future generations use the book as a foundation on which to build on their Grand Lake experience and that this book serve as a catalyst which generates more recording of history, story and legend and results in more books. The message is simple: enjoy the spirit and content of this beginning.

*The Grand Lake History Committee*