



AT BIRCHWOOD, WE WANT YOU TO FEEL AT HOME!

*Birchwood Cottages*

Loon Lake

Winter 2021/2022

READ AND ENJOY!

### *"The more things change, the more they stay the same"*

Sometimes I feel like we are living in 2020 all over again, except this year, the newsletter is out just a smidge later, if that was even possible (I swear I started it in December!). 😊

We made it...through another year of weird—and we're glad that you were there with us again...providing memories, smiles and some-what normalcy for our summer routine at the lake! It wouldn't be normal without all of you!

See, what was different for us this year, was that we were no longer weekend warriors back and forth to camp!! We got to relish in the long summer days at the lake, and not the hurried weekends to come and go—and we couldn't be happier with that change. It was great to be able to finally meet some of you for the first time...can you even believe it! We love putting actual faces to names!

### Days Gone By...

As I'm sure many of you know, I field the majority of inquires that come through our hands for rentals, and for whatever reason this year, we got more and more emails asking if we "used to be the cottages that were owned by person XYZ" – sometimes we were, and sometimes we weren't...but what was great about all these inquiries, is that they came with a story.

I found out that there used to be a set of cottages down the road from us called "Loon Lake Cottages" they were lakeside

and have since been moved / removed and a beautiful log cabin now stands. But, I learned that right down from those cottages, stood a place to buy bait and tackle and rent boats...did any of you all know that? Or had you ever stayed at "Loon Lake Cottages? This nice man Tony, caught many perch right there with his sister, catching the largest one on a wooded stick with fishing line tied to it! How neat!



Then, I met a person named Jerri who stayed at Birchwood as a child. They used to stay at Happy Holidays off the lake but moved to Birchwood when Happy Holidays sold.

She shared so many wonderful pictures of her summers with family at the lake, in the cottages, at the beach, the damn, and even the public beach! I've shared those amazing pictures in this newsletter as well – because...man, if walls could talk! Maybe some of you even recognize the time (or people)!

What I'm trying to say with all of this is that – these memories that you all make, and share, then become our memories and a glimpse of what Birchwood, Loon Lake and

even Chestertown used to be, before we called it home, and that's something very special to us. Please don't stop sharing!

### Here are some of our favorite family moments around our new home!



### World University Games 2023!

I always have a plan to get this out in the fall to remind our summer Loons that Birchwood is here for them in the wintertime, too! Of course, that didn't happen this year, but I'm telling you this now, *for next year!* The World University Games will be at Gore in 2023, for 11 days – I'm excited to see the life that it brings to the surrounding towns! It's an 11-day international festival and competition combining high-level sport with educational and cultural events. Gore is hosting the Snowboard, Freestyle & Freeski events!

### We're Going Digital (or trying to)!

Ok, so one thing that has been keeping Pat busy this winter is the set-up of an online channel manager so that we can book (and take payments) directly on our website! I am working with him on getting ELECTRONIC CONTRACTS out to all of you (if you haven't received emailed copies already) for the 2022 season. If you stayed with us last year and didn't explicitly tell us you were not coming back, then your reservation remains. I'd love to be able to manage contracts (and payments) electronically, so that's what we're shooting for. Payment IN FULL is still 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.



### Gene and Erica have spread their wings (and welcomed little ADK)!

Gene and Erica had an exciting winter and welcomed baby ADK into the world (Adam Donald Kiefer) on January 6 at 11:45pm, weighing 3 pounds 1 ounce and 15 inches long! This little fighter spent time in the NICU, got super strong and was able to recently come home! We want to wish them the absolute best with their beautiful new bundle (and we hope you will, too)! We're not sure what summer holds, but be sure to say hello, share well wishes and those wonderful baby cuddles with

everyone! And I'm sure Baby ADK will be enjoying the lake in no time!

### Thanks to Jerri for these pictures!



### SUMMER CHECK-IN REMINDERS

- **CHECK IN AT 4PM.** 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 to the onsite dumpster, dishes washed upon checkout**
- **Don't forget your linens!**
- **Please respect our property while you're here!**

### We'll see you sooner than later!!

Our thanks belong to you, our customers, the people that continue to come back to Birchwood to create more memories, which helps us create more memories – it's a wonderful cycle! We will definitely see you around this summer and as always – if you've got ideas for the newsletter, or Birchwood...you know how to find us!

### Love – The McGowans

