

Interlaken Improvement Association



L: Interlaken Hotel, Pine Lake 1910
C: Pine Lake, Orchard Lake Mich 1905
R: The Original Pine Lake Country Club 1910
B: Hotel Interlaken, Pine Lake 1907

A History of Interlaken

Early Days

Our neighborhood dates back to the late 1800's, when it was a very popular summer resort area. It included individual seasonal homes and the Interlaken Hotel, which was located at the west end of the Interlaken peninsula and had its grand opening in late May 1889. Nearby, there were two employee homes, at numbers 3261 and 3255.

Interlaken summer residents would arrive by train to the Orchard Lake Depot, at Orchard Lake Road and Indian Trail, to be taken by horse-and-buggy to Interlaken or by ferry to the Hotel's boat ramp.

Interlaken's popularity lasted many years and was credited with making Pine Lake "a favorite location for summer cottages". This is borne out by the 1896 County Atlas, which shows a heavy clustering of private homes and cottages along the southern rim of the lake ("Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield", by Charles Martinez).

In 1905, the Automobile Club of Detroit - the forerunner of AAA - erected its Club House at the current site of Pine Lake Country Club.

At that time, this was a one-day outing for Henry Ford and other Detroit auto industry pioneers.

Homes and Parks

Interlaken has 44 home sites, in two plats: the Minor Story plat at the far west-end of the point, one home site and the Beardsley and Smith plat, which includes 43 home sites.

There are 3 parks, legally designated as "Commons", intended for the permanent use of all Interlaken residents, who are jointly responsible for the mowing of the grass, tree-care and its general maintenance.

Interlaken Road and Access ways to Pine Lake

Interlaken road is privately owned by all of its residents, who pay from the funds of the Association for snow removal and all other general maintenance.

The Interlaken Home Owners Association also owns 3 access-ways ("easements") to the lake. One is located at the easternmost end of Interlaken Road. Another is flanked by the homes

at 3100 and 3130, and the third one runs between the 3181 and 3193 properties. They were originally intended for lake access by the Fire Department but, in recent years, this was



made unnecessary by the addition of city water to the neighborhood. However, these easements must be kept unobstructed, clear of cars, boats, trailers, plantings and any other obstacles.

Boat launching is available to all dues-paying members of the Pine Lake Property Owners Association, using the excellent boat-ramp at Pine Lake Country Club, which charges an annual fee to access the boat ramp.