



2026
News



Killarney
LODGE

Passing on the reins

Something about Algonquin Park refuses to rush, no matter how many seasons pass. Lakes still catch the morning light and the pines still whisper their stories; natural beauty feels both familiar and new. It's a place shaped by time, patience and care – something we've always tried to reflect at the Lodge.

This season marks a meaningful chapter for us as stewardship passes from one generation to the next. The Miglin family purchased Killarney Lodge in 1984 and ran 41 years under the stalwart leadership of father Eric. 2026 marks the first official year of ownership for daughters Alexandra and Charlotte.

The girls grew up at the Lodge, learning to swim and paddle a canoe on Lake of Two Rivers. Some guests still remember them (and siblings Samantha and Jonathan) 'barely waist-height, running around the grounds laughing on summer days.'

Charlotte started working at the Lodge in 2015, with Alexandra following a year later. Through the years they've moved from serving meals to staffing reception and answering emails to finally taking charge of the place they love dearly.

"It's a huge responsibility," Alex says. "Our Dad was loved by guests and staff alike, so we've got big shoes to fill."

"Killarney Lodge is a part of us," Charlotte adds. "We're delighted to continue sharing this special part of Algonquin Park."

While changes are inevitable, our love for this place is constant. The same values – respect for the land, appreciation for quiet moments, and the joy of sharing Algonquin's magic – remain firmly rooted.

Some traditions are treasures to carry forward.

An old favourite returns

Our cooks and bakers are always looking for new and improved recipes. To make way for new dishes, sometimes a tried-and-tested item gets bumped from the menu. However, we never expected the reaction when our banana cream pie was removed.

Almost weekly, returning guests asked what happened to our light and creamy Sunday dessert, many describing it as the best banana-cream pie they'd ever had. One guest playfully threatened to start a petition!

You asked, we listened.

After a three-year hiatus, we are happy



Alexandra and Charlotte, ready for what's next.

to announce that our much-loved banana cream pie is back.

We still strive for innovation, but sometimes you can't mess with a good thing.

Where generations gather

Over the years, Killarney Lodge has been a special place for guests to celebrate anniversaries, birthdays and honeymoons. Last summer Brian and Mel Chambers were inspired to share fond memories more than 75 years after Brian's parents first visited with their own birchbark canoe.



Jim Chambers at the Lodge in 1943.

"My parents, Molly and Jim, were married in Ottawa on June 21, 1943," recounts Brian. "Following the wedding and reception, they drove to Killarney Lodge for their honeymoon. My father

had gone on many canoe and fishing trips in Algonquin Park and loved the area."

These treasured memories led Molly and Jim to return to Killarney Lodge 45 years later, in 1988, a gift from their six children.

Last August, Brian and Mel celebrated their 40th anniversary by revisiting the Lodge where his parents had spent important milestones. They shared photos of his parents' visit and enjoyed a paddle on the lake, albeit in their cabin canoe rather than Brian's father's birchbark.

"We couldn't help but feel the presence of my parents, who had enjoyed their honeymoon and 45th anniversary so many years before," Brian told us.

We're honoured to be a part of that memory.

Tornado touchdown

Last June, wildly wicked weather kept Ontarians on their toes. The climax arrived on June 21, when a tornado wreaked havoc across Algonquin Park. It came so close to Killarney Lodge it left a clear path of destruction through the island off the point.

The storm began in the afternoon, with whitecaps seizing the lake and winds blowing deck furniture off the docks. Torrential downpours lasted through the evening, and co-owner Alexandra (and husband Matt) were awoken around midnight by a resounding *CRACK*.

"The power was out, and guests began to call our emergency phone lines about tree damage," says Alex. "When we headed out to investigate, the sky was so lit up by constant lightning that we barely needed flashlights."

The source of the crack was soon discovered: a 30-foot pine tree had landed on the dining room roof, with the entire root system pulled up from the ground! In the end, six downed and damaged trees had to be safely removed from the property.

The tornado caused power outages across the province. Across Highway 60, three hydro poles had to be replaced ... an arduous task that left Killarney Lodge without power for four days.

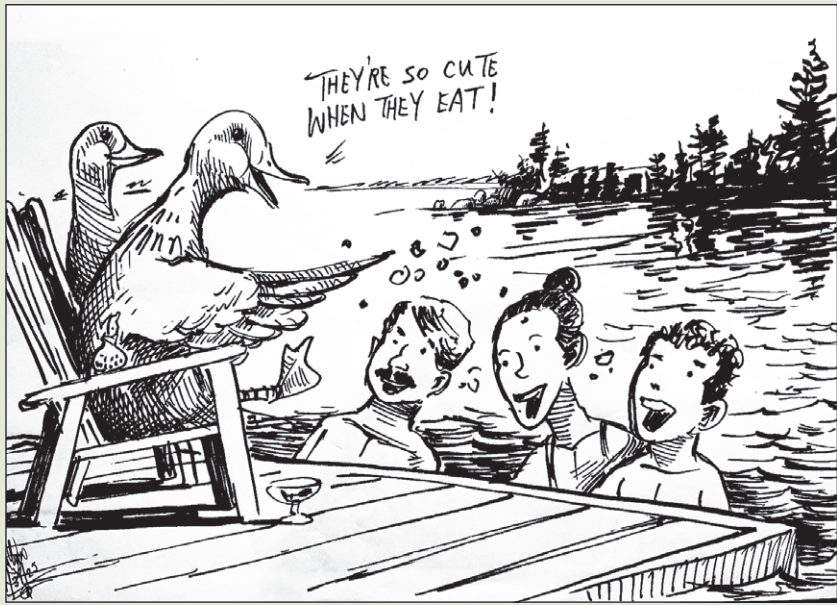
(Thanks to generators, our kitchen and dining room were able to function as usual, and we still had running water.)

The repair was an awesome sight for guests and staff gathered on the beach and shoreline. Helicopters flew in new hydro poles and lowered them into massive holes left by the damaged poles. (See a video on our Instagram page.)

We were lucky that damage was minimal and no one was hurt. We'll certainly remember the wildest weather to ever hit Killarney Lodge!



A pine on the roof of Cabin 3, a casualty of the storm.



Carmen Cerra's dock inversion (courtesy www.carmencerra.com)

Placemat artistry

In the dining room, guests often comment on our beautiful placemats depicting images of Killarney Lodge. Many ask if they can keep a copy of their favourite print. Last July, we were delighted to find a guest had left drawings on the back of his placemats for the staff to enjoy.

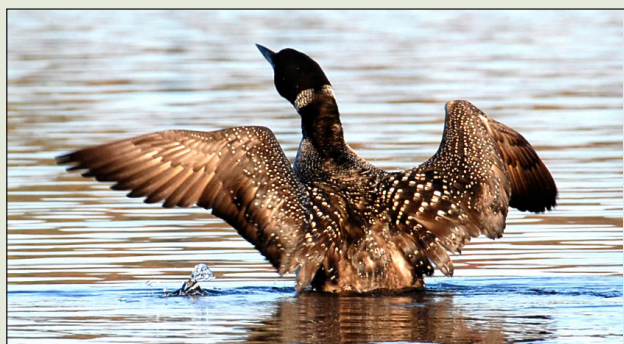
Previously a political cartoonist, guest Carmen Cerra created whimsical and endearing depictions of Algonquin Park life, often from the perspective of animals. After each meal, dining room staff would rush to see what playful scene he'd sketched.

We're delighted to share one of our favourites with you!

The call of Algonquin

The cry of a loon echoing across the lake is the quintessential sound of the north. On quiet nights, the majestic sound is a true delight. Loons can often be spotted gliding across the water before disappearing into the depths.

Common loons spend their lives by the water. The webbing on their toes is ideal for swimming but makes walking on land difficult, so they come ashore only to mate and nest. They build nests close to the water, and chicks swim as soon as they are born.



However, they often spend the first two weeks riding on their parents' backs for warmth and protection.

While fish are the main part of their diet, loons also eat frogs, snails and leeches. They even swallow small pebbles to help digestion.

While you're out canoeing, loons will sometimes pop up from the water. Loons can hold their breath for up to 90 seconds under water, making their appearance (and disappearance) seem almost magical.

These beautiful birds can live up to 30 years. They form monogamous bonds with their mate, often returning to the same lake for years to breed and nest.

In the peace and quiet of Algonquin Park evenings on your cabin deck, you may hear the call of the loon echoing back to you.

Logging in the park

Stand quietly beneath the white pines, spruce and hemlock trees in Algonquin Park's towering forests, and you're immersed in centuries of history.

Recently, old-growth forest was discovered in northern parts of the park, including a forest near Cayuga Lake dating back 427 years. This discovery has highlighted something little understood: the history and current practice of logging in Algonquin Park.

Commercial logging began in the Algonquin region in the early 1800s, especially for eastern white pine used in British ship masts. In 1893, Algonquin was established as a provincial park, with logging continuing under regulation.

Today, two-thirds of Algonquin is designated for commercial logging, but only one percent of the park is affected per year. Over time, forest management practices evolved toward sustainable forestry, including locally harvested and renewable lumber. Forestry also focuses on long-term planning and regeneration.

Many of Algonquin's hiking trails follow old logging roads, revealing the evolving relationship between people and forest. To learn more about the fascinating history of logging in Algonquin Park be sure to visit the Logging Museum.



Cold days, warm hearts – Hayden's first winter.

Family moments & milestones

While the Miglin girls spent the winter getting accustomed to their new roles as owners of Killarney Lodge, they made sure to set aside time for family, friends and fun in the sun.

Alexandra and husband Matt enjoyed a 'bucket trip' experience last fall: a road trip in northern France. They visited the beaches of Normandy, the cathedral in Mont-



Alex at the iconic Mont-St-Michel.

St-Michel and fishing villages in Brittany before heading to Sicily for a wedding. The two live in Toronto, where record-breaking snowfall this winter inspired a last-minute trip to the warmer climates of Costa Rica.

This year marked Charlotte and husband Andrew's first winter with their son, Hayden. Now almost

one, Hayden has an infectious laugh and boundless energy, and recently started taking his first steps! For a vacation, they travelled to a Mexican beach where they shared a house with friends. Back at home in Whistler, B.C., Charlotte once again took up skiing and Andrew snowboarding. (Which of these sports will Hayden choose?)

As we look ahead to the 2026 season, we're excited to begin this new chapter of our lives while honoring the traditions that have made Killarney Lodge feel like home to so many. We can't wait to welcome returning friends and first-time visitors.

Here's to a wonderful season – great stories, peaceful mornings on the water and unforgettable moments. See you soon!



Scan the QR code to see our 2026 rates



**Killarney
LODGE**

Open May 8 to October 17

Year round:

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