

# Ford Family Cottage History in South Beach

Written by Wendy Dunlop, Sept 2020

Henry (Harry) John and Lizzie Ford, who resided in Winnipeg, visited the Stephens at *Dorrery Lodge* along with their friends the Sims. Between 1933 & 35 Henry purchased Lot 4 on Benedict Street which is now #30. *Avonlea* was the name of the cottage, after Avonlea United Church now located in the town of Domain, Manitoba where Harry emigrated to from present day Hackney in London, England (by the River Lea).



*Lizzie & Harry in backyard at cottage in 1942*

Harry and Lizzie had two children Gladys and Jack. Lizzie was known in South Beach for her cooking and she would feed summer residents at least once a year using her backyard cookhouse. Our mother, Gladys, told us, that she enjoyed cooking for people and they would set up tables extending the full length of the cottage, including the veranda.



*Harry Ford and possibly Johnny Stephen beside cottage*

Harry spent a lot of time during the 50's playing cards on the patio behind *Dorrery Lodge* with his buddies. He also participated in most of the horseshoe tournaments played at the horseshoe pit on Stephen's back lawn.



*Lizzie and Gladys cutting logs in front of Lizzie's cookhouse*

Gladys (Ford) and Harold (sometimes called Harry) Rothwell took over the cottage in 1962 after the passing of Harry Ford. Harold and Gladys (nickname) had two girls, Wendy and Pat. Gladys along with **Vic Sobkovich** and other cottagers formed the first South Beach Property Owners Association. For three years Harold's boat and car were decorated to participate in the Icelandic Festival.



*First South Beach float to enter the Icelandic Festival parade in 1960*

Harold provided entertainment for many children and adults by providing his boat for waterskiing. There were many thrills and spills galore during those summers.

When Harold and Gladys moved to Victoria, BC, Pat moved with them and eventually moved permanently to London, England. Wendy (Rothwell) Wolyneec then took over the cottage. Wendy and Pat added onto the original 18 ft by 18 ft cottage (minus the veranda). Every generation has added something to the cottage and land. The roof inside of the original cottage was a collaboration by Harold and Vic Sobkowich who called thereafter the Rothwell ceiling.

Wendy and Marian Wolyneec had three children, Chris, Lisa and John. The cottage is now owned by Wendy's two sons, Chris and John Wolyneec and their families. The Wolyneec's are continuing to upgrade adding some new improvements to the property.