

Hello Friends of Trails End Lodge & Tang,

November 2008

News Alert: Our Hot Breakfast and Shore Lunch Kits have now gained the status of "FAMOUS"! Remember that these are included with your package at both resorts when comparing other resort pricing.

We have now completed 7 seasons of ownership at Tang and 4 seasons at Trails End Lodge. Terry, Pete, and myself understand that gas prices and a tough economy made the decision to make a trip to Ontario for the annual fishing or hunting trip a bit more difficult this year. Many Ontario resorts were down 40 – 60% occupancy this year, but we were able to keep both of our resorts very busy, thanks to all of you. Katy, our Tang Staff, and Kelvin, Shelly, Jen, Haley and family, our Trails End Lodge Staff, worked very hard to make sure your trips were enjoyable and we thank them very much for all their hard work. Thanks Gang!!

As in the past, this will be a combination newsletter for both resorts. I can speak for both resorts on the ice-out topic for spring of 2008. Ice-out of approximately May 5th was late for both resorts and resulted in spring fishing patterns being a couple weeks behind all season it seemed. Water temperature remained quite cool late into June, keeping the fish in shallow water later than normal. Snow depth was normal, keeping the water levels normal for most of the season, but levels continued to drop throughout the summer and are now very low as I write this newsletter. But, this pattern of water depth is normal and with good snowfalls this winter, all will be good for opener, May 16, 2009.

Trails End Lodge
www.trails-end.net

This was the second year for Kelvin & Shelly Caul and Family as Resort Managers. Quality of fishing is one of many gauges for a successful fishing trip, but I think you will all agree that the hospitality and friendliness of the Caul Family is fantastic and greatly adds to the success and memories of your trips. Kelvin and crew were able to spend more time on our beautiful property this year, trimming old growth, getting the flower beds back and keeping the grass mowed and trimmed all summer long. Jen was behind most of the cooking with help from Shelly and even Kelvin now and then and the reports have been excellent for the quality and quantity of food. Cabins were kept spotless and we will continue to upgrade the cabins when and where necessary as funds allow.

More and more guests are bringing their own boats and motors for their trips, which is great. We know our docks and ramps need some work and we will concentrate on that for next season. We "remodeled" our resort boats last season with new flat, slip-proof floors with various seating patterns to accommodate everyone's needs and expectations. Guest comments have all been very positive.

Fishing at Trails End Lodge offers tremendous variety and there is always a chance at a trophy on the 76-miles of water we fish on the Clearwater / Pipestone Chain. Over the south portage into the "tea-colored" clear waters of Lake Despair, Footprint, Jackfish, Loonhaunt, these lakes offer fabulous walleye, bass, northern, crappie and even jumbo perch. Over the beautiful north portage into Pipestone Lake offers all the same with the exciting addition of lake trout and muskie to the possibilities of your catch. Many guests never leave Clearwater Lake and catch large walleyes, muskie, smallmouth and northern, many in the trophy class of all these species. And, don't forget the portage lakes we have where there is a boat "parked" in the woods for your use after a short hike. These lakes are rarely fished and offer the chance at lots of fish in a very short period of time. Ask any of our staff about these lakes next season.

2009 Rates and a couple “cost saving” changes

Our 2009 rates are now posted on the website. We did not change prices much at all for 2009. In fact, our “Fisherman Packages with Boat” actually went down just a bit from 2008. We did make one change when renting a resort boat and motor however. 6 US gallons of gas per day will be included with your boat/motor package and generally is plenty for a day of fishing. If you require more than 6 US gallons per day, you will be charged for the overage at the then current market rate per gallon or liter. We will fill your fuel tank each morning with the 6 US gallons. One other small change with American Plan packages. Your American Plan package includes all meals, including dinner the day of arrival and breakfast the morning of departure and all the other items listed on website, including unlimited gas for American Plan guests if using a resort boat and motor package. **Your fishing license will not be included in the package price.** Choose the license you prefer and we will add the cost of the license to your bill upon checkout. And don’t forget, our famous hot breakfast each morning in our beautiful lodge is included for all cabin guests of Trails End Lodge as are the shore lunch fixings and kit for all package guests.

We have made one other change to control costs and keep your rates reasonable. More and more guests are using artificial bait or frozen minnows that they bring from home. (If you haven't tried these yet, give them a try and save some “bait money”, you can bring frozen minnows and crawlers in bedding (not dirt) across border) Minnows are very expensive, difficult to store and even with the best care, have a high percentage of loss, especially if they are stored more than a few days. There are also new regulations on minnow storage, which is all good and needed, but an expensive update for resorts. This all equates to higher minnow costs for you and generally a financial loss for us. ***We will no longer supply minnows at Trails End Lodge.*** Good news is that you purchase them at the Sportsman's Landing a couple hundred yards or so down the shoreline from us. They also carry groceries and other staples, including alcoholic beverages. We can call them ahead of time and have your order all ready for you or simply stop down there in your boat each morning minnows are needed and purchase them there. Leeches and crawlers are easy to store and last a long time, even with marginal care. ***We will continue to have leeches and crawlers for sale at the resort.***

We will continue to invest in Trails End Lodge to improve the property and make your trips more and more enjoyable and memorable each year. The key to success in the resort business is having “repeat customers” each year. And, thanks to all of you, our repeat customer % is growing steadily each year since we purchased Trails End Lodge. We realize that clean, well kept cabins are expected; all equipment, including our boats and motors need to be in excellent condition and reliable and our grounds need to be safe, clean and well kept and great food needs to be served in a spotless dining area. We strive everyday to improve on all of these expectations and hope that you notice improvement each time you visit our resort. Please make any suggestions for improvement.

Call or email today to get your preferred trip dates penciled in on our 2009 schedule. Deposits are required within 14 days of reserving a spot. Deposits for Trails End Lodge “Fisherman Package” or “American Plan” guests are \$125 per person. If choosing “Cabin Only” for your trip, (1) night deposit is required for a 1 – 3 night trip, (2) night deposit is required for 4 – 7 nights trip and (3) nights deposit required for 8+ nights trip to hold cabin for your group.

Tang of the North Lodge
www.tangofthenorthlodge.com

7 years of ownership at Tang now and we continue to enjoy it as much as the first trip Pete, Terry and I had to Tang back in the early 1980's. Katy was back as Camp Manager and did an excellent job once again. (We're hoping for Katy's return in 2009 after she graduates from college this spring) 2008 also was the 50th year in a row for Howard Ledin to make his annual fishing trip to Tang.....WOW!!

Congratulations and thanks Howard! We look forward to your many more trips to Tang!!

The Don & Shirley Verdoorn Family had a family reunion at Tang this year and booked the whole camp with 26 Verdoorn family members. A wonderful family and a great time was had by all. We look forward to some or all of your return to Tang or Trails End Lodge. **Thanks again to the Verdoorn Family.**

Pete and crew were busy again getting NEW Outhouse # 2 ready for your enjoyment. And, what a beauty it is. The 3rd and final outhouse will be replaced, but probably not for another year or so. Thanks again to Pete and helpers for another great work of art in Outhouse # 2!!

A couple roofs caught us off guard with some major storms and caused some damp gear. We appreciate your patience and understanding if you were one of the "lucky ones". We have already replaced the roofing on most of these and will have all the problem roofs repaired for opener, 2009.

Even in this tough economy, we had a very full camp this season and bookings are ahead of schedule for 2009. We always turn away people looking for trips to Tang each year because we are full. Please be sure to alert us if your plans change, your group size changes or your dates need to change. As you know, fly-in trips are booked far in advance and require more planning for both of us. We need to have a very close estimate of the number of guests expected by February or so to calculate fuel needs for the coming season, which is hauled in during the winter months to save both of us a tremendous amount of money. It is also very difficult, and most times impossible, to book a trip in May or June of any season if there is a last minute cancellation. Please review our cancellation policy and notify us immediately if there is a change to your trip. We understand there are sometimes unfortunate circumstances that cause these last minutes changes and we will do our best to help you through those situations. Thanks for the help and understanding on this topic.

Most of our guests have been to Tang for many years and most reported fishing patterns being "behind a couple weeks" throughout the season. This was caused by the very late ice-out. Once everyone figured out that the fish were deeper or shallower than previous trips, fishing was as good as ever. Walleye, northern and bass fishing was similar to previous years. There are reports of more and more smallmouth bass being caught. Largemouth continue to be abundant and LARGE. Lake trout were a bit tougher to catch this year. They seemed to stay very deep all summer, in the 50' to 100' depth. Lakers were caught trolling and jigging as usual, but those guests that fished deep had better success.

Rates for 2009 won't change much and the flight with Northwest Flying will hopefully remain in the \$165 per person range, if within sight of the 100 lbs. per person weight range for "gear". Even when going over weight, Northwest is very fair with our guests and tries very hard to keep your flight expense reasonable.

Tang 2009 Rates

3 Night / 2 day.....	\$370
4 Night / 3 day.....	\$460
5 Night / 4 day.....	\$550
6 Night / 5 day.....	\$640
7 Night / 6 day.....	\$735

Plus applicable Canadian Sales Tax and Flight with Northwest Flying, Inc.

***Deposit to confirm and hold spot for a Tang trip is \$125 per person
Tang deposits due within 14 days of making reservation***

Deposits

**Please send deposits for either resort to:
Trails End Lodge OR Tang (please make checks payable to resort visiting)
C/O Mark Schneider
1950 Edgewater Place
Victoria, MN 55386**

Thanks again for being guests of our resorts. We value your business and your friendships even more. Please be sure to let us know if there is ever anything we can do to make your trips more satisfying and enjoyable. As mentioned, our goal is to earn your business for many, many years to come that results in 100% repeat business year to year. Your suggestions will be listened to and implemented if improving our resorts for all guests is the result.

Can't end here without saying thanks to our special guests once again....Thanks Tim, Greg, Fred, Billy, Kirby!

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season!

CHEERS!!

Pete, Terry and Mark
612-868-1070 (Mark's Cell Phone)
mschneider@rdspos.com (Mark's email)

Come and visit us at these shows we will be exhibiting at:

- St. Paul Ice Fishing Show @ Excel Center, December 5 – 7, 2008
- All Canada Show, Minneapolis Convention Center, January 2 – 4, 2009
- All Canada Show, Chicago, January 8 – 11, 2009
- St. Paul Sports Show, Excel Center, January 14 – 18, 2009
- All Canada Show, Green Bay, WI, January 29 – Feb.1, 2009
- Northwest Sports Show, Minneapolis Convention Center, March 12 – 15, 2009