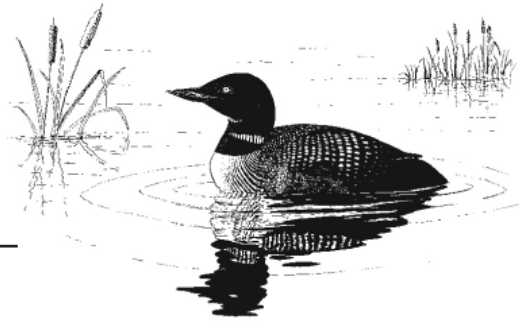


# Tremolo



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

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2019 Newsletter produced by Loon Haunt Outposts, Box 1344, Red Lake, Ontario, Canada, POV 2M0 807-735-2400

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## Loon Haunt Outposts – Musings from our 2019 Season

2019 was one fast paced year! It was unbelievable how quickly the season progressed for us. 'Must be because we are getting older! It's time to thank you all so much for spending your fishing holiday with us and including Loon Haunt in your memories. Here is our year as it happened....

The winter of 2018 was bitterly cold and all the lakes in Northwestern Ontario were covered with a very thick layer of ice. We figured it would be a late ice-out but Mother Nature surprised us and Goose Lake was ice free by May 10<sup>th</sup>. Bill and Ryan were anxious to complete a big project at the Unnamed Lake outpost. In mid-May they spent a couple of days there lifting the cabin and inserting new supports. Once that job was done to their satisfaction, we all readied the Monroe Lake outpost for fishermen. A week later we were able to fly to Goose Lake with our supplies and start the job of opening the camp. A partridge had broken a window on one of the cabins and there was an explosion of glass to clean up. (also, a very dead partridge). There was no other damage and we found the lake at normal spring levels.

Early June weather was generally dry and cool and I planted the flower gardens while Ryan concentrated his efforts on building a greenhouse to protect the tomatoes, beans and carrots from the cold and rabbits. Mid-June weather was lovely but lacking in rain. By the end of June the bush was very dry and our concern now was forest fires. Because of the dry conditions, lake levels were also

very low. The very dry weather this June produced many, many fires and we monitored their locations daily to see if the MNR firefighters extinguished them. Some very large fires were left to burn as Nature intended but others near communities or camps and outposts were quickly put out. We do appreciate the skill and aggressive approach the firefighters took in protecting properties. A



huge fire near the Unnamed outpost in early July had us very worried. The winds were taking the fire away from the cabin at one point but a wind switch in the middle of the night pushed the fire straight at the cabin. We were lucky the MNR had put sprinklers on the cabin but when we were finally able to fly to the site, we found the outhouse and storage shed had burned. We lost everything in the shed but it didn't take too long for Bill and Ryan to rebuild. Torrential rains in mid-July put the fires out and gave the fire fighters some much needed help. Returning fishermen were shocked at the devastation but already green plants are popping up all around the cabin and lake. Late July and August fishermen found fishing not affected by the fire.

It seems that August always brings bad storms with high winds to Goose Lake and a freak storm on August 3<sup>rd</sup> hit us and snapped off and uprooted a bunch of trees that had to be cleaned up. I guess the

bright side was a supply of easily accessible firewood!

Walleye fishing was outstanding this summer with many, many large fish caught and quickly released. Some guests reported catching their personal best fish this year! Northern fishing was steady throughout the summer. Walleye Alley fishing at Goose Lake kicked in right on time and August fishermen reported great success there.

We suspected that there would be a substantial wild rice crop as the conditions were extremely favourable. From the air, Ryan and Bill kept track of the overall area of rice plants and it was much larger than last year. The low water was a great help in aiding the plants to a quick maturity. Although rice looked to be maturing well, it was reluctant to come off. Ryan was disappointed with the size of the kernels and when inspected by him, quite a few plants had empty heads. Our processor told us that those plants were not pollinated. We

decide to leave the crop for the waterfowl and hope 2020 will have a better crop.

Sandhill Cranes, Canada Geese and assortment of ducks started flying overhead in late August. Ducks kept arriving and stopped in the wild rice plantation to gorge themselves before resuming their flight south. This fall we observed thousands of ducks stopping for a feed of wild rice. In late September, they were mostly Teals.

We rushed through the fall chores and shut down the outposts to concentrate solely on the moose hunt. Ryan cut good piles of firewood at each outpost and there was enough work to keep all 3 of us busy for the hours we were there. The guys really look forward to the moose hunt. This year was a strange one for the hunters – warm weather, mosquitoes, a lot of rain and then black flies. The moose, however, were not responding to calls and there were no tracks to be seen, resulting in an unsuccessful hunt for Barry and Mike. No frozen water lines meant a more enjoyable time for all of us, however. When we shared our experience with other operators, we found that they met with the same conditions. The word on the street was that the moose finally started moving early October.

We left Goose Lake on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and were able to shut down Monroe Lake outpost on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Once we returned home, heavy rains began and the lakes were at record high fall levels everywhere. Hopefully all will be well at camp once we return in the spring. ❖



# 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!

Name	Month	Species	Length
Bill K.	June	Walleye	26
Bill K.	June	Northern	33
Ron K.	June	Northern	43
Ron K.	June	Walleye	27.5
Dave K.	June	Walleye	27
Jerry M.	June	Walleye	26
Howard R.	June	Northern	31
Brian L.	June	Walleye	25
Stu B.	June	Northern	32
Tim C.	June	Walleye	26
Max B.	June	Northern	32
Pete V.	June	Walleye	26
Andy V.	June	Northern	33
Andy V.	June	Walleye	22
Stu B.	June	Walleye	23.5
Scott B.	June	Walleye	24
Frances V.	June	Northern	32
Travis B.	June	Northern	35
Dave J.	June	Walleye	24, 28
Scott S.	June	Walleye	28
Oscar F.	June	Perch	12
Jill L.	June	Northern	38
Bruce and John	June	Walleye	495 total fish



John W.	June	Walleye	9 casts/9 fish
John W.	June	Walleye	25
Tim S.	June	Walleye	28.5
Tim S.	June	Northern	37.5
Barry K.	June	Walleye	26
Barry K.	June	Northern	36.5
Kyle W.	June	Northern	37
Dan W.	June	Walleye	26
Izack T.	June	Northern	36
Hunter T.	June	Walleye	26
Cole T.	June	Walleye	27.5
Cole T.	June	Northern	37
Troy F.	June	Northern	36, 42
Troy F.	June	Walleye	31.5
Troy/Pam F.	June	Perch	10
Lane/Scott/Brian	June	Total fish	1029
Lane B.	June	Walleye	20.5, 21
Lane B.	June	Northern	36
Scott D.	June	Walleye	21
Scott D.	June	Northern	31, 35
Neila V.	June	Walleye	21
Graham P.	July	Walleye	26.5
Terry C.	July	Northern	26
Terry C.	July	Walleye	21, 22, 23
Brenda C.	July	Northern	27, 30
Kevin M.	July	Walleye	25
Lucian H.	July	Walleye	24(2), 25
Andrew C.	July	Northern	26, 32, 33
Andrew C.	July	Walleye	23
Jacob L.	July	Northern	28
Nick C.	July	Northern	30
Nick C.	July	Perch	11
Matt H.	July	Northern	30
Jeff H.	July	Northern	33





Jason L.	July	Perch	11	Jason M.	August	Walleye	24
John C.	July	Walleye	28	Ken N.	August	Walleye	22
Matt H.	July	Walleye	24	Luke W.	August	Northern	30(2), 33.5
Jeff H.	July	Walleye	23.25	Tyler W.	August	Northern	30
Brian M.	July	Northern	32	Tyler W.	August	Crayfish	3
Owen B.	July	Walleye	26.5	Ron R.	August	Northern	26, 28(2)
Cam C.	July	Northern	32	Alex W.	August	Northern	32.5
Addie C.	July	Walleye	20	Andrew W.	August	Northern	30.5
Louise C.	July	Walleye	25	Luke W.	August	Walleye	24
Loren R.	July	Walleye	25	Jon P.	August	Northern	36.5
James C.	August	Walleye	28	Kathy P.	August	Walleye	27
Dan G.	August	Walleye	24, 27	Noel D.	September	Walleye	25
Grant G.	August	Walleye	25	Ken D.	September	Walleye	25(2)
Tim D.	August	Walleye	27	Ken D.	September	Northern	29, 30
Brad E.	August	Walleye	23.5	Jack G.	September	Walleye	25.5
Max B.	August	Walleye	27	Terry H.	September	Sucker	26
Ron S.	August	Walleye	26	Court W.	September	Walleye	26
John F.	August	Walleye	24				
Randy F.	August	Walleye	24				
Mike S.	August	Walleye	24.5				

# Louise's Chatter

- On a personal level, this was a year of loss for us. Our son Scott was diagnosed with brain cancer in January of 2017 and passed away on March 21st of 2019. Even though we believe his body is at rest and his spirit is free, it is still hurts to think this vibrant, kind and wicked-smart husband, father and son is no longer with us. Scott was 46 years old. He also left behind his wife Lori and children Cameron and Annadele.
- We were very pleased with the stellar service we received from Superior Airways, our partner in tourism. All the office staff, dock staff and excellent pilots provided our guests with top notch customer service
- Our resident Merlins nested beyond cabin 4 so we enjoyed another peaceful summer without all their noise.
- This spring the flock of Trumpeter swans returned to Goose Lake. The group dispersed and summered on small lakes around Goose and Nechigona. Lucky guests were able to view them over the summer, this time accompanied by their young ones.
- Ryan constructed a greenhouse this year to protect our vegetables from the cold weather and the resident rabbits. It worked beautifully for the most part and the plants were lush and healthy. A couple of rabbits did, however, figure out a way to get inside and munch their way through some bean plants. Goose Lake guests must have noticed Ryan's kind gesture to our son when he named the greenhouse the Scott Copen Memorial Garden.
- This summer Northerns entertained our guests when they attacked hooked Walleyes right next to the boat. Pete V. and Frances V. returned to camp with a fun story of netting a northern "for free".
- Troy and Pam fished a small lake off Monroe with outstanding results. They caught and released a hefty 31 ½ Walleye as well as a 42 inch Northern.
- Barry and Deb H. each caught the same 28 ½ inch Walleye at Unnamed Lake.
- Bryan J. caught and then lost a nice Northern at Goose Lake when Tom V. accidentally knocked it off the line. A short time later, Tom caught the same fish and retrieved Bryan's lure.
- It was a strange year for our Lady Slipper flowers. The single plants popped up everywhere in front of the cabins but the large clusters did not present themselves. Only brown, shriveled leaves were seen where the big, showy clusters usually grow. The Indian Pipe plants were not as plentiful as in past years either. The interesting orange fungi that we call "Cheeto mushrooms" were late this year and not as plentiful as in past years.
- There was a real noticeable lack of biting insects like hornets, wasps and bees in the early part of the season. However, Ryan pointed out huge swarms of some kind of insects that were feasting on something on the Jack Pine trees in September. Entire trees were buzzing with them and



we don't know what they were feeding on.

- This year Ryan noticed a species of bird that seemed to be everywhere later in the summer. Large flocks of White Wing Crossbills were seen at Goose Lake as well as some of the outposts and the minnow lake. This was a bird we don't remember seeing in the past but hope it returns next year.

- Bill and Ryan started constructing a platform beside the dock last year and finally finished it this June when building materials were flown in. We decided it would be a great place to have shore lunches and had the first one on June 19th. The roof was added later in the summer and fishermen were able to enjoy their cigars and tell fish tales while gazing out at the lake. It turned out to also be an excellent place to store gear while waiting for the planes on changeover days.

- The Rick F. group returned to camp one day and announced that they



had caught a 28-inch Walleye and seen 3 moose before noon that day!

- We bought a trail cam this year and Ryan mounted it on a tree in North Bay. After a week or two, he returned to pick up the SIM card so that we could view any interesting animals. He found the unit ripped off the tree and in pieces on the ground. Ryan was able to retrieve all the bits and pieces and he found the culprit was a bear by the bite marks. The good news was that the trail cam was not ruined and will be able

to be used again. We were able to watch the footage but viewed only ravens and a dark shadow of the bear's paw.

- Fishermen spent a lot of time fishing north bay with great results this summer. Shallow north bay is regularly not targeted much in the past.
- Daily it seemed that guests returning to camp had wildlife stories to share. Cow moose with their calves were seen regularly in the early summer.
- Guests mentioned seeing bears at all our locations over the summer. There was a bear who lived at the Honey Hole and it liked to stand on its hind legs and check out the fishermen. There was even a bear at the minnow lake who did some damage to our equipment there.

- When the West End Store shut its doors in October of 2018, we wondered who would take their place. We had come to rely on their excellent service in filling pre-ordered groceries. A 1 Foods in Ear Falls and Balmertown Foods stepped in and guests reported being pleased with the quality, price and friendly service.



- We all enjoyed visiting with family during the summer as it afforded us a chance to slow down a little and enjoy the fishing and camaraderie.
- We are used to seeing and hearing Sandhill Cranes fly high over us on their way north in the spring and then south in the fall. One day Ryan flew over to the minnow lake to pick up minnows and was startled by some of these birds. He mentioned how very loud their calls are as he was able to see them up close and personal as they were on the marsh quite close to him.



- 2019 brought another birthday for me and the Sheldon crew and baker Ron S. presented a tasty cake we shared with visiting family. Thanks guys!
- Kent S. and his group were enjoying their annual shore lunch when they witnessed a waterspout not far away. These natural events are quite awesome to see and everyone who has seen them are always glad they were not anywhere near them.
- We are grateful Ryan's friend Steve J. was able to spend a day at Unnamed Lake helping paint the

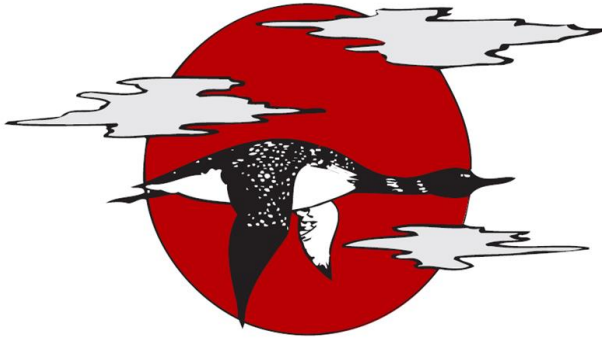
new storage shed and outhouse in September.

- In late September we received word that a valued guest had passed away. Our condolences to the family of Ron Brazier. Ron and his family fished Goose Lake for many, many years and introduced other business associates to our wonderful fishing.
- Our resident Whiskey Jacks made their appearance in early August and stayed until we finally left in early October. Ryan figured there must be many loaves of bread along with pancakes and other goodies stashed away in the trees at Goose Lake.

- Our guests are very "hands on" and can be counted on to lend a hand when something needs to be moved or lifted. We thank you all for helping load and unload the airplanes, haul lumber and even take the fish entrails out for disposal.
- By the time we left Goose Lake on October 2nd, the lake had surpassed spring levels and it will be interesting to see what will transpire next year. ❖

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!

Judging by the number of reservations we are receiving, 2020 will be another busy year. We are pleased to report our 2019 rates will apply again in 2020 as we endeavor to control costs. We are looking forward to the 2020 season with anticipation and enthusiasm!



# Loon Haunt Outposts 2020 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 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	\$1,330
Monroe	4-6	Sunday	Sunday	\$1,330
Unnamed	4-8	Sunday	Sunday	\$1,330
Poirier	2	Saturday	Saturday	\$1,330
Whitelaw	2-6	Sunday	Sunday	\$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 & 6 Day Fishing Packages

Lake	Occupancy	Package	US Each
Goose	2-24	3-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,200
Goose	2-24	4-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,350
Goose	2-24	5 or 6-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,450
Whitelaw	2-6	3-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,200
Whitelaw	2-6	4-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,350
Whitelaw	2-6	5 or 6-Day (as available - call for openings)	\$1,450

*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) 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.



## 2019 IMPROVEMENTS

- Purchased a new freezer for Goose Lake.
- Installed solar motion lights at some outposts.
- Built a new storage shed and outhouse at Unnamed Lake.
- Lifted cabin at Unnamed Lake and installed new supports.
- Installed a new refrigerator in the fish house at Goose Lake.
- Ryan erected a new shore lunch fire ring at Goose Lake.
- Moved the boat ramp at Whitelaw Lake to a better location.
- Another coat of stain on the buildings at Goose Lake.
- Constructed a shore lunch covered shelter at the camp on Goose Lake.
- More seating for the shore lunch shelter as well as Ryan's new sturdy bench.
- Purchased a new flat top grill for the shore lunch shelter.
- Converted T8 LED fluorescent lights in most of the cabins at Goose Lake.
- Upgraded the wireless internet to faster speed.

## PLANNED FOR 2020

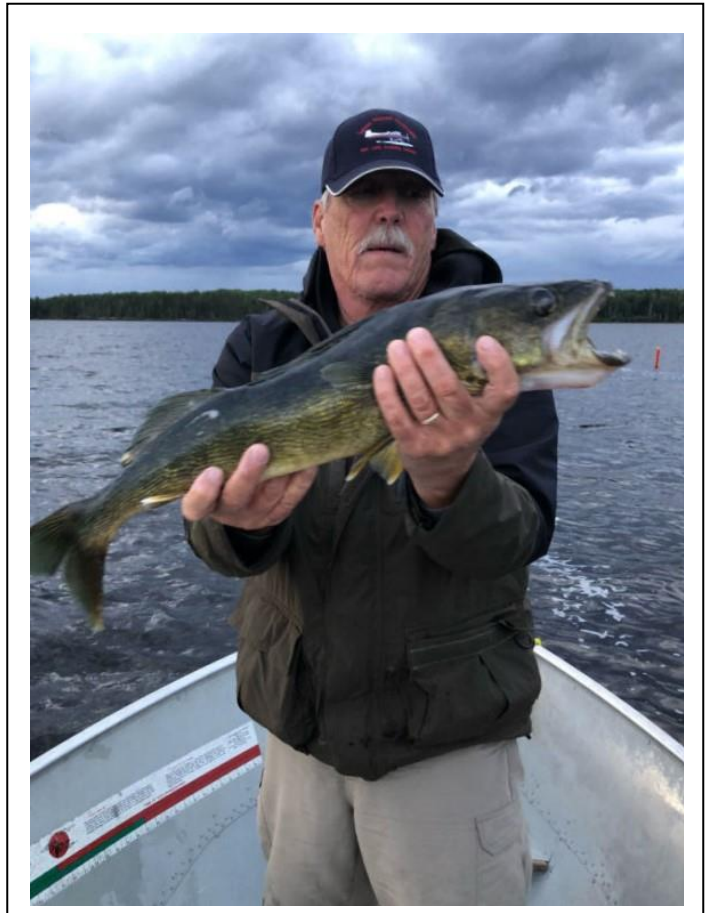
- Replace some cabin supports on cabin 3 at Goose Lake.
- Finish converting cabin 3 to T8 LED fluorescent lights.

## 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



## The winner of the **FREE TRIP DRAW**

for 2019 is Ken Chess



Congratulations Ken!

Please send in a picture to qualify for the 2020 draw.













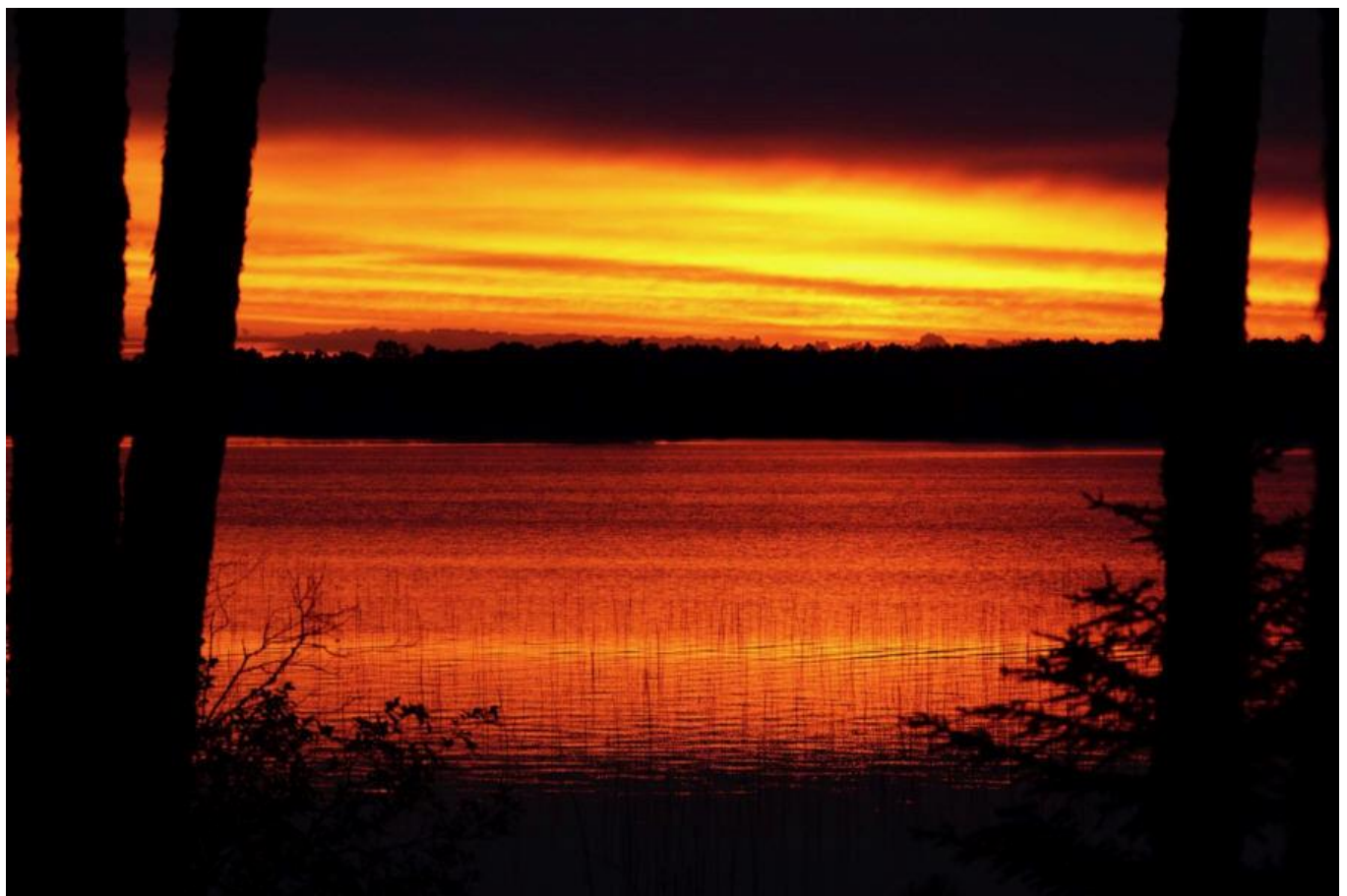




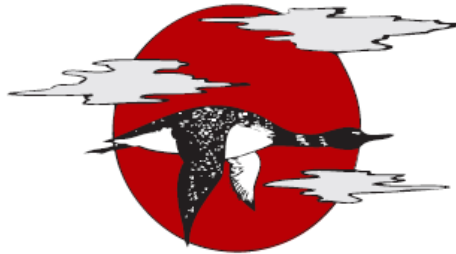








# Loon Haunt



# Outposts

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