

# Killarney LODGE 2013



## Welcome!

They say it takes 10,000 hours' practice to become proficient at a skill, but we can help you become a relaxation expert in no time at all. We've had three decades to hone our skills.

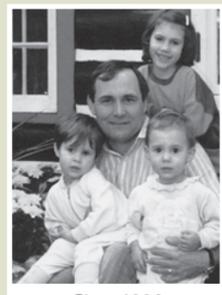
Before Eric took over in 1984, Killarney Lodge rented canoes to guests and campers. As well as keeping track of canoes, the previous owners sold gas for cars and boats and ran a small store. Motor boats droned steadily on the lake.

Breakfast was open to the public, so morning line-ups for canoes and meals were common. Cars often jammed the parking lot.

Early on, Eric decided to change things. He closed the shop and gas pump, and soon every cabin had its own canoe. Now our old motorboat is the only one docked on the lake.

Eric's goal was to create the best, quietest, most relaxing retreat possible. Three decades later, we're staying the course.

Life is may be even more hectic than ever. But if you're ready to try some serious relaxing, we're here.



Circa 1990

## New guests set record

Last year we saw many old friends and, thanks to our new website, welcomed more new guests than ever. (We suspect quite a few came to escape Olympic crowds in Britain.)

Newcomers set the record for the most intense – and longest – stay ever. Three Japanese filmmakers (only one of whom spoke English) spent 40 days in the damp, buggy woods tracking a shy woodpecker called the yellow-bellied sapsucker (yes, Virginia, there is such a creature). Each evening they returned to the Lodge sweaty, wet and hungry – and appreciative of their comfortable base.

Later we found a gracious message in our guest book: *"It was our precious time to have their great foods and see the Lodge peoples' smiles!! Thank you so much, and let's all protect Mother Nature..."*

The language may not be perfect, but the sentiment is.

## A legacy of hospitality

Sometimes even born-and-bred Ontarians are surprised to discover our lodge inside Algonquin Park. Can't blame them, though: Algonquin is Ontario's only provincial park that leases protected land for private lodgings. It's a unique

arrangement that works for us – and for you!

In 1893 Algonquin was established as a national wildlife sanctuary to protect the headwaters of major rivers and preserve a primeval forest. The intention was to protect birds and animals, conduct forestry experiments, create a health resort and – with undeniable forethought – promote "beneficial effects on climate."

Two decades later, Algonquin became Ontario's first provincial park. According to The Friends of Algonquin Park,



Anne Marie and George Moruzi's fun-loving grandchildren lure Eric out to play, while Freddy shows off his Siberian Husky roots.

early Park visitors included "adventurous fishermen, ... (artists) Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven, and a host of visitors who came by train and stayed at one of Algonquin's several hotels."

That's right, hotels. The Lodge may be an anomaly now, but we carry on the original vision.

For more information about the park – current or historical – see [www.algonquinpark.on.ca/visit/history](http://www.algonquinpark.on.ca/visit/history), read the Park tabloid, or explore the Visitor Centre and Logging Museum.

## Celebrating Mary

Mary and Colin Campbell started coming to the Lodge in the 1960s. Mary particularly liked seeing the loons. Colin appreciated not having to hoist their canoe onto the car. Both delighted in the fall colours of the Park.

Sadly, Mary lost Colin in 1987, but we were pleased that she continued to find the Lodge a comfortable retreat. We know she was delighted with the guest lounge, which was built two years later; she loved to mingle with fellow guests.

Our long and warm relationship culminated last spring when her son Peter and his wife, Therese – plus Mary's granddaughters, their husbands and great-grandbaby Caleb – celebrated Mary's 100th birthday at Killarney Lodge.

We're sorry to report that Mary has since passed away. We were honored that our friend had returned once more to share her warmth and wit.

Killarney

NEW PADDLES: Branding is everything.

## New canoes rock – not!

In the old, old days, guests who wanted to paddle on the lake had to rent or bring a canoe. But by 1985 every cabin was equipped with its own Kevlar canoe.

Developed as a tire cord by the DuPont company, Kevlar is a relatively light, yet strong as steel, cloth. Even though it's used to make bulletproof vests, it can be damaged.

Over time – and rocks – our canoes showed their age. Last summer we replaced each one with a new 15- or 17-foot Scott Kevlar canoe.

A traditional Canadian craft made in a new-world material. With care, they'll outlast us!

## Change on the menu

What's new on the menu? Not much – and everything! We've updated our hearty country menu, adding nuance to favourite dishes, using fresh herbs from our expanded garden, and pinching spices such as saffron, turmeric, coriander and cumin from other cultures.

We added lobster to our macaroni-and-cheese, and Ace Bakery goodies to our bread basket. We broadened our cheese selection, diversified our rice repertoire and – thanks to expanded storage capacity – use more fresh ingredients. Apricots replace humble raisins; spicy kalamatas and black olives from Italy have joined the antipasto plate; and salmon kebabs are threaded onto fresh rosemary stems.

New dishes were added, particularly at lunchtime. Tasty favourites include smoked-turkey-and-pear panini, crab cakes, the beef cacciatore bread bowl, Bourbon pulled-pork sandwiches, chicken pot pies – and the hugely popular, hand-made, honest-to-goodness Killarney hamburger.

We hope you enjoy the results of our experiments.



Mary Campbell was not thrilled with this picture ("Who is that grumpy old thing?") but we're thrilled that she celebrated her 100th birthday at Killarney Lodge.



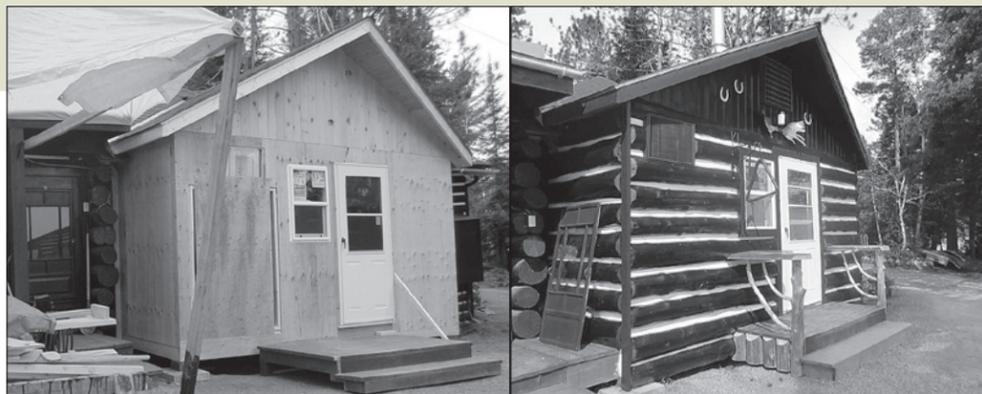
NOT-SO-REGULAR GUEST: Usually seen foraging in ditches and wetlands, sometimes at the end of our driveway, this four-legged character wandered through one morning before breakfast.

**REMEMBER:** calories don't count at Killarney Lodge. If you overindulge, you can always walk, swim, paddle – or sleep – them off!

## Dressing up dinner

Change at dinnertime was clearly afoot when distinctly unfussy white dishes and heavy linen napkins appeared a few years ago. But that was just the beginning.

Inevitably, white linen tablecloths and new dinnerware followed, and then contemporary white serving dishes. The wine glasses and water goblets clearly couldn't pass muster, nor the cutlery, so Poppy replaced them. When no one was looking, she added new candleholders.



**BEFORE AND AFTER:** From the outside, the new kitchen addition looks as if it's always been there.

But inside, we're bubbling over our new broiler, stoves and ovens, the re-organized storage area and the new refrigeration equipment.

We have better ventilation and more room to work. We can also bring in more fresh ingredients with less packaging (always a good thing).



Your new silvery setting.

The total effect was subtle, but guests noticed:

"The dining room feels both rustic and elegant; how do you do it?"

"The evening meal is so romantic. Love the candles."

"My boyfriend even takes off his baseball cap!"

"After a day outside, it's a pleasure to dress for dinner in such a lovely room."

Dinner is served.

## Portraits of Algonquin

Visitors to Algonquin Park are often disappointed when they try to capture the beauty of nature on camera. Luckily, artists thrive on the challenge.

Tom Thomson and Canada's famous Group of Seven were the first urban artists to focus on Algonquin Park.

Thomson was perhaps most successful, and his story is certainly the most dramatic. He painted in the Park for four years, then mysteriously disappeared on Canoe Lake in 1917. Accidental drowning, suicide or even murder?

We thought everything that could be said or written about Thomson had been. That is, until we screened *West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson* for guests last summer.

*The Globe and Mail* called this film "a must-see for fans of art and Canada ... (with) new revelations about Thomson's life, art and death ... knock-your-socks-off cinematography." We and 40 guests agreed.

For the trailer and more information about the film, visit [www.tomthomsonart.ca](http://www.tomthomsonart.ca). You can also purchase the DVD at the Visitor Centre.

To see Thomson's iconic *West Wind* painting, you have to go to Toronto. But contemporary nature art by local artists is close by – just visit the Algonquin Art Centre and the Visitor Centre, or our own Tin Moose Gallery.



**Proud young artist:**  
We liked 11-year-old Anika's drawing of the Lodge so much that we asked to print it on a placemat. Happily, she agreed, so you can now enjoy a Killarney original over breakfast, or under lunch.

## Hotspot found @ Killarney

The benefits of unplugging electronic devices are indisputable – especially on vacation.

But sometimes a nagging worry, or a pressing responsibility, needs timely attention. We understand. For those times, we created a hotspot, a wireless access point to the Internet.

Last year, we had WiFi in a small room in the housekeeping cabin. This year we plan to make it a little more comfortable, in a former – albeit still small – staff cabin. It won't be fancy, and you won't get stuck there.

So bring that laptop or smartphone if you must. But rest assured, dear guests: the cabins, dining room and lounge will remain unplugged.

See more Killarney Lodge stories, photos and information on our website: [www.killarneylodge.com](http://www.killarneylodge.com)



Land ho? Young'uns take over on the high seas.

## Family sets Eric's sail

If you know Eric, you know his passion for adventure – especially if it includes high speeds, high altitudes or open seas.

Daughter Samantha and son Jonathan particularly share his love for skiing and snowboarding. In February, the three of them went cat-skiing on the steep slopes of White Grizzly in British Columbia.

For Christmas, Poppy, Alexandra, Charlotte and Sam's boyfriend, Jon, joined them to sail a 50-foot boat around the British Virgin Islands.

Eric and the girls went down early to take an open-water sailing course. By the time the rest of us arrived, they were expert sailors. We spent nine days on the water, including Christmas, New Year's and Charlotte's birthday. Everyone helped set sails and navigate, as well as take on the chores of cooking and cleaning (at last!).

When it was over, we agreed that working together in a tropical paradise was a life-changing experience, a truly special time as a family.

Eric always hoped to pass his passions onto his children. Sharing them was even better.



Freddy



No matter where they go, Jonathan, Samantha, Alexandra and Charlotte still consider Algonquin Park home.

## High on life's rollercoaster

Having kids is like being on a grand rollercoaster. You never really know what's around the corner, and at times all you can do is hang on. But sometimes the track levels out, you're at the top and the view is amazing.

This winter was one of those times.

**Samantha** (Sam), 27, has wrapped up the third year of her degree in veterinary science at the University of Guelph. Starting in September, she'll 'extern' at the Vancouver Aquarium and later at the Oradel Hospital, a renowned emergency facility in New Jersey. She's excited – and so are we!

**Alexandra** (Al), 24, is happily working to live – saving just enough money to travel further afield. Last year Al took herself to Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. Before meeting up with Charlotte, she traveled with a friend she'd met as a ten-year-old at Camp Tanamakoon in Algonquin Park.

**Charlotte** (Char), 23, is also working to support her persistent and powerful wanderlust. Before meeting Al in Vietnam and setting off on her own Far East travels, Char visited a friend in Victoria, British Columbia. She fell in love with the idyllic setting and immediately started planning to return. If beautiful Victoria was only a little closer...

**Jonathan**, 22, settled in for his second year at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

He rents a house with five other guys, so we don't have to worry about his social life. What we didn't know was that he liked to cook! He's looking forward to resuming his new-found independence in September, and once again juggling studies and hockey practice.

Their independence and maturity impresses us, but we're keeping our safety harnesses on. The ride is never over.

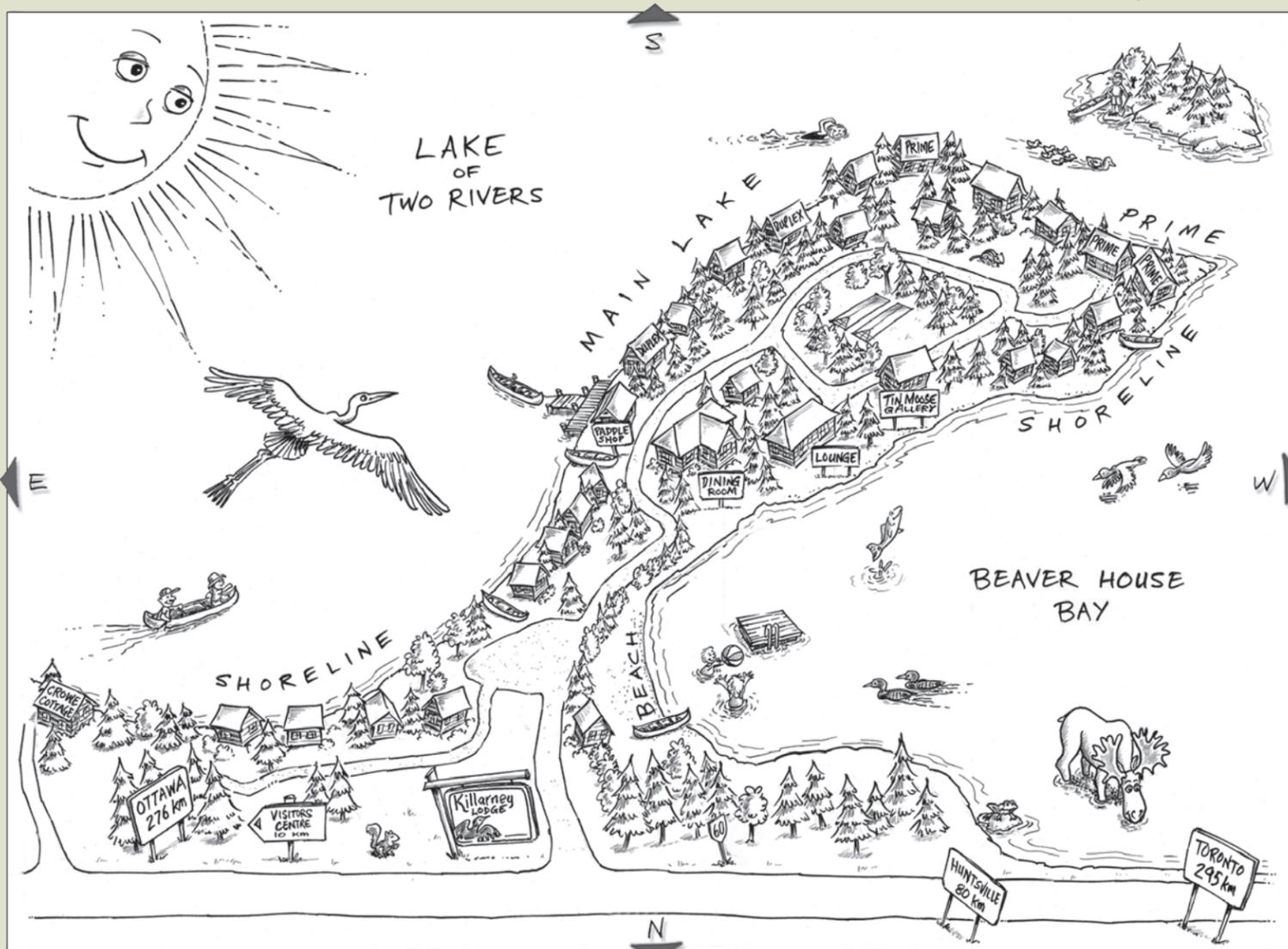
We hope your year – with or without children – went well too. See you soon!



Char rides high.

*Eric & Poppy*

P.S. We missed our dear Frosty, and we missed having a dog. So when Poppy spotted a young Shepherd/Siberian Husky/Akita mix at the Huntsville shelter, she fell easily and she fell hard. **Freddy** is charming, stubborn, independent and rambunctious. We all adore him, but he's Jonathan's kindred spirit and Eric's new best friend.



## Killarney Lodge

Box 10005, Algonquin Park, Ontario P1H 2G9

Open May 10 to October 20

Telephone year-round:

(705) 633-5551

Toll-free 1-866 473-5551

Website:

[www.killarneylodge.com](http://www.killarneylodge.com)