

May 3rd 2021

It is time for a much needed update from us to all of our guests. Our last post was prior to the holiday season confirming 2021 reservations along with deposit requests. If you haven't heard from us but have a reservation, please get in contact with us. Winter was for the most part milder and below average for snowfall in our neck of the woods. The ice melt started early and was quick, with most of it gone in West Bay by the week of April 5th. The lake was at its lowest we have seen in the 21 seasons here. We are now into May and the lake level has come up a little, but we believe it will remain low for the season unless we have an above average rainfall in the next few months. The temperatures have been seasonably cool with short spurts of warm weather of late.

Now to the elephant in the room, who would have thought that 1 year later our industry would still be impacted by Covid 19? In a world where things are dealt with in an instant, we as a country were just talking of a second wave at the end of 2020 leading into 2021. Then we jumped with both feet into a third wave of infections. Crazy times.

With vaccines available in early 2021, it may have led people to let their guard down or just the fact that people are tired of restrictions and lockdowns coming without notice on a weekly basis, tied with different restrictions and colour codes... One week you can be 10 in the store, the next week curbside only, and the next week is 5 in store..... a real roller coaster for businesses struggling to keep up.

As for Memquisit Lodge, presently, we are under a province wide lockdown order which permits us to only go out for essentials, like; work, groceries, medical appointments and preferably staying within your health unit/region districts.

This order is in place until the 20th of May with a possible extension if the daily cases do not drop under 1000 per day provincially. In April, our province of Ontario, was hitting 4000 + cases per day, now, into 1st week of May we are still averaging 3500 cases per day.

We are on the border of two health districts, one is Sudbury district and they had reached 200 + active cases a month ago, this has dropped to 80 active cases presently and for the North Bay/Parry Sound district (we are part of this district) there are 15 active cases.

The qualifying age to sign up for an appointment to receive a vaccine is 40+ and up with the provincial government announcing that they will make it available to ages 18 + by the end of May. The Province of Ontario has vaccinated 30 percent of its population in April with the 1st shot.

So with this information and only 3 weeks or so to go before we can open (with restrictions and subject to change), the Lodge has made calls to all our US guests that are booked on a HOUSEKEEPING plan in MAY, JUNE and JULY 2021 and have postponed their reservation for

most of them, to our 2022 season with the exception of a few who have booked a later timeslot in the 2021 season. With no immediate plan or talks from our federal government on how or when we will see the border open, we did not want to take away the opportunity to possibly rent to a more local market, but again, with the current lock down we are facing in place now, we will also be restricted further to our local market to rent as well.

Plans for Memquisit Lodge for opening 2021 :

For now, we have postponed the return of our employees to after mother's day weekend.

We are planning to be partially open for the Victoria Day long weekend of May on Friday May 21st, to single families or groups depending on the provincial orders/restrictions that may be in place when that time comes. We expect them to change pre-opening season.

We will be following Ministry of Health guidelines in the day to day operations of the Lodge.

Also, we will be operating as we did last season, with a contactless check in and check out. We will not providing linens/blanket or pillows for cabins as we did last season and will be providing curbside pick-up for our general store items, as well as take out only for the restaurant if the demand is there... All whom have reservations with us will be contacted the week prior to arrival via email detailing the specifics that will apply to their reservations.

We have postponed all major projects and are only working on maintenance and upkeep of the property for the 2021 season. Many have told us our industry will be busy once this is over but without any clear timeline, we can only read and react accordingly to provincial and federal policies and guidelines.

Our Goal for 2021 is to offer a safe place for families and friends to get away and enjoy the outdoors; fishing, hiking, swimming and camp fires, and hopefully we can finish our season with some sense or feeling of normalcy. In this together.