

Killarney LODGE 2012



Welcome to Killarney Lodge, where everything stays the same – or does it?

While the outside world gallops along, we offer a quiet haven where guests can appreciate one another, eat well and get at solid night's sleep.

Generations of guests have come, and every year they say, "Don't change a thing." We're committed to preserving the spirit of the Lodge – but we're always looking for ways to make your stay more enjoyable.

This year you'll find new deck chairs and canoes, cute key fobs, and a surprise on your pillow. We're also collecting helpful information about the Lodge and the Park for each cabin.

In the kitchen, we're refining recipes, switching this for that, using less salt, adding fresh herbs and organic foods. We're tweaking favourite dishes and learning what our new state-of-the-art convection oven can do.

Gardeners may notice new herbs and perennials. Art lovers may discover stunning new books about the Group of Seven. New silverware and white table linens will add a touch of elegance to your evening meal.

Moving forward while standing still – that's the trick. If we've done it right, our improvements will be almost imperceptible. We hope you like them. In fact, we rather hope you don't notice. *Enjoy!*



Family traditions: the next generation of Loevners jumps in.

says Poppy. "They were high school sweethearts who rekindled their love after decades apart."

Who says romance is dead? Not us!

It's a family affair

If romance sets us tingling, how do we feel when guests celebrate an anniversary at Killarney, or gather children and grandchildren for a family reunion?

Honoured, that's how we feel. Honoured. And we love watching children grow up.

Last year, we hosted several reunions. Some families came for the first time; some, like the Comacks, bring three generations almost every year.

Everyone is free to choose their level of activity – or non-activity. Parents and grandparents take turns with little ones, and children revel in the love and attention. Sometimes it's Mom's first real holiday, and she luxuriates in letting others plan menus and activities (as well as shop, cook and clean!).

"The heck with camping and forget the cottage!" said one well-rested mother.

"I got a chance to really appreciate my family," said another. "Thank you for making this a true holiday."

You're most welcome.

Digital nomad

Reporter Andrew Evans travels the world blogging for National Geographic. As we write he's in the Zomba district of Malawi, but last summer he explored Algonquin Park from Killarney Lodge.

In his video "A Day in Algonquin," Andrew takes you paddling ("you can't *not* go in a canoe"), flying over the Park in a small float plane ("All you could see was Algonquin Park ... [it's] the size of Delaware!") and swimming in Lake of Two Rivers ("fantastic").

"I have to pinch myself, and remind myself that I am working." We know how you feel, Andrew.

You can follow Andrew on Twitter at @WheresAndrew or at <http://digitalnomad.nationalgeographic.com>. To see "A Day in Algonquin Park," visit <http://tinyurl.com/7szwssd>.



If we've got it, you can have it
Don't forget you can have anything on the day's menu – in any combination, order or size. Ask for seconds, even thirds. Heck, have every dessert on the menu (calories don't count while you're on holiday, do they?). Our kitchen is your kitchen.

reviews. Janice made fabulous cabbage rolls and this year is adding Ukrainian perogies to our repertoire. Lemon caper relish was a bust, but the cranberry sauce with fresh peaches was good enough to eat with a spoon.

Because store-bought wasn't good enough, this year we're making our own satays, and chutney to go with curried chicken salad. With luck, Orianna will once again bring organic vegetables from her cottage garden and JC will bring elegant garnishes such as blueberry sprigs.

Do let us know what dishes are good – or not so good – so we can make them even better.

A little gourmet, a little gourmand

Killarney Lodge isn't a big resort, and we like it that way. We get to know our guests and work closely with our staff.

The lines get a little blurry sometimes, never more than when Poppy took over the kitchen last summer. "I love to experiment and I invited everyone to get involved," she says.

"Hierarchy went out the window and so did our routines. We were completely out of our comfort zone. It was collaborative, it was exhausting and it was exhilarating."

With expert advice from a certified chef de cuisine, we inaugurated some subtle changes to our menu. "Our goal was to add zest to our home-style favourites."



SUCCESS! Orianna and her great aunt Pauline decide the cranberry-peach experiment is worth preserving.

In some cases we changed how a dish was prepared. Sometimes we introduced new ingredients. Nothing was sacred, not even the pecan pie. Well, maybe the pecan pie.

When guests praised a dish – which they often did – the whole kitchen smiled.

Roasted anise and fennel were introduced to rave



L: David Johnson with his parents at Killarney Lodge in 1962.
R: David and his wife, Beth, celebrate their 40th anniversary at the Lodge in 2006. Since honeymooning here, they've returned from Ohio many times. Recently they learned that Anne Craftchick, *Jill-of-all-trades in our kitchen, is the daughter of the family's Algonquin Park guide half a century ago.*

Romance Killarney style

We know that guests do it. In the dining room, on their decks, on rocks warmed by the sun, high on their favourite lookout point and even in a canoe. Goodness knows how often it happens in the privacy of their cabin. Sometimes they do it more than once, and sometimes they even let us know ahead of time.

Do we mind? Not at all. We love it when guests get engaged at Killarney Lodge.

What did you think we were talking about?

While it's not unusual to pop the question in a canoe – at least not in Algonquin Park – one suitor was particularly exacting. He had us look up precisely when the sun would set so he could propose at the most romantic time. Of course his sweetie said yes; who could resist?

We may bask in the glow of young love, but we have a soft spot for older couples who take a second chance on love. Sometimes they're the most romantic.

"Our favourite honeymooners were in their 80s,"



Andrew Evans blogs from Lake of Two Rivers.



WHERE'S BUNG? Never shy, maintenance man Trueman "Bung" Sovie models a new apron with our kitchen staff.

A never-ending list and a few good men

Maintaining an old house or cottage usually means never saying, "It's finished." (Although you might say, "I'm done!") Generally, what you painted, purchased or repaired 10 or 20 years ago needs repainting, replacing or redoing. And if you ever approach the bottom of your *must-do* list, the *wish* list takes over.



Killarney has 27 cabins, some of which were built in the 1930s and '40s. Luckily we also have a talented and industrious maintenance staff.

Last year they literally ripped out the last old-style bathrooms in the Lodge, in Duplexes 5 and 6, built larger washrooms and installed sparkling new fixtures. Now every cabin has a bath as well as a shower.

And when we decided that Cabin 6 needed more light, the men got out their saws, cut a hole and installed a new window. Now the afternoon sun streams in, but without compromising privacy.

This year we are extending the kitchen to make room for a new convection oven that has the cooks swooning. We're also converting the cabin on the beach, where the head chef used to bunk, into a waterfront guest lounge.

Eric in the Snow Zone

When Eric spent much of the off-season developing our reservation system last year, he discovered that he worked well at the Lodge: it was cold, but also quiet. Now that the system is online, he can work on it anywhere – so he went back to the Lodge. He stayed for days at a time, revelling in the serenity and solitude, and binging on work.

While Poppy was basking in one of the warmest winters in Toronto history, Eric sent almost daily photos of the latest snowfall and reports of how long it took to clear the laneway.



Back in the city, Eric and Poppy signed up for a three-week survey course in veterinary science 75 kilometres away, in Guelph. No coincidence, that: it let them combine visits with Samantha and a fascinating, sometimes gory, glimpse into the world she is studying.

But as long as snow falls on the mountains of British Columbia (and he can still strap on a pair of skis), Eric will heed the call. So, this winter – during avalanche season – he went mountain skiing at Durrand

Vertical snow proves irresistible.

Glacier for the 11th time. A few weeks later he returned west to ski White Grizzly and Lake Louise with Sam and Jonathan.

Then, just as he and brother Sven were on the last run of their annual ski trip to Big Red, White Grizzly reported two-and-a-half feet of snow in 36 hours. Who could resist? Certainly not Eric – back he went.



Sam, Jonathan, Al and Char squeeze in a visit.

Clearing the digital cobwebs

We appreciate the pleasure and benefits of unplugging on vacation, but the Internet is an undeniable resource for travellers. Killarney Lodge's first website went up in 1997, and that summer guests came from as far away as Japan and India as well from Europe and the United States.

Since then, websites have become much more sophisticated. In recent years we couldn't deny the digital cobwebs at www.killarney-lodge.com – especially when guests told us our site didn't do us justice. So, during the winter of 2011, while Eric focused on our new online reservation system, Poppy worked with developers on a whole new website.



Our new QR code.

"Holidays are precious, and it's hard to envision a place you've never been to," says Poppy. "So we decided to tell our story with great photos."

Photographer and friend Christopher Dew has been coming to Killarney for years, documenting the setting and people that make the Lodge so unique.

"The website has all the information you need, but Christopher's photographs take you there," Poppy adds.

Have a look, and tell us what you think. To see more of Chris's portfolio, visit www.christopher-dew.com – you won't be sorry.

Fitting Killarney Lodge into a smartphone

You see them on posters, advertisements and in bus shelters. The ubiquitous black-and-white squares that look like op art but are actually QR (quick response) codes.

For people with smartphones (you know who you are), these codes provide an instant link to websites designed for small screens. Small, yes, but you can make reservations and place orders on some of these mobile upstarts.

Our mini-site should be ready by early summer.

Setting sights, going places

It's official. We're empty nesters, and it feels – odd. There's food in the fridge, we can't blame anyone else if the house is a mess, and it's very, very quiet.

Samantha, 26, just finished her second year of veterinarian studies at the University of Guelph. She absolutely loves it, which is good because the program is relentless and exhausting. Nevertheless, Sam squeezed in a ski trip with her dad, and helped raise money for Global Vets, which sends student vets to developing nations.

This summer she'll be in India for six weeks, teaching animal husbandry in a Global Vets program.

Alexandra, 23, is working and enjoying an enviable after-work life – with a seemingly inexhaustible group of friends – to the fullest. Sharing a Toronto apartment with Charlotte, she's excited to have her own place, paying rent, buying groceries and managing bills (remember when you thought that stuff was fun?).

We wondered how the girls would feel, living across from an inner-city homeless shelter. But they're taking the neighbourhood in stride, witnessing a different way of life in their own home town.

Charlotte, 22, graduated in art history from Queen's University last year and, like Sam before her, is taking some time to think about her next big step. She's working in a vet's office and saving up for some serious travelling before committing to a graduate program. She also took architectural drafting at Ryerson University, just for fun.

Jonathan, 21, just finished his first year at Queen's. He

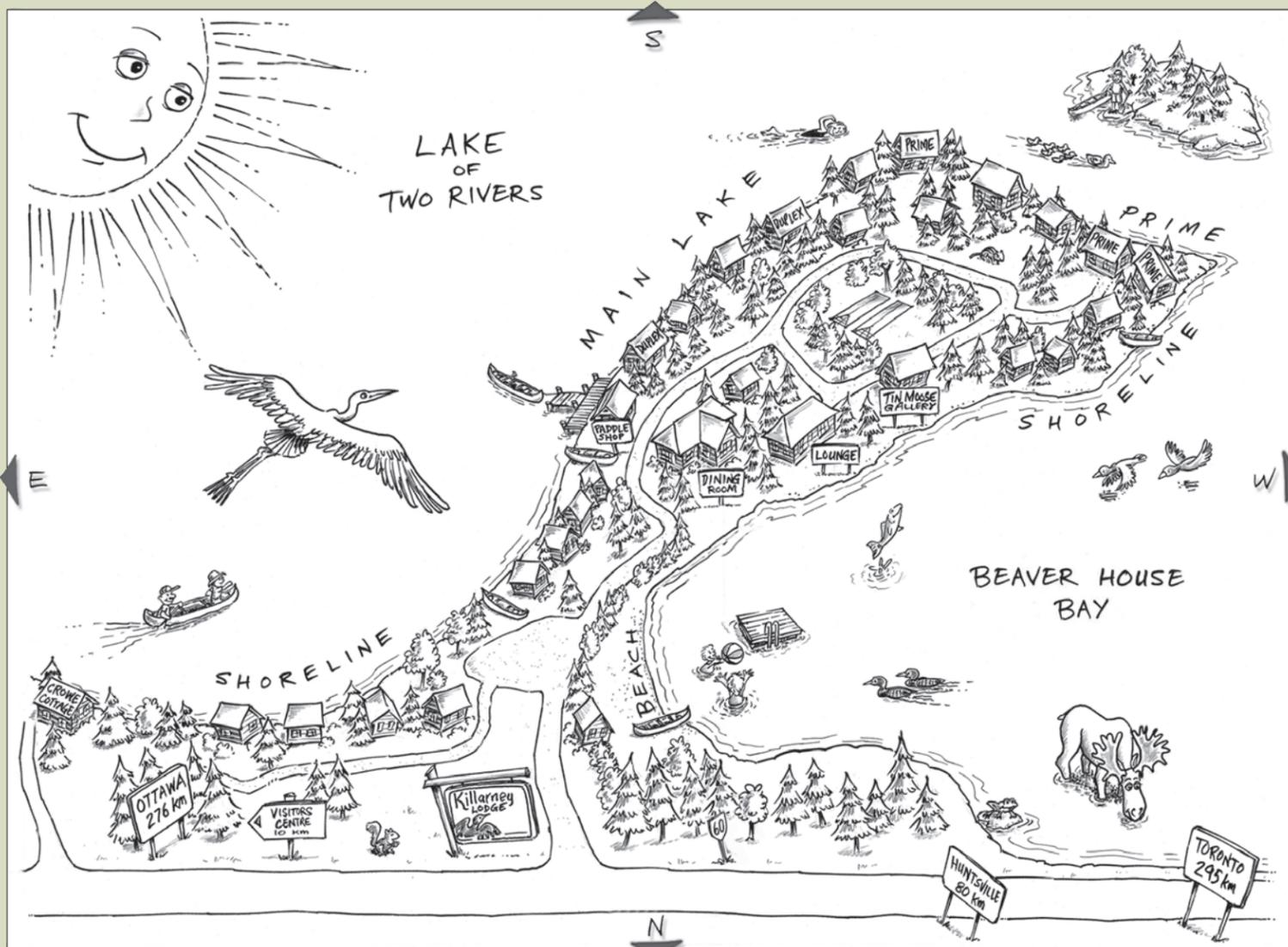
loves university life, loves residence and is fascinated by economics. Who knew?! At six feet tall, he towers over his older sisters, and still plays hockey to blow off some of his amazing energy. This summer he's working at the Portage Store, and we look forward to catching up each time he zips through for a good meal.

We're looking forward to seeing you too – but for a little bit longer!

Eric & Poppy



FROSTY (1996-2011)
Our house isn't the same.



Killarney Lodge

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Open May 11 to October 14

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