

**Cottagers Brought Work For the Settlers,
and a Perspective on What They Could Never Have**

Gerald Nadeau, Transcript

“Each summer they came there for their so-called holiday or to get away from home. They would come to Buchanan because it was a place to relax because I think there was tension, even in those years that people had to escape from for parts of their summers. And they paid for what they had done, and they bought their wood from the local people, and their cottage was built by a local person. And they even bought their strawberries from the local people. And the local people seemed to like the way they were treated.”

[Elizabeth: how did it make you and the other kids feel when you would see all the things and money that the outsiders had?] “Mostly wonder. Because we never thought that we were ever part of that, of that group of people. We looked at the things they had with great interest, but not quite in a way that you would think we ever wished to have them because we knew we could never. You just accepted that you were in a store with things you could never buy. So that’s how you looked at what those cottage people had. Some might have thought different, but most of us never pictured us ever having anything even close to that. Those were rich people. We were not rich people. And not too dissatisfied with our lot, you know? We would work away under those conditions and it wouldn’t hamper our work. But it was nice to see what rich people had. Yep, real nice. They’d have fancy lamps and dishes and lanterns and things that you would look at. The only thing you could compare them with was maybe Eaton’s catalogue. It was almost like if you went into Eaton’s store and there was things like in the catalogue and you were seeing them with your own eyes [laughter].”