

Killarney LODGE 2016



Welcome!

Whether it's your first time or your tenth, welcome to Killarney Lodge – where everything old is new again.

We sit on the oldest rock formation in the world, in the oldest protected provincial park in Ontario, but the simple pleasures you enjoy here never get old.

A good meal. A ramble in the woods. A quiet conversation by the water. Reading on your cabin deck. Paddling on a quiet lake. Hearing a loon call in the dark. A good night's sleep.

A good night's sleep?! Most of us obsess about getting more and better sleep. How-to articles, books and warnings against sleep deprivation are ubiquitous.

Yet almost every other day at Killarney Lodge, we hear "I slept so well" and "I didn't know I was soooooo tired." Plus "There's something about the Lodge ... I get so relaxed."

Sleeping is easy. Just let nature do its job – and let us take care of the rest. Enjoy!



Trying not to take ourselves too seriously.

(but they're not usually aggressive unless provoked, or protecting their young).

Healthy adult moose have few predators; they can live up to 25 years. Last year Algonquin Park had an estimated 2622 moose, so drive carefully – especially at night!

To hear a bull moose's mating ga-wunk, or a cow's bawling moan, try your luck in the woods this fall, or go to tinyurl.com/hyarg3j (the Science behind Algonquin's Animals).

Ask him anything

Retired biologist Greg Betteridge will be back again this year to give Killarney guests a glimpse into Algonquin Park beyond Highway 60.

After 35 years in Algonquin Park with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Greg is a passionate and knowledgeable guide to the backcountry. His popular presentations will be offered most weeks in the Lounge.

For more information, ask at the front desk.

What's your pleasure?

While checking out, a young Swedish couple once remarked that Canadians must be hardy because they showered in such cold water. Puzzled, we checked and discovered that their water heater breaker had tripped off. They never even mentioned it – and they thought we were hardy!

Is your water too cold? Is your bed too hard?

Or too soft? How's your pillow? Do you have enough blankets? Would you like a stronger reading light?

We want to make your stay really comfortable, but you must tell us if something's amiss.

Please, don't wait. Speak up!



Medium & message

Guests discover Killarney Lodge by many means: guidebooks, brochures, adverts, the Internet ... and always, always, word of mouth. But chance often plays a part.

After Mrs. and Mr. Mann moved into their new house, they occasionally received mail for the previous homeowners. Generally the Manns forwarded the mail without a second thought. But their interest was piqued when our newsletter arrived, so they looked us up online.

Long story short, after asking if they might bring their two-year old Bernese Mountain dog, Lily, they booked a weekend at the Lodge. (Lily turned out to be a sweet – albeit enormous – dog who charmed the housekeepers.)

No question: the Manns will be getting their own copy of the newsletter this year.

Keepin' it fresh

The more complicated life gets, the more we appreciate simple pleasures like food. We love to experiment, but mostly we concentrate on using the best, freshest ingredients in familiar recipes, using herbs from our gardens and spices from other cultures to add zest.

New this year: savoury grilled cheese sandwiches, veggies on naan pizza, butternut squash ravioli with tomatoes and asiago cheese, stacked waffle chicken sandwiches, kale salad, pasta primavera with grilled vegetables and goat's cheese, and asparagus- and cheese-stuffed chicken.

Returning favourites: apple-Stilton and heirloom tomato salads, green gazpacho soup, fish tacos and the dreadfully decadent Queen Elizabeth cake.

Berry creative: our strawberry pie recipe led us to a new strawberry crumble, and then our bakers tried a bumbleberry confection – all of which garnered rave reviews from guests (even if they'd never seen a bumbleberry).

If you really like something, you can ask for extra helpings. *If we've got it, you can have it!*



A singular trend

Don't look now, but we're starting to see a trend that we like: more and more women are coming solo to Killarney Lodge. Not just from Canada, but from as far away as Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Is it our small, but not-too-small size? Our friendly but not overbearing service? Our proximity to trails and Park attractions?

We're pleased that independent guests feel welcome and, frankly, safe. But we can't promise solitude: solo guests are often invited to join conversations and even hikes.

Doing our level best

It's a rare 85-year-old that doesn't list a little, and our octogenarian log cabins are no exception. Luckily, we have an experienced team to set them straight. But that doesn't mean it's straightforward.

Raising Cabin 9, one of the original cabins, took several days to plan and then another week to carry out. The men carefully set it down on pipes, and, using a truck and a golf cart, rotated the cabin to face the bay instead of the road. Now that it's level we're planning to add a wraparound deck, in addition to new bathroom fixtures.



Derek Lucasavitch spent eight days on his back under Cabin 16/17, going over every square foot to make sure the cabin was level.

If lifting little Cabin 9 was a test, raising the larger duplex Cabin 16/17 was the final exam. While this cabin was jacked up, the men replaced the foundation logs, installed new plumbing and built a new deck and ramp.

This summer, Cabins 31, 32 and 24 will get new bathroom fixtures. If it's one thing, it's three!



Did you see what I saw?

Retired university science professors and college pals Bob Peterson and Walt Pawlowski have been coming to Killarney Lodge for more than 20 years.

Early every spring they arrive with a battered canoe map, potent insect repellent and loppers to bushwhack their way through overgrown trails. Every year they rent Cabin 27, and every year they explore a new canoe route.

Twenty years and it never gets old – but last year was special. Paddling on the Madawaska River, they spotted a moose near the shore. That's not unusual, but this moose was lying down. Was something wrong?

As they watched through binoculars, a small head popped up. It was a baby, a calf, so small it must have been only a few hours old.

Despite all their experience, both scientists were moved. They quietly backed up and paddled away.

Back at the Lodge, a first-time guest was incredulous as she watched a moose swim across the bay, climb up by her cabin and sniff her parked car. Then it ambled away towards the beach. Later, while our guest quietly sat on her dock and dangled her feet in the water, a beaver swam out from under and smoothly paddled across the bay to its den.

Some people are just lucky.

No car? No problem!

While a couple of bus lines can get you to Huntsville, one Toronto-Algonquin Park express bus will take you from Toronto to the Lake of Two Rivers store near the Lodge. You can even arrange to bring your bicycle or dog.

Check www.parkbus.ca or call 1.800.928.7101 for dates and information. *Let us know – we'll pick you up!*



Powerful forces at work

Most of us like to be in control, but Mother Nature can be unpredictable – and bossy.

We can't tell you exactly what the weather will be like in July, or exactly when the autumn leaves will peak. We can, however, promise that you can enjoy Algonquin Park in all kinds of weather. And that the colours will be spectacular the week before – and the one after – the leaves peak.

Some guests ask when they'll see moose. Sorry, no guarantees. But we can improve your odds by telling you where and when they tend to hang out.

Occasionally a heavy storm rolls through the Park. Depending on your point of view, it's exhilarating or merely inconvenient. But candlelight is romantic, and if cellphone or WiFi service is wobbly, give it time – it will be back. It's easy to forget that Killarney Lodge is in the middle of the wilderness – until nature shows its power. All you have to do is relax; we'll take care of the details.

That would not be us

Some workplaces have rigid roles and boundaries: not ours. The Lodge operates more like a caring, sometimes messy, extended family. Every person is important, every job is important, and sometimes the lines get blurry.

"But we laugh," says Poppy. "A lot."

A work ethic and sense of independence "is bred in the bones of small-town Ontario," she adds. "People take pride in their work, and do what needs to be done."

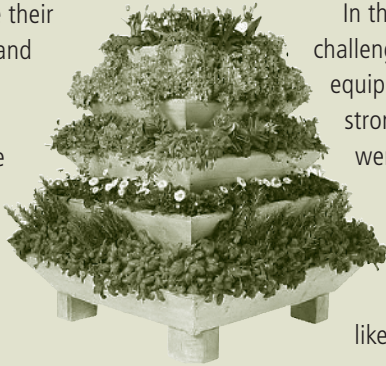
Anita Boldt and Sandra Dombroskie have headed the two housekeeping teams for more than 20 years. Each team is responsible for their own cabins, from daily upkeep to advising on décor.

"They care for their cabins as if they were their own," says Poppy. "They don't take shortcuts and they don't stand on ceremony."

When guests couldn't get into their cabin because winter had shifted the door frame, the housekeepers simply put their shoulders into it and muscled the door open. (The good-natured guests climbed out their window the next morning, but that's another story...)

"The housekeepers are feisty," adds Poppy. "If you ask for their opinion, you know you're going to get it."

Even if you're the boss.



Look for our new pyramid planters, strategically placed to catch the sun and satisfy our appetite for fresh herbs.

It's a fine mess

What do you get when you mix strawberries with whipped cream and chunks of broken meringue? A mess? Yes. Delicious? Absolutely!

The so-called Eton Mess is a traditional English dessert going back to Eton College in the 19th century. (Imagine a desperate cook throwing together fruit and cream for a mob of young cricket players.) Over the years, chefs added meringue and experimented with other fruit.

We usually make the confection with strawberries. But when dishwasher and maintenance hand John Brown offered us his bumper crop of rhubarb, we had to try it.

The results were messy, delicious and popular. Look for it this year – you'll be part of a long tradition.

Bonus trivia: Eton is one of Britain's famous "public" schools, boasting 18 prime ministers among alumni. The Eton Mess is served every June at the annual cricket match against arch-rival Harrow School.

Racing wind and waves

Just a month before the Lodge opened, Eric was near the end of the sixth, longest, and arguably hardest leg of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race.

In the 6,000 nautical miles from Qingdao, China, to Seattle, a dozen identical yachts faced strong winds and waves the size of small buildings. Over 26 days, often in bitter cold far from land, some boats even sailed through snowstorms. "I've never seen seas like that," said one experienced skipper.

Eric had joined the ClipperTelemed at the end of October in Cape Town, South Africa. On the way to Australia he got his sea legs, sleeping no more than four hours at a time and listing at 45-degree angles.

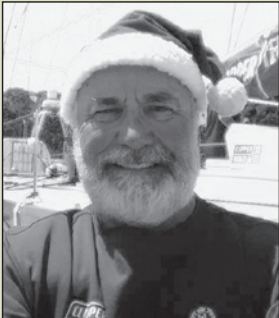
"Eric loves the raw elements," blogged one crew mate. "His calm presence and can-do confidence is reassuring as well as inspiring. He's always got your back."

"And he helms like a demon," wrote another.

In the legendary Sydney-Hobart race, an added challenge, storms ripped sails and broke masts, equipment and even bones. A third of the hundred-strong fleet – but none of the hardy Clippers – were forced to retire in the first two days.

In total, Eric raced some 16,000 nautical miles, often escorted by dolphins just off the bow. He saw albatross, whales and incredible night skies, including a meteor-like fireball streaking across the Southern Ocean.

Pleased to have done it at age 66, Eric says, "I think that's enough big ocean sailing!" For now.



Father Christmas on the Clipper



Sam and Jon's big day, with Alex, Poppy, Eric, Char and brother Jon.

Extending our family

When you're raising a family, the first milestones seem to come slowly. One minute the kids are starting to walk. Turn around, and they're careening down the hill without you. Before you know it, you're walking down the aisle wondering where the time went.

Daughter **Samantha** got married at Killarney Lodge on a beautiful day in July last summer. Friends, family and staff – many of whom watched Sam grow up – all helped make this a joyous occasion. Soon after honeymooning, Sam and her **Jon** began practicing as veterinarians in Toronto. After years of university studies, practicums and working in different cities, they took great pleasure in setting up their own apartment and hosting their first family Christmas dinner.

The wanderlust bug doesn't show any signs of letting **Alexandra** go. At press time, she was traversing Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama with her best friend, Megan. As well as a passion for travel, Alex and her father love going to movies as often as they can – when they're in the same city. Charming, confident Alex financed her travels by serving at an upscale restaurant in Toronto. This summer she's looking forward to joining our dining room staff.

Unbeknownst to many guests, their cheerful and polished waitress last summer may have been **Charlotte**. This past winter she worked the front desk of a resort hotel on British Columbia's Whistler Mountain, but like her father, she was always happiest hiking or careening down the "hill." Skyping with friends and family back in Toronto was good, but cat-skiing with Eric and her sisters in January "was the best." She'll be back at the Lodge in mid-July.

Funny, smart and energetic, son **Jonathan** has been working at various jobs while considering his next move. Encouraged that many people take a few years off before graduate school, he's contemplating going back to university – perhaps ending up at law school. We think

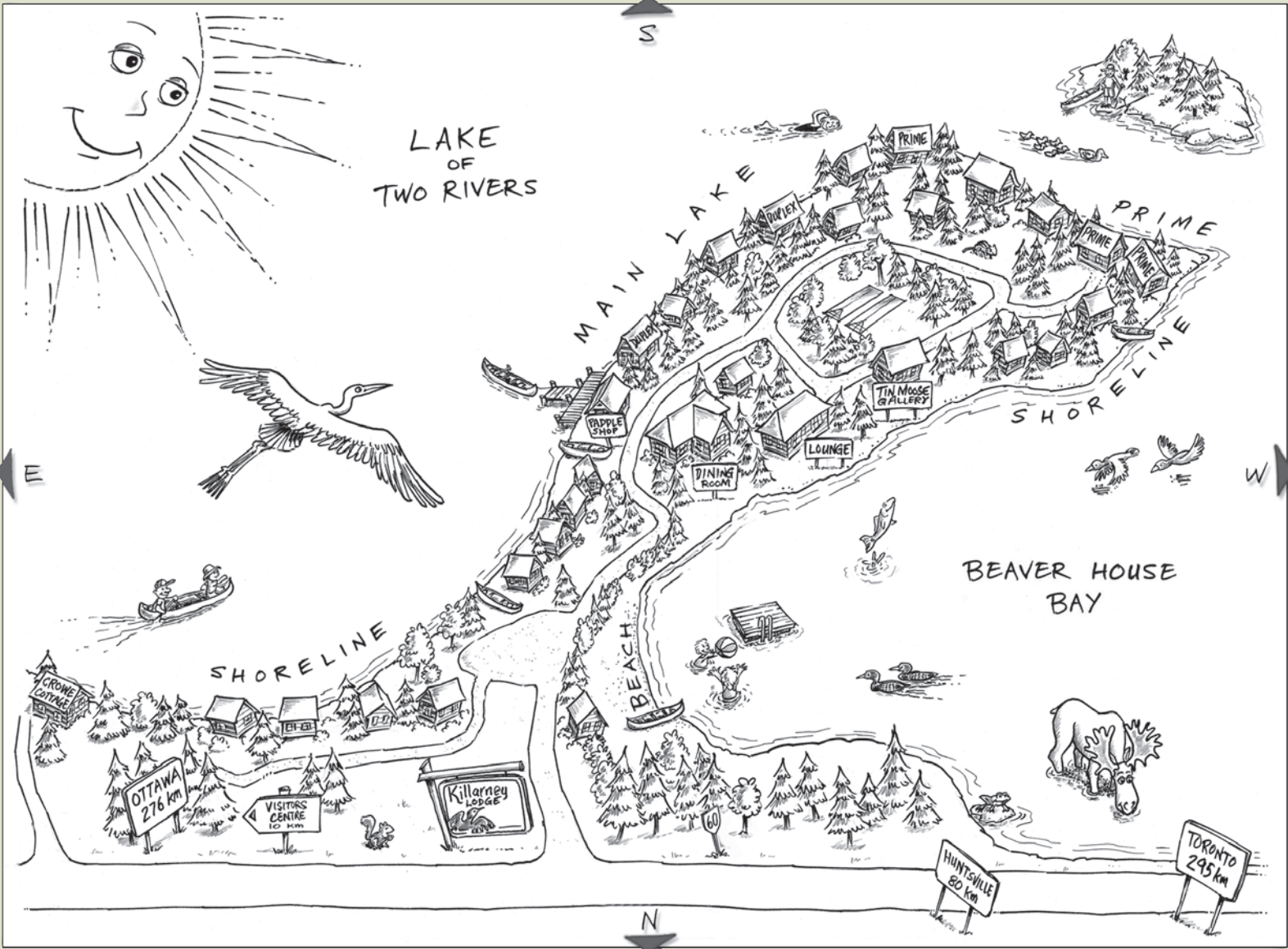


he'd make a great lawyer. Actually, we think he'll do well at anything he sets his mind to. In the meantime, he still enjoys blowing off steam playing league hockey every Sunday.

As you've passed the milestones in your life, we hope you managed to enjoy some scenic detours and adventures too.

We hope you'll make a stop at Killarney Lodge along the way!

Eric
& Poppy



Killarney Lodge

Box 10005, Algonquin Park,
Ontario P1H 2G9

Open May 13 to October 15

Telephone year-round:

(705) 633-5551

Toll-free 1-866 473-5551

Website:

www.killarneylodge.com