

Buzzells_2008

The Buzzells on Seymour Lake

Gerald and Shirley Buzzell were among the first to build cottages along the north shore of the lake. Gerald was born in Magog, Quebec and grew up in Newport. Shirley (Hall) was born and grew up in Holland, Vt. Both attended Derby Academy where they met. After marriage they settled in Newport. In 1923 they purchased land on a former sugar orchard encompassing land along the lake shore. A portion of this shore was sold to others and a part of this eventually became the Gilliam Lodge (now owned by Joan Gerke).

Gerald and Shirley built their main camp and a boathouse on the remaining frontage in 1924, with the help of Shirley's father, Roy Hall, a carpenter by trade. A succession of summer guests, followed by the arrival of friends of guests', prompted them to build five more cottages in the following years.

This community of camps came to be known as the Hallden Cottages and catered to guests from all over the east. In 1952, an eighth structure was erected that their daughter, Sally, operated as the Sugar House Gift Shop where

campers from around the lake could purchase snacks, souvenirs, and antiques.

While growing up, Shirley's children Hall and Sally were encouraged to interact closely with the rental guests. She recognized this would infuse a sense of belonging on the



part of the guests and, at the same time, expose her children to a host of different cultures. Later on, Sally came to run the Seymour summer swimming classes. Hall's hydroplane racing boat was purported to be the fastest boat on the lake at the time.

From the mid-1940s through the mid 1980s, Gerald and Shirley's grandchildren spent much of the summer

months at the Cottages, enjoying the lake, and interacting with their grandparents and guests. In 1985, Hall's four oldest children (Gerald, Timothy (Tim), Nancy, and Kenneth) purchased the property from their aunt and father.

Today, over a dozen of Gerald and Shirley Buzzell's great-great grandchildren enjoy swimming, boating, and waterskiing in the cold lake every summer!