

April 20th 2020 - Covid 19 Update

Hope this update finds everyone healthy and coping as best as they can with our new day to day challenges, Charlene and I wanted to take some time to update everyone as our last post was just over 2 weeks ago. The ice is gone in West Bay and we have a little snow left on the North side of the road. Our water levels are slightly low for this time of year and we are sure it will be nowhere close to last season's level. Repairs to snow damage to lounge roof/ceiling in 2019 are underway and moving along slowly but surely.

We are sure that everyone is on information overload regarding Covid 19, but we would like to share local numbers from our Ministry of Health and numbers for the Province to give perspective.

Greater Sudbury District with a population of just over 185,000 has 42 confirmed cases of which 33 are resolved.

North Bay / Parry Sound District with a population of just over 120,000 has 14 confirmed cases of which 10 are resolved.

Provincially with a population of over 14 million, we have 10,578 confirmed cases with 5200 resolved and according to the Health Experts our efforts to social distance and all steps taken so far have helped flatten the curve.

On our last update our Provincial Government had expanded their list of non-essential business legally required to close but we were unsure of the fine print. Being 6 weeks from opening in a fast-moving chain of events, we felt no need to panic. We have had some clarification from different levels of government and associations. Here is what we have been informed as of today.

We are breaking down our business into 3 categories; Accommodations, Marina and Restaurant. As of last Thursday April 17th, our Provincial Government has extended the state of emergency for Ontario for an additional 28 days which brings us to May 12th. They must re-evaluate the details every 14 days which would make possible changes to the list of non-essential businesses on April 30th.

So what does this mean for the Memquisit Lodge?

- Accommodations: we are legally closed by the province until April 30th and possibly right up to May 12th. We technically do not open until May 16th, so, if we are taken off the non-essential list on or before May 12th, a regular opening would be possible
- Restaurant: we are legally closed by the province until April 30th and possibly right up to May 12th. We technically do not open until May 16th, so, if we are taken off the non-essential list on or before May 12th, a regular opening would be possible
- Marina: we are legally closed by the province until April 30th and possibly right up to May 12th. We technically do not open until May 16th, so, if we are taken off the non-essential list on or before May 12th, a regular opening would be possible

So, for all of our guests from the Province of Ontario and neighboring Provinces, the lodge will update and look to open as soon as advised that we can legally do so. Now as we are a glass ½ full kind of people that could come with short notice as early as May 12th with string's attached for sure. Now to air on the side of caution which some have done, we are still proposing postponing at this time for any reservation for May 2020 to a later time in this year.

Now for all our guests from the U.S, our Federal Government in conjunction with U.S counterparts have agreed to extend the border closure for tourism or recreational reasons for an additional 30 days to May 20th which is just before Memorial Day weekend, so, same as above the border could open if we are thinking glass ½ full but we are asking to air on the side of caution and move reservations if you are booked in May to a later date in the season.

Again, no cancellation fees will apply if you need to move your reservation and charges will remain the same. ie if you had to move to an in-season date range from an off-season date range, the charges will remain off-season as your original booking.

Please know that we want to make the best of 2020 within the reality of something we have no control over and will react with you all so that we can find something that works.

Again, just to repeat from our last update in early April, no cancellation policy will be enforced for the 2020 season. Deposits are held in trust and will be fully refundable by credit card transaction (24hours) may take 7-10 business days to see on your credit card statements or by cheques (3-5 business days) sent by mail. If your situation has changed of which we are sure it has for many in regards to personally or financially, please take the time to communicate with us toll free 1-888-898-5326 or via email at memquisitlodge@gmail.com

So, our thoughts are that locally we may see some restrictions lifted if our numbers keep on the same trajectory, and if the province decides to allow movement within regions / districts. It would be nice to be able to support local businesses as they re-open and get back to business as usual with no restrictions.

The reality is, 95 percent of our business is from South of us where there is much larger population. Even with all the restrictions in place, the virus, seemingly so easy to transmit, as we see the impact on retirement homes and long-term care facilities, we know the need to ease back to norm cautiously understanding the severity of not. We have shown that with big sacrifice we are able to flatten the curve but at what point will restrictions start to lift or change, no -one can really say at this time, but know that we will be ready to do business as best as we can and as soon as we can.

Rest assured, that we will update as we get information and direction pertaining to our industry and we will reach out directly to our reservations if there is possible impact. As we get closer to our opening weekend, we are sure that the tourism industry will get the necessary attention and answers it needs

Until we see each other, take Care

Frank and Charlene