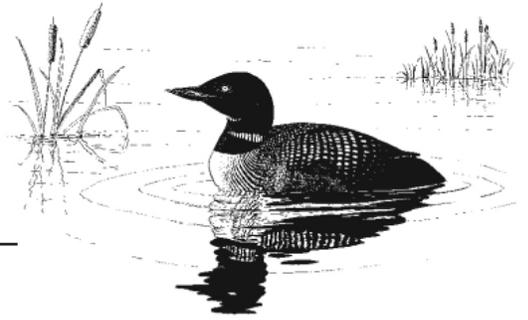


Tremolo



Tremolo... the laugh-like call of the Loon

2017 Newsletter produced by Loon Haunt Outposts, Box 1344, Red Lake, Ontario, Canada, POV 2M0 807-735-2400

Loon Haunt Outposts – 2017 Reflections on our Season

As another year flies by we would like to share a summary of our 2017 season. This year marked our 40th anniversary in the resort business. We first welcomed fishermen in 1978 and since then have seen many changes, mostly in the field of communication. We went from using a single side band radio to a radio telephone and wireless internet. Keeping in touch with our guests has never been easier or faster.

Another big change we have seen is the general perception of fishing by our guests. In the 1990's we began to question the practice of killing the big fish and taking limits of fish home. These big fish were almost exclusively female and the number of eggs laid corresponded directly to their size. It seemed counterproductive to kill them if we wanted to maintain a healthy fishery. Then we had to decide if we were offering fish or fishing. We began offering incentives such as the "no take fish home" rebate. After giving rebates to those fishermen who elected not to take fish home in 1998 and 1999, we decided to go the next big step and became a mandatory catch and release camp in 2000. Some of our guests protested this policy and decided to fish with other operators who did not have the same outlook. Do you know what happened next? Fishing improved with the average

size walleye getting bigger over the years. Fishermen told us in years past they kept their limit because they could. After enjoying meals of fresh fish all week, they left for home and stored their frozen fish in the freezer. The packages of fish gradually made their way to the bottom of the freezer without being eaten. Once the fish were there long enough and freezer burned, they were discarded. It was easy after that to accept our idea of not taking fish home but instead just eating fresh fish. Fishermen became more relaxed as the emphasis wasn't on keeping track of freezer fish anymore. Guests told us they had a much better time.

In late October, as we write this, the leaves are falling and countless flocks of geese and ducks have already passed by on their way south. The days are cooler and morning frost is most probable. The vistas are breathtaking with yellow poplar trees and brilliant orange tamarack trees sprinkled amongst the green spruce and pines. For those unfamiliar with the tamarack tree, it is the only evergreen that changes color and drops its needles in October.

The ice was off the lakes in early May and Ryan made the first trip to Monroe Lake with a load of lumber. After a few more trips there was enough of a stockpile to complete the





job of dismantling the old picnic table platform and constructing a new deck with seating. Bill and Ryan also cleaned up the accumulated debris under the cabin, cleared out some brush and walked the portages to clean up any winter deadfalls. There was enough work for all three of us and the cabin was finally ready for the first fishermen.

There were no surprises at Unnamed Lake and getting that location up and running was routine. We were really beginning to appreciate having Ryan along and noticed jobs getting done faster and new jobs not even on the list considered. So far the lakes were at normal spring levels and docks were not damaged so all was well.

The guys made a trip to Goose Lake with a load of freight and checked out our home for the next several months. Luckily no bear damage or ice damage! Not even any trees down! They moved the floating dock from its winter resting spot to the camp and we were good to go. Goose

Lake was at normal spring high water levels but not worrisome. Once we arrived for the season, a week of long days was all it took to get the cabins opened, the boats and motors ready to go and the portage boats ready. Ryan built and used his motor moving cart to transport the motors over the portage and we were all impressed by how well it worked.

Next on the list were the Poirier and Whitelaw locations. It only took a day to get the Poirier cabin up and running but a pesky bear had done a "pole dance" on the water pipe under the water reservoir tank and both the pipe and the tank needed to be replaced at Whitelaw Lake.

Finally, the first fishermen arrived and were greeted by rainy, cool weather for much of the time as frequent low-pressure cells moved through. Strangely, although we had plentiful rains, the water levels did not exceed normal levels and forest fires were not an issue. Numbers and size of fish caught were impressive. The annual mayfly hatch was noted and dismissed by our fishermen as it did not affect the fishing at all and some fishermen reported catching their personal best walleye. The Bernth crew mentioned their total

fish count exceeded all other years and with fewer members. Gradually the days began to warm up and summer finally arrived. Along with the warmer weather came threats of severe storms. None panned out until the end of July when a nasty storm hit Red Lake bringing hail the size of ice cubes. The damage was severe to those houses, vehicles and airplanes in its path but others remained unscathed. Some of our guests reported damage to their parked vehicles when they flew out of the bush.

August fishing was outstanding with many, many large walleyes caught and released. Fishermen found them in all the usual spots with the Wall consistently producing one hog after another. August weather was warm and dry and forest fires popped up everywhere. There were many days of smoke haze in the air and even if the winds changed direction they brought smoke from another source. Our intention was to pick the wild rice crop and Bill and Ryan monitored it from the air and then later on in August from the boat. The crop seemed to be maturing very slowly in spite of low water and good weather. They pulled the rice picker



down to the bottom of South Bay and waited and waited while the lake level kept falling. Meanwhile, we noticed that flocks of geese and ducks were veering straight for the rice plantation. When checking on the rice, great numbers of geese and ducks would jump up and circle the bay only to land again in a different spot. The birds were playing havoc with the rice – the geese were stripping the plants of leaves and the ducks were eating the heads. When we finally figured the crop was ready to pick, the results were dismal. The best rice was close to shore and there was not enough water to float the picker. We alerted our processor with the news we would not be bringing rice this year and she commiserated saying the crops were poor all over the north.

Ryan was keen to offer moose hunting again at Goose Lake but we had transferred our moose shares to another operator a few years ago. With his cooperation, we were able to transfer some back so that we could once again offer a hunt. Finding hunters at that late date was a little tricky but Tom N. and Joe R. signed up for an adventure and Ryan and Bill delivered! Tom passed up some



animals and finally shot a 49-inch bull on his third day at camp. Joe was also selective in his quest for a big bull but simply ran out of time. Both hunters enjoyed the experience but Bill was elated! He put his moose calling skills to the test and was able to call out 5 animals. He then tried to see how close he could get them to come and it was REAL close (about 25 feet)! To be continued next year...

After the hunt was over we worked to shut down the outposts when the weather was good enough to fly and

finished up at Goose Lake. This fall was cool but not cold enough to freeze the water lines so that was a big bonus. Goose Lake was the lowest we have ever seen this fall and we had to watch out for new emerging rocks and reefs weekly. We need a copious amount of winter snow or spring rain to bring it back to normal. We were pleased with our accomplishments and started compiling a list for next year. Finally, on October 8th, we flew home after all our projects were done.❖

This is our 40th Anniversary – Thanks to you!

2017 marked 40 years in tourism for us. It seems like only yesterday that we began our journey as resort owners. We had great expectations of what we could accomplish. Little did we know how much effort it would take or the amount of satisfaction we would derive from it.

We are often asked why we built the camp at Goose Lake in our particular location. There were several important criteria to meet. The first one was the presence of gravel. Simply put, our site had to have gravel for ease of digging in the septic tanks, for drainage for the septic fields and to use in mixing cement. We were able to fly over the lake and locate gravel from the air just by looking at the trees. The presence of jack pine trees and clumps of birch trees signified gravel. The next important feature needed was a location that allowed for takeoff and landing regardless of wind direction, without long taxiing for the floatplanes. A quick turnaround maximized efficiency for the airlines. The third feature needed was a sheltered spot to locate the boat ramps and airplane away from the prevailing west winds. A bonus for us was the fact that the bottom fell away quickly and our dock did not need to be excessively long.

Bragging Boards:

Thank you for taking the time to enter your catch on the Bragging Boards. We all enjoy reading about your success as you answer our questions of location and lure used. We noticed, however, that this year our guests were not as diligent about posting their catch as in years past. A special thank you to those guests who did!

Monroe

Name	Month	Species	Length
Sarah W.	June	Northern	34
Frank & Sarah W.	June	Northern	28/30 double
Frank & Sarah W.	June	Northern	28/29 double
Jeff S.	June	Walleye	22, 27
Don S.	September	Walleye	23
Don S.	September	Northern	38.5, 40.5, 42

Poirier

Name	Month	Species	Length
Becky B.	June	Northern	29.5
Bob B.	June	Walleye	26
Howard E.	June	Walleye	26.5
Mike H.	June	Walleye	25
Ron & Kathy N.	August	Walleye	23(12), 23.5(2), 24(3)
Ron & Kathy N.	August	Walleye	24.5(2), 25

Unnamed Lake

Name	Month	Species	Length
Joe Benda	June	Walleye	24, 24.5, 25, 26, 28
Gusnitti B.	June	Walleye	25.5, 26, 29
Julie D.	June	Northern	30, 40
Scott D.	June	Walleye	21, 24
Scott D.	June	Northern	34
Will & Bill W.	July	Northern	35, 37, 40
Will & Bill W.	July	Walleye	26, 27
Kathy P.	August	Northern	36, 43
Jon P.	August	Walleye	24, 24.5
Mike K.	August	Walleye	23(2), 25, 26, 28
Mark K.	August	Walleye	22(2), 25(3)
Barry H.	September	Northern	35
Barry H.	September	Walleye	25, 26
Debbie H.	September	Walleye	26.5(2)

Goose Lake

Name	Month	Species	Length
Gary B.	June	Walleye	28, 28.5
Craig F.	June	Walleye	28.5
Paige F.	June	Walleye	23
Bryon J.	July	Walleye	24(2), 25, 27
Tom V.	July	Walleye	22, 23, 27
Keith J.	July	Walleye	22
Bryon J.	July	Northern	35
Jeff H.	July	Walleye	28
Nathan C.	July	Northern	32, 35
Nick J.	July	Northern	30
Lucian H.	July	Northern	30
Matt H.	July	Northern	31, 32
Nathan C.	July	Walleye	24
Frances V.	July	Walleye	23
Andy V.	July	Walleye	25.5
Lynn V.	July	Walleye	21, 22, 23, 26
Terry T.	July	Walleye	22
Terry T.	July	Northern	36
Terry C.	July	Northern	32
Brenda C.	July	Walleye	24
Rhonda T.	July	Northern	27
Grant G./Gary H.	August	Northern	34
Christopher M.	August	Walleye	25
Ken C.	August	Walleye	25
Ken C.	August	Northern	37
Tim G.	August	Walleye	25
Ron S.	August	Walleye	28.5
Dave S.	August	Walleye	26
Jerry B.	August	Walleye	27
Ken D.	August	Walleye	26
Terry H.	August	Walleye	23, 24, 25
Tom W.	September	Northern	36



Louise's Chatter

- Our spring visitors, a pair of Canada Geese, did not make an appearance this year. I even delayed weed whacking the patch of grass in front of the cabins to entice them to stop by.
- We did, however, have a lone Snow Goose stay with us for a few days in late September. It foraged grass throughout camp and one day Tom N. announced that something had killed our pet. Just from the wounds, we figured it was an eagle. We never saw what finally disposed of the carcass but a few days later all that remained was a pile of feathers.
- Our resident Merlins nested beyond cabin 4 so we were treated to a peaceful summer without all their noise and commotion.
- Ryan put his stamp on the camp by adding a few welcome additions. He made a rod holder down by the boats as well as a box for found tackle. All the cabins now have railings thanks to Ryan!
- Ryan also provided the impetus for finally tackling a big job on the fish cleaning building. For several years it became apparent that something was happening with the cement



supports. The supports were actually being pushed out of the ground and the building was lifting. The guys decided on a course of action and spent an entire day chipping away at the supports and inserting new wooden ones. In the end the building was lowered and levelled and they couldn't be more pleased.

- Bill and Ryan decided to modify one of the 16 foot Lund boats to make it easier for the older guys to move

around in. It was an instant hit and led to "boat envy" from the other guys, all of whom laid out their case for claiming the boat. So, more boats were modified to satisfy the growing need. When the season was over 7 boats were completed with the rest to be done next year.

- The Fleming party brought along a couple of boards to honor their father Don and Ryan affixed them to a bench. This lovely gesture was commented on all season long as fishermen wanted to know more about Don.
- Moose cows and calf sightings were prolific this year at all locations. At Goose Lake, several parties were lucky enough to see a cow with twin calves right around the cabins and on the beach. She paraded them by every few weeks all summer long and seemed to like being close to us. One day our water pump wasn't working and after a quick look we discovered it was unplugged – probably by a moose.
- We heard wolves howling late one night and the next morning Ryan



found tracks on the beach. The moose made themselves scarce after that.

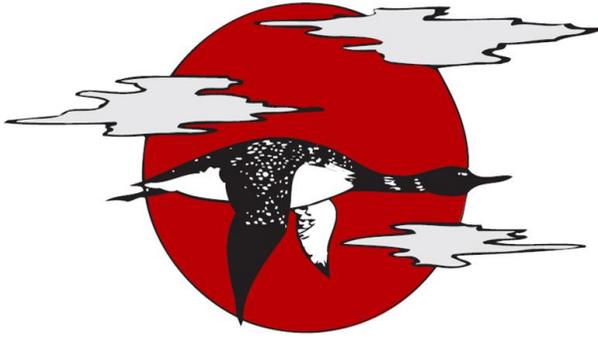
- Chris and Christopher M. were thrilled to see two juvenile wolverines in the narrows at the bottom of South Bay. The same day, Ryan saw an adult wolverine on the shore of North Bay. In 40 years of running our camp, there was only one other sighting of a wolverine a few years ago at Nechigona Lake by the Bernth group. Ron S. claimed to have witnessed one running along the shoreline at Poirier Lake many years ago as well.
- Some guys have all the luck. Dan G. and his son Luke observed a bear at the narrows at the bottom of South Bay. They were able to watch it for some time as it walked along the shore as it was not aware of them at all. A couple of days later they were in a creek along with newbie Dustin N. when they came around a bend and were surprised to be face to face with a huge bull moose! The moose spun around and headed into the bush and was reported to be “as

wide as a half ton truck”! Wish I’d been there!

- Trumpeter swans were seen by several groups this summer at Nechigona Lake. The pair that nested in South Bay of Goose Lake apparently moved to the small lake south of Nechigona Lake.
- Two members of the Wells group at Unnamed Lake made the trek to the portage lake and set out to do some fishing. When they returned to the boat ramp, they found the portage gas can and sign destroyed, probably by a bear. It had to be a quick trip back over the portage for the twosome!
- This year we were saddened to hear that 2 of our guests will now be “fishing from the other shore”. Harold Kruse and Gary McKee were long time guests and we will miss them.
- Luke G. experimented with bait for walleye fishing. Everything he put on his hook seemed to be working so he tried fastening an orange Fruit Snack to his hook and caught a walleye!

- Bill only had to remove 1 imbedded hook this summer. Ken was relieved when it was finally out of his outer ear.
- I was pleasantly surprised by Mike S.’s group’s delivery of a birthday cake during their visit in late August. Cake baker Ron S. brought along all the ingredients for a delicious treat that was appreciated by all. I didn’t share the bottle of wine though 😊 Thanks guys!
- 4 pelicans paraded by the camp in August. Very rarely do we see these huge birds so it was a treat.
- 2017 was a strange year in one respect. There were no stump mushrooms – none. These mushrooms pop up in late fall and are usually quite prolific. We have observed squirrels picking them and storing them in crevices and in trees for winter food. The bright orange fungi that pop up through the ground were also missing this year. Usually there are great numbers of them but this year I only found a couple.
- We appreciate your help in loading and unloading freight this year. Many hands make short work and provide quick turnarounds to maximize efficiency for ourselves and the airlines.
 - Each year we are the grateful recipients of our guests’ thoughtfulness. Thank you to everyone who shared treats from their part of the country with us. It was most appreciated as were the shared meals and good company!
 - We appreciate your emails, photos, videos, comments and friendship. We could never grow without your kind referrals as they are a most important form of advertising for us. Your referrals are the greatest compliment we receive. Thank you!
 - Look for Ryan if you are attending the All Canada Chicago Pheasant Run Sport Show in St. Charles January 11-14 or at the All Canada Green Bay Sport Show January 18-21. ❖





Loon Haunt Outposts 2018 Rates

All rates include: boats, motors and unlimited gasoline. All cabins feature: hot and cold running water and showers, propane stove, refrigerator, chest-type freezer, pots and pans, dishes and cutlery, beds with coil spring mattresses, pillows and electric lights. If you are prepared to meet our flying schedule, which will enable us to utilize the aircraft both ways, flying is included in the rates quoted.

Large Group Specials

At all locations for week long packages only

Deduct \$50 per person if group of 5 adults

Deduct \$130 per person if group of 6 or more adults

7 Day Fishing Packages

Lake	Occupancy	In	Out	US Each
Goose	2-24	Sunday	Sunday	\$1,330
Monroe	4-6	Sunday	Sunday	\$1,330
Unnamed	4-8	Sunday	Sunday	\$1,330
Poirier	2	Saturday	Saturday	\$1,330
Whitelaw	2-6	Friday	Friday	\$1,330

Our Conservation Policy

No one is to harm in any way a Walleye over 18 inches or a Northern over 27 inches.

We encourage you to enjoy meals of fish during your stay, but insist that no fish be taken home with you.

To ensure future generations will enjoy the same fantastic fishing we have today, this policy is mandatory for all our guests.

3, 4 & 5 Day Fishing Packages

Lake	Occupancy	Package	US Each
Goose	2-24	3-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,050
Goose	2-24	4-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,155
Goose	2-24	5-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,260
Whitelaw	4-6	3-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,050
Whitelaw	4-6	4-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,155
Whitelaw	4-6	5-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,260

Baggage limit is 100 pounds per person, 75 pounds on the 3, 4 day packages and 85 pounds on the 5 day

- Rates are quoted in United States Dollars (US).
- Children 16 and under deduct 10% from price.
- Deposits of \$300 US per person are transferable (on 60-day notice) but not refundable. Our policy is intended to be fair to our guests yet prevent the loss of income to our business. Our location is such that we do not have a large volume of traffic past our facilities. We must depend on advance reservations. Once a cabin is reserved, we remove it from the market, refusing all other requests. A booking must be accompanied by a deposit within 2 weeks – if not the cabin becomes available to other fishermen.
- Personal checks are acceptable for reservation deposit only. Balance to be paid with cash or cashier's checks.
- Please no personal checks.
- Sales taxes (HST) are extra. The total tax will be 13% of the total charge.
- Vehicle parking at the airlines is included in the price.
- Beer and soda, if ordered at least 3 weeks in advance, will be delivered to your outpost ahead of time at no extra cost to you.
- Prior to your visit, you will receive a detailed information package containing a helpful grocery list that you can use to plan your shopping or fax to our local grocery store. The store will prepare your order, charge it to your credit card and deliver it to the airlines for you.

Reservations for 2018

In 2018 we'll be enjoying our 41st season at Loon Haunt Outposts.

We are pleased to report our 2017 rates will carry over into 2018.

Important note: The federal government has decided to cancel the tax rebate program starting in 2018.

Thank You

We enjoy living with nature at our back door and take our job as stewards of the resource seriously. Our goal is to take the best possible care of it as well as the cabins and equipment so all will be ready and waiting for your return.

To all the fishermen who visited us this year, we thank for your company and business. To those still dreaming of your first Canadian fly in fishing experience, we look forward to sharing our part of the country with you. We know you have choices on where to cast your lines and we are honored and pleased you chose Loon Haunt.

Warm regards – Bill, Louise and Ryan



2017 IMPROVEMENTS

- New deck and seating area at Monroe Lake.
- Stained the siding at Monroe Lake.
- New railings on all the cabins at Goose Lake.
- Fish cleaning building levelled at Goose Lake.
- 7 boats were modified at Goose Lake.
- New barbecue for cabin 4.
- Boat ramp repairs at the Whitedog Falls portage.
- New deck constructed for the new diesel tank at Goose Lake.
- New reef marker buoys for Goose Lake.
- Extended boat ramp at Whitelaw Lake.
- Added reinforcing to the Goose Lake boat ramps.

PLANNED FOR 2018

- New shingles for the Poirier Lake cabin.
- Modify 6 more boats at Goose Lake.
- More solar motion lights for Goose Lake.

The winner of the
FREE TRIP DRAW
for 2017 is Brenda Cummings

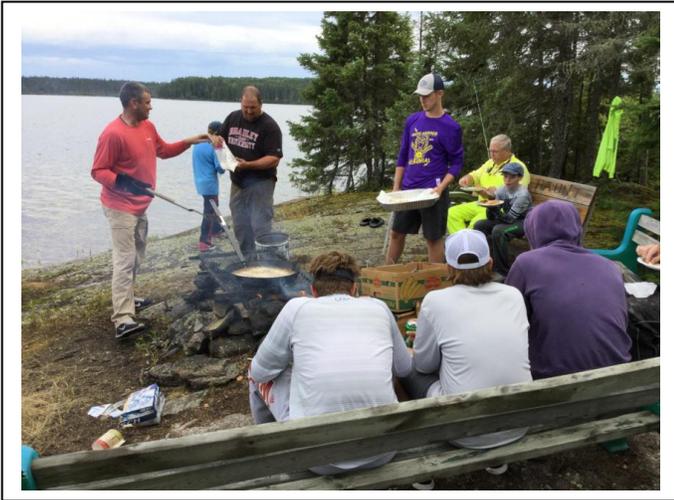


Congratulations Brenda!
Please send in a picture to qualify
for the 2018 draw.

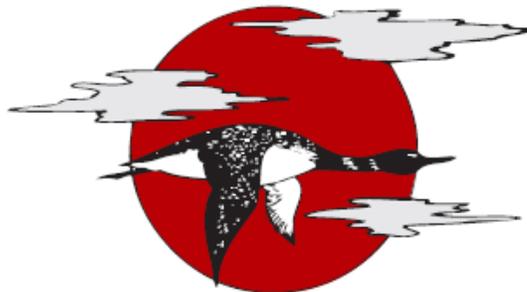








Loon Haunt



Outposts

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