

SEASON OVERVIEW

1. **STAFF:** Despite some “medical issues” (personal and family) the staff pulled together and did one OUTSTANDING job for the season.
2. **WEATHER** (need to mention it) – unusually warm throughout the season; HIGH winds during July and early August. Forest fires in the area, thankfully there was no immediate damage to any KaBeeLo structures.
3. **FISHING** – another BANNER YEAR for angling. Lots of fish; big fish (all species); fished shallow, fished deep, fished in between and caught fish.
4. **CUSTOMER COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:**
 - ♦ love all of the cabin remodels and updating
 - ♦ love the new minnow “cages” – live longer and can store more
 - ♦ love the USB ports in the cabins – can now charge phone/battery/depth finder
 - ♦ Neat, tidy & WELL ORGANIZED. KaBeeLo has always done it right but now doing it even better
 - ♦ the “next generation” of owners – doing it right and doing it very well. They have taken the leaders in the fly-out industry and raised it to a newer level. Keep it up!
 - ♦ the “gravel road” - only defines getting to the wilderness and what it is about
 - ♦ the early “fly-out” upon arrival (when available) – a spectacular idea. A real treat!

IMPROVEMENTS

DEAD DOG:

New dock, cabin cribbing, siding, exterior doors, flooring, roof, a few windows, deck, solar fridge/freezer, bunks and mattresses...

Guests asked “why update the cabin—it’s in good shape?”. Nature’s elements are very hard on our structures - the longer we wait, the more costly the updates. We strive to keep fishing trips affordable without sacrificing quality.

PROPANE FILLING STATION

The start of a new propane filling station

at the Main Base is well underway. Many hours have been spent ensuring the Lodge is up to code and compliant with regulations.

Upgrades include new 1,000 gallon tanks, lines, scales, pumps, wires, signs and barriers. The upgrade will ensure we can continue to fill our 80+ smaller propane tanks & maximize time & cost savings.

MOTORS

16 new 8HP Yamaha 4-stroke boat motors were added to camp this summer... most 2-stroke motors have now been re-

placed with 4-strokes. Why 4-stroke? Guests love them for sound, less smoke, smoother and less gas. Pitfalls: they are heavy @ 105lbs each and expensive to replace when damaged – we appreciate your care when handling these motors!

OTHER “STUFF”

New boats at Brokenmouth, solar fridge set up at Betty, new roof on a staff cabin, just to name a few of the items that endlessly need TLC at KaBeeLo.

HUNTING

GROUSE

Another stellar season for bird hunting. Season after season the Grouse population continues to stay strong & healthy. We encourage you to join us for a Bird Hunt middle to end of September & enjoy the Canadian Woods!

BLACK BEAR

The reintroduced spring bear hunt policy caused confusion in hunters as they debated “which is the better hunting season - spring or fall?” As a result, for the first time in years, KaBeeLo did not have any 2019 fall black bear hunters. The good news however is this generated a season of ZERO PRESSURE on KaBeeLo’s many acres of bear hunting zones.

MOOSE

Most common question about Moose Hunts “What is the moose population like in NW Ontario?”, “What is the moose population trend doing?”, both extremely valid questions. There is no sugar coating that the Moose population continues to decline, as noticed from the air or road.

The Canadian Government continues to lower the number of non-resident hunter tags. While our 2019 moose hunters did not harvest a moose, they did see/hear signs of this large game animal. Does this mean that it was a bad hunt? That depends on one’s outlook on life...if the weather/temps remain warm/hot the moose hunt will be much more challenging than in cooler temps.

Aviation Industry Changes

KaBeeLo's float planes and emergency CO2 life jackets have always been at the forefront of safety; maintained and located in each aircraft in case of an emergency.

The concept of having a life jacket in the plane vs a passenger wearing a life jacket when operating over water has been a topic of discussion within Canada for over 10 years.

Starting in 2020—passengers and pilots will be required to wear; an inflatable life preserver; an inflatable individual flotation device; or an inflatable personal flotation device when the seaplane is operated on or above water.

Please note such devices will be supplied by Ka-BeeLo Airways. Please DO NOT wear your personal devices.

LOGGING

Timber harvesting activities have been, and will continue to be, a worldwide demand & issue. Subsequently a few more of KaBeeLo's fishing areas are on the cusp of logging activity for this coming summer; Wakeman, Betty & Dead Dog. Noises will be short-lived, roads will be decommissioned, trees replanted and nature's bounty will return over time.

Throughout these "evolutionary advancements", Ka-BeeLo continues to work steadily & diligently with the Ministry & timber operations to keep remote fishing a priority for future NW Ontario visitors.

AIRCRAFT NEWS...

Many of our guests have now experienced a "ride" on that new addition to our floatplane fleet – the turbo Beaver.

From our point of view the purchase of turbo Beaver "EWP" was in concert with other modernization steps planned or underway; 4- stroke motors; solar fridges, and, USB ports at each outpost.

In light of these transitioning upgrades, and notwithstanding the loss of service of an aircraft, we are moving towards securing a second turbo Beaver to replace the current piston beaver. And, believe us, WE ARE EXCITED! As once stated "out with the old and in with the new..."



JACK PINE BUDWORM - Past newsletters have touched on this subject, however this summer the bud worm infestation and subsequent damage to our trees was unmistakable; defoliation, top kill and a predominantly reddish colour were observed throughout the season. Heavily damaged areas are most visible from the air, seen as large patches of brown/read areas of the forest.

Jack pine budworm is a needle feeding caterpillar, generally considered to be the most significant pest of jack pine trees. The small worm feeds in the spring, at the top of the jack pine trees, and within a few weeks it begins to kill the tree from the top down.

Native to North America, the budworm has evolved to play an integral part in perpetuating the jack pine ecosystem, whose outbreaks are said to occur on a regular cycle of 8-10 years on average.

Tree mortality, and top kill create fuel for intense forest fires. Ontario's forest management strategy is to aerial spray with hope of slowing the spread. Aside from fire threats, the increased damage has also led to an increased level of timber cutting.

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SPORTSHOWS

JANUARY 9 - 12
SPORTSMEN'S SHOW
ST PAUL MN

JANUARY 9 - 12
ALL CANADA SHOW
ST. CHARLES, IL

JANUARY 9 - 12
INTERNATIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S EXPO
DENVER, CO

FEBRUARY 14 - 16
PHEASANT FEST
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

FEBRUARY 27 -
MARCH 1
OUTDOORAMA
NOVI, MI

APRIL 2 - 5
MN NORTHWEST
SPORTSHOW
MINNEAPOLIS MN

DID SOMEBODY SAY RETIREMENT ?

Guests who know Ann & Harald Lohn - know that KaBeeLo lodge has been an integral part of their family & lives for the last 35+ years.

As part of the business succession, their son (Erik) & daughter-in-law (Allysson) continue to encourage Ann & Harald to take time away from the Lodge and create vacations of their own. While reluctant at first, Ann & Harald have now spent some time away from the business in the summers of 2018 and 2019 - we anticipate this new era of adventure seeking to continue.

What does this mean? Not a full retirement, but that guests may see less of them in the operating season. Ann & Harald want you to know they are thinking of each and every customer that has graced KaBeeLo Lodge with their presence over the years.