



News from the Lodge



Spring 2024

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

...by Richard Hill

December's Over, so...

What *Did* We Do?

Every year, in December, right before our annual 'Winter Maintenance Shutdown Week' I usually have an article here about all the jobs that we are planning to do, accompanied with a huge caveat that points out that the piece was written *before* the week actually occurred, so none of it may have actually gone as planned. This can and has happened.

Then I follow up in the Spring with the account of what actually got done, and this year things went very smoothly and the only jobs that we 'deferred' until later are actually better suited to being done later in the season, that being the replacement of the 38 year old, wooden front windows in the White Beach Cabins.

You may have noticed the new carpet on the main lodge upper floors? Marty and Cameron from United Floors in Nanaimo were a pleasure to work with and the new carpet is more durable, doesn't show wear or stains as much and is replaceable in little individual tiles if anything goes really wrong.

The lounge and office floors got their attention at the very beginning of the week from Guy Dubois, who's Dad did the original floor in the main lounge in 1986. We have a better maintenance plan for those, too.

Pretty much everything else, and all the regular jobs, went according to plan, due to lots of planning.

The team we have here on staff did their usual fabulous job of working together and cooperating, coordinating and organizing all the routine stuff and fitting all that in with the extraordinary projects.

Their richly deserved staff party at the end of the week was loads of fun, everybody enjoyed a fun filled evening of food and prizes and thankfully there are not too many videos of the karaoke that busted out when Danelle brought her sing-a-long system out at the end of the night.

Things that you won't notice include a new propane line to the main lodge to feed our new stoves and ovens and the new wood stove pipe in the lobby, that had also been here since 1986.

So it was a lot of planning for a lot of results that was a lot of fun. Stay tuned for the new windows coming to the White Beach cabins this Spring!

Spring is Here, so...

What *Will* We Do?

So the previous article was all about the intense, one week annual shut-down and maintenance blitz, but what about all the other stuff that needs to get looked at during the course of the year?

There will be a couple of other articles in this newsletter about two specific projects that we have on the go this season, but here are a few other things to watch out for as the year progresses.

We're in the early stages on this project and don't really know what to expect in this 'post covid, everything is way more expensive' world, but there *will* be improvements to the tennis courts.

Whether it is a repair type upgrade of the playing surface and installation of new posts and net winches, or a full re-surfacing with new asphalt in addition to the net upgrades, we're not sure yet. Either way, due to popular demand, there will be separate 'Pickle Ball' lines on both courts.

While I'm hesitant to wade into this politically charged and divisive issue, we *do* live in a democracy and, in the resort industry, which we kind of qualify for, you have to do what is going to make the greatest number of people happy, and pickle ball is popular.

I'm looking into special glasses for the tennis players that don't let them see the additional lines.

Since the chimney at Three Oaks cottage was not usable for open fires any more due to its age, 'porosity' and the amount of creosote it has absorbed and the new, efficient, glass doored insert we replaced it with has been so very well received, you can expect to see the same deluxe treatment at the Parsonage, which should take care of that 'smokey smell' once and for all.

We have already upgraded the wheelchair ramp at the back door of Victoria cottage which now features a wider landing and a gentler slope, non-slip ramp.

If I get some free time, there should be new coat and shoe racks in the lobby of the lodge and already in the works for next year's 'Winter Shutdown' is the replacement of the much care-worn and rustic fir floor in the entrance way with a nice, heated flagstone that will make the also new rug really look good!



You Might be Sitting on One Right Now!

Furniture Upgrade Plan is Underway!



Brooke, second in line for the exalted position of head of Housekeeping, shows off one of the several new couches and sofas (*is there a difference?*) recently obtained with the help of our new friend, Suzanne,

from 'Sofa Source' in Nanaimo.

We knew for awhile that some of our furniture was getting a little 'care worn' and we would have to look into re-upholstery or other options, since if guests are paying a reasonable rate to stay here, things have to look presentable. Then covid came along and, as you'll recall, everything went sideways, and on hold.

We were always nervous about 'buying new' because we thought that the only way we could preserve the old 'vibe' of the lounge was with vintage furniture.

However, we soon discovered that in this day and age, it is nearly impossible to find someone with the skill or willingness to tackle the re-upholstery of a large couch (*or sofa*) and if you can even find anyone, you won't come back with much change from \$8,000.

Suzanne does have people who will tackle the chairs, which we will be re-covering in the same fabric we purchased for some of the couches. She has also introduced us to a line of good, solid, vintage styled, Canadian made couches (*...sofas*) and the first few deliveries have been really quite impressive, and comfortable!

The fabric is also impressive; very durable and washable, which doesn't mean we want to see your glass of red wine sitting on the arm of the cream coloured couch shown in the photo, but if it was one of the new red (*sorry 'Brick'*) models shown, we probably wouldn't panic as much as before.



The plan isn't to replace all the couches (*or, what the heck, I still call them 'Chesterfields'*) as soon as possible but we thought that since you were all paying a decent rate to be here, you should at least have a decent place to sit and read some of the new books on the shelves, that showed up after we tidied up our bookshelves at home.

Looking on the bright side, the older furniture, which served us very well over the years, wouldn't be 'care worn' if there hadn't been lots of people sitting in it and enjoying their stays over many years. I'm hoping I'll be talking to some of you when these ones are ready to go because of their years of faithful service making people comfortable. If you want an old couch, call me.

What's the Deal With...

That Old Canoe Hanging Up In the Lounge?

Page Fourteen

THE "ALL WOOD" CANOES are the originals of Canada, and are so called now to distinguish them from the canvas covered canoes, many models of which are shown in this catalogue. Several methods of construction have been used, and from these we have, by experience, selected and continued with the most satisfactory. The "Cedar Rib" on page 13, is the most expensive and of the highest calibre. The "Longitudinal Strip" method (see page 20) is the most popular, no doubt because it combines all the outstanding features of a really high grade canoe at a moderate price. On this page we depict several grades of canoes built by this construction.

The CANADIEN

THIS is the highest calibre strip canoe that we build. The clear cedar planking is copper fastened to hardwood ribs spaced with 2" centres. It is attractively trimmed with walnut, varnished natural color inside and outside, and is equipped with two canoe seats and a keel.

Length 16 ft. Beam 32" Weight 80 lbs. Price — with two paddles — \$94.00



IN this class of canoe, but without keel, canoe seats, or walnut trim, unless so specified, we build several other sizes to order. We list these and are often asked for them. The No. 20 is a racing cruiser model, and is not recommended as a regular pleasure paddling canoe.

Model	Length	Beam	Depth	Weight	Price with Paddles
46	17	35	13	80	\$108.00
48	18	37	14	90	\$118.00
20	16	30	12	65	90.00

The LAKEQUEEN

SIMILAR in design to the canvas covered pleasure model, this strip canoe is safe, sturdy, and attractive in appearance and moderately priced. The planking is copper fastened to hardwood ribs spaced with 3" centres, varnished natural color inside and outside, and equipped with two canoe seats, and a keel.

Length 16 ft. Beam 33" Weight 70 lbs. Price — with two paddles — \$74.00



The RIVERDALE

PLANKED of good cedar iron nailed to ribs spaced with 3" centres, and painted outside, this model is a plain but serviceable low priced canoe, equipped with a board stern seat and two thwart.

Length 16 ft. Beam 31" Weight 62 lbs. Price — with one paddle — \$58.00



ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX

Peterborough

Well, I made this ad a little larger so you could see the details about the mighty Peterborough 'LakeQueen' that has been hanging up at the end of the lounge for several years, although a lot of people just seem to be noticing it now.

It was offered to me a few years ago by a man in Victoria who said he had just bought a canoe 'with your Dad's name in it'. I knew there were two of these stored under the old, old lodge, (*the cabin I grew up in at the North end of the property, the original cookhouse and dining room for the rustic beach cabins before the lodge opened in 1939*). I knew where the original two were today, so this rogue one mystified me.

Until I learned that Peterborough had a 'price break' at five units. My best guess is that Dad bought five for the lodge, two got wrecked because they were cedar strip canoes being used on barnacle and oyster encrusted sandstone beaches by lots of people. If figure that he kept the two that I knew about and sold the remaining one, that we got back.

So, to answer many questions, yes, the canoe at the end of the lounge has been there for about eight years and it did indeed used to be in service at the lodge in the 1940's as evidenced by the 'M.G. Hill' stamp burned into the ribs. He 'branded' that on to a lot of his tools and valuables.

It was brought back to it's present condition through the expertise of our friend, Robert Lawson who did all the restorative work on the Cutter and has recently been in a photo on the cover of 'Classic Boat' magazine. While I did some of the work, he had the know-how.

One look at the ad will explain why we don't feature these craft here now. Imagine a hand built, cedar strip, multi layered and copper riveted canoe here for \$74.00! Pricey!



More Returning to 'Normal'... 'Substitute Guest' Policy to Return to Pre-Covid Terms.

This may seem a little strange to some of our newer guests, but due to the fact that we are not really a very big operation and we have lots of people who would like to be regular guests, for many years we have had the following policy that was relaxed somewhat due to the constraints put on everyone by the pandemic, but we are now reinstating as part of our gradual return to 'normal':

Guests may only send substitute guests to 'hold their place' once every five years. If you can't use your reservation for two consecutive years, it constitutes a 'cancellation' and will be offered to the next person in line.

So, I know that sounds really stuffy and official, etc., but the rationale is that we have lots of people who would really like to be able to come and stay here, we don't really have that much space in the grand scheme of things and if somebody has a reservation and keeps letting other friends and family members come and use it (*in effect 'sub-letting' it*), we don't think that's fair to the people who would like to be regular guests, who, let's face it, are the cornerstone of our operation and the only reason that we are still here after almost 85 years.

We realize that unforeseen circumstances can arise and we will be lenient where medical emergencies make it not possible for you to be here. However, a 'medical emergency' registered five months in advance will be suspect.

I'm sorry if we have to be a bit strict on this, but we have only survived with the support of our regular guests and we wish to return the favour by supporting them back.

Guests, Please Take Note, we have
TWO NEW SIGNS!

One is near the main gate, mainly for our delivery people, asking everyone to navigate our driveway at **20 km/h**. Lots of people walk here, and speeding trucks can be a hazard!

The other one is a 'muster station' sign posted by the little shed across the parking lot from the main lodge. If you hear a fire alarm, please go there so we can keep track of all our guests. Since all fire alarms since 1986 have been false, most people ignore them. One day this won't be a good idea. Please heed the alarms and stay safe!

As Expected, It's Another... **OLD TIMEY PHOTOGRAPH**

This issues photo pre-dates the lodge by quite a while because it's a photo of our founder, my father, M.G. Hill at home with his family as a young boy of around ten years old, dating this photo to around 1903.

He is seen at the lower right, hamming it up as he was known to from time to time, with his father Bernard, Mother Marian, sister Winifred and brothers Frank and Claude, (*not to be confused with Bernard's brother Claude, whom the big tree on the property is named after*) on the veranda of their Burnaby home on their strawberry farm not far from Deer Lake, close to where the Canada Ave. exit from Highway 1, Eastbound is today.

If you're interested in learning more about these early days from Dad's life, you may be interested in reading the book 'Custodian of Yellow Point' available in the office.



What's With All the Noise? ... **Oldest Building on Property Being Re-Built!**

If you're walking the property this season, you may notice some construction activity at the very North end of the grounds, past the wood shop and the old, old lodge.

We are in the process of re-building the only structure that was existing when Dad bought the original 94 acres here in 1929. If you have read the 'Custodian' book, (available in the office) it is the place where the deer used to hop up on the bed with him.

It has been in a state of 'natural decay' for several years now and was becoming a hazard and attracting people from the nearby park. If it fell on anybody, it would be our fault, so it seemed like time for it to go.

It will either be the home for the next person to run the lodge after Sandi and I, we may move there one day or we may simply rent it out, but either way, a functional housing unit will be way better than a rotting liability, so c'est la vie.

New Guest Information:

...on reserving and re-booking.

Re-Booking Your Room: In order to support as many of our guests 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 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 page, 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 don't have wi-fi, 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?

The owner of the lodge, Richard Hill (*me*) played a lot of music earlier in life and has some talented neighbourhood friends. On most Friday nights there is an informal 'acoustic jam' in the Rupus Room and, on Saturdays at 9:00 a swinging, vintage styled, rock 'n' roll dance party (*complete with trophy*) in the main lounge (*always done by 11:00*). However, sometimes my friends have an 'off site' gig with their Beatles tribute band, so I try to book Jo Deslippe for 'Jazz Monkey' but there is no guarantee. On any day of the week, any guest who entertains the other guests with any form of musical talent, will receive at least one complimentary beverage. I always said "*If I ever get to be the boss, I'm going to give the band free drinks!*"

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.
