



Your Friends on the Lake

Thelma Jarvis
Sales Representative

Muskoka Tradesource

Do you need someone to paint your porch, fix the broken mirror, make an awning, bring in your firewood, or control ants around your cottage?

In addition to looking in the yellow pages, there is a new information publication available across Muskoka, free of charge to consumers.

THE MUSKOKA TRADESOURCE is a directory that puts many of the businesses, trades and events that involve construction at your fingertips.

This publication also carries information about new products, by-laws affecting construction and detailed explanations to assist the consumer to be knowledgeable and well informed. Links to other sites are provided for consumers who require further, in-depth knowledge or have questions that are unanswered.

Symbols in the directory indicate whether or not carpenters are licensed, whether products fall under the Energuide rating, whether a listed company has completed a disclosure questionnaire, and whether a company offers air miles.

If you have ideas for articles that would be of interest to consumers, contact Shelley Raymond at 645-8889

You can pick this publication up for free at kiosks across Muskoka, or you can find it on the internet at www.muskokatradesource.com

Naturally, you are reminded to carefully check references of all services listed in the directory, and to get quotes in writing.



Dinner Cruise

We had an enjoyable evening with friends on a dinner cruise on the Wenonah. We like to support the boats, so we booked the private dining room on the top of Wenonah with 5 other couples. You get a private deck, a well-appointed private dining room and a personal waiter for a very reasonable price. This room is very popular, so consider booking well in advance, as it is worth the wait. [705-687-6667]



Design Your Own Dinnerware

The grand old cottages always had personalized dinnerware, much of which is either still in use or is carefully displayed in the cottage as part of its treasured heritage.

Now you can design your own personalized dinnerware and decide for yourself what pieces you would like in your collection. It is a "have-it-your-way" approach which could suit many cottagers well. Perhaps you want sushi plates rather than dessert plates or Tapas platters instead of gravy boats - whatever you want you can have. You no longer have to buy boxed sets with pieces you would never use. Choose your colour, shape, or design, and put your own monogram on it. This could also make a wonderful Christmas gift for family or friends with cottages. www.pfz.com

A Seat of Honour

We very much enjoy seeing the steamships ply the lakes throughout the season. To honour this, my friend and I created a pattern and painted the backs of Muskoka chairs with the image of the front of Segwun. If you would like to borrow our pattern to paint your own chair, contact us at 705-645-2110 or Thelma@royalpage.ca



Free Beer!

The Muskoka Cottage Brewery is a delightful spot to tour and sip samples when shopping in Bracebridge on a Friday or Saturday. Between 11-5 you can learn about the brewing and bottling process of all four of Muskoka's fine beers. It is cottage multi-tasking when you support the local economy and drink beer on the dock at the same time. You can also order kegs for your parties. 13 Taylor Road, Bracebridge, 705-646-1266

Beer Can Chicken

A wonderful summer recipe for chicken on the BBQ is to stand it up in 2 stacked aluminum pie plates over an opened can of beer. The moisture and flavour of the beer does wonders for the chicken, especially if you baste the outside with a combination of ¼ cp of beer mixed with your favourite BBQ sauce.



BBQ Hygienically

There is a new kitchen shop in Bracebridge that has many interesting and useful items. We like the silicon basting brush for use with the BBQ because there are no bristles to fall out or collect sauce, and it comes totally clean in the dishwasher, making it more hygienic. It comes in bright summer colours of yellow and red and is a deal at \$3.95. [The Creative Cook, 12 Manitoba Street, 705-645-0027]

An Eye in the Sky

The Ministry of Natural Resources [MNR] is teaming up with municipal governments to purchase satellite pictures which would show your cottage, driveway, sheds, boathouses etc. The black and white images would also show wetlands and vegetation. Each new satellite picture would show if changes had taken place. For instance, it would show rock removal, vegetation removal or sand beaches installed. This would enable them to track building infractions and to help them to better guard the health of our lakes. Watch what you do, because there is an eye in the sky!



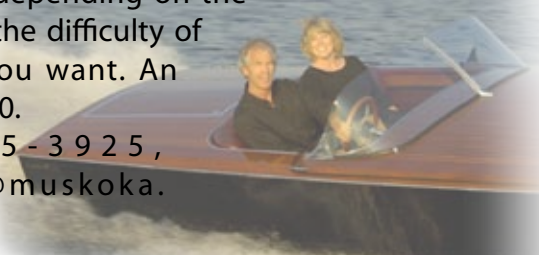
Capture the Feeling- a gift idea

A current trend is for families to hire a professional photographer to come to their cottage and take action shots of the family playing together. Swim, ski, sail, lounge, BBQ-whatever represents the activities that you cherish as a family at the cottage. Having pictures of these moments is like bottling the family intimacy of summer in Muskoka and having it to open and enjoy any time you want.

Our family gave us the gift of a photo session with Tim DuVernet because he is famous for his boat/water photography. His photos have graced over 20 posters across North America and he co-authored the book 'Wood and Glory', honouring Muskoka's antique boats. Our session focused on boating, and among others, we have fabulous close up shots of us at full speed in our cherished Greavette racer. These pictures are works of art that can be hung anywhere or be given as gifts. Although it was shot in colour, we chose our framed prints in black and white, furthering their use as photographic art.

There are many wonderful photographers in Muskoka. You can visit their galleries to see if their work suits your needs. Tim Du Vernet is in a new gallery in Port Carling. A photo session costs from \$125-\$550, depending on the duration or the difficulty of the shots you want. An 8x10 is \$16.00.

[7 0 5 - 7 6 5 - 3 9 2 5 ,
duvernet@muskoka.
com]



One Step at a Time to Protect Muskoka

Canada's One Tonne Challenge is a program designed to encourage us to take action on climate change, protect our environment, and save money on energy. If you make one change a month you can significantly reduce your contribution to greenhouse gas emission by 20% or one tonne in a year. Here are some easy suggestions to try:

- Wash clothes in cold water using low phosphate or phosphate free detergent
- Each time you change a light bulb, replace it with one of the wonderful new energy efficient compact Florescent bulbs and consider if you could use a lower wattage
- Clean windows with vinegar and water, wiping up drips with crumpled newspaper which makes your windows sparkle. This saves on chemicals and paper towels
- When you clean, wipe down light bulbs and vacuum the back of your refrigerator as dust build up reduces efficiency by 25%
- Clean your air conditioning filter each month and use a dip in the lake and shaded windows rather than air conditioning, except during the very hot spells.

Do You Know What Your Cottage is Really Worth?

Setting a value on cottages is far more complex than setting a value on homes in a neighbourhood of reasonably similar homes. Comparisons are much more difficult to make in cottage country.

As a consumer, the added complication for you, is that you only know the listing price for

cottages you have been watching in the newspaper and you may be hearing inaccurate sales figure on the cottages that sold, from the rumour mill on your lake. This makes it very difficult for you to have an accurate sense of what value your cottage really has.

We use the synthesis of four processes

to help you to derive the listing price for your cottage. We have accurate data to apply to the processes. Using this method, enables us to partner with you to come up with a figure that makes sense.

It is both an art and a science to calculate a listing price for a cottage. Let us help you through it.

Get Out the Cards

For cottagers who love bridge, Port Carling has a weekly club where you can play Mondays at 7:15 for \$3.00. Call 705-765-6156 to arrange to attend.



A Hundred Years of Ice-Out Dates

In 1995 we cut an article out of the paper that showed the ice-out dates in Muskoka collected by Cecil Fraser of Fraser's Home Hardware in Port Carling. Since that time the page has aged and yellowed, and we were delighted to see, that when we photocopied it for a friend, it came out in a form that looked like "sepia tone" making it suitable for framing. It is quite interesting to see how late the lakes have stayed frozen in some years and how early the ice has gone out in other years. I wonder if anyone is still collecting ice-out dates? Please let us know if you collect these dates.

Drinking Water Testing

The fees have been waived for well water testing. You can pick up your water sample bottles in the Health Unit offices in Gravenhurst or Huntsville, and you should plan to test your well three times a year to be sure your drinking water is safe. For more information call 705-721-7520, 1-877-721-7520 or www.simcoemuskokahealth.org



If you would like a copy of this to frame for display in your cottage or boathouse, contact us at 705-645-2110 or Thelma@royalpage.ca

We know the cottage experience and would love to be of service to you. Call us, because we are...



...Your Friends on the Lake



If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter online, please send your email address to thelma@royalpage.ca.

Thelma Jarvis
Sales Representative

John Jarvis
Unregistered, pending August 2005

Royal LePage Lakes of Muskoka Realty Inc.
100 West Mall Road, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1Z1

Phone: (705) 645-5257
Home: (705) 645-2110
Fax: (705) 645-1238
Email: thelma@royalpage.ca