



News from the Lodge



Spring 2019

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

...by Richard Hill

What Are We Doing to Recover From....

The Great Storm of 2018



Any of you that have been for a walk around here lately will probably have noticed the large amount of destruction left behind from the big storm of December 20th, 2018. While some parts of the mainland and Island didn't get hit too hard, we caught the full brunt of the fury, with wind gusts approaching 130 km/hour.

At it's worst, we had 44 guests trapped in the building for 36 hours, due to the 14 trees that had fallen across the driveway, taking the power and phone lines, and a pole, along with them. The driveway was completely impassible, meaning that staff, guests, supplies and most troublingly, emergency vehicles like ambulances and fire trucks, couldn't make it in or out.

However, with the combined great attitudes of our staff and guests, we were able to weather this situation relatively unscathed. We have a big new generator that really came in handy, the water system automatically reverts to 'gravity feed' with 48,000 litres in storage, the cooking is all done by propane and there are lots of woodstoves and fireplaces, so for a lot of people, it was business as usual, unless you were one of our staff people who slept in the lobby, lounge or rumpus room.

So the cleanup got underway and the driveway and trails were open in short order.

The longer term plans involve deciding how to divide up the fallen wood among the possible uses such as firewood, lumber for new construction or wood that can be sold off for milling, etc.

(photo: C. Toohy)

We are consulting with local expert, Don Pig-got in order to figure out how to best remove the logs that we are going to do something with, and who is going to do exactly what with them. We are also going to take the opportunity to reduce the 'fuel load' or number of smaller twigs and branches that cover the forest floor and can be a major source of trouble during a fire.

Any logs that are particularly difficult to access, or if it just makes sense to do so, will be left where they are to serve as 'nurse logs' that will decay back into the forest and return the nutrients to the ecosystem to help sustain the offspring of the fallen trees.

Which brings us to the more philosophical side of the discussion. No matter how much we tidy things up and make everything all pretty again, there are still huge holes in the forest canopy where proud and mighty trees once stood, now sadly gone forever.

Well, that's the way life in the forest works. There have been plants growing vertically from the ground for over 385,000,000 (*three hundred and eighty five million*) years, and the only way for the new ones to become old ones is for the existing old ones to get out of the way; kind of like a lot of things in life. The young trees struggle for every last ray of sunlight when they are small and over-shadowed by their parents.



It is simply natural and inevitable that every so often a series of event occurs that changes the landscape of the forest and allows the continued growth and diversification of this very complex web of interrelated life that we can't always see, '*for the trees*'.

I tried crying, and they all didn't stand back up again, so we will simply welcome the next generation.



Tell Me a Bit More About The New, Old Canoe in The Lounge.

There was a brief mention of it in the last issue, but there's a bit more to the story.

When I was growing up in the 'old, old, lodge' at the far end of the property, there were two beautiful wooden canoes stored underneath the cabin that were 'too good to use'. They were built by Peterborough of Ontario in the late 1930's, and had served briefly for guest use until, in untrained hands, their fragility became evident. As years went by, one went to my half-brother, Gerry to fix up and one was adopted by a more distant relative to work with. I only ever thought that there were two in existence.

A few months ago, I received a call from a gentleman in Victoria, who had just purchased a canoe with Dad's name branded into a couple of places in the woodwork, as he was know to do. He offered to sell it back to us, which I agreed to.

It ended up not being one of the two that were underneath the cabin, because they were both accounted for. We also had an idea that someone else had one of the originals, taking the number from two to three, so there was obviously more than two of these here, at one time.

My friend and resident boat expert, Robert Lawson, (*known to many of you as 'the Cutter guy'*) did a bit of research and learned that the Peterborough company would give you a deal on these models if you bought five of them. If it's one thing that Dad loved, it was a bargain. (*See advertisement, page 3. ours is the 'Lake Queen'*)

So here is my theory. Dad originally purchased a set of five canoes from Peterborough, and they went into service at the lodge. One was damaged or destroyed in short order, so he stashed a couple under the old, old lodge for safekeeping, had one somewhere else and sold one. It was the sold one that has recently resurfaced.

After it was delivered back here, Robert set to work returning her to original condition. I helped him with the sanding, but it was his expertise that brought it back to the lovely shape it is in now. He even sourced the material and learned the technique needed to re-weave the cane material back into the seat frames, and they look great.

The original plan was to mount it against the ceiling in the Rumpus Room, but it's too big. Robert also suggested that the present location at the end of the lounge would show well proportionally, and that the canoe, even as large as it is, wouldn't dominate the room.

It is also nicely placed to be available in case of rising sea levels, should that become an issue in the near future.

Let's Have a Look at the New...

FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM



Fire suppression backpack model, Colin Gyles, models the fire suppression backpack.

This project was briefly mentioned a few issues back, before it was installed. It works pretty well, so I thought you'd like to hear more.

As you know, we get pretty 'vigilant' around here in the dry, Summer season, as far as unexpected and unwanted fires go. For years we've had (*and still have*) a trailer with a 2,000 liter water tank and an 1¼" pressure pump hooked up to the tractor at all times during the 'dry season'.

Along with the black barrels, buckets and hoses around the place, for 'first response' it provided some measure of protection. However, in case of fire, someone had to be around who could operate the tractor, and the trailer weighs 5,000 pounds, which is a lot to manage, even with experience.

Lance (*most of you have heard of him*) had heard of and further developed a great idea. The thought was, 'Hey, we have 48,000 litres of water stored on the property at any given time, why not tie into that with a hose and pump system?'

The end result was that he cut into the 3" main water line that serves the lodge and diverted it through a valve to a seven horsepower (yes, that is powerful, the pool pump is less than 5 hp.) pump that can be hooked up to standard 1¼" fire hose fittings. We have 50 ft. of hose at the pump and two backpacks, each with 200 feet of hose, stationed there as well.

So, in case of a fire, one person stays at the pump, the other puts on a backpack and starts running toward the fire, deploying the hose as they go. (*maybe two people*).

When they get to the fire, they sound the air horn that is attached to the backpack and the first person turns on the water supply and pressure pump.

The resulting stream of water can spray way, way up a tree, or using the 'fog' function, will produce a very voluminous cloud of water, for a full two and a half hours.

I tested it out in 'full stream' mode and it was so powerful, it was pushing me backwards and I had to really dig my feet in to stay in one spot.

So, nothing is guaranteed these days, but with this installation we will be able to deliver a lot of water to any fire within a 450 foot radius of the lodge, which is where one is most likely to start. I hope we never have to use it.



Main water line, 7 horsepower pump and hose filled backpacks, at the ready.



Just in Time for Spring! Fireplace Heat Exchanger Project in the Works

Many of you may have been semi-entertained by my colourful opinion of the regulations that require us to keep the doors of the fireplace closed (*apologies and no disrespect to people who can't tolerate a smoky environment*). It's not that I don't understand the importance of respiratory health, but all the heat goes up the chimney, and those logs are heavy and hard to get, so it's kind of a waste.

When we built the lodge, we tried to put heat exchange pipes in the firebox, to capture some of the thermal energy and blow it into the room, via hot air. (*you can still see the stubs of the old pipes on the top of the mantle shelf*). However, because of the salt (NaCl) content of the wood, combined with the heat of the fire, any metal exposed to this combination is corroded away in a matter of weeks.

That being said, it is still plenty hot inside the fireplace, so we thought we'd try to pick up the heat, without touching the fire.

To that end, our friend (*Ilse's boyfriend, an expert welder/fabricator*) John, and I are collaborating on a pair of unobtrusive, thin metal boxes to mount on either side of the firebox, kind of out of sight, that would cover both side walls of the fireplace.

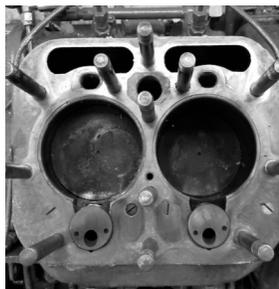
They will have fresh air delivered into the bottom, via the existing fresh air vents from under the lounge floor, and baffles inside so that the air has to do lots of 'U-turns' and would have to travel a long way, therefore picking up a lot of heat, before it exited through little vents on either side of the glass doors, and blow into the lounge.

We'll probably consult someone knowledgeable (*like an engineer*) during the process to learn about things like the pressure and volume of air (*per unit time*) required to overcome the backpressure of the baffled chamber, the rate of heat exchange, in order to maximize the transfer, and 'sciency' things like that. It would be a bit of an expensive project to just take a guess at and hope it works.

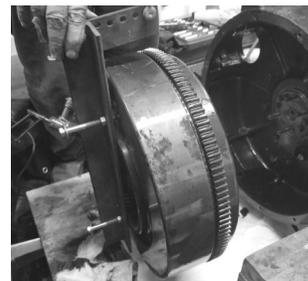
However, if it looks like something workable can be produced, we will be looking forward to paying a lot more respect to the trees that gave their lives in order to wash up on the beach and end up in our fireplace, by actually using their stored energy to warm you up more efficiently.

If that doesn't work well enough, we are also looking at small convection heaters that would mount to the walls under the windows and vent to the outside. We looked at a geothermal installation, but the cost and complexity were prohibitive.

Now It's Time for our... BONUS PHOTO FEATURE SECTION!



These two are from the recent work we've been doing on the Cutter to fix a small issue with the cooling system. The photo on the left is looking down on the engine block with the cylinder head removed. In plain view are the two, large 4¼ inch pistons. The other shot is of the massive, solid stainless steel flywheel that allows the engine to idle at such a slow speed. There is so much angular momentum stored in that huge thing that it can run those big pistons at only 200 R.P.M!



This is a picture that I just received from my previously mentioned, half-brother, Gerry. It is a photo of *our* Dad (M.G. Hill) and *his* mother, Charlotte Hill (*nee Vidal*). Dad and 'Gan' as she was lovingly known, were married in the 1920's and she was here for the founding of the lodge, and spent many years in the also previously mentioned 'old, old lodge' at the North end of the property, where the rustic beach cabins began their life. They had three children together, David (*lives in Prince Rupert*), Lesley, who was here for many years until her passing at 90 a few years ago, and their youngest brother Gerry, who you will still be lucky enough to see here with his wife Kathy on one of their visits through the year.

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT DEALS ON CANOES AT YOUR LOCAL PETERBOROUGH DEALER!

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 finished with varnished, varnished natural color inside and outside, and is equipped with two coned seats and a keel.

Length 16 ft. Beam 32"
Depth 12" Weight 80 lbs. **\$94.00**
Price --- with two paddles ---



IN this class of canoe, but without keel, coned 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
Number	Feet	Inches	Inches	Lbs.	
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 2" centres, varnished natural color inside and outside, and equipped with two coned seats, and a keel.

Length 16 ft. Beam 32"
Depth 12" Weight 70 lbs. **\$74.00**
Price --- with two paddles ---



The RIVERDALE

PLANKED of good cedar iron nailed to ribs spaced with 2" 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"
Depth 12" Weight 62 lbs. **\$58.00**
Price --- with one paddle ---



ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX

Peterborough

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 of your stay, 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 combinations of different dates and various 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 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 postings, 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 by popular opinion, 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 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's, so I can't guarantee music every weekend, but there may be a jazz combo ('*Jazz Monkey*') in their absence.

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 jumbo, 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.
