
ON THE POINT

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Spring 2008

Change of Seasons, Change of Reasons...

Daffodils, Mud & Fawns

We had a terrific winter here in the boondocks – plenty of snow and wind chill to satisfy even the most masochistic traveler.

There's a lot to admire about our snow-season guests who travel from far and near to hike, snowshoe, ski or rock by the fireplace and take in the view across the lake. The Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year's holidays were awash in folks eating and celebrating. And, for the second year, we celebrated the Winter Solstice with an Open House in the Library. Over hor d'oerves and cookies, hearty soup, sliced ham and so on, we reconnected with the local people who make this such a wonderful small town. For those of you who know Bob Curry – the general contractor who helped restore Prospect – Bob was in attendance sporting his newly refurbished knees. **Two!** He  looks great and says he's ready to go on our next project... 

Old Pine – New Pine

Much energy went into the complete renovation of Pine Cottage this winter. Age, weather and too many quick fixes over

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Warning: The following is a shameless, self-serving paid infomercial!

THE ENCHANTED PLACE

Deep in the Adirondack Forest exists an enchanted place. Legend has it that those who stumble upon it will lose part of their soul to this place. The legend is that thereafter those who have lost part of their souls are compelled to try to reunite with that lost fragment, and so either in their dreams or in reality are driven to return to that magic place. The legend also curiously tells us that although part of the soul has been lost the soul itself has expanded by having experienced the magic of the site.

The enchanted place is surrounded by deep forest and the pine and cedar scent in the air lulls the visitor into a sense of well being and as it penetrates the lungs it produces a calming effect washing away the strife and turmoil of the outer world. This enchanted place sits on the shores of a magnificent lake and the waters of the lake sparkle in the midday sun but at times turn angry and grey and warn the visitor to stay away until its fury is abated. Even in anger however there is an excitement and thrill to its wrath.

Over it all sits a majestic mountain peering down as if it were an immortal being watching all with a casual eye. As the mountain watches, so do also the spellbound visitors look back at it. To sit on the shores of this lake and look at the mountain is to understand what the reality of life is about and to catch a glimpse of eternity. The petty travails that engulf their lives and seem so important fade away and the freshness and beauty of life are highlighted.

But where is this magical place and how do we find it? Fortunately those who have been there have left us a trail of magic numbers. Try (518) 352-7378 and ask for Carol – she will guide you. 

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the past decades dictated a total Extreme Makeover. Helping with the demolition (little did we know) were a large colony of carpenter ants! Ken Bennett, as contractor, was undeterred by snow and wind or even by having to crawl around under the building to dig out the crawl space. He and Donnie spent a **lot** of time and energy undoing the decay of decades...Our goal was to build in all the original charm and make the cottage a four-seasons rental. Now guests can sit on the new (level) screened porch or by the fireplace.* This adorable little cottage promises to be one of the most sought-after spots on the Point, especially with the parents who want to keep a sharp eye on the little ones without mounting an expedition to the beach. 🐾



Pine undergoing an Extreme Makeover

What We Do In Winter

Here's where it gets really exciting and unpredictable. We had bit of snow in November but mostly cold wind. We felt pretty confident that, come what may, we were in good shape. Unfortunately, "what may" came...in spades. One memorable morning after a blizzard so fierce we couldn't get to work the day before (thankfully there were no guests just then) it was time for Donnie to dig us out. Too bad for him he threw a wheel off his truck, Amanda tried to move her car out of the Town plow's way and bent her car key. We called in a favor from Johnny Joyce and he eventually straightened the key. Just after that we discovered the door to Bear had blown open in the gale winds off the lake. Donnie broached the subject with "well, the porch is clean. Too bad all the snow is inside Bear." There was snow to be shoveled out before we could fix the broken pipes, which had flooded most of the unit. Lucky we had just purchased a fancy steam rug cleaner. Amanda and crew sucked gallons of water out of the carpeting over a two day period. That carpet has

never been so clean! Thankfully, that was the worst of it.

As I write this (March 1st) there's a brisk squall moving through. At times we cannot see the lake. Last night the dreaded wind was back, drifting us in. All the cottages are occupied with blissfully relaxed folks whose only requirement is more firewood so they might sit quietly admiring the Adirondack winter. 🐾



Clearing "Donnie Pass", March 1, 2008

What Guests Do In Winter



Snowshoeing On Blue Mountain Lake



Fireplace & Rocking Chair

SUMMER FUN REMINDER!



In our last newsletter we encouraged you to make and bring a flag to fly from your cottage for the week(s) you're here. The flag holders are the usual inch diameter white plastic dohickeys you'd find in Michaels or some other craft store.. Fly a favorite shirt, share a crayoned bed sheet, invent a family crest or show off your ancestral roots. Why not? It's summer, you're at Prospect and all's well! Plus it'd be fun to see "Since – or "Established" - (your first year here)" 🐾

THINGS TO KNOW

"EMERGENCY BOX"

On the office porch you'll find an "after-hours" box with the basics: TP, paper towels, garbage bags etc. Help yourself.

KITCHEN ITEMS

In the back shed there's a door labeled "lending library" which has casserole dishes, huge pots and so on. We only ask that you return the items you borrow before checking out.

MAKING A FUTURE RESERVATION

NO RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR 2009 WITHOUT LETTING US KNOW YOUR INTENTIONS. IF YOU WISH TO CHANGE COTTAGES FOR THE NEXT YEAR, YOU MUST WAIT UNTIL ALL DEPOSITS ARE IN FROM ALL OUR RESERVATIONS. PLAN ON MARCH '09 AT THE EARLIEST.

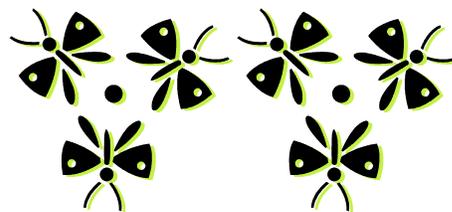
*"What if the Hokey Pokey is what
it's really all about?"*

THIS JUST IN...

Another astonishing bit of news -- from young Jack Ross-Pelkington regarding "what lurks in Blue Mountain Lake?" He assures us it is of the reptilian family. Its intentions are not known. (Jack is 8 yrs old so he has plenty of time to find out!)

Jack and his family hope that news of Blessie won't bring the paparazzi and ooglers here to ruin our blissful town.

Blessie...Blue Mountain's Own Monster?



Welcome bugs...or not

THIS SUMMER DON'T MISS:

JUNE

20-22: Adirondack Birding Festival

JULY

4th at 6:30pm: Independence Day parade in Indian Lake followed by fireworks at dusk

4th – 9:30am – dark: Long Lake Celebrates!

8th: 7:30pm: Historian Bill Zullo presents a slide show on the history of Blue Mountain Lake – *in our own Prospect Room*

10-12th: 20th Annual Heart Of The Park Antique Show & Sale – Long Lake

12th: 1 pm: Irish Road Bowling in Indian Lake. Good family outing..

19th: Long Lake Regatta

20th: Long Lake Summer Fiddle Jam (Mt. Sebattis)

AUGUST

7th 1pm: Guided Historical Tour of Blue Mtn. Lake .

9: ALCA Great Camps Benefit

10th All Day: Blue Mountain Lake Day!

31st: 12 noon: BMLVFD Chicken BBQ

And so much more there's no room to list them all!

Details on our bulletin board down by Cedar all summer



This Season's Benefits

What we're grateful for

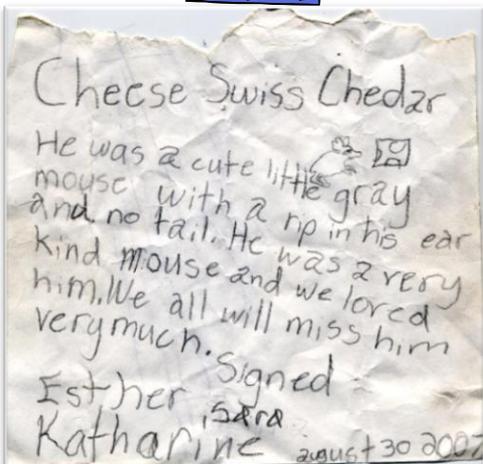
Larger parking spaces once the snow's gone...taking the ice cleats off our boots...remembering where our sandals are...UPS delivery of new garden plants...rowdy children's voices..Summer cleaning help...a chance to work off that winter weight...kayaks, canoes and motor boats towing big tubes across the lake...chains on the dumpster...ice cream and pies from the Boat Livery...rocking chairs...live bait...

"Three days on beautiful Blue Mtn Lake. I can't believe I stood on a frozen shelf that long at 80 yrs of age." – Ole Cap'n Dick, Long Pond Ice Fishing Club

ride-on lawn mowers ...toasted
marshmallows...Loons...sunblock...bonfires...

One of the biggest things we're grateful for is the continued presence of our faithful campers. For all of you who make room in your busy lives for Prospect Point, we salute you.

No  of this would make any sense without all of you here. t



Rest in peace little mouse.

This charming note was found by Donnie next to a home-made cross, decorated with fresh flowers (mmm, wonder where they got those?).

Particularly notable is that this is the only known instance of a mouse who was actually missed.

Ask Aunt Carol

Q: Thanks for providing us with a weekly weather report but it's often wrong. Why is that?

--Teresa in Raleigh, NC

A: That's why it's called a "**prediction.**" You know, like who will win the Super Bowl or if the Pope will be beamed to Heaven on the 10th anniversary of Bigfoot's election to the Senate. Like that. We're not meant to believe them; after all, they're just guessing (and getting paid for it).

Q: What is it with you and those blue registration cards? Don't you just automatically sign us up for the next summer?

– Huffy in Harrison, NY

A: There's no way to explain how horrifying it is to crush someone's expectations for their vacation. While 85% of the people who come during summer have long known the drill (rebook, pay deposit etc), there are a (blessedly) few who did not actually ask to be rebooked and... weren't. But truly thought they had been. Aunt Carol would rather give up her fancy corkscrew than disappoint someone that way. We beg your indulgence and plead you all formally rebook for the coming year. We'll even give you a dandy piece of paper to prove it! (Otherwise, please make donations to the "Help Keep Carol Sane" fund. Not even remotely tax deductible.)

Q: What's the best way to deal with blackflies?

--Itchy in Ithaca

A: Head nets, deet, light clothing and, in severe infestations, a shotgun. (Double barrel gives the best effect.) Did you know blackflies don't bite at night? True. True.

Q: We'd like more time to get ready for the Talent Show. Can you give us more warning, please?

-Rehearsing in Redview

A: Excellent question. We like to think we run a pretty open operation here so here's how it works: David and/or Paul wanders up to the office after breakfast and we spend some time going over details (like "wow, it's a beautiful day" or "where did I leave my hat?"). In due time the conversation turns to the Talent Show for the week and we promise to get

right on it. David gets in his kayak and isn't seen until late afternoon and Paul gets entangled in some artsy thing or another. Aunt Carol just tries to wrangle the two of them while trying to remember where she put *her* hat. By 4PM, we have the Talent Show sign made up and we track David down (no doubt while he's giving a history tour somewhere on the property) and he promises to deliver them. Paul promises to help and I promise to find the staple gun. Most times we even have the talent show the day we planned. If any of you want to help us improve our efficiency we'd be happy for the help. Just try and keep up though.

Fair warning.

Q: Where's the best spot to catch bass?

- Wormy in Willow

A: In the lake. (Sorry. Just *toooo* easy, Wormy).

Usually right near some serious looking local guy's boat is where the hits are. We know they're in there, we've even seen some. And we still mourn the loss of Walter the Oft-Caught Bass who passed away in the summer of '06. He was, reportedly, delicious. There are evidently not as many "catch and release" enthusiasts as we'd hoped.

Disclaimer

Advice (noun) :
..*Recommendation* about action
--Somebody's *opinion* about what another person should do.

That's pretty much how you should view this nonsense – except, of course, Huffy-in- Harrison's question. Taking any of this seriously could result in severe brain cramps, addiction to rice cakes, liver quivers, nausea, rampant eyebrow plucking and/or permanent failure to withstand telemarketing calls.

(The Surgeon General's Office has neither confirmed nor denied these side effects. But then they didn't know about poison in pet food, either.)

