

Cool Bay Facts:

Michigan Basin - to give you an idea of depth of the "Michigan Basin", sedimentary rock layers buried under almost 2 miles of rock in central Michigan are exposed at the Shield boundary in central Ontario.

Red Rock Lighthouse was rebuilt three times over the years and deceased lighthouse keeper Adam Brown is still local legend for tending the lonely rock for over 40 years. His name can be still seen today carved into the hard granite stone - well they had lots of time!!

The Ghost of Big McCoy Island - local legend has it that on a full moon evening each September, a mournful scream can be heard from the deepest part of Big McCoy. Why does this island continue to be haunted? (read all about it in *Ghosts of the Bay*)

Turtle Rock in Shawanaga Bay - offerings of tobacco, food and beads are left by travelers even today to ensure calm weather - a tradition started by an Ojibway boy caught in a storm, seeing a giant turtle he prayed to it for calm weather. With the passing of the storm, the boy turned to thank the turtle but instead was greeted with a smooth rock instead; the boy then left an offering of meat as thanks.

Key Harbour - an important port in 1900's - upon discovery of a huge iron mine near Sudbury , Key Harbour was developed as it was the closest deep water harbour to export the iron ore. A long dock, railway tracks, buildings all used to stand at its entrance. Little evidence is left today besides some dock pilings and a few summer cottages.

Dead Island - Ojibway on the mainland brought their dead wrapped with some of their belongings and placed high up in trees or under heavy piles of rocks on the island. In the late 1800's this native burial ground was robbed of its Indian burial artifacts, including its mummified remains and shipped to Chicago for display at the 1893 Worlds Columbia Exposition. Presently local First Nations are negotiating with the Chicago museum to send back what few artifacts are still in their possession.

Bustard Islands - The Bustard islands got their name from the slow-moving game bird of northwestern Europe - these birds like to gather on isolated islands in large flocks. From 1880 to 1930, a substantial summer fishing community was established on these grouping of rocks and islands.

French River Ghost Town - once upon a time some 400 to 1400 people lived in the French River Village which had amongst its rows of houses two churches, two mills, a hotel, schools and many more buildings.

The Sound (of Parry Sound) - is one of the few deep fresh water areas in the Great Lakes to have successfully seen the reintroduction of a healthy population of lake trout. Also why is the Sound so deep when the rest of the eastern coast of the Bay so shallow? A bit of a mysterious anomaly.

Depot Harbour (Parry Island) - once was a thriving port connected by railway (the Booth line) that ran all the way to Ottawa - before a school was built, Depot harbour children rode the train back and forth to the town of Burks Falls each day for school.