

The Greater Loon Lake Fishing Club

In a series of formal corporate meetings held sequentially on the afternoon of Friday February 10th, 1928, in the offices of a lawyer (and founding Director), James Bicknell, in downtown Toronto, the Greater Loon Lake Fishing Club was formed as a *share capital corporation*, (of nominal value), having been issued Letters Patent signed by the Provincial Secretary two days earlier.

The Provisional Directors and Shareholders (Members) in the order listed, prior to the admission of several other Members later in the afternoon were:

ALFRED ROSS OBORNE, *Provisional Chairman*

WALTER OBORNE

HARRY KNIGHT

JAMES W. BICKNELL, *Provisional Secretary*

THOMAS MORRISON MASSON

ANDREW STEVENS

HECTOR P. BELLINGHAM

After the admission of several more Members later that afternoon, the Directors and Officers of the Club were officially recorded as follows:

ALFRED ROSS OBORNE, *President*

FRANK HAYWORTH, *Treasurer*

ANDREW STEVENS

J. P. BELLINGHAM

THOMAS M. MASSON

JAMES W. BICKNELL

H. W. KNIGHT

FRANK SEDDON *was appointed Secretary*

[The minutes from this inaugural gathering are either incomplete, or in error, since, the minutes from a subsequent board meeting held on December, 1928, record the resignation of WALTER OBORNE "...as a Director of the Club..." and the transfer of his "...one share...to NORMAN MATHEW...", who was elected a Director]. At the same meeting, FRANK HAYWORTH resigned as a Director and Treasurer and his share was transferred to HARRY T. GIBBS, who was elected a Director and appointed *Treasurer*.

All of the Members, (except for the lawyer, James Bicknell), were property owners on Loon Lake and while it was said that the purpose of the Club was to enable obtaining discounts on sporting goods and other purchases, it really was the beginning of a Lake Association, and from much more recent minutes, (1964-79), it obviously functioned as such, even when it became more convenient, (by at least as early as 1966), to have a parallel Lake Association that did not require the transfer of a share, (and a government filing), every time a Member changed.

Below is the list of Members, all being property owners, (and most of such on the lake, but not all), as attested to by A. Ross Osborne, *Chairman and President* and Frank Seddon, *Secretary*, at the December, 1928 Meeting of Directors. Members are listed roughly: south from Stevens Point and from, (towards the Old Dam), south to north on the west side of Osborne Point, over to the Masson and Big Islands and then the north shore area before the Narrows, (*anecdotal info courtesy James Osborne*):

Club Membership - December, 1928

ANDREW STEVENS	TORONTO	<i>worked for Simpsons</i>
JAMES ROSS OBORNE	TORONTO	<i>son of Alfred Ross Osborne and owner of what became the Bradford property</i>
NORMAN MATHEW	ISLINGTON	<i>related to Gibbs and Clarks</i>
CHRIS KNOWLES	OSHAWA	<i>later Mr. Harris of Brantford</i>
MR. WATT	TORONTO	
MR. MACKELLAR	WINDSOR	<i>later Mr. Van Loan</i>
H. W. CHITTICK	CHICAGO	
SPRAGUE MOORE	CHICAGO	<i>father of Clayton Moore-'The Lone Ranger'. Cottage later bought by Jack Schultz of Toronto-real estate business</i>
GEORGE A. PEARSON	CHICAGO	<i>owner of Pearson Electric, which he sold in early 1929</i>
GEORGE PEARSON, JR.	CHICAGO	
WILHEMINA PEARSON	CHICAGO	
CRIS RUTLAND	c/o RUTLAND LODGE, LOON LAKE	
R. J. COOK	CLEVELAND	
FRANK SEDDON	TORONTO	<i>electrical business</i>
RAYMOND CHAFFEE	DETROIT	<i>opera singer and writer for the Detroit Free Press</i>
R. H. CLARK	TORONTO	
HARRY T. GIBBS	TORONTO	
AUBREY INGRAM	GUELPH	
ART INGRAM	TORONTO	<i>in the funeral business, grandfather of Jay and of Paul Lindsay, who has a cottage on the back bay ... his sister has the old cottage</i>
FRED STROUD	TORONTO	<i>Toronto Hydro</i>
CARL SCHWENGER	TORONTO	<i>Toronto Hydro Executive</i>
DR. RALPH WILLIAMS	INGERSOL	
ALFRED ROSS OBORNE	TORONTO	<i>inventor, corporate director and manufacturers agent</i>
TOM MASSON	TORONTO	<i>electrical business</i>
TOM BENSON	LONDON	
HAROLD BIBLE	TORONTO	<i>manager of the Royal Bank, King and Yonge</i>
CLARISSA OBORNE	TORONTO	<i>wife of Alfred Ross Osborne and owner of the island in Sheldrake Bay, now owned by myself</i>
R. J. DUNLOP	TORONTO	
E. J. HARRINGTON	TORONTO	<i>Harrington Sash and Door</i>
HARRY OBORNE	TORONTO	<i>son of Alfred Ross Osborne and interim owner of 'Baker Point'-now owned by David Osborne</i>
VIC HAMSHAW	TORONTO	<i>Canada Lithography</i>
E. R. JACOB	TORONTO	<i>Canada Metal Window</i>
JOHN GOOCH	TORONTO	

Notable, unexplained property owner absences: Walter Osborne, Hayworth, Bellingham, Knight, Moffat ('the stove people' - later Andrews' cabin and now Falby), Ballard (Harold Ballard family - beside the Maybee store ... now part of Trail's End)

Walter Osborne's cottage was purchased by the Blatchfords in 1935. Walter, from his contracting activity was able to source much of the building materials used in many of the early cottages built from 1922-28. As the prime contractor for the building of the Park Plaza Hotel in Toronto, the bankruptcy of that project caused him extraordinary stress. His eventual payment of all his sub-trades, (rather than simply declaring bankruptcy himself), was a remarkable achievement and a testimony to his ethics in business. Equally enthusiastic about the development of the Loon Lake colony, Walter Osborne and Alfred Ross Osborne could not prove they were relatives, but they undoubtedly were, since their families lived within 20 miles of each other in the early 1800s between Somerset and Stonehenge, back in England.