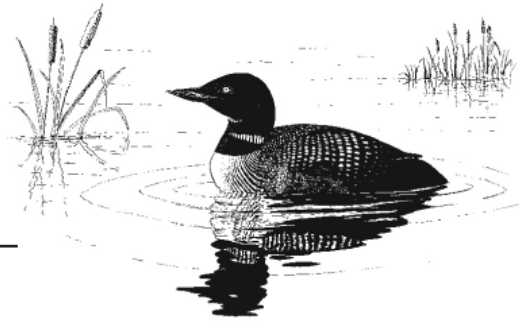


Tremolo



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

2020 Newsletter produced by Loon Haunt Outposts, Box 1344, Red Lake, Ontario, Canada, POV 2M0 807-735-2400

Loon Haunt Outposts – 2020 The Season That Never Was

The COVID-19 pandemic early this year was unanticipated and unprecedented but we were cautiously optimistic the border would open at some point. In April, we announced we would rebook guests to available openings later in 2020, rollover deposits to 2021 or offer refunds if that was preferred. Thank you to our loyal guests for rolling over your deposits to next year. Our government kept extending monthly closures to leisure travel and by July it was clear to us that our season was a bust and could not be salvaged this year. We were disappointed that your fishing getaway with us did not happen. We missed you and long for normalcy to resume in 2021.

We are grateful to all the frontline staff across Canada and the United States, and indeed the world, who are working tirelessly and selflessly to bring this situation under control.

While we waited for confirmation that the border would open, we spent the summer at Goose Lake and worked on small projects. Our days were too quiet and we longed to hear the sound of fishermen coming and going. We missed the conversation, the laughter and the shared excitement of a great catch. You have become like family to us and we enjoy catching up on your lives.

In December of 2019, Ryan accepted a captain's position in the Maldives. Trans Maldivian Airways operates the largest



Ryan and Eliza surprised us when they tied the knot in July. Once they were married, they could cross the border freely as long as they completed a 2-week isolation in Canada before moving around in the country.

seaplane operation in the world and he wanted to fly the mighty Twin Otter on floats. He really enjoyed the job and the warm weather and it was a sad day for him when Canada asked all citizens to return home in late March because of the Covid-19 pandemic. His hope is to return some winter to resume his seasonal flying adventures there.

Ryan spent a fair amount of time in Minnesota with his girlfriend Eliza and they actually got married in July! Eliza

works as a county prosecutor and plans to spend some time at camp next year so some of you may be meeting her. She likes to fish and hunt just like Ryan.

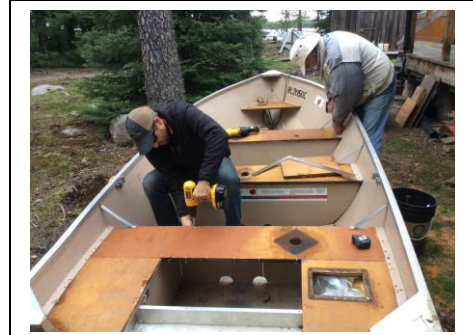
It seemed like the summer fairly flew by as our job list dwindled. Once the cooler weather showed up, we began making plans to leave for town. On September 28th we left Goose Lake after we closed down for the winter. The fall colours were spectacular and it never gets old soaring above them. ❖

Louise's Chatter

- We figure Goose Lake and all our other outpost lakes were ice free about May 13th.
- On June 12th we flew to Goose Lake and found the camp pretty much as we had left in in October of 2019. The ice had spared our dock but pushed the sand far up the beach in front of the cabins. Nothing was damaged but it was impressive to see how much power is in that ice.
- Somehow the heavy ice crusher by the large flower garden was pushed over. Maybe a bear or possibly just the result of frost heaving the ground.
- There were no downed trees to clean up so Bill was happy.
- We were surprised by the appearance of a damaged boat at the bottom of Woman Falls during a sightseeing trip in June. It was not

one of ours and apparently not one belonging to the 2 camps upriver. We can only surmise it belonged to a private camp on Upper Goose Lake and was used briefly last fall but not pulled up far enough to escape higher spring lake levels.

- This summer we heard the sad news that several of our guests had passed away. We will miss our guests Ron Brazier, Mike Hubbard, Steve Milliner and Tom Webster. Between them, they spent many happy years fishing at our lakes.
- I brought a few tomato plants, several cucumber plants and a single pepper plant from town and planted them in our Scott Coppen Memorial Garden. I also tried some carrot, green beans and pea seeds. 2020 proved to be an excellent growing year and some of the plants grew prolifically. However, all the carrot



It took a few days to complete the job and the 3 boats were modified to the Goose Lake standard. We think they look great and hope you look forward to using them next year.



We are sorry you weren't here to enjoy the spectacular clump of Lady's Slippers. We swear it grows larger every year.

and pea plants were eaten as soon as they emerged on the surface. This was the first time we have grown cucumbers and we actually were able to add some to our salad! We decided we have to make plans to enlarge the garden and try planting other vegetables as well. We have no soil at camp and have to fly it in so this might take some time as the planes always seem to be already loaded with other freight.

- 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. Forest fires popped up everywhere but none threatened us at any of our outposts or at the main camp.

- High winds knocked over trees on a regular basis and Bill was kept busy cutting them up for firewood and hauling away branches to the burn pile. We watched the weather for prime burning opportunities and were able to dispose of the mountain of brush.
- One puzzling thing about this season was the absence of wildlife at the camp. We did not see a single footprint on the beach even though things were quiet. We thought we would have moose and caribou parading through the camp but it was not to be. Even the seagulls were not as plentiful and they seemed to forget the source of the fish entrails. Same thing with the eagles and vultures. They were kept busy foraging for food rather than enjoying a daily buffet of fish scraps. There



Can you spot the new Eagle's nest above the falls?

were only a few rabbits to chase out of the garden as well. The loon population was just as prolific as ever though.

- One animal that showed up in late September surprised us all as we had never seen a raccoon here before. Hopefully it will move on and not return next year as it found

absolutely nothing to eat unless you count the empty beer cans it chewed through.

- August brought along our resident whiskey jacks. We look for these birds to arrive in early August and this year there was a family unit of 3 to feed.
- A pair of Trumpeter Swans nested down in South Bay but it appears that they lost either the eggs or the cygnets because late in the year only the adults remained.
 - 2020 was not a year for fall mushrooms. Maybe it was because of the hot conditions but there were none to find anywhere. The Cheeto fungi were present in large numbers though.
 - 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



Ryan's time in the exotic Maldives was much too short. He hopes to return one day as he really enjoyed the job and warm weather.



Fall lake levels were back up. This is Whitedog Falls from the top.

rice picking as well. Later in September, their friends Pat and Trish, along with 6-week-old Eva, arrived for a quick moose hunt. Ryan called out a young bull for Pat and after 40 minutes of waiting for the moose to present itself, Pat was able to shoot a young bull. I looked after Eva while everyone else went to help the guys transport the moose back to camp.

- One project that Bill and Ryan wanted to complete this year was to bring the boats from Nechigona back to camp to be modified. It took a few days to complete the job and when Pat and Trish arrived everyone helped pull the boats back over the portage using our dependable Lewis winch. We hope you'll enjoy using the boats next season as they will prove to be easier to move around in.

by the size of the crop but the rice was slow to mature and it wasn't coming off the plants. Waiting a few days for more ripening to occur still didn't work, then high winds and heavy rains made picking impossible. By the middle of September thousands of migrating ducks had found the rice and shortly after, hundreds of geese also showed up to gorge themselves before resuming their southerly flight. It seemed as though we had to fight to pick our share of the rice and it was a disappointing 3200 pounds.

- Our goal this year was to make improvements that didn't strain the budget so we painted, stained, varnished, cut down trees and burned brush. Some of this you'll notice when you return, all of this I will notice.
- A forest fire near the towns of Red Lake and Madsen in mid-August proved to be dangerous and an evacuation order for the Red Lake area was ordered. Thousands of people did evacuate for several days while fire fighters, aided by water bombers, fought the blaze. It

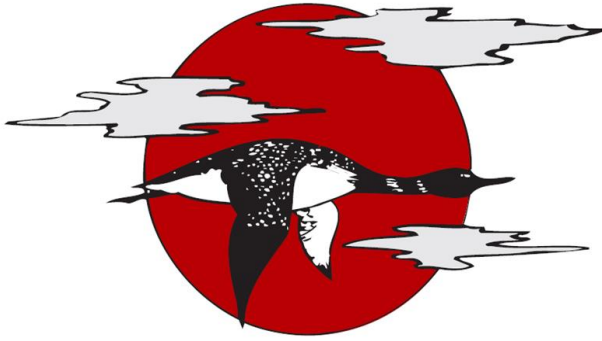
was dicey for a while but slow progress was made and then a torrential rain all but put the fire out and residents were able to return home.

- Ryan brought his wife Eliza to camp for the first time and he enjoyed showing her around the lake and the best fishing spots. Eliza helped with

- Ryan and Bill inspected all the outposts at the end of the season and were pleased that the bush is really "greening up" at Unnamed Lake after last year's forest fire. ❖



A successful moose hunt for Ryan and Pat. Several days of hunting ensued before this young bull answered Ryan's call.



Loon Haunt Outposts 2021 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). 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.

2020 IMPROVEMENTS

- Much raking and burning of brush at Goose Lake
- A coat of stain, varnish or paint was applied to doors, tables, cabin skirting, eaves, bathroom ceilings and the floor boards of the airplane
- The Nechigona boats were modified to the Goose Lake standard

PLANNED FOR 2021

- A fishing season!!!
- Re-shingle the roof at the Whitelaw outpost
- Replace the box springs at the Goose Lake cabins
- Brushing out the outposts that were reclaimed by Nature this year

Thank You

Thank you for your concern over our well-being and your patience as we all attempted to navigate this Covid-19 situation together. Your telephone calls and emails of support were much appreciated. Our spirits were uplifted by your photos of fishing expeditions in your country. We are confident that tourism will rebound once the restrictions are lifted and it is safe to travel again. We hope you take care of each other – stay safe and healthy! Can you imagine how hungry the walleyes will be in 2021?

Until we meet again,
Bill, Louise, Ryan and Eliza



Some of you have asked us about how we pick wild rice. Here is a [short video that shows that process](#). When the rice is ripe, a slight impact will cause it to fall from the plants and fill the bucket very quickly. The rice kernels that are not ripe remain on the plants so we have to make multiple pickings every 4 - 5 days as additional kernels ripen. In the meantime, the wind is knocking the ripe kernels off and the ducks and the geese are stripping the plants. Picking at this time is exciting and can be hard work as each 60 - 70 pound bag has to be lifted 5 - 6 times.

Because we did not have a fishing season this year, we dug deep into our archives and found some photos to share with you. Check out these happy, (and younger), fishermen!

Along with these pictures we included one of a much younger Bill operating the chain saw mill. This chain saw mill was used extensively in building the cabins at Goose Lake back in 1977 and 1978. As you can see, most of the cabins were built in the winter.



Our first trip to Goose Lake in 1977 with our young children and dog.













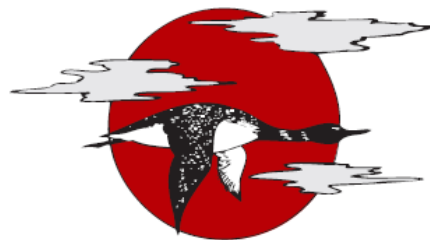








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