

Dream getaway as close as Deep Lake Road

**Diana
Kuyper**



EVERYONE HAS THEIR dream getaway. For some it is Hawaii or Paris, for others it is as close as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. For me it is in Lake Villa.

My dream getaway is on the shore of Deep Lake. Unless you attend one of a dozen annual weddings or parties at Tir Na Nog, chances are you may not

even know about this Lehmann family summer home that is only visible from Deep Lake Road during the winter months.

Tir Na Nog, ("Land of the Young" in Gaelic) on the east side of Deep Lake across the lake from the Lehmann Mansion, is the hidden jewel of the remaining Lehmann family homes.

The house sits on a hill overlooking the lake, and boasts an in-ground pool, tennis courts and nine-hole golf course. The home was given to Mildred Peacock Haerther as a wedding gift by her parents, Emila and Charles Peacock.

Emila was the daughter of Ernst Johann and Augusta Lehmann, founders of The Fair Department Store in Chicago. Emila married Charles Peacock, son of the founder of CD Peacock Jewelers, located across the street from The Fair. Both the Lehmanns and Peacocks had oodles of money.

The home given to Mildred and William Haerther was a small stucco "cottage" on 80 acres overlooking Deep Lake, one of nine homes built by Lehmanns in the Lake Villa area between

the late 1800s through the 1920s.

The home has been extensively renovated by the existing owner, Margaret Murphy, whose father bought the home from Bill Haerther in 1971. The impeccably-maintained house is a blend of historic and modern architecture with two upscale kitchens and 10 bedroom suites. The house also has a formal dining room and living room with a fireplace overlooking the lake.

The Haerthers sold the property to the Murphys with one caveat — to never

let a developer get their hands on it, said Murphy, who turned the cottage into a comfortable and private setting ideal for retreats, small weddings and family reunions.

What is exceptional about this property is when you are there, you feel like it's hundreds of miles away from the suburbs. It is that quiet and secluded.

I may not be able to afford my dream getaway at this time, but someday I hope we can splurge and treat the family to a weekend they will never forget on the shore of Deep Lake in Lake Villa.