



To all our friends,

What an incredible year !!! The 2008 season was off to a cold start. We enjoyed a late season, record snowstorm, in early May, delaying the ice break up until the 14th of May. Considering our first guests arrived on the 17th, just in time for the opener, we had no time to waste opening camp for the year. The work that is normally spread over two weeks was jammed into three days. Needless to say, somehow we made it happen.



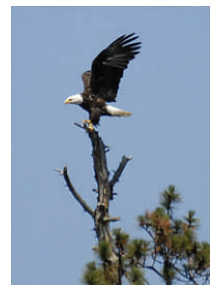
Fishing in early season was excellent. Lots of northern, smallies and of course, the walleyes cooperated providing ample fish for the first shore lunch of the year....mmm...that smell and can't you just taste it !!! Record numbers of fish set the tone for the record numbers of guests that visited this year. Aided by the 4/3 promotion special, many returning guests afforded new members of your groups the opportunity to experience our resort for the first time....a big thanks to all for your help spreading the word. A special word of appreciation to the Sykora group, who returned again, the last week of May, making it over 40 continuous years coming on their annual trek to "The Island". What a wonderful atmosphere around camp when they visit. From the fishing tournament, the card games or down on the dock, the resort comes to life as we launched into another summer.

As quickly as the opener came, we blinked and we were in June. The fishing continued strong, however the early season patterns of the fish and weed growth was hampered by the usually cold water. The highlight of the month happened on Friday, June 13th. Who said anything about being superstitious !!! With a full camp and dinner to serve for over 35 people, the main generator blew a piston at 11am. Without a backup power source....what were we to do? Thankfully, we have a Walmart within 1 hour of the landing. Would you believe they had two portable gen sets, in stock, that could provide back-up power for our entire island !!! With the professional assistance of our good friends at Dryden Electrix, Ray came to help. His response time was unbelievable. By the time we had returned from Dryden with the gen sets, he had arrived at the landing. Within three hours, the adjustments were completed to the grid and power restored. Unbelievably, dinner was served in the lodge, on time, that evening.



Through the month of July the weather continued cool. Several mornings in early July a fire was lit in the wood stove to warm the main lodge at breakfast. The fishing, however, was hot. Many of the seasons largest walleye's (in the 5lb-10lb) range were caught through the middle of the summer. The largest northern of the season (44 inches) was caught during the last week of July. Can you believe that this year's record smallmouth of 24 inches was caught off the dock at the resort !!! The Muskie hunting all season was surprisingly more consistent than other years. One experienced fisherman on Eagle Lake recorded over 40 fish this season, with a couple exceeding the magic 50 inch mark. We are anxiously anticipating a 60+ inch record in 2009.

In August, we hosted the return engagement of Italo Labignan's, TV series, The Canadian Sportfishing show. The first episodes that were filmed in 2007 aired on national TV this year. The recognition we have received has been beyond our expectations. Those who have yet to see the programs just have to log onto our website at www.eaglelakeislandlodge.com and click on the Canadian Sportfishing logo. Once at their site, select the tab for TV programs and watch the shows from Eagle Lake on line. Some of the footage was also used to produce the video clip for the resort that is on our new homepage. Take a look and show your friends. While visiting this year, 3 additional episodes on "topwater for northern", "speedrolling for walleye" and one on the elusive Muskie fishery of Eagle Lake were filmed.



We can't wait to see them !!! Mark your calendars for late Sept 2009, when CSF is returning for the third time to film several shows on the elusive Muskie, during the Fall when they are most active.

Our registration numbers for the 2008 season were very strong. Despite some of the perceptions about the tourist industry, you proved that "the annual fishing trip to Canada" is something sacred and is held by most, as a tradition. Thanks you for your continued support. We are also very pleased to see that more groups have already booked their 2009 visit. Most were booked during your visit this summer. Returning guest bookings are already up over 75% from this time last year. We have also reached another milestone we would like to share, **one returning group has booked the entire resort for 4 nights, during the month of July.**



Here is the "good news and the bad news" section.

OK, first the bad news, unlike most other resorts that charge gas as an "add on" at the end of your stay, we continue to include **"unlimited"** gas with all our packages, (when using our boats, of course). The cost of bulk gas in Canada has been fluctuating between \$5.00-\$6.00 per gallon, all season. You know what's coming !!! Effective Jan 1st, 2009, our rates for all packages will be increasing. That's any where from \$40-\$125 depending on your choice of plan.

Now the good news !!!

Avoid the price increase.....**THAT'S RIGHT 2008 RATES APPLY**.....but don't miss the deadline! These preferred rates expire **Monday, Dec 15th, 2008** and are offered only to our groups that include returning guests. **Deposits of \$200.00 per person must be received by the deadline.** Those guests who have spoken about "Eagle Lake Island Lodge" to friends and family, this offer can be extended to new members. Here's a great reason for them to visit the resort for the first time.

Thanks again for your help promoting our small piece of paradise in Canada!!!

We are also very pleased to have finalized our youths discount program. In an effort to keep it simple, we have created three age categories;

1. 5 years and younger stay **FREE**
2. 6 to 11 years inclusive, enjoy **25% discount** off all package prices
3. 12 to 18 years inclusive, enjoy **10% discount** off all package prices



This is the year to bring the kids along. Let them experience the **Canadian fishing adventure**

Booking is easier than ever....just log on at www.eaglelakeislandlodge.com and choose the "Book Now" selection from the menu on the homepage. Fill in the reservation form and we'll email or call to confirm this rest. For those without the convenience of the internet, just call 1-866-510-4207 and we'll confirm everything over the phone.

See you in 2009 at the lodge or come by the booth at one of our scheduled tradeshow for a visit. Check the schedule on the website. We would love to see you.

Mark and the staff.

