

Killarney LODGE 2005



Welcome!

We hope you had a good winter. Or summer, depending on where you live!

Ever since geography class (and the first time we packed bathing suits during a snowstorm), we knew that our winter was summer on the other side of the world. But it was just an abstract concept most of the time.

Now, thanks to the media and our guests, we hear about major events thousands of miles away. When the euro or the yen sneezes, we say, "Bless you!" When a disaster occurs overseas, we identify with the people who live there.

If nothing else, difficult times – anyone's – remind us to both expect the unexpected and appreciate good times.

So here's to living. Good food, good friends, big trees and a big sky. A canoe, a beautiful lake, a trail through the woods – and time to enjoy them.

Once again, spring has arrived in Algonquin Park. The lake is warming and the Lodge is in tiptop shape, ready for you. See you soon!



It's not a secret any more

It was a beautiful, serene day last September, when longtime guests Jack and Lois Cooper asked, "Where is everyone?" "At home," we replied, "waiting for the fall colours to peak."

"They don't know what they're missing!" Mr. Cooper exclaimed.

After coming to Killarney in early autumn for more than 50 years, the Coopers know Algonquin Park is often prettiest and quietest *between* seasons.

"In May and June, we can almost watch the plants grow," Poppy says. "Every day – every hour, it seems – new shoots push up and buds open. It's like a green mist winding through the woods."

"We particularly like walking the Big Pines Trail in spring," Eric adds. "Until the deciduous trees fill in, we can clearly see the huge pine trunks – the forest and the trees, so to speak."

The Park Visitor Centre, open daily in May, begins extended hours on June 18. Staff is fresh, keen and ready to receive visitors – and so are we!

Technicolour show-offs

Starting in late August, you can watch the leaves change colour, one leaf at a time outside your window – or one tree at a time in the distance. "There's always one upstart," says Poppy, "a multi-hued show-off in a patch of dark green."

Leaves at their peak are spectacular, but watching the hillsides change colour day by day is awe inspiring.

The light changes before the colours, deepening tones and adding contrast and drama to familiar scenes. Sunrises and sunsets are spectacular. The lake is still swimmable, and when cool morning air touches the warmer water, swirls of mist rise. An early-morn-



Our garden Buddha won't tell.

ing paddle is transformed into a magical experience.

Late summer is also a wonderful time for walks in the woods: warm, uncrowded and free of bugs. When the air cools at the end of the day, a good meal and a cosy fire await you.



Enjoying the quiet pleasures of Killarney Lodge.

One thing leads to another

As anyone who has renovated an older home knows, one thing easily leads to another.

"All I wanted was a new bathroom for Cabin 8," Poppy laughs. "Instead, we have an entire new cabin." But it's a beauty, with lovely new fittings, a fine deck and an unobstructed view of the bay.

Opening up the original walls we saw that age and weather had taken a toll. So we rolled the cabin away on log skids and started afresh.

As a small, family-run lodge, we can make decisions on the fly. And so we did: about location, floor plan, fixtures, windows and finishing touches. As always, it was a collaboration between Poppy, Eric, the maintenance guys, housekeepers and anyone else with an opinion.

One of our favourite details is Paul's twig curtain rods, made from a tree in his backyard and held up by "forks" from the same tree.

As for the old cabin, it's still standing. We're considering turning it into a little gallery, shop or meditation space – any suggestions?

The answer, my friend, is growing in the sun

What do calendula, clover, chive and garlic blossoms, chrysanthemums, day lilies, fuchsia, nasturtiums, lilacs, petunias, lavender, tulip petals and Johnny Jump-Ups have in common?

They're all edible. We haven't tried them all – yet – but we might!

When supplies of our popular spiced apple garnish ran out last year, we had to find a tasty replacement – fast. First we pored over cookbooks and searched the Internet; then we looked outside. What about flowers?

Some edibles were growing in our gardens. In fact, because of a double shipment, we had lots of nasturtiums to get us started. Soon waitresses and cooks were discussing which gardens were best for the day's harvest, collecting brightly coloured fuchsias and nasturtiums and then – to the delight of our guests – bringing them to table.

Two guys, a map and a canoe

Walt Pawlowski and Bob Peterson, retired university science professors and college pals, have been coming to Killarney Lodge for many years. Every May, they canoe and hike, and relax afterwards on their deck at Cabin 27 with a beer.

The intrepid duo is always looking for new routes to explore. They've paddled every waterway that runs into Lake of Two Rivers, as well as many others in the Park.

Last year they decided to try Pine Tree Lake. To get there, they had to drive 17 kilometres east on Highway 60, then portage their canoe over flat terrain for a kilometre. They said it was well worth the effort.

"I never thought I'd see a lake prettier than Provoking," said Walt. "But Pine Tree was!"

"The lake has lots of little inlets ... with many sections connected by narrow openings. You never know what's around the corner ... Parts are bordered by high cliffs, others by flat meadows, and still others dotted with beautiful little islands.

"We didn't see any people – but lots of birds and some moose."

If you'd like to take a canoe away from our lake, bring ropes and padding for your car. Let us know what you're up to, and we'll pack you a lunch.

Art is back in place!

After two years, the Algonquin Art Centre has re-opened. Orla and Doug Irwin, longtime owners of Huntsville's Framing Place and Gallery, are its new curators.

The Centre now has three exhibition spaces: one displaying art of Algonquin Park, another featuring changing themes, including an inaugural show of paintings of Canada's national parks by Tony Bianco, and a third showing work by established Canadian nature artists.

As well as curating the Art Centre, Orla and Doug are planning an outdoor art garden with winding paths, native plant gardens and art installations.

They've also opened the Unique Boutique, a shop for up-and-coming artists and craftspeople working in a variety of media.

The Art Centre is in the old Park visitor centre, about 13 kilometres west of the Lodge. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, starting June 25.

Wag the dog! Sit! Stay!

We're so excited we could just lie down. Over the years guests have enquired about bringing dogs to the Lodge, to share in their adventures and their good times. Frankly, we agree: a pooch on a trail, exploring new terrain with its human pack, is a joy to behold.

But much as we love dogs, our concern for wildlife, other guests, our staff and the cabins made us reluctant to permit pets. So only after much consideration did we decide to give it a try.

This spring, until June 23,



dogs are welcome to stay with their owners in the five cabins on the mainland. For the comfort of guests, staff and wildlife – and our peace of mind – there are some additional stipulations. For details, please call, or visit our website.

Unhe[a]rd for more than a century

Last fall, a visitor was startled by a deep, resonant roar ending in a high-pitched squeal and a series of coughs. It's understandable if they didn't recognize the bull elk 'bugling' for its mate: Elk hadn't been seen – or heard – in Algonquin Park in more than 100 years.

Eastern elk used to roam Ontario until, it's believed, a parasite carried by deer killed them off. Biologists have been trying to reintroduce another elk strain since 1910. They think the elk heard last year are related to some released near Bancroft between 1999 and 2001.

There are reasons to be hopeful. The deer population is down, and thus so is the parasite. Elk prefer grazing on grass and sedges, not the twigs and trees preferred by deer and moose.

If you're lucky enough to see or hear an elk, Park naturalists would like to know. Weighing between 500 and 700 pounds, elk are hard to miss. Slimmer than moose, they have dark brown heads, tawny bodies and buff-coloured rumps.

Leave a notice at any Park office or post your sighting to the Park Superintendent, Algonquin Park, Box 219, Whitney, Ontario K0J 2M0.

"But what will I do?"

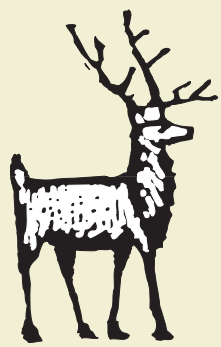
Even though we love talking to people about Killarney Lodge, gladly send out brochures and newsletters, and readily guide callers to our website, we still

have difficulty conveying the profound pleasure of doing whatever you want, whenever you want, in a beautiful wilderness setting.

Some guests find it hard to imagine unfenced terrain, and many city dwellers feel lost without their electronic connections. It all sounds rather vague and unstructured ...



Walk on a spruce bog.



So, here are a few suggestions:

Take a walk, paddle a canoe, have a nap, read a book. Have lunch. Look for moose, go to the Visitor Centre, sign up for a guided walk, go to the Logging Museum. Dine. Sit on your deck, have a second cup of coffee or tea, relax in the lounge, browse the magazines, do a puzzle, play a board game, chat. Eat. Try kayaking. Feed the ducks, watch the hummingbirds, feed the chipmunks, swim, wade, row a boat, sit on the dock, sit on a rock. Eat. Spot the loons. Watch the sun set, gaze at the stars, admire the moon, the gardens, the iris by the side of the river. Eat. Listen to the bullfrogs, the loons ... your thoughts. Be with your partner, play with your kids. Breathe.

Trust us – and legions of guests over the years: You'll run out of time before you run out of things to do. (Then you'll have to come back!)

— inspired by a thank-you letter from a Scottish couple and their two active children who were surprised by the simple pleasures they enjoyed.

Still looking for adventure



Some guests tell us the first piece they read in our annual newsletter is this one, on Eric's travels. Perhaps they're kindred spirits and fellow adventurers – or, like most of us, armchair travellers. Perhaps they're fascinated by the responsible family man and Harvard MBA who treks,

skis and climbs mountains and ice caps in some of the world's most isolated and rugged places!

Eric's adventures started when he took up skydiving during university, eventually completing more than 500 jumps. His first real trip in 1979 – trekking near the Tibetan border in Nepal – took four weeks to climb two peaks more than 20,000 feet over sea level.

Since then he has adventured in Chile and Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico, Singapore, Ecuador, Thailand, Egypt, Pakistan, Nepal and India. Asked for high points, Eric cites spending one New Year's Eve in a tent in Antarctica, and carrying a 60-pound pack in gale-force winds on the Patagonian ice cap.

In recent years he has stayed closer to home, but – don't tell his mom – he's thinking of going back to Antarctica next year. In a tall ship.

"It's a reinforced schooner," he says, a little defensively. "It's not luxurious by any means. You sleep in a bunk and you help sail the ship – from the tip of South America. It takes two to three weeks."

Oh bliss.



Eric's passport still gets around!



Fast-track family

Lucky for us that our family's an independent bunch, because we certainly can't keep up – although we never stop trying!

Samantha (Sam), 19, finished her second year of biology at Bishop's University. She's leaning towards veterinary studies, which could be helpful with our menagerie of pets. Sam shared a house with five roommates this year, exploring another level of independence and practicing cooking as self-defence. She'll be working at the Portage Store this summer, for the third year in a row.

Alexandra (Al), 16, has her learner's permit now, so it won't be long before she's putting dibs on the family car. Going into her last year of high school, Al still loves reading, is an excellent writer and enjoyed anthropology and sociology this year. Her wicked sense of humour and abiding interest in fashion made her great fun to watch the Academy Awards with.

Charlotte (Char), 15, brings the same concentration and focus to her studies as she does to her position as "sweep" on her field hockey team. Two years ago the team went to Cuba; next year they're going to New Zealand! Charlotte is still passionate about art, but it's her subtle sense of humour that delights the folks at the retirement home where she calls Bingo every Tuesday evening.

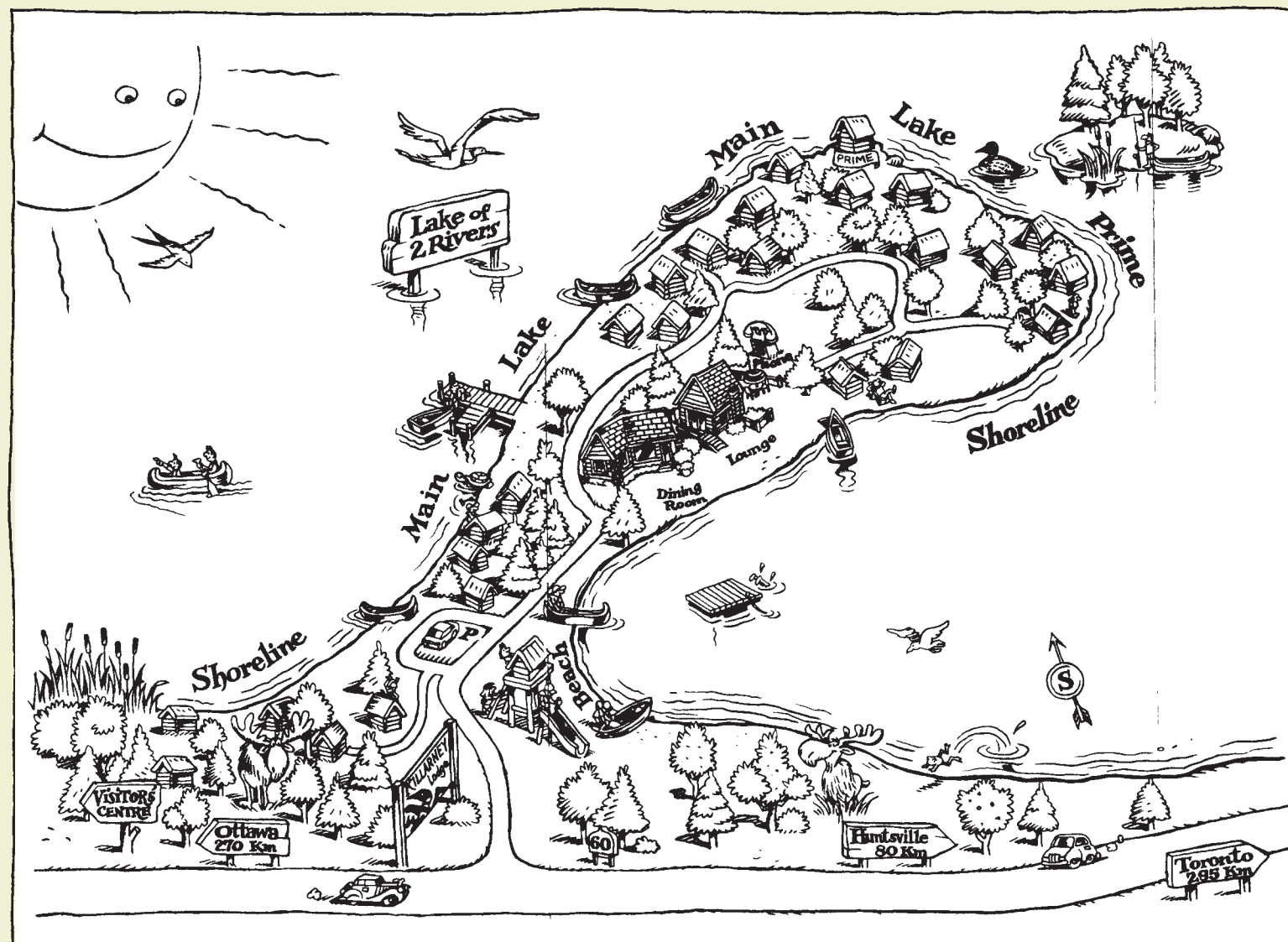
Alexandra and Charlotte will be working at the Two Rivers Store in July. Then they're off to Camp Tanamakoon, where Al will be a counselor-in-training and Char a senior camper.

Jonathan, 14, was on three (3!) hockey teams this year and spent his spare time playing pickup games of shinny at the local rink (once with Eric Lindros of the New York Rangers). He did manage to squeeze in classes, schoolwork and band, most of the time, as

well as badminton and soccer. He'll be at the Lodge all summer, working part-time at the Two Rivers Store to buy new hockey equipment. His only "break" will be – you guessed it – hockey camp.

Be sure to say hello – if you can catch them! *Best wishes,*

*Eric
& Poppy*



A fanciful map to help you get your bearings at Killarney Lodge.

Killarney Lodge

Box 10005, Algonquin Park, Ontario P1H 2G9

Telephone:

May to October –

(705) 633-5551

(705) 633-5667 (fax)

Winter – (416) 482-5254

Web site:

www.killarneylodge.com