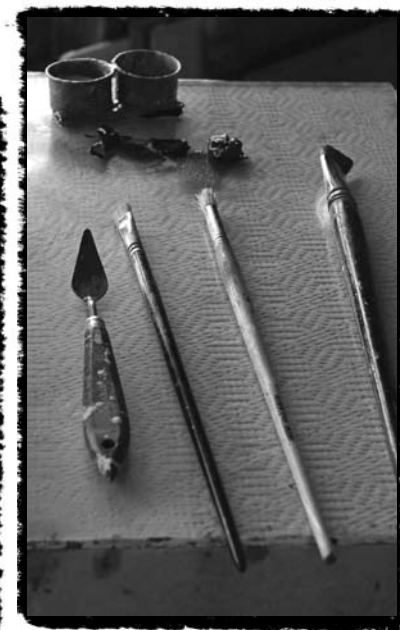


The original five partners purchased the land in the fall of 1959 and a year later 3 partners remained. That partnership stayed intact for close to 40 years and only death and decay could end it. The partnership was based on common purpose: To live simple and productive lives throughout the summer months. The common purpose was bound by common values: a commitment to an agreed upon set of rules; a respect for each other's talents; a recognition that together they could have the whole which no individual could afford; and a deep love of the natural world around them. Their partnership was struck without any legally binding papers, much to the vexation of lawyer acquaintances. It was a partnership created by trust and punctuated by a list of agreed upon tasks and items as outlined in the Cottage Log Book. McCarthy's partnership is the original fractional ownership agreement without costly legal intervention.

Equally compelling is McCarthy's approach to what is now termed '0-footprint'. As communities, organizations and individuals struggle to understand how to reduce their 'wear and tear' on the earth, McCarthy's 50 years of summering on the Bay have lessons to teach us. This multi-millionaire business woman lives in a cabin that has seen very little altered over 5 decades. The studio add-on was built in the original camouflaged style of fitting into the landscape. The outhouse, once a one-holer, was re-engineered as a two-holer with each hole providing a separate service. This keeps the odour away and allowed for the development of the 'onion-bag drop' which permits a tidy burial of hard human waste. Water is pumped by a hand-pump, ensuring that needed water is drawn and re-used before finally being thrown out to quench the thirst of the summer's dry bushes.

McCarthy sums up her sense of stewardship, "She who holds the deed, holds the land in trust for the future." A powerful statement from a woman who is 97 years wise and has made simplicity a mission and living well a passion. July 7 (070707) McCarthy turns 97 and Parry Sound is celebrating this great cottager by proclaiming the day Doris McCarthy Day in Parry Sound. An exhibition of McCarthy's work opens at the Station Gallery at 1 pm with the artist present to cut her birthday cake. A historic moment indeed. The McCarthy Exhibit runs through to July 29th.



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