

It has been a while since we last checked in, with our last post being August 15th, so Charlene and I wanted to take a minute to check in and put everyone up to date. We sure hope everyone is doing well and getting ready for the upcoming holiday season. We had our first real dumping of snow last night, and, we think it's here to stay.

The Lodge closed for the season on Oct 16th this year, a little earlier than usual as our duck hunters are from the U.S and with the border still closed to non-essential travel, it was not possible. Our Kitchen which caters to meal plan actually closed in early October as there was little to no demand for these booking in the September month leading to October.

As we sit here today at the start of December, unfortunately top of mind is still Covid -19 and its daily impact on everyone's lives. A year has gone by when we were hearing of this virus a world away. Canada is into the second wave of infection with daily records being broken for the Province of Ontario a few days back and for the province of Quebec as well. The shift on the news has moved to the vaccine and its timeline for arrival in Canada and how the Federal government will distribute to its provinces. Parts of Southern Ontario has regions like Toronto and Peel in a grey zone with more restrictions. Locally Sudbury is in an Orange zone with 15 confirmed cases and North Bay / Parry Sound has 14 cases as of a few days ago. With our province testing app 50,000 people a day.

Many guests have reached out by telephone or email to check up on us throughout the season. I must say back in May when the province deemed our business non-essential and we were forced to close and our Federal Government closed off the border to non-essential travel, the uncertainty felt like a nightmare to put it honestly. Once we were able to open in early June, with only being able to cater to clients from Ontario and many other small businesses still closed it took another month for clients to feel comfortable to travel to the Lodge. As time went on, we became inundated with calls daily and emails from single family guest's looking to get away. We saw long time guest that we had not seen in years take multiple vacations. Guests of the Lodge that had summer trips planned abroad decided to spend their time with us. We were able to salvage a better season than we expected and generated many new guest looking for a getaway vacation. We definitely felt blessed for being able to open and for those who decided to travel in their own province.

With the help of Federal wage programs, we were able to retain all of our regular staff. We had to scale back the projects for the season and only concentrated on the main Lounge repairs from the snow damage in winter of 2018/2019. We also completed some dock repairs from the floods of the spring of 2019. We replaced some flooring in Cabin 7 as a pilot project to see how it winters before we proceed to other cabins. We also refurbished the bathroom at Cabin #16 and will see how it does over the winter before applying to other bathrooms. We have added a staircase to Cabin #5 to better access the dock for everyone's safety, the plans are to complete this for spring 2021. We have replaced some of the televisions to app. 40 inch flat screen TV's where they fit and replaced some curtains in some of the cabins. We refurbished the front porch of the Lodge and did some landscaping to the main lodge area. The expansion of the main parking area was put on hold as well as expansion of main docks at the main marina.

We are currently working on confirming everyone's dates for next season. As some of you know we went from your original dates in 2020 to a later dates or a re-book in 2020 to booking for 2021. We juggle at the very least 250 or so reservations. So please if you have not received an e-mail in the last few days from us either confirming your dates for 2021 with a deposit or an email requesting a deposit for dates we are holding for 2021 please reach out via email at memquisitlodge@gmail.com or toll free 1-888-898-5326. We are not in the office for full days at a time as we are preparing the property for winter but will get back to you promptly.

So with all that being said, Charlene, myself and the Crew at Memquisit would like to thank all who were able to visit this year and make the best of what we could with the 2020 season and to those who couldn't make it but rebooked for 2021 as well. We are hopeful that we get to see all of you next season including from other Provinces, our U.S guests and Abroad.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.