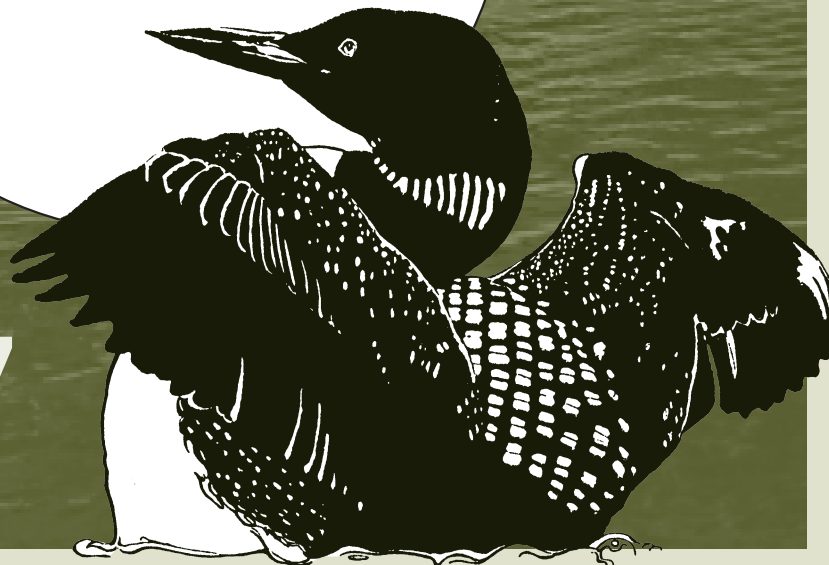


# Killarney LODGE 2017



## Welcome!

We hope you had a good year, and that the scales of life tipped in your favour. We used our down time to see family and friends, have a few adventures and catch up with world events. It was a wonderful winter – but “interesting” barely describes the times we’re living in.

How do people cope? Some roll up their sleeves, others simply turn off, but no matter how hard we try, conversations inevitably turn to current events.

Eventually we all need a break: quiet time to get some perspective and recover our balance. And we happen to know just the place to go ...

Whether it’s your first or third stay at Killarney Lodge, you must have noticed our unapologetic lack of organized activities or noisy radios, TVs, computers and cellphones.

As always, we invite you to recharge your batteries here. The world can get on without you – at least for a little while.

## With a soupçon of magic

When a soft-spoken guest in a golf shirt introduced himself as Canada’s oldest magician – and asked if dinnertime guests might enjoy a bit of magic – we were intrigued.

Keith Hunter had performed for large audiences at the Banff Springs Hotel, Chateau Lake Louise and Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto. But he assured us he also enjoyed performing in more intimate venues.

So one evening after dinner, Mr. Hunter circulated around the dining room, asking if guests would like see a little magic. Then he treated them to a simple, yet confounding, sleight-of-hand trick – right before their very eyes.

Feedback was positive and unanimous: “What a lovely treat.” “No idea how he did that.” “Great fun.” “What a nice gentleman.”

Keith Hunter took up magic at the age of 70, studying in Toronto and Las Vegas, then performing across Canada for almost 20 years. Sadly, he passed away in December. How lucky we were to witness his generous spirit and delight in magic!



## Country cookin’ is hot

Tastes evolve and so have our menus, but except for a quirky few experiments, our culinary approach has always stood firm: we serve generous helpings of simple, honest food prepared with the freshest, best-quality ingredients.

Now dubbed “uncomplicated food,” this style of cooking has been redis-

### Highway jogger

Poppy’s assistant, Kristina Nicholas, is punctual. So there had to be a good reason – or story – when she was late for work one morning.

Driving to the Lodge, she caught up to an enormous bull moose jogging down the middle of the highway.

This is a rare sight, so Kristina followed him. The big guy kept trotting down the road for several minutes, until he finally tired of his tailgater and veered off.



*This 4’ x 6’ image appeared on the wall of a Toronto subway station in May as part of a month-long photography festival. The original photo, “Lake of Lake of Two Rivers near the summer resort Killarney Lodge, Algonquin Park, Ont., 1950,” was taken for the National Film Board of Canada by Chris Lund.*

covered by celebrity chefs such as Anthony Bourdain and Jamie Oliver.

Uncomplicated food suggests an earlier, simpler time. A time when each hamburger was made by hand and home-made jams were served in little glass bowls.

Wait a moment: we do that! We put classic hamburgers back on the lunch menu last summer, and guests loved ‘em.

We make our own jams, and this year we’re adding orange marmalade. Our BBQ sauce is made with Jack Daniels bourbon instead of unpronounceable additives. Our peach-cranberry sauce is good enough to eat with a spoon.

We also plan to make *the best* hot and sweet red-pepper jellies for our cheese boards. Yum!

## Telling it like it is

*“The fish was superb tonight, but yesterday’s pot pie was a little bland.”*

Helene Gordon knows food. She and her husband, Evan, have been coming to the Lodge for years; they love Algonquin Park and care about Killarney Lodge. After a few days, Helene pulls Poppy aside and says, “OK, let’s talk.”

“I can count on her to be frank,” says Poppy. “And I can count on her to be fair. Helene understands what we’re trying to achieve in the kitchen, and she genuinely wants to help.”

Based on experience and a sophisticated palate, Helene’s opinion on flavour, preparation and presentation is much appreciated.

“She’ll let me know if something is lacking, fabulous or just as good as always.” Will you?

### Don’t be shy: Let us know

Poppy has a good sense of humour and a healthy ego. But if you want to get her knickers in a twist, tell her your stay at the Lodge was absolutely fabulous – then post a complaint online.

Puh-leese, tell us if something isn’t right. Don’t worry about offending us: honestly, we’d like to know. If you can’t find Poppy, leave a note or speak to Eric’s assistant, Ramona (“RJ”) Johnson, or Charlotte or sister Alexandra.

We appreciate it. Honest.

## Cabin 30 at its level best

In the early days of Killarney Lodge, Cabin 30 was built for live-in staff. As a guest cabin it was updated piecemeal, rebuilt and enlarged several times. The interior evolved into a functional, but rather haphazard, two-level affair.

“It was time to stop tinkering with it,” says Eric. “This time it had to be done right. So we hired extra men to replace the foundation logs and reconstruct it on one level.”

“Why not move walls while we’re at it?” Poppy recalls saying. “And work around the old birch tree too. It was a mind-boggling planning exercise, but so worth it.”

Cabin 30 is now the second largest cabin (after Crowe Cottage) at the Lodge. As well as a fabulous lake view, it boasts two bedrooms with a living room, one king- and one queen-sized bed, plus a queen sofa bed.

It also has a new roof, new floors, new furnishings and a new bathroom. Best of all, the entire cabin is on one level.

### A new bed for every cabin

Last year, beds in each and every cabin got new mattresses, pillow tops and box springs. Bedspreads were replaced by beautiful white duvets layered between 300-thread count sheets. Colourful woolen throws and new cotton bedskirts complete the luxurious look and feel. Sleep well. Any time.

## Before Algonquin Park

Do you know who first paddled the rivers in Algonquin Park? Or caught the first trout on Lake of Two Rivers?

The Omaamiwininii Anishnaabe (“original people”) were here long before the first Europeans. In Ontario, the Madaoueskarini band lived along the Madawaska watershed, including most of today’s Algonquin Park.

Earliest evidence of their culture includes flint and quartz tools, pottery and sacred petroglyphs. Birch trees still show the marks where bark panels were removed to make canoes.

Although they no longer live within Park boundaries, many Algonquins still reside in the area. Luke Luckasavitch, Killarney Lodge’s head of maintenance, has a cottage where his great-grandparents lived on Galeairy Lake near Whitney.



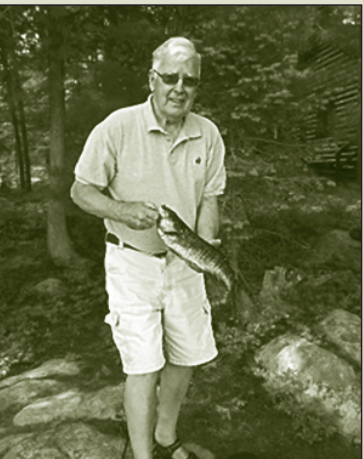
Luke’s daughter Christine worked at Killarney Lodge for 11 years, doing everything from waitressing to office work, gardening to painting. “They would’ve lost their reputation if I’d cooked,” she laughs.

Christine’s interest in her heritage started early. “I saw a porcupine, and my mother told me that my ancestors made jewelry from their quills. From then on I was determined to learn as much as possible.”

After studying archeology, genealogy and culture, Christine is now a consultant in indigenous heritage interpretation and cultural resource management.

This summer, she’ll give talks at the Lodge on the Park’s cultural history. Keep an ear open: it’s sure to be fascinating.





Ted Dobbins caught a big one.

## Fish for fun, then let it go

Ted Dobbins and his wife Doreen rent Cabin 29 every year, and Ted usually fishes off the point. This time his rod and tackle hauled in a good-sized bass that put up a good-sized fight. Doreen took a few pictures for proof and posterity – and Ted released the fish, as usual.

Most Algonquin Park anglers practice catch-and-release. Here are a few tips:

Barbless hooks minimize damage to the fish and are easier to remove. Trout and bass are good fighters – but keep the fight as short as possible. A fish’s slimy coating protects it from disease, so leave your fish in water while removing the hook, or wet your hands or use rubberized gloves. Keep fingers away from gills and eyes.

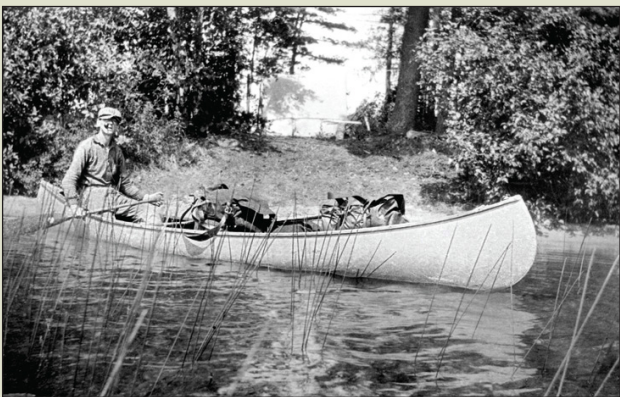
If you catch a big one and want a picture, support its belly while posing, and quickly get it back into the water. Put your fish in head first, and cradle it or hold it gently by the tail until you let it go, which forces water over the gills.

Happy fishing!

## Centenary of an iconic artist

Canadian painter Tom Thomson was never comfortable in the city or the Victorian times he was born to. He worked as a commercial artist in Toronto to make money so he could head north when the winter ice broke. Immersed in wilderness, he developed a vibrant painting style that’s as immediate and fresh today as it was unconventional at the time.

From 1914 to 1917 Thomson set up camp on Canoe Lake, a few kilometres west of the Lodge, and spent spring and fall sketching. In summer he worked as a fire ranger and guide for park visitors – including fellow artists who went on to form the renowned Group of Seven. Unfortunately, Thomson died mysteriously on Canoe Lake in July 1917, just short of his 40th birthday.



Tom Thomson at campsite, 1912

This year the Visitor Centre will feature an exhibition of Algonquin Park as Thomson would have experienced it, and the Portage Store will lead daily paddling expeditions to Thomson’s favourite campsite on Canoe Lake.

We’ve invited author Roy MacGregor to speak at Killarney Lodge after he opens a special Thomson-inspired exhibition at the Algonquin Art Centre on July 8 – 100 years to the day after the artist disappeared.

## Every green step helps

Providing the comforts of home in a wilderness area presents some challenges, but we’ve always appreciated the privilege and recognized the importance of protecting the environment, especially the lake.

Many of our efforts are behind the scenes, or below the surface. Older appliances are replaced with high-efficiency units. Cabin renovations always include modern insulation and energy-conserving lighting and water heaters.

Cleaning staff use environmentally friendly products when possible, while kitchen detergents, cleansers and grease are siphoned off to a treatment plant. Our septic system has won awards, and the waste is shipped off to be converted into agricultural fertilizer. No waste goes into the water.

Recycling and composting have cut the garbage we take to the dump by 70%. Reducing is a little more difficult, but we work at it. Every year we’re less reliant on packaged goods, by growing our own ingredients and making our own condiments, sauces and soups. Last year we replaced plastic jam packets with glass bowls of homemade jam.

This year, instead of using plastic wrap on picnic sandwiches, we’re going to try biodegradable waxed paper. Tell us if it works for you.



## High seas still beckon

When Eric got off the ClipperTelemed sailing yacht last year, he told Poppy that the 6,000-nautical-mile race from China to Seattle had been so brutal that he never wanted to brave another ocean like that again. Ever.

Poppy believed him. Why not? Eric was 66 years old and had just come off the coldest, wettest, darkest 26-day leg of a round-the-world race.

A mere eight months later, Eric told Poppy and Samantha he was mentioned in an online article by race organizers. Looking it up, they discovered he’d signed up *again* for three legs of the race – including the treacherous leg from China!

Eric was smiling like a Cheshire cat. Apparently some people can forget waves big enough to surf 70-foot boats and don’t mind losing sight of land for weeks on end.

The fall, Eric will go to England for mandatory requalifying courses, before heading off to sail from South Africa’s aptly named Cape of Good Hope to Australia.

He may think it’s fun, but his credibility is definitely shot.



Fewer than 10% of cat-skiers are women. Three of them are Miglins.

## Herding cats might be easier

Recently we realized that all seven of us haven’t been in one room since Samantha and Jon’s wedding two summers ago. (A grand event for sure, but so long ago!)

We do see one another often, just not all at once – and not always in person.

**Sam and Jon** are busy veterinarians working more than full time to pay off student loans. Both work

at animal clinics in Toronto; Sam puts in extra hours at an emergency clinic, while Jon drives back to his hometown to work at the Buffalo Zoo.

**Alexandra** and brother **Jonathan** live in Toronto, so we’re in frequent – albeit technological – contact.

They’re working to pay rent on their respective apartments (have you *heard* about Toronto rents?!). Alexandra is also planning her next trip to Central America.

**Charlotte** never misses a birthday or family gathering – via Skype. She lives and works almost 3,000 miles away in Whistler, B.C., with boyfriend **Andrew**, a kinesiologist with the Canadian mogul ski team.

Luckily, we all love to ski – so we go to see her. In addition, the father-and-daughters cat-skiing trip in British Columbia’s interior is an annual event. (“Cats” are caterpillar-tracked machines that take the adventurous up thousands of feet so they can ski down off-piste, several times a day.)

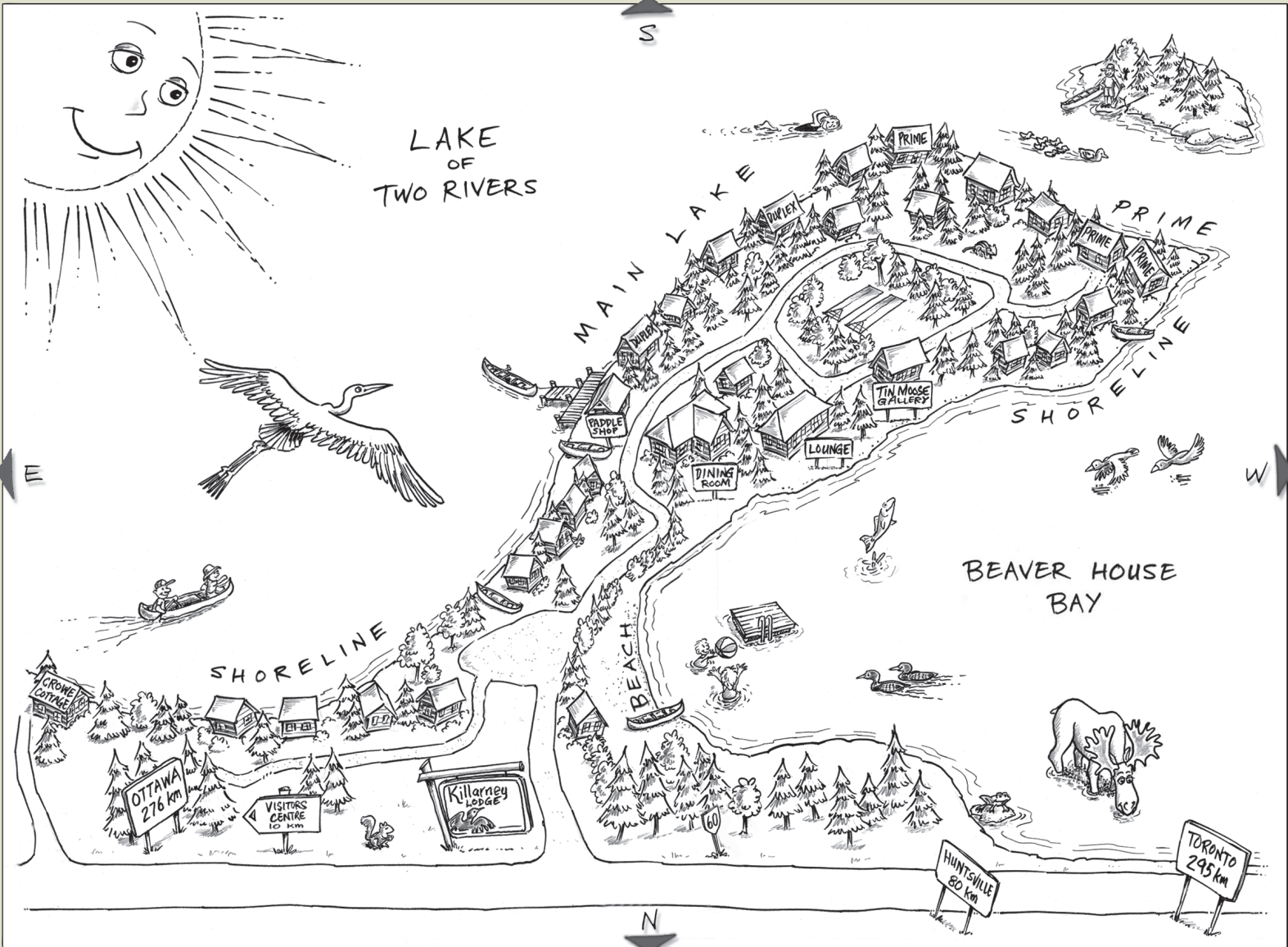
We get out on our own too. One of Poppy’s dreams was to go on a wildlife safari. So In February we rode in jeeps and walked for days in the Tanzanian Serengeti, guarded by rangers with guns. Many nights we heard lions walking around our tents, and roaring in the distance.

Seeing gazelles, baboons and zebras in their own habitat was thrilling, and we were amazed to watch them play. Then we went to the gorge along the Great Rift Valley where the earliest humanoid bones were found. Poppy got goosebumps when we realized we were standing where humanity began.

This summer, Sam, Jon and Jonathan will soldier on in the city, but we’re delighted that Alexandra and Charlotte will work at the Lodge again. Perhaps they gravitated naturally to hospitality, but we can’t take all the credit: they’re very good at what they do. And we’ll get to see them, in person.

We hope to see *you* too, soon!

*Eric & Poppy*



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Open May 12 to October 14

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