



News from the Lodge



Spring 2026

All the News that's fit to Point....

...by Richard Hill

Every Spring, It's the... Winter Shutdown Report:



If you have read the last newsletter, you know what we planned to do during our big week of maintenance in December, and it pretty much went off as planned. We did all the usual routine stuff, including moving all the furniture in the lounge and dining room for maintenance on the floors,

checking the fire system, in-depth cleaning everywhere, rug shampooing, etc. as we have to do every year. The plan to put a nice sealing finish on the stone floor in the lobby, that was installed last year, went well too.



We continued with our septic system upgrades, with the only hitch

being the removal and replacement of the old tank at the field washrooms. We were surprised to find the old one was 'poured in place' with thick walls and tons of rebar that made it problematic to remove and didn't provide a good fit for the new one. However, it didn't need to be completed by the end of the week like all the other stuff, so it turned out okay a bit later.

We also managed to make a huge mess by replacing a bunch of our old copper plumbing in the ceilings of the kitchen and housekeeping room with new, up to date 'Pex' pipe. This should reduce the number of leaks and also make them much easier to fix. Both of these should be prefaced with the word 'significantly'.



We also managed to schedule in a jumpin' and bumpin' staff party featuring local food, lot's of spouses and 'significant others' in attendance and top quality 'entertainment' showcasing a lot of our very, and some not so very, talented staff with 'D.J. Baby D's' karaoke fun-fest.

All in all, it was a busy, fun and productive week, and if you like what you do, it's not really work.

As Usual, It's good to Know... What's Coming Up:

Before we get going with this article, I didn't have room to mention in the last column that the ladies of housekeeping really like the new built-in vacuum that we installed in the lounge. It's a lot quieter and easier to use than



Looks a little crooked, no?

the other units. We're looking into continuing that system into the rumpus room, which should be easy, soon.

So, okay, what's coming up? Well, in the last issue we talked about the new shed for the Cutter at the woodyard and the renovation of the woodshop, and those are all still a 'go', but probably starting next season, after we recover from the 'Orchard House' build.

More immediately, we will be taking advantage of the fact that Marlie's husband, Kory (*who is moving into the Orchard House with his wife and two daughters*), is a very handy cat, indeed. So, rather than upsetting the apple cart of the existing maintenance department, that handles a bunch of routine stuff anyway, we are going to start him off on his new career with a bunch of projects that have just been a bit of a stretch for our existing 'operational' crew to get at.

Jobs being tackled that you may notice will include, but not be limited to: caulking and staining the main lodge, re-painting the back staircase's metal frame, converting the barbeque tables into more 'intimate group' seating models, repairing the roof of the massage room, converting our old office into a more inviting 'spa-treatment' room, re-building the vegetable storage on the back deck, helping me re-furbish the chains and anchors for the dock (*see photo, above*), being part of the Cutter shed and shop renovation jobs, building benches for the fire pits and probably...no for sure, much, much more.

He will not be involved in installing R.V. pads, waterslides, firing ranges, jet-ski moorage, zip lines or 'swim with the Orca' tanks.

This may provide me with a bit of time in my 'golden years' (*named for how many times you get up per night*), to spend some time in our newly-renovated shop to make fun little accoutrements like lobby coat and shoe racks that will increase your vacationing pleasure.



It was a project, now it's a house...
Orchard House Completed:



'Before'

Regular readers have been following this project for awhile, especially since it took over a year and a half to get the permit. Anyway, at press time, the 'push to final inspection' was underway as the final paint, sinks, taps, appliances and electrical cover plates were being installed. Unless something went really sideways, Marlie and the gang moved in during the first week of March (*after press time*).

While you'll see lots of Marlie and Kory now, what this means is that the project is not longer a 'project' and actually someone's house with little kids and a reasonable expectation of normal privacy, so I'll have to ask that walking tours of the site come to an end and we let the kids get on with their new lives. However, questions are fine. To answer one: 'yes, it's finished'.



'After'

There are too many people to thank individually for the great work done on the place, that started last August and it is great to have a new life for the only building that was on the property when Dad moved on in 1929.



Lorraine Wants to Know....

Where Did All The Books Go?

It wasn't that long ago that we did a huge purge at our house and brought a lot of books over to re-stock the shelves, post covid, in addition to all the others that had been donated by generous guests over the years.

If guests are reading a book and don't finish it during their stay, they are almost always welcome to take it home to complete (*except for the big 'coffee table ones*) and bring back on their next visit.

There must be a lot of slow readers amongst our guests, because our supplies have dwindled. So, if you have a lodge book at home, or another one that you think would be suitable here, (*but please not the 20 boxes of paperbacks in the garage*) it would be nice to see our shelves offering a bit of a variety for everyone again. Thanks!

Our Friends Want to Join Us...

But Can't Get In!

You can ask the office to add a 'would like extra room' request to your existing reservation. Then, if somebody cancels, we look down the boards, see your note and give you a call. Watch our website as well and check the back page of this newsletter for some other tips on getting your friends their own spot here.

Wishing Him Well...

Tom is Moving On:



We're not happy about it but proving *once again* how 'smart' he is, Tom is taking the opportunity to live life with his wife, Deb, and knock a few things off their bucket list while they are still able and relatively young. This will start with a fabulous cruise to Japan this fall. Envious, me?

Anyway, most kidding aside, Tom has been with us since

2019 (*the dawn of Covid*) and his training, experience, and helpful, professional attitude were absolutely invaluable during that very trying time when our resources were stretched and a cool head (with actually a lot of brains in it) was a most welcome addition to our exhausted little team.



The top photo shows him 'helping out' with maintenance when we were

closed, the middle one is him trying to convince me to raise the rates again, and the bottom one shows the commitment to helping raise and maintain staff morale with Tara during a dark time when he could have focused on other things, like maintaining his dignity.

He became a close friend over the too short years and I am trying to make the position of 'independent consultant' attractive to him so he'll come by every now and then and have a beer with me.

He has modernized and streamlined our accounting and record keeping systems immeasurably and our new person will walk into a much more organized workplace.

Which means that we won't need to find someone like Tom Skomorowski again, like that's even possible.



On a Much Sadder Note...

Charlene Booth

December 23rd, 2025



With a very heavy heart I have to let you know that our dear friend, the funny, compassionate, outgoing, lovely and talented wife of our bandmate John, Charlene Booth lost her battle with cancer that began in May of 2025.

Charlene used to come down with her husband to listen to the music he made with us and soon discovered not only her lovely voice but a quick talent for the guitar, mandolin and percussion that added a whole new level of musicality and texture to the fun we were already having here.

They maintained an impressive garden and had recently enjoyed some European river cruises where they joined in with the entertainment. She is sadly missed by everyone here, but will remain in our hearts forever.



Yikes, a Whole Page of...
Old Timey Photographs.

*Luck, Skill or...
 Something Else?*



These photos outline the big project that we did on the old, original lodge the Spring before it burned down in 1985. The original structure of the building is

shown in the photo above and the little shingled 'add on' portion was built on the deck that ran around the ocean side of the building. That deck was 'glassed in' as a covered porch, which long-time guests will remember.

However the seal between the glass roof panes and the log wall was difficult to maintain and years of rain eventually caused the logs on the ocean side of the building to rot to the point where they were not structurally sound anymore.

The photo at the top is the little 'add on' at the end of the kitchen with the deck to it's left and the glass gone, the next photo is a close up of the same area with the lower windows being the end wall of the dining room and the upper ones Room #9. The bottom photo is of Don looking at the extent of the rot that was evident when we removed some of the logs.

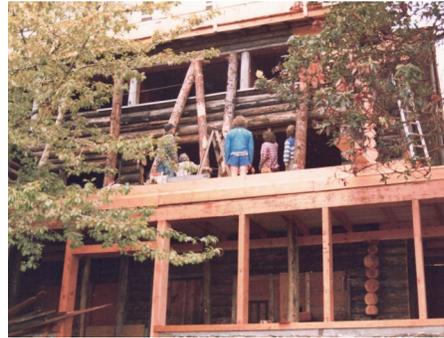


For scale, the corner shown in the middle photo is where the second of the two big posts in the present day dining room is now. We built the new lodge the same size as the old one, but included the deck area.

The rot presented quite a number of challenges like, 1) what do we support the building with when we take the rotten wall out? 2) what do we replace it with that will support the upper floors structurally? And 3) how the heck do we do all this stuff, anyways??



It's a good thing that Ron Friend was an engineer and Ray Green was very innovative. The top photo in the next column shows us all looking bewilderedly at the rotten wall once we had built a solid floor structure outside the basement (*where the old original deck used to be*), and supported the upper floor by bracing log supports under the tops of the windows of the guest rooms, since the logs above where the glass roof was attached were still sound.



The next step was to remove all the rotten wood and fill the now intimidating hole with a large beam up top, supported by posts at the ends and middle. The beam is shown in the middle photo, delivered by our overworked firewood truck after being 'chainsaw milled' to size. That took care of the 'upper floor support' issue, now it was time to close everything back up again so we'd end up with a larger dining room, with a permanent roof instead of a leaky glass one.

That is where the 'Luck, Skill or *Something Else*' comes in.

We decide to go with a shake roof with lots of skylights. Not only would it bring in lots of light like the old one and be better insulated, but it would allow us to install a small yet solid walkway outside of the guest room windows that could be used by patrons to exit the building in case there was an emergency. That was impossible with the old, single pane glass



roof. The photo to the left shows the nearly completed renovation with the roof on, the dining room windows installed and the brand new 'rumpus room' waiting for it's big panes below. Since we were doing all that

stuff, we thought we might as well upgrade the little ladder that ran down the front roof, that remained there from the early 1950's when Dad added the 'Penthouse' (*shown*).

Here's the 'something else' part. Three months later, on October 4th, 1985, the original lodge, with oil rubbed logs, open staircases, cedar infill and a new 'kindling' roof caught on fire. All 20 people inside escaped via the brand new walkways we had just finished upgrading. Skill, luck or...something else?



New Guest Information:

...on reserving and re-booking.

Re-Booking Your Room: In order to support as many of you, who wish to be regular guests, as possible, our reservation system only works for a period of **one year** in advance of today's date. So if you want to come at the same time, year to year (*for whatever reason, and we hope you do*) you can, because nobody can book **your** room 14 months ahead, and take **your** spot.

Getting Your Own Reservation: We have tried, and it is nearly impossible to maintain a regular 'Waiting List' because there are too many different dates, accommodation types and combinations of the two.

If you're in someone else's spot (ie: *holding a friend's reservation for them*) we will be re-booking the spot for them, but you can ask them to put a '**would like another reservation**' request on their reservation, so if we get a cancellation we call *them* and can get *you* in.

If you call the office and we don't have the room you'd like, it's suggested that you book whatever we have and ask that a '**would like upgrade**' be noted. If a better room comes available, you'll have a chance at it, depending on who requested an upgrade first.

Try calling us two weeks ahead of your preferred date, that is when lots of people cancel because they can still get their deposits refunded if they give us that much notice.

Don't forget to check the website for our 'post it note' vacancy page, at yellowpointlodge.com and keep your eye on our Facebook posts, as well.

...and on more general policies.

Cellphones and Laptops: are fine anywhere *except*, at the request of a lot of guests, in **the main lounge and dining room**. The lobby is fine, and the downstairs lounge is encouraged. However 'E-readers' and 'tablets' are okay in the big, main room (*they're more discrete*). We also don't have wi-fi, (*by request*) and probably never will.

Drinking in the Hot Tub: is a big health and safety risk, and, I'm afraid has to be on our 'strictly prohibited' list. This is for everyone's well being. Please enjoy beverages before or after, but not *during* your visit to the hot tub.

Really general policies: are probably defined as 'The Golden Rule'. We don't have a ton of specific rules around here, (*exception: above*) and since we seem to attract a fairly well behaved, top quality group of guests, rules and regulations are seldom an issue. We like people to have all the fun they want (*hence the sprung dance floor*) but not at the expense of the other guests ability to relax and enjoy themselves.

F.A.Q.

...frequently avoided questions

How come I can't bring my own wine into the lounge or dining room?

Basically, it's because we have a liquor licence. We are permitted to sell alcoholic beverages to our guests for their enjoyment in our public areas, but if you wish to furnish your own drinks, they'll have to be enjoyed in the comfort, or Spartan surroundings, of your room or cabin. We are not participating in the 'corkage' program, due to the difficulty of monitoring and the fact that our liquor pricing 'mark-up' policy is very modest.

Why are you so particular about what my special diet is?

Firstly, if you have a serious allergy or medical condition, we want to make absolutely certain that we get it right. Secondly, one way that we maintain our fairly reasonable rates is by serving our meals 'banquet' or 'boy scout camp' style. If you have a serious dietary condition or are a committed vegetarian, for example, our staff will do everything possible to accommodate you. On the other hand, if your diet is optional, or a preference it makes it a lot harder on the kitchen. The bottom line is: if you've told us you don't eat pork, then order bacon, we will gently ask you to reconsider your dietary request.

What's the deal with live music here?

On most Friday nights, there is an 'acoustic set' in the rumpus room at around 8:00 featuring a mix of folky, rockabilly, country-ish, vintagey rock n' roll. If you know how to play or sing, you're welcome to sit in with the band. Saturday usually features a 90 minute set of all your favorite, 'time proven' rock n' roll dance classics with electricity powered guitars and the crowning of the 'Grand Imperial Dance Champion' at the end of the evening, which starts at 9:00 precisely.

When the band isn't available, we are usually able to feature 'Jazz Monkey' featuring Jo Deslippe. A duo, trio or quartet, we feature swing, standards and latin.

However, as in the past, we often have talented guests who entertain the other folks on any night. That is all very welcome and will still earn you a *free* drink.

Do you mind if I feed the dogs?

Since two out of the three dogs are not large, and the big one is a muffin hound, we kindly request that, no matter how 'persuasive' (*ie: mooch-happy little bums*) they are, please don't ever feed the dogs even the tiniest little bite. They really add up (*one little bite X 95 guests = puppy cardiac*) and most of the snacks that they would mooch off of you are not healthy for them, at all. They get fed plenty at home, no matter what they tell you.
