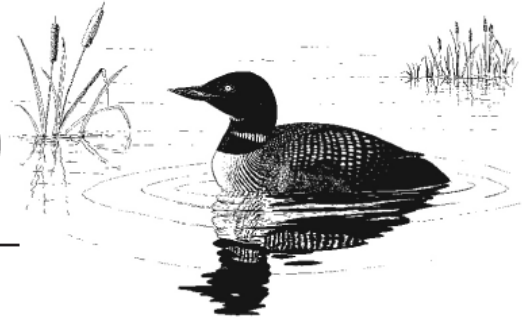


Tremolo



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

2021 Newsletter produced by Loon Haunt Outposts, Box 1344, Red Lake, Ontario, Canada, POV 2M0 807-735-2400

Loon Haunt Outposts – 2021 Highlights of our Abbreviated Season

Well, season 43 is a wrap!

Uncertainty clouded our 2021 season as the Covid-19 epidemic raged worldwide. The border remained closed with no hints as to when or if it would open. We figured we may as well head to camp on June 5th and pick up where we left off in 2020. Small jobs kept us busy as we waited for the news that we could again accept guests to escape the craziness and enjoy the awesome fishing we offer. Finally, on July 19th came the announcement we were all waiting for... the border would open on August 9th! There was a flurry of emails exchanged between us and interested guests and the countdown was on!!!

Stipulations were put in place by the Canadian government – guests had to be fully vaccinated (2 shots) with approved vaccines and had to have a negative test less than 72 hours before crossing the border. Canada would only accept certain tests so there was a scramble to learn about those and where to obtain them. PCR tests were the ones that were admissible and some drug stores in the U.S. stepped up to supply those for free.

Once at the border with documentation in hand and masks in place, some guests were handed another testing kit that had to be administered before finally getting on a plane to their fishing lake. Only 3 of our guests had to do the extra testing and all



Andy V. caught this beauty on Goose Lake.

proved negative. Then, there was the misunderstanding of being accepted back into United States that proved to be too much for some of our guests and they moved their reservations (again) to next year.

We cannot thank this year's guests enough for jumping through all the hoops to visit us. We know it was

stressful but hope that once you were actually in the boat fishing all the extra effort was forgotten. We were sad when our very short season ended but happy it happened at all! We returned home to Red Lake on October 3rd after the unsuccessful moose hunt for Barry and Mike. ❖

Louise's Chatter

- We figure Goose Lake and all our other outpost lakes were ice free the first week of May.
- Our first flights were to the Monroe and Unnamed locations. We spent some time brushing out and weed whacking the areas around the cabins. It was too soon to get the cabins ready and put the boats into service because we still weren't sure there would be a fishing season.
- On June 5th we flew to Goose Lake and found the camp pretty much as we had left in in October of 2020. The ice had spared our dock so we were grateful no repairs had to be made. We found the lakes to be low and were hoping for spring rains to bring the levels up.
- There were no downed trees to clean up so Bill was happy.
- Canada geese once again claimed the beach in front of the cabins but moved on when there was more activity in camp.



*Now you see them and now you don't!
Goose Lake rabbits have a taste for petunias.*

- A flock of Pelicans appropriated the Seagull rocks in the middle of the lake as their own and there must have been more than a few irritated Seagulls.
- Our resident Ravens had beat us back to Goose Lake but, happily, they had constructed their nest well away down the shoreline. The Merlins, however, built their nest directly in front of cabin 2 so were very vocal all summer.
- A Merganser duck decided that she would nest under cabin 3 and she startled us daily by flying out from under there when we walked by. We never did see whether she was able to hatch the eggs because now we saw a mink regularly patrolling under the cabins and throughout the camp. It became quite tame and would pass close to us, oblivious of our presence it seemed.
- A pair of Trumpeter Swans nested down in South Bay again but it appears that they lost either the eggs or the cygnets because late in the year only the adults remained. Cygnets must be easy for predators to catch because it is rare to see them any year.
- Our friendly Whiskeyjacks showed up early this summer – in July. Although we started feeding them right away, they flew off to parts unknown and then returned again in mid-August. They entertained us right to the end of our stay at camp.
- This summer we heard the sad news that one of our guests had passed



Unnamed Lake Northerns were a feisty bunch this August!

away. We will miss Fran McAtee as he spent happy times fishing at Goose Lake with his grandson Ryan.

- I was anxious to plant a few tomato and cucumber plants I brought from town. I decided to scale back on the usual flower order because the season at this point was uncertain. As usual, the rabbits nibbled at a few plants to try them out. One of the flower gardens was decimated by the rabbits and I had to replant.
- The last week in June usually brings clouds of mayflies in the annual hatch. The notable thing was this year I only saw one mayfly and Bill did not see any. This was strange and we cannot remember another year where this occurred.
- June and July proved to be very warm and we found we could only work outside in the early mornings as it became unbearable once it warmed up. In mid-July, forest fires started to pop up everywhere and a big part of our day was monitoring their locations online. It didn't seem to matter what the wind direction was, the smell of smoke was always in the air. Often, we could not see across the lake and poor visibility kept us from flying. The lack of rain continued and the lake levels kept dropping.
- A forest fire burned all around Monroe Lake but our cabin was



Scott S. found the Northern fishing too awesome!

spared because it is on an island in the middle of the lake. We did lose one of the portage boats due to fire though. You wouldn't think fire could burn an aluminum boat but it actually melts.

- As the multiple fires were raging north of Red Lake, it became clear that no outpost cabin was safe. The Ministry of Natural Resources fire fighters put sprinklers on as many cabins as they could. Our cabin on Unnamed Lake also had a sprinkler system protecting it even though the fires were miles away. Experience had shown the fire fighters that the fires were capable of traveling miles daily pushed by the relentless winds. Mother Nature did not help and very little rain fell at all.

- We thought that the main camp on Goose Lake was far enough away from any fires but kept watching the fire maps daily for any news. It became evident that our fears were realized and we were indeed in the crosshairs of the fires. Bill began pulling out all our pumps and stringing hoses to set up our system of protecting the cabins. In the end there were 5 pumps and many, many hoses and sprinklers working to wet the cabins and area around the cabins. We positioned the portage boats so fire could not damage them. Two were anchored below the falls and one was sunk inverted off shore. We were happy to report that, in the end, the fires did not threaten the boats or ramps and a simple hour was all it took to right the boats again.

- Bill decided that it would be prudent to cut down any trees that were too close to the cabins and he soon had a huge pile on the beach in front of the cabins. Our mini excavator and 4-wheeler helped with pulling trees to the beach.

- There was talk of evacuating Red Lake and the surrounding towns. Residents grew weary of the indecision and the pervasive heavy



Our mini excavator is small but mighty - it makes doing big jobs fun!



An aerial view in July - fires popping up everywhere.

smoke in the air. Some people did indeed leave town for a while but the evacuation order never did come thanks to the many firefighters battling the fires.

- On July 19 came the big government announcement we had been waiting for. The border would open on August 9th to fully vaccinated guests! There were some stipulations such as presenting proof of a negative Covid test taken within 72 hours of crossing the border. After some scrambling to get more information, we were able to guide our guests through the process. Some of the rules overwhelmed a few parties and they cancelled for this year and moved their deposits to 2022. We are so very grateful to all the fishermen who elected to jump through all the hoops and make the trip to see us again. They reported that once they were in boats and fishing again, all was well in their world. There was some confusion whether the United States would welcome citizens back into their own country but everyone found crossing back into the United States problem free and only took a minute or two.

- Canadian Customs officers had enough on their plates this August and a possible strike added to their headaches (and ours). The strike was averted just in time for the busy border influx by eager fishermen. Another wrinkle for fishermen was the new rule that absolutely no bait was to be brought into Canada. Fishermen who had been bringing nightcrawlers into Canada for years were caught flat-footed by the rule. Even at this date, we are not sure if this new rule will be in place again in 2022 or we will revert back to old rules. We will keep you informed as to what we learn in the spring.
- We didn't have much time to get cabins up and running and boats launched but with all 4 of us working, things came together in a hurry.
- Our first guests for this year were Ron and Kathy N. and their "home away from home" is Poirier Lake. They were so glad to be back fishing and we were so very pleased to see them once again.
- All of our locations saw guests this year except Whitelaw Lake. We felt we did not have enough fishermen for that location to make opening worthwhile.
- Our guests reported empty shelves when grocery shopping in Dryden and Fort Frances. In Red Lake, it was often difficult to get certain brands of soda because of supply chain issues.
- By any measure, the fishing was stellar this shortened season and guests reported great numbers and size. Unnamed Lake and Monroe Lake produced many large Northerns and the fishermen who routinely fish in June were pleasantly surprised by how good August and September fishing is.
- Scott D. caught his personal best – 10 Northerns over 30 inches at Unnamed Lake in August. Along with his partner Scott S. they caught a total of 24 Northerns over 30 inches for the week, including two over 40 inches.



Ken G. found the Northern fishing to be off the charts in August.



A few hours of picking produced this haul in September.

- Tim G.'s group also spanked the large Northerns and put some nice Walleyes on the board.
- Tim D. brought along 5 new fishermen who were amazed at the Goose Lake fishery. They also made the portage into Nechigona Lake and set some personal best records there as well.
- Wild rice plants started appearing in mid-June and by the middle of July they covered a large area. By August the plants were starting to stand up and develop flowers and heads. We were hoping for a good crop as we had the time to pick it. The first picking was in early September and we were heartened by the size of the crop. By the middle of September hundreds of migrating ducks had found the rice and shortly after, hundreds of geese also showed up to gorge themselves before resuming their southerly flight. We were still able to pick over 3000 pounds before the lake kept dropping further and preventing us from accessing the "good stuff".
- This summer we continued our goal to make improvements that didn't strain the budget so we painted, stained, varnished, cut down trees and burned brush. Along with our

helper Paul, we flew to the Unnamed Lake location and cut down many, many burned and dead trees that were an accident waiting to happen. The fire in 2019 had burned so hot that the roots of the trees had even burned affecting the stability of the trees. We were afraid they would fall on our guests as the root system weakened in strong winds. While we worked to clean up the resulting piles of downed trees, we realized it would take more time so the cleanup will resume again in 2022.

- A big thank you to the Duin and Schneider groups for helping us unload box springs from the airplanes. It was much appreciated!



Another load of replacement box springs arrives at Goose Lake.

- Because of the dry summer, there were no blueberries to speak of but the fall mushrooms were very prolific and the orange fungi were everywhere it seemed.
- The first Sandhill Cranes started flying overhead on August 26th and were followed shortly by impressive flocks of ducks and then Canada Geese.
- Each fall, I witness a strange event that is puzzling. A lone Kingfisher begins noisily flying back and forth over the lake and close to shore. It covers the area between cabin 4 and beyond the boat ramps multiple times per day. This behavior goes on for a week or so and then it disappears only to reappear the next year. I don't know if it is marking its territory or what? Weird!



These edible stump mushrooms were prolific this fall.

- Our hunters, Barry and Mike, were unsuccessful in their moose hunt. The weather was too warm and the moose were not moving. Ryan and Bill did their best at trying to call the bulls out but they remained stubbornly out of sight.
- Ryan and Eliza were anxious to welcome their first child in late October and we were thrilled to receive the news that Scarlett Lynn was born October 27th! ❖



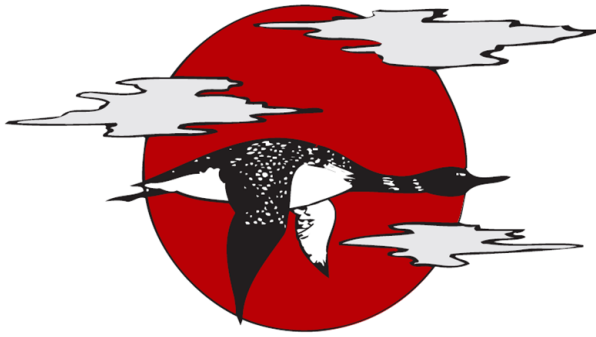
Welcome Scarlett Lynn Scott!



Scarlett Lynn Scott

October 27, 2021





Loon Haunt Outposts 2022 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, cutlery and utensils, beds with coil spring mattresses, pillows and solar electric lights. We supply, potable water, ice and emergency communication radios at no charge. 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 7 day 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	\$1,495
Monroe	4-6	Sunday	Sunday	\$1,495
Unnamed	4-8	Sunday	Sunday	\$1,495
Poirier	2	Saturday	Saturday	\$1,495
Whitelaw	2-6	Sunday	Sunday	\$1,495

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 & 6 Day Fishing Packages

Lake	Occupancy	Package	US Each
Goose	2-24	3-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,365
Goose	2-24	4-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,515
Goose	2-24	5 or 6-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,665
Whitelaw	2-6	3-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,365
Whitelaw	2-6	4-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,515
Whitelaw	2-6	5 or 6-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,665

Shorter stays can also be arranged at other locations. Please contact us for availability.

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

Excess baggage will cost you and extra \$1 per pound.

- 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). 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.

Thank You

We want to send out a huge THANK YOU to our 2021 guests! Despite all the uncertainty and delays you made the trip to see us, sometimes at very short notice. We sincerely appreciate you all!

Fishermen are extra keen to visit us in 2022 because they couldn't visit in 2020 and 2021. Our booking sheet is filling in but there are still openings if you are interested in fishing at one of our locations.

It would be our pleasure to welcome you back in 2022! In the meantime, stay warm and healthy this winter!

Bill, Louise, Ryan & Eliza
(and Scarlett!)

2021 IMPROVEMENTS

- The raking and burning of brush at Goose Lake continued.
- Many trees were cut down at the Unnamed outpost and the cleanup will continue in 2022.
- Ryan and Bill fixed the pesky leak on the Monroe cabin roof.
- Firewood boxes were built for the cabins at Goose Lake.
- Ryan put in some long hours on the excavator and buried some large rocks and landscaped the yard. The area down by the beach is looking pretty nice and his goal is to plant grass in the area.
- Bill replaced the windowsills in all the cabins at Goose Lake.
- We stained the eaves on the fish house and service building.
- Ryan flew over a replacement boat for the U Lake portage.
- We installed new generators and spray washers at each outpost location.
- New box spring replacements for the beds at Goose Lake.

PLANNED FOR 2022

- Re-shingle the roof at the Whitelaw outpost.
- Replace the last of the box springs at the Goose Lake cabins.
- More brushing out at the outposts.
- Upgrade the solar system at Goose Lake.



Finally, a photo of all 4 of us!



Brenda C. with her great catch at Goose Lake.



Brenda C. with her "rock hound" grandson Brandon. Brandon was thrilled with this Canadian green rock!



Could it get any better? Eating fresh walleye with friends!



Ryan created this wonderful tribute to honour our late guest, Ken Smithson. Ken loved Goose Lake and shared his love of fishing with the many groups he brought to us.



Eliza and Ryan made the first minnow run to stock our tank in mid-August.



And baby makes 3! Scarlett Lynn Scott was born to Ryan and Eliza Scott on October 27th, 2021.



Jeff B. found great Walleye fishing off The Wall at Goose Lake.



Ron S. was pleased to catch this chunky Goose Lake Walleye.



Ryan and Eliza loaded up with everything they need to get the boats ready at the portage on Nechigona Lake. Many trips for the both of them!



Ken D. shows off his healthy Northern at Goose Lake.



Kathy N. still had the touch at Poirier Lake.



Larry M. caught this beauty on Goose Lake - check out the vivid colours!



Scott D. set a personal best for large Northerns at Unnamed Lake - 10 over 30 inches and 1 over 40 inches!



Graham P. hoists this healthy Northern caught at Unnamed Lake.



Guys have been waiting for 2 years to dig into one of Kent's famous shore lunches!



The Unnamed Lake Northerns just kept getting bigger for The Gregorski party!



Barry H. found the large Walleyes still waiting to be caught after 2 years.



Debra H. always catches the big Walleyes on Unnamed Lake.



Barry K. shows off his impressive Walleye at Unnamed Lake.



Ryan likes to see the firewood piles grow at Goose Lake.

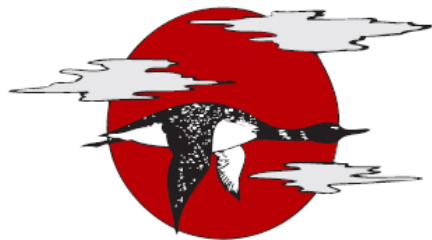


No gender reveal for Eliza and Ryan. Scarlett was a wonderful surprise for them!



The sun sets on our brief season! Looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

Loon Haunt



Outposts

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