

Covid 19 – Update May 15, 2020

The Plans to open Memquisit are underway for this season, today would have been our opening day, but until we receive clear direction from our Government, we cannot confirm when that exact date will be.

In early May, the Ontario Provincial Government implemented Stage 1 of Phase 1 with essential businesses, primarily healthcare. Yesterday, they have announced that May 19th 2020 we will begin Stage 1 of Phase 2 regarding lifting restrictions for certain types of businesses, unfortunately, lodges were not mentioned, so we wait and keep our fingers crossed that we will be included in the next phase or stage. We are hopeful that the Ministry of Tourism will update us with the guidelines and procedures for seasonal businesses to follow very soon. We are anxious to accommodate everyone, and have been receiving many calls and emails of late. As soon as we get a timeline we will want to open in a safe way.

The border closure between the U.S and Canada is closed to leisure travel and is due to expire on May 20th, we are hearing rumors at this time that this date will be extended to June 20th. So we will be in contact shortly with all of our reservations that may be affected if this extension in fact takes place. For those inquiring at this time we do recommend later season plans for vacation as we are unsure how long the border will remain closed to travel for leisure.

So for our accommodations side of our business the Lodge we will remain closed until possibly June 2nd.

For guest that use our marina to access their seasonal camps, we are able to open and allow access as of this Saturday May 16th, and will offer use of our launch within the safety guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health for your safety and ours. We will only allow 1 group at a time at the main launch, if there is a second group here at the same time you will be asked to stage and prep your boat in our main parking lot until our launch is free from previous group. Please be advised that you are encouraged to keep social distancing at all times and only travel with members of your immediate household. Please purchase enough supplies to last the duration of your stay as to not impact our local community resources. Please know that the local building and hardware stores will deliver to our property and / or offer curbside pick-up at their store location. Our Lodge will remain closed for the time being this includes washroom facilities / restaurant and general store. To add to all of this, our gas bar has recently broke down and is in the works of getting repaired, so we are not able to sell premium gas at this time. Also a note that a provincial wide fire ban is still in effect meaning no open fires including campfires can be made.

Our spot here on the West Bay of Lake Nipissing is quite unique in its setting. We have 17 cabins, all secluded and separated from each other. This makes it easier for us to offer you a relaxing place at minimal risk along with capability of practicing social distancing while you enjoy the outdoors and peacefulness of nature at its best.

With over 287 acres of free space to roam and take it all in, we can provide you the opportunity to destress and maybe put things on the back burner, even if just for a moment.

We are currently taking reservations, online, by phone or by email. No deposit required as we are uncertain if the dates you book that we will actually be opened.

Once we are able to open, here are a few thoughts on what to expect:

In order to ensure the safety of our guests and staff here at Memquisit Lodge, we are going to implement a pre arrival screening and some other changes to how we run for now anyway:

- Prior to your arrival, we will email the check in form and have your reply to that, this will allow us to speed up your check in once you arrive and practice social distancing. We will require you to inform us if anyone with you has had the corona virus or has been in contact with someone who has had the virus. Any guests experiencing symptoms of covid 19 will kindly be denied access to Memquisit Lodge.

- The main lodge will remain closed for now, this means bathrooms, store, games room and lounge. At this time, the gas bar is also closed, we will post when any of this changes. When you arrive, you

will be able to call or text Frank or I and we will meet you in the parking lot by your vehicle.

- We are hoping that our kitchen will be allowed to offer takeout and be able to run things as normal as possible.
- You will require to bring your own bedding along with pillows for your stay.
- We are going to stagger reservations, this means that there will have to be 2 days between reservations allowing us to do an extreme disinfecting and sanitizing accordingly and an air out day as well.
- Our personal cell phones will be given like we normally do and we will be able to help with things forgotten or needed by going to do the errands for you. Example, groceries, beer/liquor store, pharmacy etc.
- The province wide fire ban will be lifted May 15th 2020 at midnight, we have called our Local Fire Department to confirm as well.
- We encourage outdoor activity, so bring your canoes and kayaks, fishing rods and outside games to take advantage of every moment.
- Once you have been checked in, we ask that you head to your cottage and not to socialize with other cabins.
- A detailed disinfecting checklist will be displayed on the back of each cottage front door. Our cleaning staff will be asked to sign off on each cottage disinfection checklist after each cottage changeover. Lodge management will inspect each cottage after it has been cleaned to ensure proper disinfection and sign off as a precautionary measure.
- Regular washing of hands will be required.
- Check out morning, we will text you to settle up the account at that time you may provide the credit card you wish the transaction to go on.

We truly hope this update finds everyone healthy and coping as well as they can. Remember to keep in touch with loved ones, facetime really helps us get through just seeing their faces. Until we see each other, stay safe.

Char and Frank
Memquisit Lodge