



Crane's Lochaven Wilderness Lodge

2022 Year End Newsletter



Happy Holidays!

We had a great season! We truly believe this pandemic is behind us and we anticipate an even greater 2023 season. There is no denying a decline in occupancy in 2020 and 2021, mainly due to the provincial lock downs and border closures.



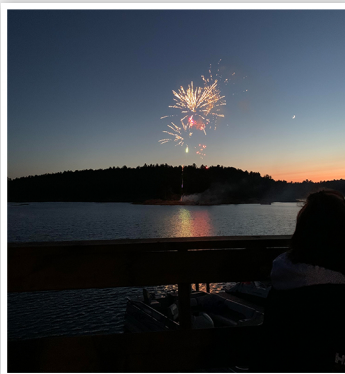
However, in retrospect, the ending result proved to be advantageous in our situation. We love our secluded setting on a private island on the French River but with that comes challenges. After ice out we barely have time to get ready for opening let alone take on major renovations. With so few people the first half of the season 2 years in a row, it allowed us to do just that! Our upgrades must be shining because we have had many guests question if we are preparing to sell. The answer by the way is "no!", but it is very nice that all our hard work is so apparent it has led to this thought. We feel it is important for us to share this with you. More on the reno's later.

Another positive...never thought it would be possible to have an even stronger appreciation for greeting you all at the dock. The many reunions have been wonderful. Now with all restrictions lifted at the border we anticipate so many more. We also love the influx of domestic travel, primarily from Southern Ontario and the Greater Sudbury Area.

A snap shot of 2022 begins with us arriving to the island on April 23. We did not expect to make it that day but we persevered through the ice in our steel boat and a few hours later we reached our destination. Early ice out allowed us an extra week to get ready for our first May opening in 3 years which was a good thing because we were full. There was apparent positive energy that permeated through the lodge. Everyone was just so happy to be out!

100 Years on the French!

2022 marked one hundred years since the lodge had been built by the Canadian Pacific Railway. July kick started us in celebration mode. We planned a big fireworks display. Everyone from the river was invited with a special invite to the Loch family, preceding owners of the lodge.



Visit from Sudbury East Chamber of Commerce

We were honoured to host Jill D'Amour, Business Development Officer of Sudbury East Chamber of Commerce. Jill was very intrigued with our centennial celebration and met with staff and many guests during a fish fry to know more about the history of the lodge. You can find the article on our website: craneslochavenlodge.com/history



Ed's Fishing Corner...

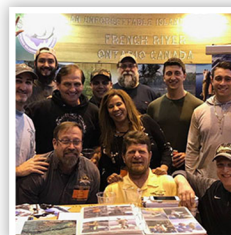
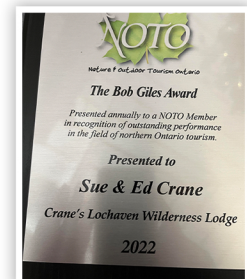
The guides were busy and we had many group shore lunches. The first photo here is a favourite day at a shore lunch with the other guides, one of whom is my daughter Gracie. Pike fishing was active from early in the season, many exceeded 30" and some greater than 40". Bass fishing was busy from the beginning of the season until the end. There were some beautiful large mouth bass, emerald green in color, always a treat. Spring and fall walleye was more productive with quite a few over the season exceeding expectations. The boat docks once again proved to be great afternoon fishing. The little pine rapids also gave up a lot of nice fish. And what do I have to say about musky?... timing and locations is everything....fish in the dining room, not the living room...the bigger the better the tighter the sweater. Happy to announce next season we bring back our fishing contest.



Watch Eddie Land A Nice Pike At CranesLochavenLodge.com/EddiesPike

Surprise award

In attendance at the Northern Ontario Tourism Summit held in Thunder Bay, we were honoured to be presented the NOTO Bob Giles Award. This award is in recognition of outstanding performance in the Northern Ontario Tourism Industry.



Sportshows

We are attending the Toronto Sportsmen's Show March 16 - 19, 2023 held at The International Centre. At this time we are not confirmed at any other shows but we will announce if we plan to attend more.

Any upgrades?

Our electrical upgrade is finally complete and certified by the Electrical Safety Authority. As you can imagine, this was a major undertaking. A big thank you to Luc Charles Electrical, LTD for taking on the project and seeing it through to the end. Luc and team worked very hard to bring all buildings to ESA Standards.



We really appreciate their hard work with minimal interruption to our operation. Can't say enough! We extend a further thank you to BWR Power and Lighting. Many of you will recall when we ran into issues with the initial subcontractor accountable for the pole installation. The issues were so significant it brought production to a halt preventing us from competing the project in 2021. BWR Power and Lighting took over in the spring and cleaned up their mess. They did an outstanding job at installing 13 rock anchor poles, running new wires and worked with the electricians to complete the hook up to the newly installed masts. Here's a bonus...the poles came equipped with sensor lights that now light up the trails. The island looks incredible from the river at night.

Other improvements...

- Added a new pontoon boat to the fleet (brings our total to twelve)
- Purchased a new 50 KW generator. The 2016 is still functional to act as a backup
- Bathroom renovation in cabins 8, 9 and 16 which involved replacing the bathtub/shower units, toilets, bathroom vanities and floors
- Replaced carpets with vinyl wood flooring in 8 guests cabins
- Changed many ceiling fans and light fixtures
- Built a wood shed (already stocked for spring)
- Cleared a number of trees at the back cabins making an even better view of the river

Upcoming renovation...

- Bathroom renovation in cabins 1, 5 and 10
- Replace carpet with vinyl wood flooring in one remaining cabin
- Continue to replace ceiling and bathroom fans and light fixtures
- Complete the puzzle renovation (house on the hill). We are looking for a contractor(s) to complete this job so if anyone is interested in bidding on it please be in contact with us.



Fish TV

We are so very happy to have hosted Leo Stokos, Ron James and Jeff Chisholm of Fish TV. We are not sure when the episode will air so when it is known we will post the information through our social media channels.

Prepare for Next Season!

The lodge is all shut down and we are settled in our house located in Wolesley Bay. Gracie started College in Ottawa in September. We are adjusting to our empty nest and are looking forward to our family gathering at Christmas. We have no upcoming vacation plans as of yet but anticipate some last minute travel.

With the major renovations behind us, and anticipating a busy 2023 season, we are already recharged and ready to celebrate a 50 years of Crane family ownership spanning 2 generations.

2023 spots are filling up quick so try not to wait too long to book your vacation. We hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.



~ Ed & Sue

Important dates...

- May 19 - Opening day
- May 20 - Walleye, pike and bass open
- June 17 - Musky open
- June 19 - Spring discount ends
- Sept 18 - Fall discount begins

