



# News from the Lodge



Summer 2019

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

...by Richard Hill

*Thanks for your Patience, it's time for...*

## A Memorial Chair and Loveseat Update:



Many of our guests have generously donated a memorial Adirondack style chair or loveseat (*designed and built by Lance Goldy*) to commemorate a departed loved one or simply to provide a lovely respite for your fellow

guests. However, some of you have ordered one and it hasn't shown up yet.

We have had some changes in our maintenance department lately, with Lance back in charge of general oversight and job scheduling, and the new crew has been busy adapting, learning and catching up. We were also faced with a lot of extra work this season after the big storm in December (*see last issue of newsletter*).

Since the guy that makes the chairs is the same person that is running the department, this was one of the factors that resulted in a slow-down of production in the memorial chair department.

So, fear not, the 'catch up' that I mentioned earlier is going quickly, and your order will be filled soon. We have seven plaques in the shop that are waiting for either chairs or mostly, loveseats and there are a few chairs already in stock, waiting for plaques.

We are going to be double checking the seats that are already in place and the plaques in the shop against our record of orders, to make sure that we haven't dropped the ball on anyone's request as well.

The program has proven to be more popular than I imagined and the big, comfy chairs are a very nice addition to the place. I don't want it to seem that the memorialization of your loved one isn't a priority, but there was an awful lot on our plates this spring. The new crew here, in addition to Tom, our new accountant, and some changes elsewhere have breathed a little fresh air into the place and I hope the resultant benefits will make up for the delays in the chair project.



## Prepare for the Controversy... Pickle Ball Pilot Project Coming.



The last time I dealt with an issue that was this divisive and polarizing, it was when we were trying to decide whether or not to prohibit smoking inside the lodge. It seems like a long time, since those days.

However, for the last few years another debate has been smoldering and slowly dividing select groups of guests into 'us's' and 'them's' and the issue this time is whether or not to adapt one of the tennis courts so it can also be used for the new hit game, pickle ball.

I tried to take a 'wait and see' approach for a year or so, to determine if this new game that I had never heard of was a bit of a fad, or actually rising in popularity and becoming mainstream. The pickle ball fans not only didn't fade out; their numbers seem to be increasing, and it appears that the usage of the courts by tennis players is less than it used to be.

However, I also considered that for many years, some of our best supporters and friends of the lodge were members of the Jericho Tennis Club. I don't want to over generalize or be prejudiced or anything, but I did notice that the more of a tennis fan a person appeared to be, the less of a pickle ball fan they are. The correlation here was quite high, very high, in fact.

On the other hand, a large number of our guests were requesting this new, more accessible activity. So I decided to take our usual approach to change around here and move very slowly.

This season will see the addition of 'pickle ball' regulation lines to *one* of the tennis courts, that will remain marked for tennis. We aren't going to convert it permanently into four pickle ball courts quite yet. We also aren't going to spend many thousands of dollars putting a full time pickle ball court in where the badminton and volley ball courts are, they still get used and the sound would carry over to the main courts, anyway. This way we can see how it is accepted and used before we make a bigger commitment. *Everybody happy?*



...not all news is good news...

## RATE ADJUSTMENTS



# ARE COMING.



We usually get pretty good feedback from our guests about how much value we provide for their holiday dollar. We've all been to other places where you can pay more for less, and usually extra for everything else.

However, you don't do anybody any favours by going broke and I'm afraid that three big factors are making in necessary to adjust our rates up a bit starting January 1st, 2020, even though they went up in 2018 and I'm not giving you the usual one year notice, that some people poke fun at me about.

They are as follows: 1) starting June 1st the provincial government is requiring employers to pay the B.C. medical insurance premiums as a payroll tax, since they have been eliminated for individual citizens. 2) the B.C. minimum wage went up to \$13.85 per hour on June 1st as well and 3) we incurred a lot more expense this year already just in cleaning up after the big storm.

We have a policy of paying slightly higher than minimum wage, even for the most entry level jobs for the youngest people. We don't want to say to our staff 'Well, we'd pay you less, if we were allowed to'. However, we also have a number of young people in these jobs that weren't getting \$13.85 and we have a bunch more that will now be at or near the minimum. So, suffice it to say, when the minimum wage takes a big jump, it puts upward pressure on your wage scale, pretty much across the board.

We also haven't looked at our liquor and extra meal pricing for a number of years either, except when the inspector came in and made us raise the rates on the house wine because we were breaking the law by giving everybody such a great bargain.

So, also starting June 1st, you'll notice that a beer is \$4.00 instead of \$3.50, the wine prices look 'rounded up' a bit and if you have someone in for an extra meal, they will be charged a couple of loonie's more, as well. Nothing crazy and we're not in a panic, or 'the red' or anything like that.

The rate increase in January won't be huge or out of line, but is necessary in order to meet the rising expenses. The medical insurance bill alone is going to add over \$30,000 per year to our staffing costs.

So we still strive to stay reasonable, as we strive to stay in business. We are very lucky in the fact that so many of you want to be here and come and stay throughout the year, and I understand that good value is part of the appeal. We will still be providing the same service and food quality and hope that you will still consider the lodge a reasonable value in today's world.

Reminder Time...

## 'Check Out' Time is 12:00 - Noon ...so 'Check-In' Must be Later!

*Disclaimer: this article is intended solely for people who arrive early and go and hang around their cabin before checking in. If you don't do this, please feel free to skip this piece.*

Some of you may remember an article like this, not too long ago, which specified that check-in time is 3:00. I mentioned that sometimes your room may be ready before that time, but it is important to check with the office first.

I'm mentioning it again because we are still getting people arriving to stay, heading straight to their cabin and 'hovering' over the people that are still there, making them uncomfortable.

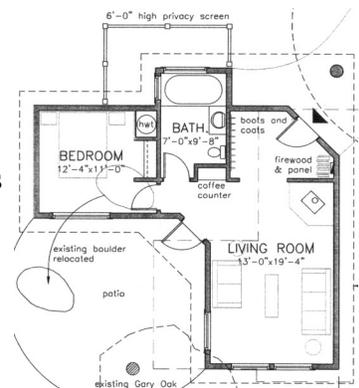
So, **'check out' time = noon** means that you have your room or cabin until that time. This means that, to the people that are in 'your' cabin when you arrive, it is still 'their' cabin. The person arriving early isn't checked in yet, so they're technically not a guest yet, and the people in the cabin haven't checked out, so they're still guests. What this results in is that we have some non-guests coming in and bugging our guests. We are committed to looking after our guests, hence, this reminder.

If you will be arriving early, please let us know the day before if you would like to be here in time for lunch. If five couples show up unexpectedly, we'll run out of food for the people that we know are supposed to be here.

Please be empathetic with your fellow guests who are probably trying to enjoy their last little bit of time here. You will be in the exact same position at the end of your stay, so please make your first stop here at the office. We're even getting a new driveway sign for this. However, we're glad you want to be here so much! Thanks in advance.

## Two New Cabins; Open in 2020

That is, if everything goes well. You may have noticed some activity over at Millie's cabin, above the Boathouse. In early 2020 it should be upgraded into two private cabins very much like the one at right.



Please be advised, before you head to the office to make a reservation, that the booking of these units will have to be handled through our existing and functioning 'upgrade and accommodation request protocol'. These will have to be booked exactly as if somebody cancelled a private cabin and we simply go through the upgrade request system as we do today and have been for some time. It's the only fair way, and might mean that you finally get your beach cabin.



*Finally, We Can...*  
**CLEAN UP THE  
 STORM DAMAGE**



*These ones are going.*

Some of you may have been here when that huge, depressing pile of logs was still at the top of the

driveway. Many of you inquired as to exactly when we were going to be getting rid of them, since the storm was in December and they were still here in June. It was quite the conversation starter, for several months.

The complication was that this part of the property is under the conservation covenant. While I'm permitted to remove wood that is blocking trails or posing a threat, I was supposed to consult with them before I moved them. With everything going on, my less than perfect memory of the conditions of the covenant and the speed in which the guy with the machine arrived, they were piled up before I communicated with the covenant holders. Oops. (x2)

So, I got ahold of them right away and was very relieved at the realistic and reasonable tone that our covenant monitor, Ava, struck with me at our meetings.



*These ones are staying.*

We agreed that the small branches and boughs, which possessed the greatest fire hazard, should be removed promptly and that a reasonable number of 'nurse logs' should be left on the ground to provide nutrients for the future forest. After a bit of a longer wait that I was comfortable with, but still a lot faster than it could have been, we got the 'go-ahead' for a complete cleanup at the end of May, leaving us with a much appreciated amount of discretion as to what to take or leave.

A third of the logs in the pile came from Tara's (*kitchen head*) property, and we donated the 'machine time' to her in exchange for permission to access our blown down trees through her property, which was essential.

So, just as we hoped, some of the wood is getting sold, some will be milled up by us for the new cabins, some will be firewood and some will return to the forest from whence it came.

*Hey, We're In Our 80th Summer, Let's Have...*  
**Some Old-Timey Photographs!**



Observant readers may be thinking, 'sheesh Richard, those are the same photos of the old lodge taken in front of the Beach Cabins'. In fact, they are taken several years apart. Sharp eyed folks will note that the top one must have been taken in the

early '40's, right after the lodge opened. You'll notice that the deck off the dining room hasn't been enclosed yet, making the 'ping pong room' and 'outboard room'. You'll also notice that the 'Penthouse' hasn't been added yet and the retaining wall at the end of the lounge is still under construction. Zoom ahead,

maybe ten years, to the next photo and note the enclosed basement, completed Penthouse, slightly larger tree growing through the roof and finished retaining wall, complete with transplanted Arbutus tree, at the end of the



lounge. You may also note that sometime over the previous decade, that big ladder was moved a few feet to the right, as well, keeping with the usual pace of change around here.

So if you're at all concerned about the proposed new cabins being a big change, I hope this makes it clear that the lodge was always evolving, although usually very slowly.

The last picture shows how we used to clean the pool from 1953, when it was built, up through to the 1980's and the advent of the modern pressure washer, which we use today.

Dad used to convene a big work party of staff and guests, open the valve on the day of the month that had a low enough tide to drain the pool, (*at 1.6 feet*), and we'd start sweeping. His trick was to keep the water moving in the same rotation, close the valve, wait for the last bit of tide to drop, open it up again and let the water and final 'remnants' swoosh out. I know that this picture was taken sometime in the mid 1960's, because that's me, as a kid, in the foreground of the photo, providing extra water to the sweepers.



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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 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](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, so I can't guarantee music every weekend.

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.

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