



Loving Holland Landing *by Carole Plant* Sales Representative

me, they are close companions parted by Highway 11, one inhabited by skilled and devoted producers who work the land, the other settled by people who have a passion for those farmers, fresh air, family, wellbeing, and, in general, all the good stuff about life.)

We found ourselves driving to “the Landing” often, smitten by the wild and wonderful presence of nature here. I remember being awestruck every time a blue heron flew overhead, because blue herons had been a mainstay of my life in Dorset. Or when a buck ran across the road, causing us to put on the brakes and drink in the awe.

It wasn't long before a lovely side split on Old Yonge Street caught our eye. We'd driven by the “For Sale” sign frequently. But one day, that sign was calling to us.

As soon as we moved here, I knew we'd found the perfect place to live: A home and a cottage all rolled into one. The lots were generous in size, the trees tall and abundant, the birds boisterously contented, and the people just plain genuine.

I've been devoted to life in Holland Landing since that day in June of 1989. We have raised our babies here. The schools are amazing. The teachers outstanding. The community centres and sports organizations top notch. The parents I've come to know care for everyone's children as their own, because it really does take a village, right?

Now those children are all making their way in the world, although not without some highs and lows along the way. There are new crops of little ones skipping along the streets and frolicking in the parks. There are new young moms power-walking with their friends, or waving the school buses off before hustling to yoga or the grocery store or the office. And it so poignantly unfolds. Life in

Holland Landing.

If you come to see us today, you'll be quick to note the rolling acreage that surrounds us is evolving. New homes are going up everywhere. It seems our beautiful secret has gotten out. Because here is a place that remains the quaint village it has always been, and yet is close to everything.

In between Highway 404 and the 400, at the southern tip of Lake Simcoe, a resident here can readily make their way to any number of enticing destinations.

How about a stroll along the Barrie waterfront? It's just a hop, skip up Highway 11. A theatre experience in Toronto? A few minutes on the 404 and you are ushered right into the heart of Toronto. Maybe you are cottage bound or want to check out Vaughan Mills Centre or wander around Woodbridge? Northbound or southbound, the 400 is right there paving your way.

What's your fancy? Boating? You could literally walk to several of our marinas and cruise your watercraft along the picturesque Holland River up to Lake Simcoe.

Snowmobiling? We boast the most amazing clubhouse right here. How about fresh, homegrown produce? As I eluded to earlier, we have the benefit of being surrounded by families who turn out some of the finest nourishment imaginable. There are farmers' markets and garden centres to proof it.

Hockey? East Gwillimbury has a spectacular facility that virtually rattles with the enthusiasm of volunteers and talent alike.

We have our own post office, library, plazas, restaurants, hair stylists, dentists, chiropractors, massage therapists, homeopaths and naturopaths, family doctors, parks and walking trails, and home grown businesses where some of

the finest craftspersons and artisans are eagerly waiting to improve your world.

We even have running water, internet, hydro and cable. (Okay, okay. But I can't believe how often I'm asked questions like this when city folks call about a listing!)

And let's not forget our wonderful neighbouring communities. Sharon, Queensville and Mount Albert (these, when added to Holland Landing, form the Town of East Gwillimbury), Bradford, and the Town of Newmarket — with every possible amenity including what I'll refer to as a world-class shopping centre and one of the finest hospitals you'll ever need. (May you never need one.)

For commuters who prefer not to drive, we have a bona fide transit system as well as the GO system with train stations both at the south end of Bradford and just south of us on Green Lane. I have the privilege of working out of Holland Landing's one and only homegrown real estate office, Royal LePage At Your Service Realty, and have to confess I never tire of the joy I experience when I am able to introduce newcomers to this special community.

The years ahead will be changing ones for Holland Landing as we stretch and grow.

Soon, there will be more of us waking up every morning to the cacophony of harmonizing birds adorning the treetops, and tucking in at night under our gloriously starry skies. More of us joining the parade of dog-walkers in the parks. More of us falling for this glorious place to live. Things change.

Things stay the same. That's just the way it is.

But all in all, for me, these things are always just a little bit sweeter in here in “the Landing.” If you are lucky like me, one day, you'll see.

At the risk of seeming a little “Stuart Mclean-esk,” I will always err on the side of romance when it comes to my complete and utter adoration of my hometown, Holland Landing.

Our acquaintance began in my childhood when, every summer weekend, my family travelled along Highway 400 to and from our cottage in Dorset. In an attempt to keep my twin brother and I entertained, my dad would regularly call our attention to the dark, lush and expansive soil of the marsh as we passed by. “This is where all of our vegetables come from,” he'd explain. That seemed so remarkable to me, even in my early days.

When I was a young mom living in the east end of Toronto, friends moved to Holland Landing. (Non-residents often get Holland Marsh confused with Holland Landing. To



ROYAL LEPAGE
BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

100
YEARS
SINCE 1913

HOLLAND LANDING
8 BRADFORD ST.
905-836-6315

BRADFORD
92 HOLLAND ST. W
905-775-5557

At Your Service
REALTY

www.rlpatyourservice.com
HELPING YOU IS WHAT WE DO!