



AT BIRCHWOOD, WE WANT YOU TO FEEL AT HOME!

### "Better Late than Never!"

Oh, 2020 – there's a million things we wanted to do with this year, but we just weren't able, as I'm sure many can relate. One thing we couldn't do this year was GET A NEWSLETTER OUT ON TIME, amirite?! For that, I am so sorry – but, like they say, "Better Late than Never!" (*someone does say that, right?!*) 😊

But seriously, what we were able to do this year, is survive this crazy world, and that is in part – thanks to you!!

We truly want to thank you all for putting your trust in us that you'd be able to have your family get away at the Lake and relish a small piece of normalcy, in this otherwise crazy time. Seeing our guests come and go, and enjoy their time at the lake is what held us together through all of this! We hope that each of you and yours have stayed safe and sane through this trying time.

### Slow down and enjoy the simple pleasures in life.

So since this year was all about social distancing, we wanted to highlight some of the activities you can do (and hopefully DID) while you were here, that aligns with maintaining at least 1-moose length from other guests outside of your house! If you didn't get to them this past summer, be sure to put them on your agenda for THIS SUMMER!

While we haven't done it yet – it's 100% on our list of things to do – the **Revolution Rail Co** – railbiking in North Creek! Railbiking

with Revolution Rail Co. is a fun excursion activity that allows riders to ride the railroad tracks under their own power and explore a section of the Adirondack railroad that never saw passenger traffic! How neat!

And – we are only 1 or 2 hikes away from completing our own **Chester Challenge** (Bailey, too)! We mentioned it a few years ago, but who has completed it!? The Chester Challenge was designed by the Town and encourages hikers to explore the expansive regional trail network. This is more of a family-friendly hiking challenge than others you may come across, and it was created to appeal to hikers of all skill levels. To complete this hiking challenge and receive a commemorative pin / patch, you need to complete 6 out of 11 designated trails and then go to the Chamber of Commerce! Let's see your pins – post them on our Facebook page!!

And – there's always time for socially distanced ice cream at any (or all) of our local ice cream eateries! Make it an ice cream crawl!



# Birchwood Cottages

Loon Lake

"December-ish" 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

### Winter Wonderland!

We realize that it's already December-ish, but we continue to offer preferred pricing to our return renters for a fall, winter or spring stay in our Lodge (nightly/weekly/no real time requirement)! The ice fishing is underway, and we're hoping for enough snow to enjoy some snowmobiling SOON! Dynamite Hill is also open for sledding, skiing, snow shoeing and ice skating FOR FREE too! Even Lake George is doing a modified Winterfest this year!



### Sky above, sand below, peace within!

We can't forget to thank Pat for all his hard work all over Birchwood! His *freedom bubbles*™ were a hit on the beach this year and his vision for the new rock wall at the top of the beach (and thanks to Jake for doing it)! We've got more beach / lake frontage changes planned, but who knows what 2021 will bring or require. Again, we thank you all for respecting the bubbles, our beach, and our other guests so that everyone could enjoy some of that sunshine and sand therapy!

### The Early Bird Catches the Worm!

Since we can't seem to get our newsletter out in time this year, we have extended the early payment discount just a bit! Like we have previously, we will offer an early payment discount for our weekly summer renters -- and we continue to appreciate the respect to the existing timeline and policies! Payment IN FULL is due 90 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR CHECK-IN DATE. If you need to discuss special circumstances, please get in touch with Margo, and I'm sure we can work something out.

Discount remains at \$25 per unit per week (\$50 per week for the Lodge) **if your contract is signed and payment is received in full prior to March 1, 2021.** We are working on the contracts now and will be sending them out before February 1 (lord willing) via email! If you want a printed and mailed contract sent to you, *please let me know!*

### Warren County Bed Tax Update

In your 2021 contracts (and since Sept 2020) you will notice that, regardless of your duration of stay (unless it's 30+days), we are now required to charge each renter the 4% Warren County Bed tax...so, please understand that the increase in your rental cost is due to this required Warren Co bed tax! You can read more about it at [www.warrencountyny.gov](http://www.warrencountyny.gov) and please let us know if you have any questions!

### As always, Gene and Erica put their heart into Birchwood, and for them we are so grateful!

Erica never ceases to amaze us with her talents...she wrote this great winter poem entitled "**T' was the Night Before the First Snow**" Enjoy!

*T'was the night before the first snow, when all through the grounds not a creature was stirring, not even a hound. The wood was a stacked by the cottage with care, in hopes that the new shed would soon be there. The new flowers were all nestled snug in their beds; While visions of Spring danced in our heads; and Gene and his cat, and I and my crafts, had just settled down after raking the grounds, When down at the lake there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my cottage to see what was the matter.*

*Away to the Porch I flew like the Air Force Jets, Tore open the door and threw on some sweats. The light of the Lodge on the newly planted grass, gave a luster of summer to the Lodge below. When, what to tired eyes*

*should appear, But a Birchwood golf cart and six batteries, With a bunch of old Yankees signs so faded and dull, I knew in a moment this must go quick.*

*More rapid than the white waters of the Hudson, the guests they all came, And they gathered and partied because they all knew; The Lodge was booked in the summer by someone like you!: "Now Party! Now Feast! Now Chill and be Merry! On Christmas! On New Year's! And on President's Day! To the top of the Morn! To the top of the Eve!*

*Now ski away! Snowboard away! Sled away all!" As we sit and wait before the wild snow flies, When the first snow meets us, It's beautiful in the sky; So up to the tippy top of Gore the guests they all flew, with the Suburban all packed full of ski gear and Fido too-*

*And Then, in the blink of an eye, I heard on the lake the sawing and buzzing of augers and sleds. As I gathered my gear and started to the lake, Down the road a snowplow came with a loud scrapping sound. It was all covered in snow, from the front to the back, And his plow left a big snow bank all dirty and brown. A bundle of salt he had loaded in the back, And he looked like St. Nick just pushing the snow pack.*

*The Loons - How Late they did stay! Was mid December, at least 'till they flew away! Our cheeks were like roses, our noses sure were frozen! Loon Lake looked as if it had been drawn up like a Christmas gift that just needed a bow. And the snow on the ground was as fluffy and white as Santa's beard;*

*The night grew dark as winter held on with the grit of it's teeth, The smoke of the woodstove, it encircled the camp like a wreath; Simba had an orange face and a little round belly that shook when he ran, like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old cat. And you all laughed when I said "He can do tricks." You replied "He won't do that!" A shake of my bag and a twist of his head, Soon showed you he could stand on two peds.*

*The owners spoke not a word, but went straight to the lake, And filled all their sleds, then they turned with a Jerk And laying a*



*finger aside the key, And giving a nod, on their sleds they climb; Bailey and Harrison sprang to the sleds, when their parents gave a whistle, And down the lake they all flew like the down of a thistle. But! I heard them exclaim, ere as they drove out of site "Happy Christmas" to all, I'll see you next year!*

### SUMMER CHECK-IN REMINDERS

- **CHECK IN AT 4PM.** This is more important now than ever due to the extra cleaning required because of Covid-19. We THANK YOU for respecting this time.
- **Check-out is 11am**
- **Key Codes and entrance instructions emailed week prior, once paid in full.**
- Payment due 90 days prior to arrival
- All trash / food must be taken with you, dishes washed upon checkout
- Don't forget **your linens!**

### We'll see you REAL soon!

We want to thank you for another wonderful summer! This year had many memorable moments for us, and we are hopeful it did for you, too! The weather was as close to perfect as it will ever be, the water was (mostly) warm, and everyone's spirits were high! Thanks to you and yours, we had an incredible summer season! We can't wait to see you back real soon!

### Love – The McGowans

