



2024
News



Killarney
LODGE

Welcome to nature

At Killarney Lodge, we extend a warm embrace to those who cherish the joys of nature. Amidst towering pine trees and crystal-clear lakes, every moment is a chance to make fond memories with your loved ones.

Whether you're planning your first visit, or are a seasoned member of the Killarney Lodge family, we invite you to join us as we celebrate the magic of the great outdoors!

Our fabulous bakers

Of the many delicious items in our dining room, homemade pies, cakes and dinner rolls are among the most loved. Working tirelessly to create these delectable goodies are Sharon and Rosemary, our extraordinary bakers.

Sharon started at Killarney Lodge during the previous owners' tenure, when she was only 14 years old. Rosemary began working for the Miglin family at the Portage Store. When Eric purchased the Lodge in 1984, Rose followed shortly after. Between the two of them, they have almost 80 years' experience at Killarney Lodge!

That experience gets put to good use. During the peak summer months, our bakers make up to 120 dinner rolls and 120 maple leaf cookies, and roll out seven sheets of pie crust to make 36 pie shells – every day!

These hard workers are also our resident gardeners. In the afternoons – once the bread has risen and the cheesecake has set – Rose and Sharon head outside to maintain our many gardens. These two never stop!

You can taste the love and dedication they put into the cookies in our guest lounge, the sandwich buns in your picnic, and the variety of luscious desserts in our dining room. Try the brownie; it's Rose's favourite item! Sharon loves making our pecan pie, but her favourite to eat? Also the brownie.

We're glad they get to enjoy their delicious creations, too.



Sharon & Rose –
double the bakers, double the deliciousness



No reservation needed for this guest.

No meat? No problem!

Menus at Killarney Lodge have always offered a variety of options, always including a vegetarian choice. With a plant-forward lifestyle being increasingly popular, we decided to raise our game. Our talented cooks embraced what seemed a daunting task, stepped out of their comfort zone, and started cooking with ingredients like tofu and halloumi.

Our lunch menu added black bean and cauliflower tacos, and a tahini-tofu grain bowl. A vegetable Wellington stuffed with eggplant, zucchini and roasted red pepper joined our dinner menu, and quickly became a favourite.

So, whether your diet is fully plant-based, or you simply want to consume a little less meat, be sure to give our new items a try. You won't be disappointed!

... and don't let anything go to waste!

The number one complaint we hear in the dining room? "The portions are so big it's too much food!" Our insider secret: you are always welcome to order half-sizes of any entrée. That way nothing goes to waste, and you save space for dessert!



Discover our plant-powered plates!



The Mighty Moose

Algonquin Park is home to hundreds of species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Perhaps the most revered is the moose, with visitors coming to Algonquin Park from far and wide to glimpse these majestic creatures. The park has more than 7000 square kilometres for wildlife to wander in, but sometimes they come through our neck of the woods.

While opening the office one morning last spring, Alexandra was surprised to see a moose standing on the front of the dining room steps! (Did he want a table for breakfast?)

The moose visited several times last year, ambling in the parking lot and between cabins before heading back across the highway into the forest.

Moose make for an impressive wildlife sighting. The largest member of the deer family, the average male weighs 800 pounds, but can weigh as much as 1800.

Moose shed their antlers each winter, then begin to grow them again in the spring, reaching their full size around September. Moose antlers grow in weight and size each year, spanning up to six feet. The bigger the antlers, the older the moose; some live 20 years.

Sighting tips

Guests often ask how to sight a moose. Here are some moose-spotting tips:

1) Head out at dawn or dusk. Cooler temperatures early in the morning and in the evening are when moose are most active. So set your alarm and get up early, or enjoy the first dinner seating, then jump in your car.

2) The best place to see moose is right along the Highway 60 corridor. Keep an eye out while driving, especially in low-lying areas near bogs and ponds. Some places we've had luck are the marshes near the Centennial Ridges trail east of Killarney Lodge, or the straightaway near Hemlock Bluff trail to the west.

3) Be safe. If you spot a moose, pull onto the highway shoulder and keep an eye out for other vehicles. Watch the moose from a respectful distance, and take lots of photos of them in their natural habitat.

We're always delighted to hear about moose sightings; many guests describe them as the highlight of their trip. Good luck on your moose-spotting endeavours, whether in a morning car ride or by gazing outside the dining room window.



Strolling by the lake.



Eric and the guys studying the basics.

Fixing up the Big One

There's never a shortage of work to do on Killarney Lodge's cabins. Most are more than 30 years old, so general wear and tear is inevitable.

But when the roof on Cabin 18 – one of the biggest on the property – started leaking last summer, it shot straight to the top of the fix-it list. And the maintenance guys started thinking: "What else needs doing?"

Examining the multitude of pipes flowing this way and that under Cabin 18, it became clear that the plumbing system needed upgrading and simplification. A new drainage ditch around the cabin will be dug, as melting spring snow collects in huge pools of water under the cabin. Upgrades will be made to the second bathroom ... yes, on the entire property, Cabin 18 is the only one with two full bathrooms.

Our maintenance crew have their work cut out for them this year!

Vintage findings

Built in 1935, Killarney Lodge has seen paraphernalia produced over almost nine decades. You never know where some might pop up. We're thrilled when guests present flea-market and garage-sale finds of vintage artifacts.

Postcards depicting our dining room as it looked in the 1950s are



displayed at the front desk – guests marvel that light fixtures remain the same. Photos found in long-forgotten family albums are shared, as senior guests proudly point out their childhood selves in a Killarney canoe.

This past summer, a guest brought a brochure of an early iteration of Algonquin Park. As the piece was undated, Eric put his sleuth skills to the test.

The brochure lists F.A. MacDougall as Ontario's deputy minister of lands and forests. It's a familiar name, as the section of Highway 60 running through the park is designated the Frank MacDougall parkway. A superintendent of Algonquin Park for most of the 1930s, MacDougall was appointed deputy minister in 1941.

Our collection of vintage Killarney artifacts grows each year. We love to see what our guests turn up with.



Farewell to Freddy

A staple at Killarney Lodge for many years, our faithful friend will be remembered for his happy face and wagging tail, as well as his wheelchair that kept him chasing chipmunks until the end. He will be missed.

The family that works together...travels together!

After a long season working at Killarney Lodge, you'd think most people would crave the comforts of home and a return to routine. Not Charlotte and Alexandra.

After six months working together last season, Alex and Char weren't ready to say goodbye to each other yet. Within weeks of the Lodge closing for the winter, they boarded a plane to Scotland for a family wedding, with Cheryl and Eric in tow. (Eric couldn't resist the chance to wear a kilt.)

The weekend consisted of drives through the Scottish Highlands, distillery tours, and a ceremony at the historic Blair Atholl castle. Freed (for a while) from the stresses of running a business, the family relished some



Alex, Eric and Charlotte in the Scottish Highlands

quality time ... even nicer over a wee dram of Scotch.

After the Scottish festivities, the sisters spent a few days in Copenhagen, walking all over the city and eating Smørrebrød, a traditional open-faced Danish sandwich.

They'll be rested, rejuvenated and ready for another season at the Lodge!

Miglin family updates

As the four Miglin 'children' are now in their thirties with families of their own, family updates have taken a decidedly more grown-up tone. Annual check-ins have become more routine – but don't worry, they're still having fun.

Samantha and husband Jon are now the proud parents of three girls under six years old. With the need for more space painfully clear, they left downtown Buffalo for the suburbs. The new house boasts five bedrooms in a quiet neighbourhood, and a backyard where the girls routinely spot deer.

Jonathan made his own move last year to a new apartment, and then upgraded it. As a contractor, he knows how to tackle any home project, whether it's custom beds and shelving, or a full revamp of his back patio. Between jobs, he always finds time for an annual pilgrimage out west to the ski slopes.

Alexandra and Charlotte were happy to be reunited with their respective partners after six months of commuting from the Lodge. Charlotte and Andrew have settled in to married life, with the big adventure being their long-awaited honeymoon. The couple spent two weeks skiing in Hokkaido, experiencing some of the best snow in the world and enjoying Japanese cuisine.

Meanwhile, Alexandra and partner Matt are gearing up for their big adventure: they're getting married at the Lodge this August! Amidst booking photographers, officiants and a tent to accommodate 120 guests, Alex still found time for a girls' trip to Miami.

Having inherited their dad's adventure genes, these adults will always find a way to stay young at heart!



Killarney LODGE

Open May 10 to October 27

Year round:

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