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Merry Christmas to All and a very Happy New Year for 2026

A very heartfelt "thanks" to all our guests for a wonderful season in 2025. You are what keeps us looking forward to a brand-new season. Each weekend we are saddened to see you leave but then remember - there is always next year. Then the work begins, cleaning cabins and making them up, cleaning boats and performing any repairs, and general repairs. Don't get me wrong, we're always working but I'd rather be working on an engine than making beds and I'm sure Joy would rather be baking than doing laundry. But such is life and more friends will be returning tomorrow.

Not sure if it's a result of Covid, but fishing just seems to be getting better. The walleye seems to be more plentiful and bigger (hard to get many under 18). They still move around a lot and can be hard to find but once you're on them, the fun begins. Either there are a lot more people fishing for trout or there are just more trout because Steve spent a lot more time smoking trout than in the past.

Speaking of Steve, once again he has taken up "permanent residence" at Bear Paw with his little furry friends, the "fox family." Unfortunately, they can have a sick sense of humor. He spent over \$200 on a pair of winter gloves and set them down on the railing to go pour a cup of coffee. Two minutes later he came back out and watched one of them carrying away one of the gloves. All he could yell was "you're dead meat". Well, learned lessons. He can be quite a comedian at times but that just adds to his character. We don't know where we would be without him, he is learning so much and is fantastic with all of you.

As for us, we are in our retirement home and loving it. Even though it's winter and the lake is freezing over, it's incredible to watch the sun come up while enjoying our morning coffee. There is about a 20ft drop from the lower level down to the lake which makes a perfect sliding hill for the grandkids. Darcy fashioned a couple log home styled bird feeders that are mounted on seat swivels which can be rotated inward for filling and swung back out passed the railing. There are countless buntings, grosbeaks, and 4 pairs of bluejays helping themselves. Joy has begun her Christmas baking and the house smells wonderful. She is finally scheduled for carpal tunnel surgery in January and hopefully it ends the constant pain and gets rid of the numbness. Darcy brought in three of the

upgrade boats from the lodge so we can redo the floors and vinyl and tighten any loose rivets. We are also doing the regular 16 ft camp boat flooring and replacing the transoms. Sadly, we have no plans to travel this winter but that may change as the weather gets colder or we get our winter projects completed early.

We congratulate this year's winners of the Bear Paw Derby. Your 2026 accommodation with us is complimentary.

<i>Walleye-Don Porath</i>	<i>12# 4oz</i>
<i>Northern-Tim Ische</i>	<i>18# 1oz</i>
<i>Trout- Rick Bard</i>	<i>12# 3oz</i>

As per last year, to enter your fish for this derby, we require a picture of the fish on a digital scale showing the exact weight and a picture of the fish on a tape measure for length (in event of a tie on the weight). This allows all our guests to return their trophy fish back to Caribou Lake and still have an opportunity to place in the derby. Just a reminder to include a proper fish scale and tape measure in your fishing kit.

Please note the following increases in our rates due to inflation and continued government policies like the extra carbon taxes etc. The great thing is with the strong US dollar; there is little or no increase in our great guests coming in from south of the border.

<i>Accommodations Per person</i>	<i>Boat type</i>	<i>Boat Rate Per Person</i>	<i>Total Per Person</i>
<i>1000.00</i>	<i>Own</i>	<i>nil</i>	<i>1000.00 (650 USD)</i>
<i>1000.00</i>	<i>Regular with 25hp</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>1250.00 (800 USD)</i>
<i>1000.00</i>	<i>Upgrade with 60hp</i>	<i>400.00</i>	<i>1400.00 (915 USD)</i>

(USD rates are approximate and subject to change without notice. Rates do not include taxes.)

A minimum of 350.00/person deposit is required to confirm your reservations. Rates are in Canadian dollars for the 6-day / 6-night stay.

We encourage guests to purchase their fishing licenses prior to arrival at Bear Paw. Bait regulations have changed. Minnows cannot be brought in from south of the tracks. We will have minnows trapped locally and the price remains at 60.00/week/person or 5.00 per dozen. Steve will continue to make your minnows available in a timely manner.

*Keep well, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
Warm regards and hugs....Joy & Darcy*