

Tang of the North Lodge: Celebrating 10 years...2001 – 2010
Trails End Lodge: Celebrating 6 years...2005 – 2010

*To show our thanks for your continued loyalty and business, our 2010 rates at both resorts will not increase.
Thanks to all!*

Hello Tang and Trails End Lodge Friends,

Fall, 2009

As the heading states above, the 2010 season will be our 10th year of ownership of Tang and 6th year of ownership of Trails End Lodge. We closed on the purchase of Tang February 22, 2001 with Rick & Barb Pentilla and closed on the purchase of Trails End Lodge with Peter & Hazel Williams, May 1, 2005. Pete, Terry and I have learned a lot about the resort industry over these 10 years, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we fine-tuned our resorts for your experience at Tang and/or Trails End Lodge.

The resort industry in NW Ontario has been in a state of transition the past two years as the economy has hit this industry hard. As with any business, there will be some that adjust to the economic changes and some that don't. Holding onto existing customers is critical in the tourist industry and we try very hard to make sure your experience at our resorts keeps you wanting to come back. We had a slight decline in reservations last summer, but most of our decline was due to last-minute cancellations after an unexpected job loss. We fully understand the impact a job loss has on everyone and their families and worked with these guests to refund deposits or carry them forward to another year when finances are back in order. Thanks again for your continued business over the past 10 years!

Trails End Lodge
www.trails-end.net

Kelvin & Shelly Caul and family were back for their 3rd year of managing Trails End Lodge. In addition to Kelvin and Shelly, their daughter Jen did most of the cooking and also helped with all the other chores at the resort. Kelvin's sister, Wanda, was a great help again along with other family members. Thanks to the Caul Family for another great job managing Trails End Lodge!

The 2009 season was a cool one well into June. Summer never seemed to finally arrive until late June, early July. Cool, wet, windy, calm, warm, thunder...this all kept the fish moving. Rain jackets were a necessity in the boats as the weather changes very quickly in NW, Ontario. But, even with challenging weather, the fish were caught. The large walleyes of Clearwater Lake were reported caught and photographed in early June, many 28" or better, 5 – 20 minutes from your cabin. Trips back to Footprint and Jackfish proved well worth the ride for many and the crappies were going again in Rice Lake and Lake Despair. Smallmouth in the 18" - 21" range are becoming more and more common as catch and release has definitely improved all fisheries. The famous muskies of Clearwater and Pipestone were enjoyed by many as the catch of choice or as a surprise catch for others. Lake trout were chased on Pipestone by many groups with varying success, but many were caught. Lake Trout can be elusive, but very fun to catch. Late May or early June, the lake trout can be caught trolling a deep diver of some sort. As the weather and waters warm, the trout go deeper (as do all fish) and have to be jigged for with a tube jig or similar in 40' – 100' of water. Next season, ask for some pointers and go after a laker. The trip into Pipestone is absolutely beautiful with very remote territory. Bring your camera.

Our hot, home-cooked breakfast in the lodge each morning, that is included with your package, continues to be a huge hit with all our guests. Let us do the cooking and clean-up so you can get on the lake early. The coffee is always on as is the one and only TV on the resort property. Feel free to use the lodge during your stay. The lodge sun porch offers a great view of the lake, even during one of those monster thunder storms we experience throughout the season. And don't forget the shore lunch kit and fixings available for all of you as part of your package. Everything you need for that excellent Canadian walleye shore lunch out on the lake somewhere. You just need to provide the fish.

Trails End Lodge was host to a couple family reunions during the 2009 season. The Haw Family celebrated a family reunion with approximately 110 family members spending the first weekend in August at Trails End. In addition to making sure everyone's accommodations met expectations for a group this size, Kelvin, Shelly, Jen and crew also catered a turkey dinner for the Haw family on Sunday night that included all the traditional "Thanksgiving Dinner" side dishes. Quite a cooking project, but all went very well.

The Lee Family also selected Trails End Lodge for a family gathering of about 25 family members. Thanks to everyone for choosing Trails End Lodge. Call us for your family reunion or company outing. We'll be happy to accommodate your group in anyway possible to fits your needs.

Mechanical Portage Pass Policy Change

To keep our prices as competitive and reasonable as possible, we will ***NOT include portage passes*** in any of our packages beginning in 2010. Portage passes are typically "built into" the price of your package at most resorts on Clearwater Lake, as they were in past years at Trails End Lodge. If you fish only Clearwater Lake a day or two without going over a portage, you most likely paid for the portage pass anyway because the cost of the daily portage pass was built into your package price. We will sell the passes at the lodge for \$25.00 US dollar, good at either portage, or you can purchase them directly from the portage operator and save money if paid in Canadian dollars. Portage operators will also take US dollars, but with no exchange rate savings. The north portage charges \$25 **per round-trip, per boat** and the south portage charges \$20. Buy a pass only on days that they are needed and save money. More details on website.

Please check all our rates on the website at www.trails-end.net . We have already booked many trips for the 2010 season, so call early to get your preferred trip dates. The phone really starts to ring as soon as this newsletter arrives and once our sport show tour begins. Call now! (See sport show schedule below)

Call or email me today to book your trip.

Mark Schneider at mschneider@rdspos.com or call 612-868-1070.

Tang of the North Lodge

www.tangofthenorthlodge.com

Facebook Member ? Post your Tang pictures to the new "Tang of the North Lodge" Facebook page.

WOW....10 years! During the first season when everything broke the second it was touched, a "safe bet" would have been, "you guys will never make it 10 years". Well, pay up! With guests like all of you, anyone could have made this journey work. It can't be said enough... your patience, understanding and loyalty is greatly appreciated. We couldn't have made it this far without all of you.

Katy was with us again for her third season as Tang Manager. As usual, she did a fabulous job and worked

hard all day with that beautiful smile on her face. Katy applied and was accepted to flight school to earn her pilots license, in Thunder Bay I believe. This exciting career change for Katy means she will not be back with us in 2010 and we will all miss her. But, we wish her well and know that she will exceed in her new journey. Maybe Katy will fly you into Tang in the coming years. We can only hope so. We are on the look out for Katy's replacement. The new Manager will have a tough time living up to Katy's reputation, but we will work hard to find a deserving and hard-working replacement.

CHEERS to you Katy and to your success!!

“COLD” describes the 2009 season. Opener greeted everyone with a couple inches of snow in the boats that needed to be removed by Katy and crew. Even the first week of June delivered frost on the boats and dock a couple mornings. But, the crazy weather never stops our guests. The “Pot-hole” was alive and well all season...a sure sign of the cool weather. Lake trout stayed “up” well into June. Largemouth waited a week or two later than normal to really get going, but they did, especially in Southeast and Upper. The bonus fish at Tang continues to be the smallmouth. The smallmouth population continues to grow and improve on the Tang lakes. Most smallmouth are still in the 8” - 12” range or so, but there are a growing number of reports of smallies being caught and many in the 16” - 18” range. What a fight!

Overall, the 2009 season produced larger fish. There were many northerns over 40” caught, many lakers over 26” and up to 34”, some walleyes over 30”, many over 24” and largemouth in the 6 lb range caught. The great news about these fish, very few of these large fish were seen on the dock, just in pictures. I am absolutely convinced that the slot limits and the catch & release attitude of our guests has greatly improved the quality of the fish you can now expect to catch at Tang, even though our lakes really only get fished 9 – 10 weeks per year. Thanks to all of you for your excellent catch & release attitudes.

Cabin # 2, “The Log Cabin”. For those of you that have visited Tang for a long, long time, the Log Cabin most likely has treasured memories, maybe good and not so good. I know for myself, this is the cabin 11 years ago as a Tang Guest and deep into a few beers with Rick, the previous owner of Tang, that the topic of buying Tang was started. (Not sure if it was the Cabin, Rick or the beer?) You all have stories about the “Log Cabin”. So do the critters that live in there with you during your stay. (I know... “what happens at Tang, stays at Tang”) Well, after many years of trying to decide what to do with this original Tang cabin, that goes back to the late 40's we are concluding, we have made a decision. The Log Cabin will be coming down. We researched trying to repair the cabin and many other alternatives to tearing it down, but no good options remain other than replacing it. So...we have selected and purchased a new “log cabin kit” that will be snowmobiled in this winter, piece by countless piece. We will need to use the Log Cabin for the 2010 season and then tear it down after the season ends in early July. We will then have the cabin built during late summer, early fall and ready for the 2011 season. For those of you that get a bit nostalgic, staying in the Log Cabin during your 2010 stay at Tang will have its rewards. Anyone staying in the Log Cabin for it's final journey of the 2010 season will have first choice of staying in the new and improved “Cabin # 2” for the 2011 season, including it's loft and covered porch and all. So this season, don't cringe when you get off the plane and ask, “So, where do you have me staying this year?” and the answer is, “the Log Cabin”. Smile, take some final pictures and make some lasting memories, knowing you will be staying in the new cabin for its inaugural year in 2011.

Hats off to Cabin # 2, the LOG CABIN !!

We have already received many bookings for the 2010 season. Call or email today to book your 2010 trip to get your preferred trip dates. This newsletter traditionally triggers many calls to book a trip and then the sports shows fill the balance of the schedule. Rates will remain the same as 2009. Call or email Mark Schneider to book your trip at email of mschneider@rdspos.com or call me at 612-868-1070.

Tang 2010 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

(Kids with adult ½ price 18 and under)

Plus applicable Canadian Sales Tax and Flight with Northwest Flying, Inc., Nestor Falls
Thanks again to our 2009 Tang “Special Guests”...Taylor, Fred, Billy, Dan, Frankie, Kirby, Nora.

Resort Deposits

Deposits for either resort are \$125 per person

If choosing “Cabin Only” for your Trails End Lodge trip, (1) night rental is required for a 1 – 3 night trip and (2) night rental is required for 4+ night’s trip to hold cabin for your group.

Please send deposits for either resort to:

Trails End Lodge OR Tang

(Please make check payable to specific resort visiting)

C/O Mark Schneider

1950 Edgewater Place

Victoria, MN 55386

If you have already booked a trip, please be sure to get your deposits in during the next two weeks to confirm your reservation if you haven’t done so yet. I will need to open your spot if I don’t hear from you. (Thanks)

Sports Show Schedule

St. Paul Ice Fishing Show: Dec. 4 – 6, 2009

St. Paul Sports Show: January 13 – 17, 2010

St. Cloud Sports Show: February 12 – 14, 2010

Duluth Sports Show: February 17 – 21, 2010

Fargo Sports Show: March 4 – 7, 2010

Sioux Falls Sports Show: March 11 – 14, 2010

Northwest Sports Show: March 24 – 28, 2010

Thanks for another great season and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2010.
Happy Holidays!

Best Regards,

Pete, Terry and Mark

mschneider@rdspos.com or cell at: 612-868-1070