

Is there a 'culture' of cottaging?

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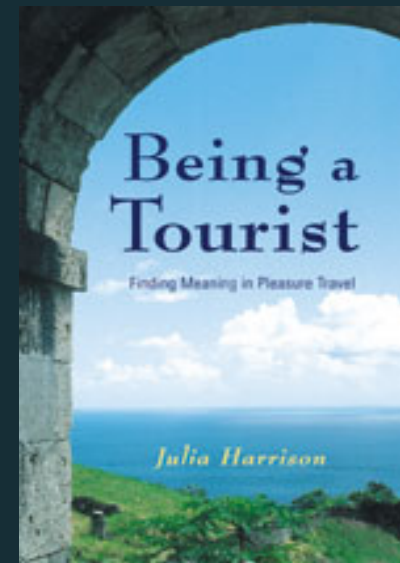
October 2, 2010

"It's Just Good Times..."

The Haliburton Cottage Experience

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- Why would an anthropologist find cottage country interesting?
 - The 'culture of the cottage'

- My students...
- Tourist research
- Domestic tourists





Why now?

- Changing dynamics in cottage country...
 - Time spent at the cottage
 - “Mum and the kids at the cottage”
 - Cost of cottaging
 - Retirement at the cottage..
 - Dispersal of families
 - Inheritance issues



□ Newcomers in cottage country

- Renters
- Knowing how to 'be' at the cottage
- "Take a course in 'cottage culture'...."



My research

Why Haliburton?

Being an anthropologist in 'cottage country'how I did my research...



“It’s Just Good Times....”

- The cottage as a place “thick with meaning” (Williams and Kaltenborn, 1999)

What is meaningful?



- Family vs. 'family' ...
- Memories...



Greg was DETERMINED that his cottage appear to have sprung straight from the HISTORY BOOKS

- From 'Cottage Life magazine....


Work....

- Real men do real work at the cottage....






- “There’s always something else to be fixed. You don’t think about anything else, you’re out in the fresh air. Cottaging is not for the weak...”



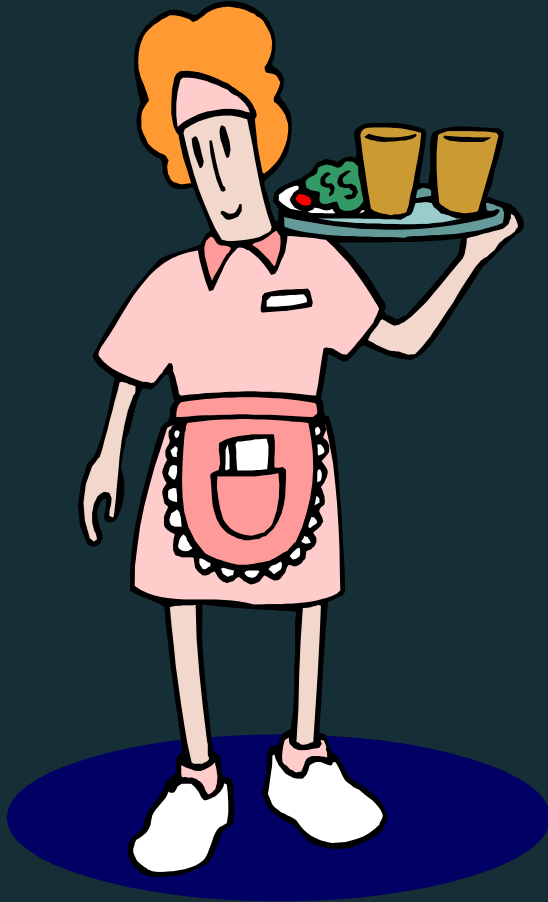
“A cottage is work. Many of these things require physical work of a scope and intensity that would not be acceptable in a city job. Oddly, many people relish this because of the deep satisfaction that comes with physical exertion and the ability to say, “I built that with my own hands.”

- “In my regular job, I never break a sweat....”



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- Emotional value of physical labour....
 - Alienated labour...
 - Work and masculine identity (you are what you do)

Women and work/life at the cottage..



- “Just more domestic labour....”
- “Cottages are for men and kids...”

"...a Canadian experience..."

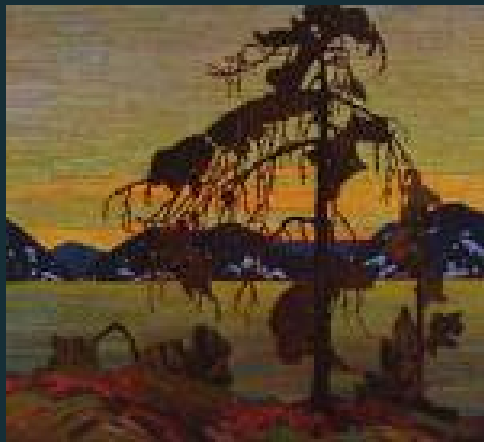
- ❑ Flags at the cottage..
- ❑ "banal nationalism"
- ❑ ...Ontario as Canada...





- ...an iconic landscape...

- The Group of Seven....



...a pioneer experience....?

..ancestral links....



"If my Dad could do this, so can I...."

Re-connection with a Canadian tradition....



Other themes...

- Time....
- Beautiful bodies at the cottage...
- A cottage 'aesthetic' (way of being at the cottage....)



“It’s just good times...”

- What makes it ‘good times’?
- Good times for ‘whom’?