

Killarney LODGE

2021
news



Another new normal!

Located in the middle of the Algonquin wilderness, we are always going through natural changes, be it seasonal or climatic, we roll with whatever nature presents. At the Lodge, over the decades we've had many surprises to challenge our durability and adaptability but last year brought one nobody expected.

Team Killarney took the outbreak in stride, bending to changing circumstances and adapting to care for our guests as events unfolded. We're happy to say that we were able to welcome many guests to the new normal, but very much missed our friends from across the border and over the seas. Slowly, slowly things will unfold!

We're welcoming guests to the 2021 season who might notice some changes though we have taken the opportunity to go with the circumstances and present some new services for our visitors to enjoy.

Some great ideas

We put health as the top priority, often exceeding any regulation that appeared yet making sure it dovetailed with the customary comfort we provide for our guests. By their nature, our cabins are private and



Our log dining room with space to spare.

socially distanced, and we rearranged the housekeeping to be contactless with cabins electrostatically disinfected between stays.

The lovely log dining room became more spacious with two metre spacing, moving the office/check-in area to the lounge and adding an extra dinner seating. The big news was that adaptation led to innovation and the bright idea came up that we could provide the option of cabin deliveries for breakfast and dinner. We turned the midday meal into a picnic package to enjoy at the cabin or take on an Algonquin Park adventure trip.

Cabin deliveries are here to stay.



In-house models Eric and Cheryl parade the latest in seasonal apparel on the Cabin 25/26 runway during Killarney Fashion Week.

The hot & cold of it

We all have a particular temperature preference and comfort level, if you have seen Eric in the summer he'll have likely been clad in shorts, if you were to see Eric in the winter, he'd likely be wearing shorts!

So when Cheryl - with a definite preference for warm, and Eric - the iceman, decided to stay at the Lodge throughout the 2020 winter in Cabin 25/26 the question was... who would control the thermostat!

The cabin was purpose insulated, with some double glazing and held heat well but winter was outside the door, waiting!

With travel restricting Eric's winter roaming, they made full use of the time cross-country skiing or walking, depending on the temperature!

Prime and smoked

At Killarney lodge, the prime rib is renowned and much enjoyed when it appears on the menu. We source the finest AAA Angus prime beef, always the best starting point, and now we've taken taste and flavour to a new level. We use our in-house Green Mountain smoker using apple wood chips and chicory to enhance the gourmet experience before roasting to your preference and serving.

Lynda and Devan are operators and cooks of this Killarney culinary treat. If you catch the aroma drifting in the air, expect it to be on the evening menu!



Lynda and Devan smoke the AAA for dinner.

Old hands, new blood

Frequent guests will recognize familiar staff they've known over the years. Some of our crew have been with us for thirty years and many come back as part of the Killarney Lodge clan each season to provide the renowned friendly and knowledgeable service visitors so often comment on in the Guest Book.

Alongside these stalwart characters - and they are characters - there's a fresh

contingent of young people starting out, perhaps taking on their first job, getting ready for higher education or earning some money between years at university. Recently, Haylee headed off to be a PSW, Brooke to be a paramedic and Destiny will start as an RN.

We love this youthful energy, which keeps the old-timers on their toes as the youngsters learn to work with and for people and get connected with our vacationing visitors. Perhaps a shy person gets to change that by serving guests in the dining room, maybe the cheerful atmosphere of the lodge and beauty of the surroundings gives them an opportunity to let life plans unfold.

If it's for one season or many, their energy goes into the blend that makes time at Killarney such a pleasant, collective experience for everyone.

Family connections

There are several family connections at the Lodge with parents, children and siblings working in the active life here. Kim, who many will know from the front desk, is one of the long serving staff and this season is joined by Destiny, her granddaughter.

Taliya came to see if there was some summer work for her - with her mother. It turned out her mother Christine had also worked at the Lodge as a teenager completing another cycle here. Taliya will join Destiny serving in the dining room or on the delivery carts, whisking hot meals off to our guests in their cabins with our new "room service."



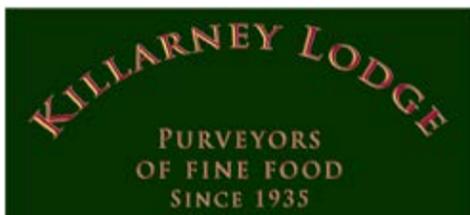
Kensley and Nathan test a new food delivery cart.

Room service to your cabin

Imagine... breakfast in bed, in the wilderness! ... or an intimate evening dinner in your cabin or out on the porch.

This great idea might not have come up unless a certain pandemic came along. Ramona came up with the idea to ease congestion in the dining room by using electric golf carts with custom made enclosures in promptly delivering meals to cabins.

Brilliant! This became so popular with guests as a one-time novelty or a twice daily routine it became a permanent option for our guests. Each cabin is now equipped with dining table and chairs which can easily be set up for breakfast and dinner on the deck overlooking the lake or for an intimate, maybe romantic, evening in your cabin. We even provide the candle!



Good works unnoticed

It may not be a new building or an obvious change in the infrastructure at the Lodge but improvements and upgrades are always in progress. We have hard winters with changes in temperature and humidity during the season which require the attention of our talented maintenance crew. We maintain that particular Killarney comfort and charm for our guests so cabins, bathrooms, fixtures and fittings are cared for and upgraded on a constant basis.

2020 kept us busy with other challenges, but this year we plan changes seen and unseen. We'll also be busy tending the grounds and furthering our return to using only plant species native to the park which we started three years ago under guidance from the team at Algonquin College.

"It's just a cell phone"

Not long ago people would apologetically say "Oh, it's just a photo from my cell phone." In short order, phone technology and the cameras in them have advanced to new heights with results to rival, in some ways surpass, that of expensive professional cameras. Magazine covers, TV commercials and documentaries are now captured using "phones" which

previously required a lot of heavy equipment and the crew to operate it.

The enthusiastic amateur photographer can leave behind the big tripod and heavy camera bag to explore the wilds unencumbered – and come up with a professional result. Features like wide angle lenses, image stabilizing and auto-everything can produce images that previously would have taken time at the computer to perfect. We can now roam freely and take great shots and videos for lasting memories of the time in Algonquin Park and at Killarney Lodge to upload to your favourite social media or send to friends and family.

TIPS:

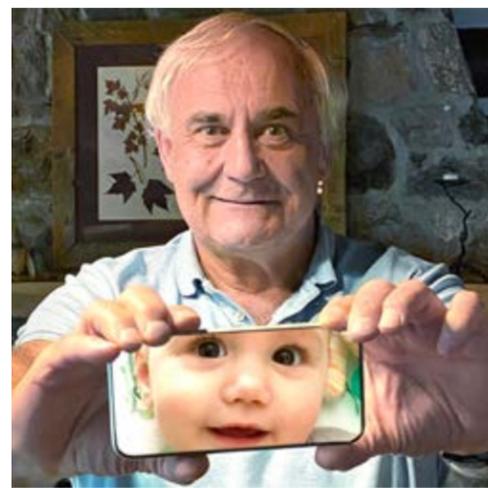
- Take along a little tripod to place the phone on a rock or hold against a tree.
- Use an inexpensive handheld 'steady cam' to get smooth panoramic videos for that professional look.
- For a super close-up, use a Bluetooth remote control and set the phone on your deck, put down some peanuts and wait for the chipmunks!
- Instead of a camera bag, take one of our scrumptious picnic bags with you!
- Please note, drones are not permitted in the Park without a permit.



Beach combing

One might not think of a sandy beach when thinking of the rugged landscape of the Algonquin Park wilderness, but we are fortunate to have one on Beaver House Bay for our guests to enjoy.

This area has swings and chairs to use while watching children of all ages take to the kayaks and paddleboards. A gentle incline into the water makes it safe for paddling, while a short swim to the swim platform provides a great place to lounge and sunbathe.



Eric with that long-distance feeling.

Long distance Granddad!

Samantha and Jon remain happily established in Buffalo NY and are the proud parents of their second child, Penelope Fiona, born September 16th, 2020, a sister for Quinn, who is close to turning three. However due to reasons we needn't explain, the proud grandfather has only seen baby Penelope over WhatsApp, Zoom or FaceTime.

So many of us have had to adjust to seeing distant family and friends this way. Nothing matches close personal contact but technology has brought sound and vision together. Grandpa stays in touch with children and grandchildren this way, but the question is, when Eric eventually gets to see Penelope, will she recognize him if he's not on a screen?

Something to howl about

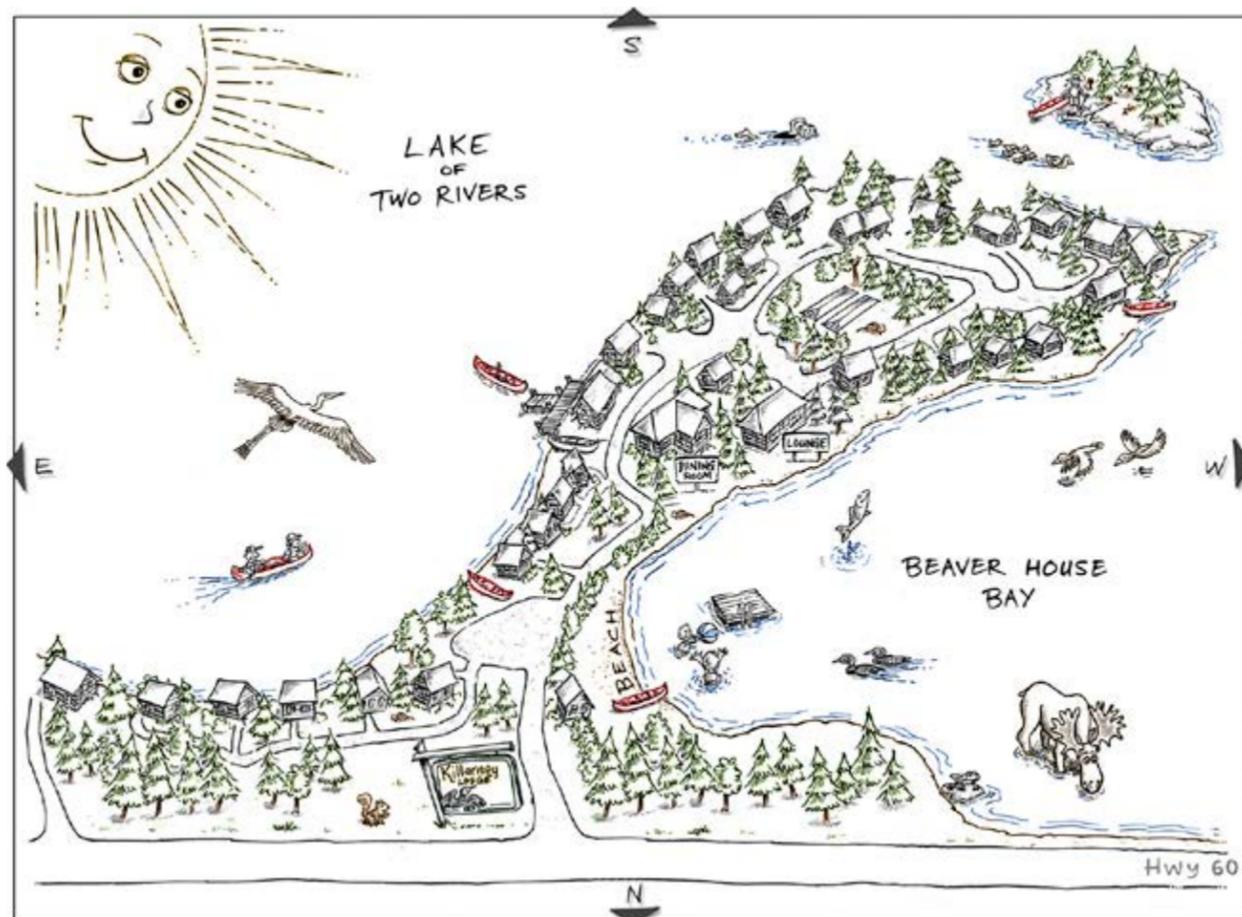
Perhaps the most difficult mammal to spot in Algonquin Provincial Park is the Eastern or Gray Wolf. Naturally shy of humans, they are elusive, and rarely seen in the wild, but they might be heard!

These highly intelligent and social animals are top dog in their environment roaming in packs around their territory, unnoticed by most Park visitors. These magnificent creatures are protected but, restrictions permitting, visitors are invited to meet at the Outdoor Theatre for a presentation on the ecology of wolves. Then participants return to their vehicles and follow park staff to park where the wolves are most likely to be heard.

Dusk to dawn in still, rainless conditions in August and September offer the best chance to hear the pack. The haunting calls are a reminder of the amazing planet we live on and the animals sharing it with us. For more details, check the Algonquin Park link.



Christine Kerrigan



Stamp of approval

It's always nice to be recognized, even for something we were doing already! We were awarded the Safe Travels certificate, a worldwide tourist agencies' set of health and safety protocols which is also backed by the Tourist Industries of Ontario.

Killarney LODGE

Open to October 17

Year round:

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KillarneyLodge.com

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