

WHITE Contracting & Barging

Family Owned and Operated For Over 70 Years!

The White Family first settled in this area, Gloucester Pool to be exact, in the 1880's. White's Falls is named after Joseph Arthur White Sr., great grandfather to Gerry White and great, great grandfather to Trevor White, the father and son partners operating White Contracting & Barging.

For the 5 generations the White Family has been in the Honey Harbour area, 3 of those 5 generations have been dedicated to the construction business.

Gerry's Grandfather, Joseph Arthur White Jr., grew up and lived in Port Severn all his life, becoming the first lockmaster at Port Severn after completion of the locks in 1915, a job he held until retirement in 1948.



Joseph Arthur White Jr. – Port Severn Locks

Gerry's father, Arthur White was born and raised in Port Severn, moving to Honey Harbour around 1937. Initially, he moved to a little cabin on the top of the hill at the Boat Club. As the cabin was not winterized, they moved to the Lizotte house at the bottom of the hill and lived with Walter Lizotte and family. The house had a second story on it and they lived on the 2nd level. This is where my Father lived when he was born.



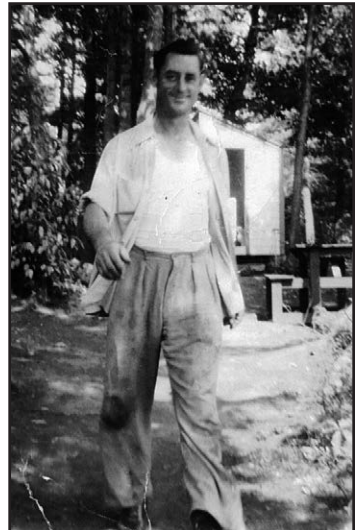
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My grandfather, built the house at the corner of the Honey Harbour Road and the Delawana Road, after buying property from Nickerson's and moved in around 1942-43. This became the Family homestead and continued to be a 'White' property until it was sold to the Del a few years back.



White's original house at corner of Honey Harbour Road and Delawana Road

In 1946, Arthur decided to start his own carpentry/maintenance business. One of his first projects was building the Harrington cottage in Big Dog Channel, where he went to work by row boat. Other projects included the original Severn Boat Haven in Port Severn; the reconstruction of the Delawana Inn after it burned in 1952 along with numerous "traditional" cottages, boathouses and docks. Gerry worked alongside his Father the summer of 1956 after returning home from school.



Arthur White



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In 1958, at the young age of 19 years old, Gerry took a leave of absence from the Family business and went to work for a company who worked for the Canadian Government in Ungava Bay, Quebec, which is now known as Nunavut, building houses for the local Native people. He also worked in Frobisher Bay and north of the Arctic Circle working on the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning) at Cape Dyer, building houses again for the Native people, mostly Eskimos. He worked there for a few months constructing prefabricated buildings and then returned back home to Honey Harbour.

Gerry remained working with his Father until his father passed away in 1963. After Arthur's death, Gerry's mother, Minto, ran the business with Gerry – she ran the office portion. After a long hard day on the bay, he would spend his evenings attending to paperwork in the office. Although his younger brothers, Billy and David, were still in school, they would join him on construction sites on weekends and when time allowed.



*Carol, Billy and David on Porch
Minto White with dog Bingo*

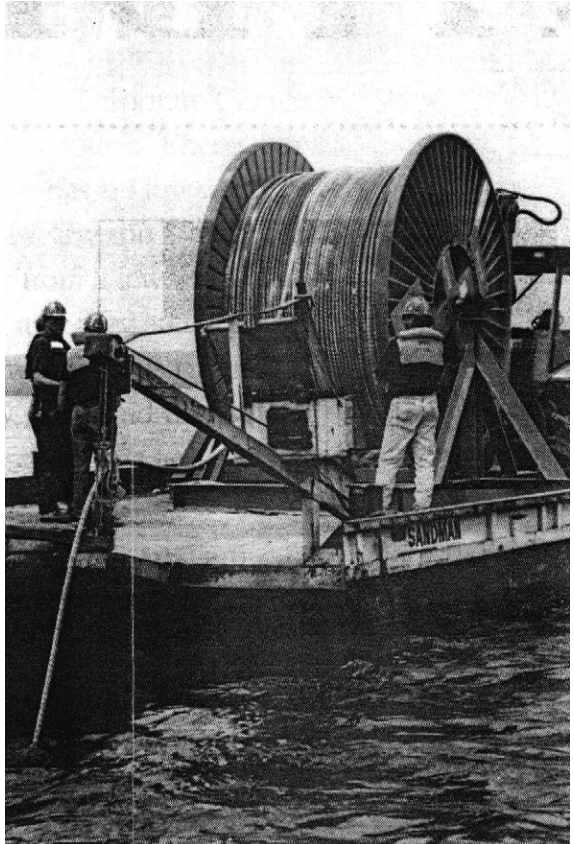


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Around 1967, the Family business was given the name, White's Builders. Gerry and his mother, Minto, continued running the business together. Brother Billy worked with Gerry for a few years before starting his own business.

After Gerry was married, he and his wife, Gail, changed the name to G.J. White Construction. Gail was responsible for operating the office while Gerry once again, ran the employees and construction sites. They employed 31 people, plus subtrades!

In the early 1970's, Gerry and Gail were the first on the bay with self-propelled barges; named Barge, Barge Too and Sandman. They were quite involved over many years of business with Ontario Hydro (Hydro One) laying underwater cable in and around the 30,000 islands; laying cable from Cedar Point to Christian Island (7.5 kms long) and from Cedar Point to Thunder Bay Beach (5+ kms long). They are responsible for the rebuilding of the Delawana Inn in 1974, as it had burned down for a second time; construction of numerous cottages, bunkies, dock systems and sewage system installations.





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Gerry was one of the first, of few people, in 1975 to become a Viceroy Homes dealer - builder. He worked with many customers over the years through the Viceroy process constructing cottages and homes on Georgian Bay and the surrounding areas and won many awards for his buildings. He remained a dealer - builder until Viceroy dissolved in 2015.

After retirement from the Air Force, Gerry's older brother, Art, came to work with him around 1979 and stayed with the business for about 10 years.

Trevor joined the Family business at a young age - 12 years old to be exact - where he operated skid steer loaders, excavators and piloted the 2 self-propelled barges - when he wasn't in school, of course. Trevor worked alongside his Father learning "the ropes" of the business and becoming familiar with the rough terrain Georgian Bay offers. Once he finished school and became full time with the business; as Trevor's forte was working with the barges, machinery, docks and sewage systems; Gerry stayed true to his knowledge with the construction of buildings.

The last name change, White Contracting & Barging, came into effect in 1992 and remains today. Now equipped with 4 barges, they offer a larger tonnage capacity, accommodating 2 cement trucks at one time; hauling tractor trailers loaded with windows or entire log home packages direct to their jobsites, to name a few. Be sure to check out the names of the barges, as two are named after Trevor, Janine and Megan's Grandmothers', Minto (White) and Frances (Morden). They employ many local people who support their families, as well as, local subtrades in their construction and barging business.

Gerry's youngest brother, David, also worked full time for the business as a carpenter. A job he held for many years, until his retirement at age 65.

In 2004, White Contracting & Barging was featured in an article in Cottage Life, as well as awarded the 2006 Heritage Award by the Southeast Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce. You will still see Gerry's trademark logo, GJW, which originated from G.J. White Construction, on all their advertising. These are Gerry's initials! A trademark that will remain with the business for many more years.



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Sandman - Cottage Life Photo

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In January 2008, Trevor was in a serious snowmobile accident resulting in severe injuries - aphasia. Today, Gerry still works alongside his son and daughters, Megan and Janine.

As a Family owned and operated business, great pride is taken to ensure the best caliber of work on your project. We also understand you want to capture the beauty of Georgian Bay inside your cottage, as well as surrounding it! Gerry and Trevor take great care in finding the perfect site for your dream building.

As you can see, there are many years of history with Georgian Bay and the White Family.



Trevor, Megan, Gerry, Janine

Three generations of unparalleled service, serving Georgian Bay and the lakelands since 1946