



Our 2023 News

Killarney LODGE

Forty years... really?

Yes, it's been that long since Eric met the owner of Killarney Lodge, who jokingly said to Eric, "Why don't you buy the Lodge?" But over coffee, Eric decided to purchase the lodge and go all in with the challenge of running a wilderness resort. Like the lodge founder Bert Moore, Eric and brother Sven, who ran the Portage Store, were city boys who answered the call of the wild in Algonquin Park.

At that time, Killarney Lodge did have the cabins but it was also a base for day trippers, fishers and campers setting out for a few days. Some sixty canoes along with boats with outboards were for rent, and there was a gas station on the patch of ground near where the guest lounge stands now.

The peaceful calm guests now enjoy came about quickly once the gas pumps and tanks were removed, along with the rental canoes and noisy motorboats. The crowds of transient visitors were gone and the Killarney Lodge we know and love could gently evolve into the peaceful and relaxing resort we now have to offer.



Stepping back; stepping up

One might think running a Lodge in Algonquin Park would be the best job, but it's an all-in task – full-on during the season, plenty to do in the off-season. For Eric it has been a labour of love, love for Algonquin Park, respect for the wildlife and realising the idea of a restorative resort offering comfort, fine food and great service.

Regular visitors will attest to his enthusiasm and the wealth of local knowledge, history, his many stories and dubious humour!

After forty years, Eric is gradually withdrawing into the background with daughters Charlotte and Alexandra spending longer spells here, learning the ropes and stepping

up their responsibilities along side the ever-reliable Ramona Johnson as manager.

This season, the daughters' stays will be more frequent and longer as the torch passes down the family line.



"The three of us." (Visual Roots Photography)

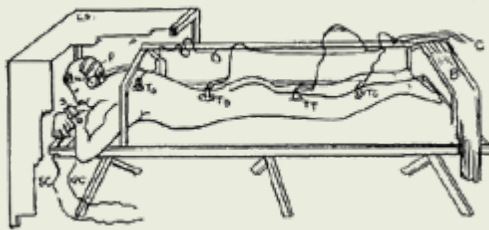
A Killarney Lodge wedding

Driving all the way to Ontario to get married when you live in Whistler, British Columbia, might seem unusual. But when your dad owns a lodge you grew up in and the groom is an Ontario guy, it begins to make sense.

Charlotte and Andrew did just this, filling the car with luggage, wedding outfits and the dog before heading east for the celebration in July. We closed the Lodge for the weekend and were gifted with glorious weather as cabins were filled with guests from across the country and around the world to celebrate the wedding.

The ceremony took place next to the big yellow pine tree between cabins 6 and 7 with the background of Lake of Two Rivers glimmering in the sunlight. We set up a big marquee on the parking lot, which was the venue for 116 guests to dine and dance the night away.

Charlotte and Andrew didn't take a honeymoon straight away. They plan a mini-spring break on B.C.'s Hornby Island and a proper ski honeymoon in Japan next winter.



Eric's change of heart!

Last year, a couple of health issues pointed Eric to get an examination... and in no time he was on the operating table for extensive heart bypass surgery.

Happily for Cheryl, Freddy and all the family, Eric is now fit, slim, full of energy, eating healthily and a good match for the Eric of 40 years ago. We do report that, unfortunately, there is no change in his humour!

Just ask!



Beds made while you're having breakfast? Cabin refreshed and cleaned while you're out on the trail or at the beach? Please, just ask!

On the level

Noticed any staff walking on a tilt? It may have been because the 1935 kitchen floor took on a list with the aging of wood and a lot of use.

Over the years, that part has been used as a bakery, a staff lunchroom and now as an area for salad and dessert preparation.

Ingenious work by our maintenance crew managed to get down to the main support log and level the slanting floor.

At the same time we unblocked the windows to let in more light for staff to work in and enable guests to see their salads and desserts being prepared ... on the level!



A family affair. Nathan, Stephanie, Marie and Emma

All in a staff family

It's apparent to guests new and returning that the relaxed and friendly atmosphere here is largely due to the great team that works at the lodge. Seen and unseen, this great group works hard at providing seamless service to make visitors feel their needs are met and so free to enjoy the calm of Algonquin Park.

Most of our staff are local – friends, neighbours or family – driving in each day on the communal Killarney Lodge 'bus.'

An example of a family affair at the Lodge is Nathan and Stephanie in the dining room, mom and prep cook Marie and Emma handling the dishes.

Many of our staff have been with us for years and are joined each season by students and locals. Some retire... only to reappear the next season!

East Coast scallops and ...

We added scallops to the menu last season, large plump ones to go alongside shrimps for a divine tasting dinner choice.

We are also adding healthier choices in general while maintaining our reputation for fine food. Along with main menu refinements, we'll be offering gluten-free bread and dairy alternatives.



Quick as a fox?

65 kph quick!

These versatile animals roam Algonquin Park, and much of the world, adapting to habitats wild and rural. Apart from the time birthing and raising three to five kits (a skulk of foxes) in the den, foxes are mostly solitary unlike wolves, jackals, and dogs, though they are known to socialize and share food.

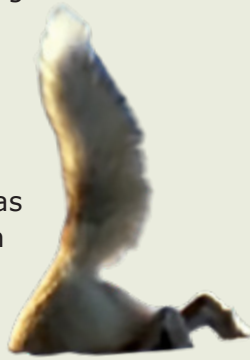
Agile and having long limbs, they range over large areas. In dim light they hunt using their vertically oriented pupils, sensitive whiskers and acute senses to catch voles, mice, ducks and rabbits. Omnivores, foxes also eat insects, vegetation, carrion... and go through your city garbage!

In wintertime, foxes can hunt for prey beneath the snow using their keen senses and the Earth's magnetic field to triangulate prey below before diving down to grab the unsuspecting creature. Weighing no more than 24 pounds (11 kilograms), foxes are not long-lived, rarely reaching beyond four years in the wilds despite being hunted less for fur or sport.

They may be cunning hunters, but they too have predators and competitors, as shown by the wariness when you see them out roaming for food... and their ability to disappear at 65 kph.



A moment in the sun.
Photo by Michael Morgan

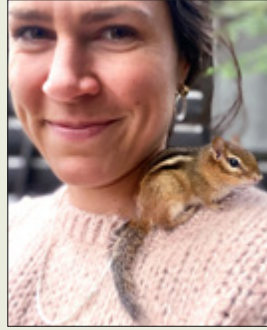


Furry animal rescue

A guest noticed an injured young chipmunk and brought it to Alexandra, who swung into nurse mode. Now named Smushey, the little one was wrapped up, kept warm, watered and fed in its temporary office home.

As Smushey recovered, the furry one ran all over the office – and over Alex, staying close while on the mend. Alex and Smushey formed a firm bond but soon the time came for release back to the wilds, healthy, agile and very human-friendly.

Chipmunks around the Lodge are pretty bold and cheeky. This year, the one you're feeding on your cabin porch just might be the super-friendly Smushey.



Alexandra & Smushey



Charlotte, Sam, Alex and Jonathan in full leaf

Family Miglin Updates

Alexandra and Charlotte are now on "double duty" with time at the Lodge. Charlotte commutes from Whistler as she and Andrew celebrate their first anniversary, and Alexandra from Toronto, where she lives with fiancé Matt and new kitten.

Sam and Jon in Buffalo have their hands full with Grace's arrival, making a complement of three daughters. Jonathan has a new place in Toronto with his dog Thumper, from where he extends his specialty handyman service to sports celebrities.

Root, trunk and branches of the Miglin tree are growing healthy!



Eric and a boat full of paddlers. Photo by Alex.

“Don't seek storms – they will find you.”

... this in a sailboat manual! Lake of Two Rivers, like any open water, can quickly get rough and choppy when wind whips up the surface. It's always wise to ask a weather-savvy staff member if in doubt about canoeing conditions. Over time, we've gone to help several soaked boaters!

One time, a guest who wanted one more paddle before leaving was cautioned about going out on the lake in gusty winds. But he couldn't resist on what looked like a clear sunny day.

Unfortunately, he got into difficulties and the canoe tipped, spilling wallet, car keys and himself into the lake. We quickly got out our 'rescue boat' to save the day ... but not the car keys or wallet. The car had to be towed to a dealership to be unlocked before the family could head home!

Remember, life jackets are the rule. All safety equipment is ready to pick up in the Paddle Shop before heading out on your adventure.



From a kayak, David Wistow's view of a cabin.

Scenes from a sketch pad

First-time visitor David Wistow always carries a sketch book, and when his party stayed at the Lodge in 2022, he made hand-held sketches from kayaks. The lovely drawings show David's keen eye and an artist's first impressions of being at Killarney Lodge.



**Killarney
LODGE**

Open to October 22

Year round:

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