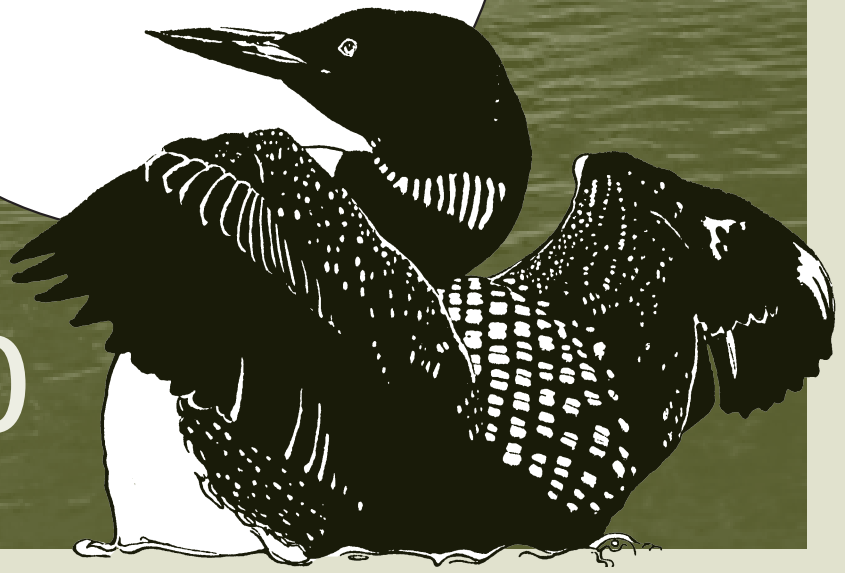


Killarney LODGE 2020



Welcome!

Such a lovely, simple word.

For more than three decades we've looked forward to welcoming guests to Killarney Lodge. No matter what came our way during the long Canadian winter, we counted on returning to Algonquin Park in the spring. We looked forward to reconnecting with staff, stocking the larders and getting the cabins ready for guests.

We took it for granted. But no more!

After months of connecting only on social media, the prospect of seeing people in real time and three dimensions is especially appealing. And after being confined to our porches, gardens and neighbourhoods, getting out of town has become much more than an annual ritual.

In the last few months, going to a grocery store counted as an event. But hiking under a canopy of trees, swimming in the lake, or just sitting on a dock watching the sun set is *SO* much better. (So is getting out of the kitchen and letting someone else do the clean-up!)

We just had to wait for the right time. Well, that time is now, and in all these years, we've never appreciated it more.

So come. Enjoy. You are most welcome.

Despite the remoteness of Algonquin Park, we're not taking anything for granted. We are doing everything we can to keep staff and guests safe and healthy. For more information, please see our website.

Ramping it up in Cabin 3

Walking a mile in another person's shoes is a good way to start exploring their world. But walking isn't the only way to get around.

In order to be more wheelchair- and walker-friendly, we've enlarged doorways and added ramps to the dining room, guest lounge and several cabins. Last year, in conversation with frequent guests, Eric realized we needed to do more.

Cabin 3 is a cozy, private one-bedroom on a little cove that's popular with ducks. Now, thanks to a wider entrance door and a bathroom with a roll-in shower and a roll-under sink, it boasts our highest level of accessibility so far.

"We may have to adjust the height of the bed," cautions manager Ramona Johnson, "but at least guests now have full and easy access to all the bathroom fixtures."

The extra-large entrance required an over-sized door. While steel doors aren't usually our style, this one looks good and offers an outsized view — even from the bed.

As always, the men renovating the cabin did so with a great deal of professional pride and attention to detail. Derek Lucasavitch handcrafted custom ceiling corners while the rest of the team moved walls, rebuilt the bathroom and installed new fixtures.

"The cabin is so beautiful," quipped some returning guests, "we wondered if we'd have to pay more!"

Absolutely not.



Longtime staff Kim Lundy and Ramona Johnson welcome guests to Killarney Lodge



Step right up

In 2011, the maintenance men had built a spectacular roof cover over the entrance to our dining lodge. That kept us happy for a while.

Late in 2018 as the snow fell, they widened the dining lodge landing and replaced the flagstone stairs.

The following spring Luke, Derek and Brad went above and beyond (as always). They moved the ramp closer to the building and rebuilt the stairs with stunning live-edge planks they milled from local Eastern White Cedar. They also replaced the often slippery flagstones with hard-packed gravel.

So they're done. For now.

Natural flora attracts birds, bees and people

Last spring, Julie Sylvestre and her Algonquin College students of applied research set out to naturalize our garden beds. Their goal was to design sustainable gardens — needing minimal watering and fertilizers — compatible with Algonquin Park's ecosystem.

Julie and her team planted bunch berry, fireweed, brown-eyed susans, wild clematis, winter green, starflower and lily of the valley.

"The colours are definitely more subtle than a bed of cultivated annuals," observed one guest, "but very pleasing." "Restful and calm," added another, "even Zen."

Fingers crossed: the seedlings will multiply, resist disease, survive winter and even adapt to climate change — as well as attract native birds, butterflies and pollinators.

Not only are the gardens a microcosm of Algonquin Park's ecosystem, observant guests might spot an unfamiliar or rare specimen on their way to breakfast.

What's not to like?

Easy coming, easy going

Do you need to use a wheelchair or a walker in order to reserve an accessible cabin? Nope. While guests who depend on accessibility have first dibs, the cabins are available to all.

Many cabins have ramps, most bathrooms have hand grips and bars, and shower chairs are available for the asking.

Off site, the Algonquin Park Visitor Centre, Art Centre, Spruce Bog Trail, Logging Museum and Trail are designed for everyone — with wheels and without.

New dishes come with culinary provenance

On the culinary spectrum, our menu is more comfort than nouvelle, more traditional than trendy. But we do like to dip our spoons into new dishes. Some recipes such as starters Bang Bang Cauliflower and Arancini are new to us, but actually predate North American traditions.

Bang Bang Cauliflower?! According to legend, our recipe can be traced to a chicken dish in the remote area of Ya'an in Qing dynasty China. Many sources contend that bang bang refers to the sound made by a heavy stick originally used to shred and tenderize the chicken. Others point out that the Chinese word *bàng* simply means stick. Regardless of origin, bang bang now refers to the sweet savoury sauce served with pieces of chicken, seafood or vegetable. In our case, lightly battered and swiftly deep-fried cauliflower.

Arancini are rice balls, named for the Sicilian oranges they resemble, said to be introduced by Arabs into Italy during the 10th century. Stuffed with a variety of fillings, they replace bread and pasta in the annual feast of Santa Lucia, commemorating the 1646 arrival of a grain ship in Sicily that relieved a severe famine. We stuff our arancini with mozzarella and serve them with our own sweet chili sauce.



Choosing the right path

One of the best things about Killarney Lodge is its location and how easy it is to access Algonquin Park hiking trails.

Based on guest comments, our experience and TripAdvisor, we've come up with a little quiz. Guess which trail best matches our descriptions:

1. Best all-around trail: If you could only do one trail, this is it. Just over 5 km long, it offers a bit of everything: challenge, great views, swimming and THE best picnic spot.

2. Engineered marvel: On this trail you'll find yourself walking beside a shoulder-height lake. You'll see lodges, dams and if you're lucky, the engineers that built them.

3. Most challenging: 10.4 km long, this trail climbs along five separate cliffs and rewards you with outstanding views, especially in the fall. Along the way, you'll learn about the history and founders of the park.

4. Most impressive trees: Huge old white pines and the remains of an 1880s logging camp. For extra points, name the best season to see these trees.

5. Find carnivorous plants: Wheelchair-accessible boardwalks over a soggy desert where birds, reptiles, bugs and pitcher plants grow. The best place to see and hear spruce grouse in the spring.

(before deciduous trees fill in) 5. Spruce Bog Boardwalk

Staff and booklets at our front desk can help you choose a trail. Printed guides, supported by donations to Algonquin Park, are available at every trailhead.



Janice LaRoche, Lynda Stubbs and Devan Button stir things up in the kitchen



It's a dog's life

Shoreline Cabin 2 is a cosy, one-bedroom cabin with a splendid view of the lake – but that's not the only reason you might like to stay there. Along with cabins 18, 19, 21, 27 and the Beach Cabin, Cabin 2 is designated dog-friendly.

Guests often have favourites and we always do our best to accommodate your preferences. No matter which one you choose, regardless of size, location or designation, each cabin is furnished with the same quality and attention to detail – even if it's dog-friendly.

Which weasel is ours?

Weasels are quick and typically nocturnal, so few people saw the two that homesteaded at Killarney Lodge last year. But if you did spot one of the sleek furry creatures, chances are it was around the Lounge or the shuffleboard court. At least one was seen peeking into the staff lunch room.

Weasels have very rapid metabolisms and must consume about half their body weight every day. Usually they eat insects and small mammals, but we suspect these two wouldn't pass up a free lunch.

Before killing cornered prey, weasels will often bob back and forth and hop in a dance meant to intimidate the other animal. They've also been seen – although not by us – to dance simply for the fun of it.



Algonquin Park is home to a variety of weasels including long- and short-tailed weasels, mink, American marten, fisher and otter. The truth is we don't know which species made its home with us.

All weasels have small heads, long flexible necks, short legs and slim bodies. But they vary in size, colour and – if you manage to catch a glimpse of it – the length of their tail.

Predators are few and litter sizes are healthy, so chances are good our weaselly guests will be back. Then perhaps we'll find out which branch of the family our mustelids come from.

The genealogy of pie

Even familiar items can have an exotic provenance. Our **Mile High Lemon Meringue Pie**, on the menu for as long as Eric can remember, has a contested past.

According to one source, lemon-flavoured custards and puddings originated in ancient Greece, while meringue was perfected in the 17th century and the pie we love is a 19th-century creation. An early recipe is attributed to Alexander Frehse, a baker from French-speaking Switzerland.

Other sources claim lemon meringue pie is a 200-year-old American creation. Food historian Becky Diamond believes Mrs. Goodfellow, the teacher who founded America's first cooking school, is "the mother of lemon meringue pie."

The history of udon noodles is no less convoluted, woven through Japanese and Chinese history starting in the 9th century. On the other hand, the beef tenderloin in our popular lunchtime **Beef Udon Bowl**, like all our beef – is 100% pure Canadian Triple A Angus.

Regardless of provenance, we hope you'll enjoy *all* the items on our menu. *Bon appetit!*



Eric hits the trails in New Zealand.

Keeping pace with Eric

Travel and fitness have always been essential spokes in Eric's busy wheel-house. No matter what's going on he fits them in, even at the Lodge.

Last year Eric challenged himself on Bat Lake Trail, jogging 5 kilometres three or four times a week with Freddy, his keen but aging dog. Both improved their times.

Back in the city, Eric and Freddy walked several kilometres every day, and knowing Eric, he wasn't ambling. Aside from earning daily endorphins, he was preparing for an off-season holiday in New Zealand's rugged South Island.

All that exercise paid off on the trails of the Abel Tasman National Park. But the highlight of his trip came much further south, when he celebrated his 70th birthday with a hot-air balloon ride over Queenstown.

Almost two kilometres up, Eric saw lakes, hills, the ocean and, in the distance, the Southern Alps. "We went up at dawn, then floated silently over spectacular scenery.

"It was my first time in a hot-air balloon, and it was fabulous. I highly recommend it."

Taking back the helm

Though never far from the action at Killarney Lodge last summer, Eric discovered that it wasn't as easy to stay behind the scenes as he expected. "After more than 35 years, I wanted to be back in the thick of things."

Daughter Alexandra "did a great job running the Lodge," he says, "but decided she was happier in the city."

Welcome back, Eric – it's good to have you back where we can see you!

Best reasons to celebrate

The times may be trying, but there are still moments to savour and occasions to celebrate – and we'd like to share some of our happy news with you.



Charlotte and Andrew are engaged!

A mutual friend introduced youngest daughter Charlotte to Andrew Kates more than seven years ago in Victoria, British Columbia. Now Char and Andrew live and work in Whistler, have a pup called Oakley and are happier than ever.

Charlotte manages a busy tap house in the local craft brewery. Andrew, originally from Newmarket, Ontario, is a strength and conditioning coach with the Canadian Olympic Halfpipe Ski Team. They share a love of cycling, hiking and back-country skiing in their spectacular surroundings and, when forced to stay indoors, board games and craft beer.

"I knew marriage was in our future but I was completely surprised when he proposed," says Charlotte.

Apparently Andrew had been planning it for months. The weather had to be fine, and they had to be on Whistler Mountain with no work scheduled that day. Romantic and pragmatic; we like him.

"It was absolutely perfect," says Charlotte. "It was a gorgeous sunny day and we had just stopped to admire the view before starting back down."

"We're so happy!"



Good-natured Quinn brings joy to every day

Samantha and Jon are expecting a second baby!

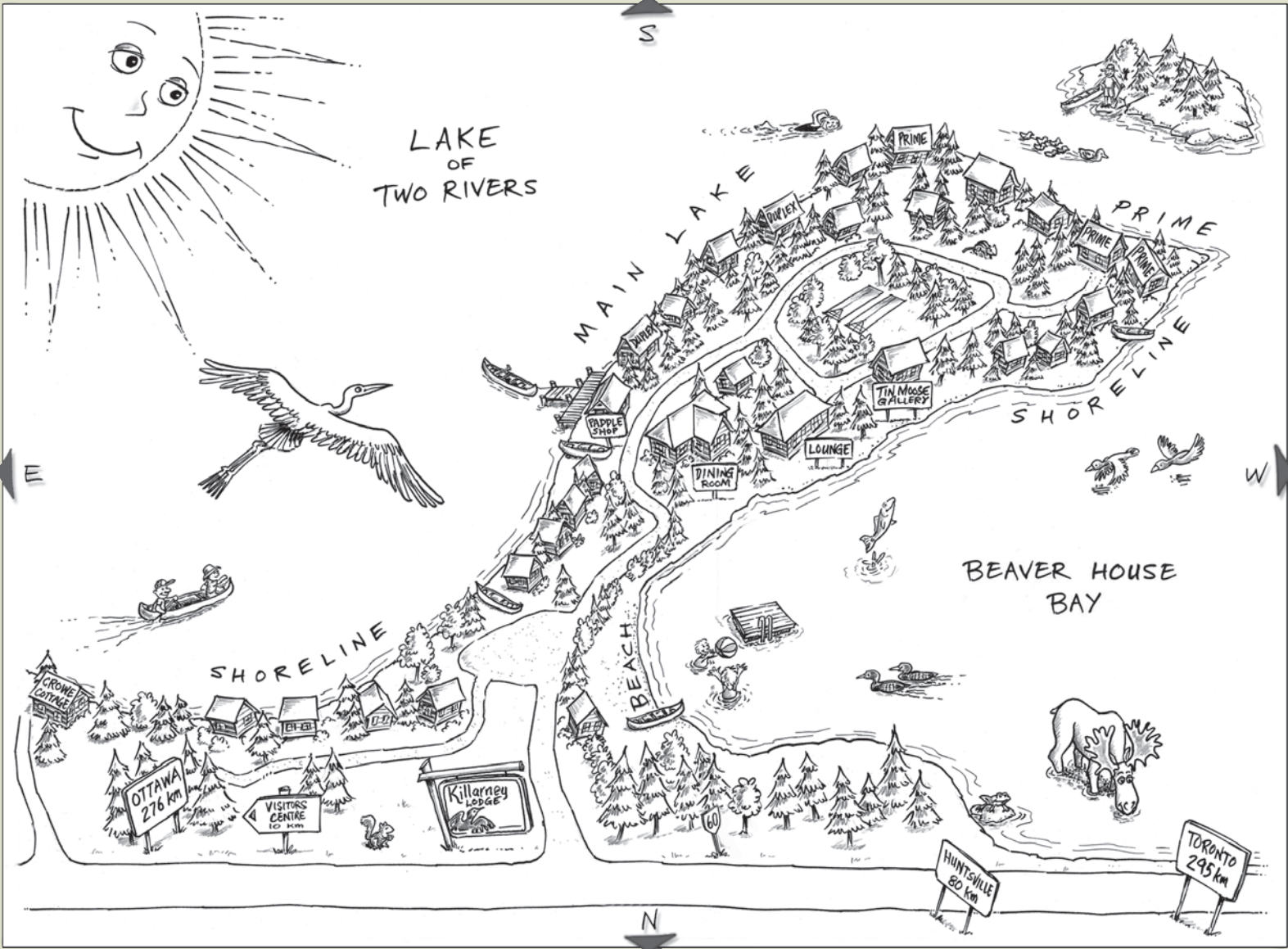
If the Miglin progeny – Samantha, Alexandra, Charlotte and brother Jonathan – are anything to go by, baby Quinn is going to love having a sibling.

Last year Jon and Sam settled in Buffalo, New York, where both work as veterinarians. Sam and Quinn have been busy making friends in various play groups and Jon, originally from Buffalo, is also working on his master's degree in public health.

Sam keeps in touch with her siblings on social media, sending weekly photographs of life with a baby who gets smarter, funnier and more active every day.

We hope and trust that you too had many occasions to feel joy and gratitude during this challenging year.

And, if our luck holds, we will see you this year at Killarney Lodge in Algonquin Park!



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