



# News from the Lodge



Autumn, 2018

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

...by Richard Hill



Nine Wonderful Staff Members win the...

## *Linda Paterson Memorial Award.*

When long-time August Yellow Point guest Linda Paterson passed away in October 2017, her many Yellow Point friends wanted to honour her memory in a significant way. She was a vibrant, full of life woman, who maintained her sense of humor and her positive view of life in spite of her cancer diagnosis.

A group of us decided to offer a one-time only Linda Paterson Memorial Financial Award of \$500 to a Yellow Point staff member who had worked there long enough to have met Linda. The application form asked them to describe how they shared Linda's traits of creativity, love of travel, sense of adventure, and positive attitude. The results were beyond everyone's expectations.

Nine amazing staff members, who had worked at Yellow Point for anywhere from one year to 30 years, applied for the award. The August regulars who agreed to judge and vote by secret ballot, said it was very difficult to select just one winner from what they described as a multi-talented and hard-working group of people. Many were not only struck by the fact that the staff members obviously experienced Yellow Point as a unique and special place, just like guests do, but they also said they appreciated getting to know the staff members better.

Equally amazing, was the fact that we quickly raised \$500, but the money kept coming in until we had a whopping \$1700. Even people who didn't know Linda wanted to donate, as they could tell she had been a well-loved friend of many. As a result, after we awarded the \$500 to the winner, we were able to award \$150 to each of the 8 runners-up. ('Award' next column)

*After a Year of Fun Planning...*



Marlie and Kory are Married!

*...wedding was lots of fun, too.*

On July 28th, a lovely Summers evening, 130 friends and family gathered 5km away at our friends home, (Noisy Acres, they do weddings) to celebrate the marriage of our daughter to her six year boyfriend, Kory.

Everything was as fun as could be, even with the simultaneous incident at the lodge (see story, pg. 2).

She wanted to do things a little differently, so they had the reception and dinner *before* the ceremony, which was around 8:30. This gave everyone a chance to mingle, get to know each other, and maybe have a beverage or two to relax the mood a bit.

The lodge band provided the entertainment afterward and the lodge van was there to make sure everyone got home safely. A lovely time was had by all, and yes, he was like part of the family already.

("Award", cont.) The winner of the Linda Paterson Memorial Financial Award was Anna Shupe, who has worked as a cook at the lodge since 2011. She has a Horticulture Technician certificate, and a background in specialty herbs, ethnobotany, dairy farming, blackberry growing and more. She describes herself as having the soul of a gypsy, the heart of a hippie and a spirit of a fairy – Linda would definitely have approved.

The eight runners-up, all of whom described talents in addition to their roles at the lodge, included Dorothee Beutel (cook), Pamela Davidson (dining room server), Natalie Kwas (housekeeper), Ilse Dekker Nat (cook), Amanda Payne (prep cook), Tara Rice (kitchen manager), Carmen Smith (cook) and Emma Wallace-Tarry (dishwasher).

All of us were thrilled with this outcome.

Submitted by **Marilyn McCrimmon** on behalf of the first week of August Yellow Point regulars.



*We Can't Have Things Go Too Smoothly...*

## Car Crashes Into Cabin



I had just arrived at our daughters wedding (Story Pg. 1), was greeting the first few guests and had started to enjoy a tasty McEwans when I heard a few sirens going past on nearby Yellow

Point Rd. 'Probably not us' I wishfully thought, but phoned anyway to ease my mind. Kris answered the phone and said she couldn't talk now because a car had just smashed into White Beach #3 and I should phone back soon; the longest 20 minutes I've had in a while.

When I called back, the conversation went something like this: "Is she okay?" "yes", "Is it on fire?" "no", "Can we fix the cabin?" "yes", "Can I do anything right now?" "no" .... "okay".

So since there was nothing to do, we went back to enjoying the ceremony. (*see story pg. 1*)

The driver was taking care to avoid an unusually parked vehicle and didn't notice the big rock in front of the cabin. When the car went up on the rock, her foot went down on the gas and the car went through the front of the cabin.

While it looked awful, the window wasn't broken, the plumbing wasn't disturbed and if you look at the second photo, you'll see that while she smashed through the door frame, she didn't damage the door or the nice little wooden latch. I Haven't heard about the car. It's probably not totaled, but who knows these days.

The staff, guests and emergency people stepped right up and looked after the driver, who was fine, and up and around the next day. Lance got right on the cabin repairs, which were completed in time for the next guests to check in five days later. The only little issue was that it was too dry in the woods to mill the natural edge siding, so the front of the cabin featured an entrance wall of classic tar paper for the Summer of 2018.

The policy changes that were enacted immediately following the incident were that we cancelled our 'express check-in' program and put a sign up on the cabin saying "No Drive Through".



*Annual August Talent Show...*

## RAISES CASH FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Barbara comes all the way over here from New York every Summer, and has for many years. While there are lots of other people involved, she is the prime organizer of the annual August Talent Show (*or 'No Talent*



*Show' as they sometimes humorously refer to it).* There was quite a variety of talent on display this year that included comedy, poetry and solo and ensemble musical acts, as well as the opportunity to purchase some lovely homemade jewelry.

The show was very well attended, with most of our guests present. At the end of the day, they raised over \$1,400 for the Friends of Yellow Point 'Gerry Hill Memorial' Scholarship fund.

Our many thanks go out to the people who still administer the fund, plus to Barb and all the others, too numerous to name, that go the extra mile to have some fun, showcase some talent and make a significant contribution to the educational well being of our staff.



*Thank you and  
Congratulations!*

## Tara Rice Marks 30th Anniversary

*...of working at the lodge!*



I'm not sure if she's *this* happy about the idea every single day, but we certainly are happy to have somebody who cares so much about the place and puts so much emphasis on what makes the guests happy around the place and in our family, for this long.

Tara started in the dish-pit at 16 years old and was trained in all the various aspects of the quirky habits and traditions we have here by Millie Hogg, who started here in 1960 (*the same year I got here*), and was here until 1998.

This kind of consistency means that the old traditions that my Dad had, and were passed on to Millie from the people who worked here in the '50's have been handed directly to Tara who has been very committed to keeping the old school vibe of hospitality, staff harmony and 'quality first' served up hot and fresh, daily.

We get many, many compliments about the food, and with some of the cabins the way they are, (*ie: tool sheds*) food quality is crucial. Thanks Tee, for helping your crew keep these traditions, and the lodge, alive. Love you, Man.



## A Little Housekeeping here... Stuffy and Official Policy Updates and Reminders.

...Tell Your Friends!!

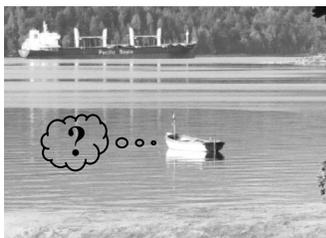
**Early Arrival:** We have a lot of guests who like to get here and start their vacation early, by arriving for lunch at the start of their stay. This is usually just fine, and we're glad to see you and everything. However, please give us a call ahead (*the day before*) and let us know you'd like an 'early check in', just like any other hotel. Our official check-in time is 3:00, when your room will be ready, so we don't automatically have all of that days arrivals on the lunchtime 'meal count' and might not have enough food for people arriving early.

One more request on this topic, please (*like, really please*) **check in at the office first**, upon your arrival and don't head directly to your room or cabin. There could be some issue with the guests in your spot, and they have it until noon, anyway.

**Penthouse & Attic Bookings:** Most of you know that we have two 'one year only' rooms on the top floor, that can be reserved two weeks ahead of time. A problem arises when someone phones two weeks ahead, like we asked, and the room has been booked out for 10 days, so they're completely out of luck. With this in mind, we are going to further restrict bookings in the Attic and Penthouse to a **Four night maximum**, per booking. These rooms are supposed to be a bit flexible and available for mistakes, overflow and unexpected people, so we need a little more room to maneuver here. Thank you for your understanding.

Yes, It's True...

## MORE FREIGHTERS THAN USUAL.



This big, ugly boat was right in front of the lodge. Apparently, it's more than a simple capacity issue with Vancouver harbour and Transport Canada has a new 'interim protocol' in place to deal with the increased traffic, slower grain deliveries and reduced docking space that means *more boats*.

I will be looking to this further, talking to other local groups and our First Nations neighbours and will report back in the next newsletter, or more immediately on our Facebook page (Yellow Point Lodge.) So, please watch that for any further news or a possible rallying cry and call to action, thanks.

So, What Have We Got on the...

## PROJECT AND UPGRADE LIST?

This season's additions included tile floors in the outside washrooms (*after extensive wall and floor repairs*), new golf carts for the housekeepers and a new shuttle van, as well as and additional upgrade and view enhancement for the hot tub that *also* included a new, heated tile floor.

In the last edition of the staff newsletter, I asked everybody to start thinking about what we would like to get accomplished on the upcoming 'Winter Maintenance Shutdown Week' and outlined a few things that were already on the list.

The main project will be re-finishing the floor in the main lounge with the same system that we used in the dining room. It stands up well, looks good, isn't too tough to maintain and can be patched and repaired without looking like a patch. You'll notice that the lounge floor is a bit overdue and has a bit too much 'character', even for my liking. There will also be attention paid to the upholstery in the main room, but that takes time, so if your favorite couch seems to need a little love, please let me know and we'll do our best to fix it sooner.

We have all the power and water lines to and from the wells buried now. That was a project that I have wanted to attend to for a few years so, thanks Lance.

Other than that, we don't have too much on the list at the moment, which usually means that something is going to fall off, break or otherwise demand our attention without us planning for it (*see, 'Car' story, pg. 2*), so I'll keep you posted on anything else fun that we end up doing....*pickle ball, anyone?*

Man, there was so much news, no room for...

## Many More Old Photographs.



Here are a few that were recently donated by Louise Morris. There are two reasons that I selected these photos from her Mom's collection, for this issue.

First, I'd like to know if anybody can identify anyone in the photos. One time I asked for help in identifying a woman in a photo

and it ended up being my sister in-law, so you never know.

The other reason these are included is that there are key lodge features missing from, or added



to, some the photos that will help the historically minded figure out in which era of our nearly 79 years of operation that these pictures were taken. Let me know if you can identify 'what's missing or added' to or from these photos. (*Sorry, no prize*)

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## New Guest Information:

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### ...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 and accommodation types.

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 the upgrade first*.

Try calling us two weeks ahead of your preferred date, that is when lots of people cancel. The reason being is that 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](http://yellowpointlodge.com) and keep your eye on our Facebook page, as well.

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### ...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

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#### 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 lobby 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, the Deafaid, so I can't guarantee music every weekend. *Sometimes Jazz!*

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 three out of the four dogs are so tiny, and the fourth one is champion bum, we kindly request that, no matter how 'persuasive' (ie: *snack-happy little mooches*) 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. It's hard enough for anyone not to gain weight here.

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