



# Fox Point files

## LAKEFRONT TERRACE: *The Story of Beach Drive*

**A** terrace is a geological term for a step-like platform that borders a shoreline. It is typically bounded on one side by a steep ascending slope and a steeper descending slope on its other side. Fox Point is unique among the North Shore communities; below its bluffs sits a large terrace. The road down the bluff and along its length is known as Beach Drive.

Beach Drive dates from the 1850's. Originally, it descended the bluff as an extension of Green Tree Road on the south; the rutted remnants of which still exist. The road proceeded north along its current route. On the north end, it ascended the bluff along the existing walking trail and joined up with Fox Lane. The middle access, where Beach Drive ascends the bluff currently, first appears on the 1905 Louis Pierron map. It was then called Spring Street.

In the early 1850's, Warren Phelps established a brickyard at what is now North Beach Court.

This yard supported one of Fox Point's first industries. The yard commissioned a Mr. Zettler to construct a pier at what is now 7328 North Beach Drive. The brickyard used the pier to bring in cord wood to fire the kilns and to ship out the finished bricks. Phelps liquidated the business in 1859.

Part of Beach Drive's history is what lies beneath (and a little to the west). In 1889, a second brickyard was established in the area of Lake Drive and Green Tree Road. In 1896, the Consolidated Cement Company took over the yard and began to mine limestone for the manufacture of cement. The method of mining the limestone proved expensive; the company had to tunnel under the bluff, below lake level, for the limestone. The company placed a mineshaft just east of the north end of 6800 North Barnett Lane, 100 feet south of View Place. The shaft extended 22 feet below beach level. There it connected with a main tunnel that extended 210 feet north and south. From the main tunnel, the company extended branches called gallery drifts several hundred feet

westward into the limestone. In 1929, according to a village history, long after mining operations had ceased, village engineer Frank Holdampf was lowered into the shaft. Holdampf explored the tunnels in a rubber boat and reported that the passages were about eight feet wide and six feet high. The village filled in the shaft shortly thereafter, but the tunnels remain.

No history of Beach Drive would be complete without a reference to Stabelfeldt Park. The Stabelfeldt family owned land in Fox Point prior to 1860. The family's holdings eventually included the property on the north end of the terrace. Around 1880, Fred Stabelfeldt created a grove that became, by the turn of the century, a popular picnic area. The grove was a strip of land about 780 feet wide, extending from Lake Drive to the north side of Green Tree Road, and east to the lake shore. About two acres at the top of the bluff were used for hitching the horses and parking the cars. The park area was about six acres in size. The park could be accessed by the small, winding road leading down the bluff from Green Tree to

Beach Drive. When dry, the road could be navigated by a Model-T Ford, but when wet, a team of horses had to pull the cars up the hill. There was a baseball diamond at the northern end of the park, and down the lane to the lake, a large open-air pavilion in which 150 people could be seated for dining. Adjacent to the pavilion was a beer and soda bar and a small building partitioned into a kitchen and changing rooms. Built into the hill was an open dance area covered with a roof and surrounded with benches built along the sides of the floor. Music would carry throughout the park. Picnickers could enjoy hiking trails and the beach. In about 1925, the park was closed. The property, and eventually the whole of the terrace, became the site of the many striking single family homes that today populate this beautiful and secluded portion of our village.

*Mr. Frazer is a trustee on the Fox Point Village board. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of the village, the village board, other village board members, or Neighborhood Communications, LLC.*

# MAXFIELD'S PANCAKE HOUSE

serving breakfast & lunch | daily breakfast & lunch specials

**Friday Fish Fry 11am-4pm**

Carry out or dine-in menu

333 W. Brown Deer Rd.,  
Fox Point, WI  
Open Daily 6am-4pm  
414-247-4994  
maxfieldspancakehouse.com

## LIGHTEN UP!

(414) 324-0082

North Shore Electric provides the highest quality electrical services to both residential and commercial customers. We're more than happy to take on any electrical project, big or small. From maintenance and repairs to installation and finish, North Shore Electric can do it all and do it all right - the first time.

Call North Shore Electric today for a FREE estimate.

Angle's List. BBB

# CRYSTAL RIDGE

If you're looking for a fun skiing experience that is close to home, Crystal Ridge is a great option. Located in Franklin, Wisconsin, Crystal Ridge Ski Resort is just about 10 minutes south of Milwaukee.

Developed in the mid 1980's, this 75-acre property features eight exciting runs that accommodate both the expert and beginner. A towrope assists the bunny hill while two chair lifts support the intermediate and expert runs.

When its time to come indoors for a break, a comforting wood-beamed lodge will warm you up as you relax and enjoy the scenery. The lodge has a full dining hall and bar, and also boasts a cafe area that offers snacks and grilled items to help you recharge before hitting the slopes.

Crystal Ridge is open Monday-Thursday 5pm-9:30pm and Friday 5pm-10pm. It's the perfect place for a final outdoor family outing before the spring! Visit [www.ski-crystalridge.com](http://www.ski-crystalridge.com) for rates, a daily snow report and other additional information.

[www.ski-crystalridge.com](http://www.ski-crystalridge.com)