



Haliburton Forest

& WILD LIFE RESERVE LTD

Leaseholder Newsletter Spring 2020

05 April 2020

Introduction

While we were thrilled to experience cold and snowy conditions this winter, we are actually pretty happy to now have some sunshine and warmer temperatures. However, our positive outlook on the weather is being tempered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant restrictions on travel, tourism, and operations. This newsletter provides background on the status of our operations, as well as some technical details as you prepare for the spring and summer.

COVID-19 – Current Status

At the time of writing this newsletter, all Tourism & Recreation operations are shut down until Monday 11 May 2020, including gas, propane, the Comfort Station, shelter cabins, and the Main Office. The only exception is the Cookhouse Restaurant, which continues to serve take-out. This is in compliance with the provincial order that non-essential workplaces remain closed.

We urge all Lessees and Hunters to stay home, as recommended by the provincial government as well as our local physicians of Haliburton County. To this point, please see the attached letter. Please only come if necessary.

The Forest Products division continues to operate as it is considered an “essential workplace” by the provincial government, for reasons further explained below. As noted below, we will keep everyone updated if the status of our operations changes.

Please note that the Cookhouse will be closed Monday 20 April 2020, and it will be re-opening Wednesday 29 April 2020 for a well-deserved break and renovations.

COVID-19 – Future Expectations

We are getting a lot of questions along the following lines: “What does COVID-19 mean for Haliburton Forest?” The short answer is that we don’t really know – this pandemic and the related restrictions how people live are totally unprecedented. The long answer is that we are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst.

The following points comprise our expectations for the summer, but we ask that you keep in mind that these expectations are contingent on the orders that we are given by the provincial government and public health authorities.

The Tourism & Recreation division is expected to be very quiet over the course of the summer and into the fall, due to ongoing restrictions related to travel and tourism activities. We expect that the property will remain open and available to Lessees and Hunters for their usual activities and property uses. However, we are prepared for the Wolf Centre to remain closed, certain operations like the Canopy Tour to not be available, and the Cookhouse Restaurant to continue being take-out only. We expect that we will continue performing maintenance on our roads, trails, outhouses, picnic tables, and buildings over the course of the summer.

We expect that the Forest Products division will continue operating because it is deemed an “essential workplace” by the provincial government. This may come as a surprise to some of you. It is considered essential because the Sawmill produces lumber that is needed for critical infrastructure like railways and subway tunnels, and for transport operations like shipping pallets and truck/trailer flooring. Furthermore, the Sawmill produces chips that are necessary for pulp mills to produce medical supplies like surgical masks, gowns, and drapes.

We will keep everyone updated as to the status of our operations through emails, social media outlets, and signs on the doors of the Main Office as the situation evolves.

Moving ATVs/Snowmobiles

In preparation for the opening of the roads and spring cleaning at Base Camp, we are asking that your ATVs, snowmobiles, and trailers are removed from the front field/parking area by 5:00pm on Sunday 03 May 2020 if it is safe for you to do so. After that, our maintenance staff will move them for you. While we will try to be gentle, we are unable to guarantee that they will be moved “your” way.

With that said, we are obviously aware of the limitations on travel due to COVID-19, so we will be reasonable and push back this date as needed. If the date to remove your ATVs, snowmobiles, and trailers from the front field/parking area is going to be pushed back, you can expect to hear something from us on or before Sunday April 26.

Garbage Dumpsters

We will be relocating the garbage and recycling bins *before* the roads open. Please continue to assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the garbage area. Specifically, please ensure your regular waste is going into the garbage bins, recycling into the blue bins, and cardboard into the red box. There is a bin at the bottom of Base Camp for scrap metal.

Large items should be taken to the Kennisis Lake dump (if/when it is open) or West Guilford dump. Once we open back up, you may sign out a dump card from the Main Office during business hours. By taking large items to the municipal dumps, you are being considerate of other lessees and our staff, and you are helping to keep our costs down – which helps keep your lease rates down.

Roads & Property Access

To put many of your minds at ease, especially for those that will not make it up to their sites, the snow melt has been gradual, and we have not had much rain yet. There are no reports of any flooding or wash outs of sites or roads.

We plan on opening our roads for normal vehicle traffic as of 8:00am on Friday 15 May 2020, barring any unusual rain or storms, or government restrictions related to reducing the spread of COVID-19. As we have in the past, we will issue any changes to conditions and road openings through the newsletter, Facebook and Twitter so make sure you confirm before heading up that weekend, just in case!

As usual, we would like to remind everyone that the roads will be very soft until at least the end of June, so careful driving is mandatory at all times. This is especially true of the shoulders on all of our roads. Be careful and do not take any chances when you are driving inside the property!

Locks & Keys

Upon our re-opening, please remember to stop at the Main Office to return/exchange your gate keys, pickup your vehicle passes, and re-sign your lease, by the end of the May Long Weekend, being Monday 20 May 2020. Blank copies of the lease (Licence of Occupation) can be found directly on our website: <https://www.haliburtonforest.com/lessees/>. The locks will be changed on most gates before the May Long Weekend, and on all of the gates by the end of the day on Tuesday immediately following the May Long Weekend.

Fees & Deadlines

Lessees are reminded that the balance of their site payments are due by 5:00pm on Monday 18 2020, being the end of the May Long Weekend. For reference, the established rates in 2020 including HST are as follows:

- Hemlock Point - \$3,375.00
- All Other Sites - \$3,695.00
- Kelly, Johnson, L'Azure, Pelaw, Loon, and Baby Loon - \$4,285.00
- Annex - \$350.00

Hunt Clubs are reminded that their first payment is due by 5:00pm on Wednesday 01 May 2020 and the second payment is due on by 5:00pm on Tuesday 01 September 2020.

Please keep in mind our preferred methods of payment:

- Cheque – Mailed to Haliburton Forest 1095 Redkenn Road, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
- E-Transfer – Sent to accounting@haliburtonforest.com
- Debit or Cash – Paid at the Main Office. Please note that we are discouraging the use of cash as much as possible, given concerns about COVID-19.
- Credit – Paid at the Main Office. Please note that a 3% convenience fee will be charged on credit card transactions.

Please be prompt in making payments to avoid penalties. Your prompt payment helps us keep our people working, fulfilling plans for road work and other property improvements.

Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting for lessees (aka the “Camper Meeting”) is scheduled for Saturday 27 June 2020 at 10:00 am. The Annual Meeting for hunters (aka the “Hunter Meeting”) is scheduled for Sunday 1 November 2020 at 2:00pm.

With the current situation of COVID-19 offering a lot of unknowns for this summer and fall, we will need to remain somewhat flexible for these meetings. If restrictions on large gatherings are in effect as we approach each of these meetings, we may plan on holding the meetings in an alternative manner. For example, we may have outdoor, limited seating that is well-spaced out, or we may run the meetings digitally with a small in-person meeting held at a later date for those that are “technologically challenged.”

We will do our best to keep everyone posted over the course of the next few months as to the plans for these meetings. If we need to hold the meetings in an alternative manner, we will send our an email with the details and post the information on the relevant social media channels.

Moose/Deer Hunting Dates

We typically do not announce the hunting dates until the fall, however the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry have already released tentative dates for the 2020 season. As of right now, we have been informed that the hunting dates are as follows:

- Moose: Saturday 24 October 2020 – Friday 30 October 2020
- Deer: Monday 02 November 2020 – Sunday 15 November 2020

The dates for 2020 reflect that the normal one week break in between the hunts has been removed. This means as of 5:00pm on Friday 24 October 2020, no site access by Lessees will be permitted until the end of the deer hunt and access at that point will be by ATV/Snowmobile only.

Please note that these dates will be confirmed by the provincial government later this spring. We will do a proper update as we normally do in the fall newsletter. At this point, we just wanted to

provide Lessees and Hunters advanced notice on these changes so that everyone has time to adjust their schedules for the fall in the event this change becomes definite.

Mark Your Calendars

We have many special events coming up this summer and we hope to see you and maybe some of your guests at a few of them. You can book your spot at these events through our website or by calling the Main Office.

- Starting on Saturday 16 May 2002 – Dog Kennel Tours. Daily at 4:00 pm until Thanksgiving.
- Starting on Tuesday 30 June 2020 – Natural History Presentations. Free to attend! 7:00 pm every Tuesday through July and August. No need to register.
- Starting on Thursday 7 July 2020 – Wolf Howl. Free to attend! 8:00 pm every Thursday through July and August. No need to register.
- Starting on Friday 26 June 2020 – Astronomy Tours. Times vary monthly. Every Friday through July and August.
- 27 June, 25 July, 22 August, and 19 September – The **NEW** Forest Festival at the Logging Museum! See more details below.

As with other information in this newsletter, please note that upcoming events mentioned here are subject to change or cancellation in response to regulations related to COVID-19. Even if some of these events are still offered, it may be in a different format – for example, the weekly Wolf Howls may be limited to a certain number of people that register in advance. We will keep everyone updated as to our plans for these special events.

The **NEW Forest Festival**

Believe it or not, we had a great plan for a new version of the Forest Festival, which was going to be offered this summer. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we are cancelling it before it even starts – but we are planning on holding it in the future, hopefully for the summer of 2021! To get you excited for what the future may hold, we are providing some information about what we had planned to offer this summer, even though it has been cancelled.

Haliburton Forest is excited to announce a new live music series for summer 2020. This re-imagined version of the celebrated Forest Festival will host a diverse set of performers through four evening concerts, spread out over four months.

The performances will include a cowboy from Saskatchewan, an indie rock legend from London, a local duo from right here in Haliburton Country, and a 10-piece modern roots reggae band from Toronto that will all share the stage in this captivating new live music experience. The dates of the shows and the performers' names are as follows:

- *Zachary Luck on 27 June 2020*
- *Bry Webb on 25 July 2020*
- *Nick & Benton on 22 August 2020*
- *The Human Rights on 19 September 2020*

All shows will be held in the Historic Logging Museum on Saturday evenings and will feature local craft beer and food. Tickets will be \$30 per show or a “season’s pass” to all of the shows for \$99. We are happy to announce that Lessees will receive a 10% discount on all tickets!

As noted above, this event has been cancelled, which is very disappointing for everyone involved. The information provided here is just to keep you informed and to help you get excited about the concerts that we will offer during the summer of 2021.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we miss you all and wish that you could be up here right now. However, we are not exactly sure what the future will hold for certain aspects of the Tourism & Recreation division.

What we can be optimistic about is that we do not foresee any reasons that would affect you being able to enjoy your sites and camps over the short-term or the long-term.

We will most likely see changes in how we provide services, for example encouraging everyone to pay via e-transfer instead of in person to limit time spent in the Main Office., or asking folks to purchase their ATV passes online as well as fill out the mandatory ownership and insurance info online. Whatever the changes are, we will do our best to keep you informed and updated, while providing the best service that we possibly can.

It breaks our hearts to have to possibly put such measures in place, as we love to catch up with each and everyone one of you to hear how the grandkids are, how was your winter, where you travelled last, what animals you’ve been seeing but this might be our new reality at least for a little while.

But it is our duty to adhere to the recommendations of the provincial health authorities, and until they say otherwise, we’ll do our best to follow their guidelines, and we hope that you will, too.

For now, stay safe and healthy, and please do not hesitate to reach out if we can answer any of your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tegan Legge
General Manager

Peter Cundall
Tourism Manager

Melissa Pockett
Lease & Land Use Coordinator

REQUEST FROM THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS FAMILY HEALTH TEAM RE: COVID-19

LETTER TO THE SEASONAL RESIDENTS OF HALIBURTON COUNTY

March 28, 2020

As a County, we realize the importance of our seasonal residents and visitors to our economy. We face some harsh realities recognizing that we have limited capacity to manage a health emergency. A substantial influx of visitors will further challenge our ability to source adequate beds, medical supplies, equipment and personal protective equipment to manage this pandemic.

Our local physicians put forth this communication: To Our Many Seasonal Neighbours, We are reaching out to you requesting your consideration before choosing to reside at your seasonal residences during this difficult period. Here in Haliburton County we appreciate all that you contribute to our area and that you value your time away from busier locales.

This is a stressful time with the threat of Covid-19 spreading throughout Canada. Closures of schools, recreation facilities, and cancellation of trips planned in advance, all lead to a desire to find a place to unwind and escape.

We would like to request that before you decide to spend this uncertain time at the cottage you consider that in Haliburton, we have a small (15 bed) hospital manned by a small pool of local physicians and another group of physicians who travel to our area for Emergency Room shifts. The same group of local physicians cover their own clinics, Long Term Care (3 homes), and hospital in-patients. In Minden we have an Emergency Department but no inpatient beds. Neither location is equipped as an ICU and each have two transport ventilators that are used for transport to the closest ICU over an hour away. We anticipate that our closest ICU will be strained supporting the population within it's radius. Transport of patients between our hospitals and larger centers is always challenging but moving Covid-19 patients will put many emergency health providers (paramedics and nurses) at risk. We have extremely dedicated nurses,

paramedics and support staff who are all being asked to give beyond what should be asked of them.

We are also needing to acknowledge the large proportion of senior citizens in our practices that are relying on us to keep them safe. They truly are the most vulnerable during this pandemic.

We collectively have a lot of work to do and look forward to when this threat is behind us and we can all rest and truly enjoy our County again. Until then we ask that you recognize the limits of our local health care system and consider remaining at your primary residence where you will receive more advanced care if you require it. This will allow us to focus on giving patients the best possible care we can provide within our limitations.

- The Physicians of Haliburton County

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