## Ray Bentley and the Newaygo Brewing Company

My grandparents, Charles and Anna Lampert, bought a cottage at Bills Lake in the summer of 1939. Grandpa Lampert died in 1941 but Grandma kept the cottage because we Waits grandchildren from Jackson plus two Van Loo grandchildren from Grand Rapids loved lakefront feet on the tip of Vanderstel Point (you could get a clear view of both the public access and turn your head left to see the rest of the lake) go for the princely sum of \$7,500. I sometimes kid visitors by saying that I returned to the lake in 1995 to rectify this error.

to spend time there in the ensuing summers.

But my grandmother "got on" in years and my father, an electrical engineer at Consumers Power



Ray and Jean Bentley, as with others, used this place as a summer cottage although living so close to Bills Lake, they were undoubtedly able

Co, was tired of being the only one in the

extended family to work all week and then journey to Newaygo to work on the place during the summer weekends. Besides, believe it or not, we emerging teenagers wanted



to visit in other seasons of the year. But

in 1982, they tore the cottage down to build a year-around home. Jean, bless her heart, kept a few of the Lampert momentoes for me.

to stay home in Jackson where the social life was. You have to remember that at that time, there were no jet skis or speed boats or other such toys. Our row boat was powered by a two-horsepower Evinrude that rarely started.

So in 1957,my grandmother sold her cottage to Ray Bentley, a pharmacist in downtown Newaygo. She let 300 According to current Bills Lake resident, Davey Vanderhyde, Ray's pharmacy was "a happenin' place."

"I went to Newaygo schools through 5th grade" he says, "and as a 5th grader at the (Velma Matson?) middle school on top of the hill, we were allowed to go down the hill at lunch time and the pharmacy was "the place'." Ray retired from his business in 1987 but alas, passed away only two years afterward. Jean stayed at their home at Bills Lake until she, too, moved on to join Ray in 2000 At that time, daughter Carol and her husband Mark took possession of the house.

In 2015, Nick and Krista Looman opened the Newaygo Brewing Company in downtown Newaygo in that building to offer unique beer recipes and superb pizza. When they learned that the building where their restaurant is established was once Ray Bentley's pharmacy, they created at Bentley Beer. The offering appeared on their chalkboard menu situated on the wall behind the bar for several years.



## Friday & Saturday July 10 & 11, 2015



At Newaygo Brewing Co.

## On Tap

Irish Red Kristal Wheat North York English Ale 70 Shilling Scottish Ale Citrus Summer Wheat River Country Pale Ale Cloud Mountain IPA RW Bentley Coconut Brown Brooks House Milk Stout Newaygo Gold Ale Rooftop Knights Rye IPA 7 Cousins Double IPA CASK Brooks House Milk Stout CASK 70 Shillings Scottish Ale Also Available House Root Beer House Cream Soda House Peach Ice Tea



Live Music Friday 7p-10p Junior Valentine Duo Saturday 7p-10p River Bank Brothers



Interior Photos by Nick Looman