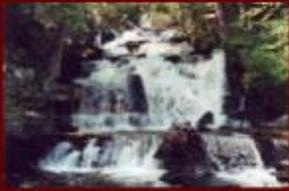


# Oiseau Bay Eco-Landing



## Happy Holidays from Oiseau Bay!

If you are receiving this newsletter, than we'd like to say "thank you!" because you've been a big part of our success up until now—either through your visits, your telephone or email inquiries, or your help and support in making this ambitious project a reality for another year!

This year we lost a large portion of our mailing list, so please give us a hand by passing along our newsletter to your family, friends, and colleagues—or anyone you think should be on our list that probably isn't. That is, if you don't mind spreading the word about the area's best kept secret!

## Yes! Back-country enthusiasts, we will be open this winter

It seems as if everyone's clueing in that back country sledding is a great way to get the best out of winter. We have access to hundreds of miles of back country trails/old bush roads with no trail pass required.

This winter we're opening The Farmhouse (sleeps 8), which makes a wonderful home base for a family/friends snowmobiling get-away. We also offer snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, and ice harvesting for a complete winter adventure. If you're looking for a way to make your winter snowmobiling just a little more "green," than we've got you covered!



## Playing like kids again

Youngsters reigned at Oiseau Bay this summer. From late-night games of "man hunter" to reeling in the "big one" (right), these kids reminded adults how important it is to take a little time out for some old fashioned fun!



The kids also got their hands dirty, helping Cam plant saplings in a recently-thinned area and harvesting some produce from the garden for their BBQ dinners (right).



While the kids enjoyed the great outdoors, moms relished in afternoons of registered massage therapy for the first time on site.

Next year, there will be a dedicated kids' garden, and we're also planning a family geo-caching activity and treasure hunt.

## 10th annual ice harvest

The 2009 ice harvest was another success. Over 3 "working bee" weekends in February and March (right), the ice house was filled with blocks cut from the frozen bay. We still have ice left over, kept frozen by its own mass throughout over the year.



With the help of friends and family we made quick work of a fun job. Thanks especially to first-timers Andrew Culigan and Chris Dunn, as well as our young helpers (right).



Some of the traditional tools took a swim during the cutting, but luckily volunteer harvester Matt Melvin is also a diver, so he was able to retrieve them when he returned for his summer vacation. Thanks to his own winter's work, he was able to have a much-deserved chilled beverage after the dive.

Oiseau Bay hosts the only remaining traditional ice harvest on the Ottawa River. The ice is used in guests' iceboxes year round.

## Book early for 2010!

Well, it's not even the new year yet and already we're starting to book up for 2010. As you know, if you're a regular, you get first dibs on booking up until January 1, so give up a call or drop us an email to reserve your spot. We'd love to have you back!

For the rest of you, whether you haven't been here for a few years or if you're thinking of coming for the first time, we'd love to welcome you. Check out our website at [www.oiseaubayresort.com](http://www.oiseaubayresort.com) to see what we're all about these days. And remember, book early!

## NEWS ALERT: 2009

As always, the ice harvest drew a lot of attention, with many local papers sending reporters to cover the story. Check out our website for a link to Cam's video news clip!

Oiseau Bay was also featured in a travel review published in the *North Renfrew Times* and *Pembroke Observer*. Thanks to journalist Jean Cooper and photographer David Rhodes for sharing your adventures!



### A Dog's Life —by Lucy

2009 was a pretty good year at the ground level for Lucy (10, left). She's developed a touch of arthritis, but when she's tricked into taking her medicine, she's back to her usual spry self. She's getting a little gray around the chops, which has leant to her new nickname "Gray Jowl" after her favourite early conservationist.

In July, Lucy welcomed 9 visiting dogs who checked in for a week of chasing squirrels and chipmunks. Sadly, this year she bade farewell to her oldest dog chum, Huckleberry (above, right).

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## 2009 Upgrades

If you haven't stopped in to see us this year, you're in for a big surprise!

**Buildings:** The Lodge and the Farmhouse's lighting systems were re-vamped to operate on 100% 12-volt—that means no more inverters. And by popular demand (ladies!), a shower was installed in the Lodge. The White Cottage received a total facelift (complete with full kitchen reno), and the River Cabin now proudly boasts an indoor washroom, an extended deck, and a water tower for running water.

**Activities:** Cam cleared out a new walking trail to Curry Lake this fall. This 4-mile roundtrip hike has a refreshing dip halfway (bottom right). We also have 2 new horseshoe pits in the main yard for kids and adults alike, and the hiking/biking trail up the back of Oiseau Rock is finished and ready for some adventurers!

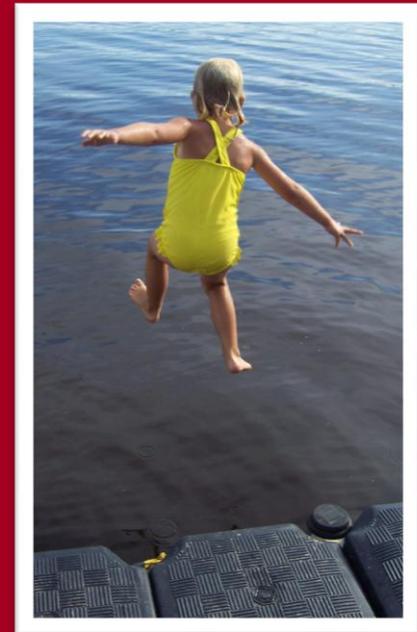
**Relaxing:** For the end of a long day, we've extended the dock to include a "cocktail platform" (great for pre-dinner swimming, above, right). And, we've got more outdoor furniture than ever before so you can put your feet up and enjoy the view!

## 10 years already?

It's hard to believe that it's been a decade since Cam packed up shop in Peterborough and moved back to the Ottawa Valley to make a go at what some called a crazy dream—turning a run-down historic homestead on the shores of the Ottawa River into an all-seasons family vacation rental retreat.

Today, after 10 dedicated years—not to mention the help and support of wonderful family and friends—Oiseau Bay is the area's premiere boat-in, ski-in, paddle-in, or (for the less adventurous) drive-in wilderness resort.

The resort boasts 4 beautifully-restored historic buildings for guests to unwind, reconnect, and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings. It may be a crazy dream, but Cam's never looked back. Thanks for your support and patronage!



Thanks to everyone who helped make the last ten years happen! Above: Cam and his brother Eric Hilborn, carpenter extraordinaire. Below Fall 2009's River Cabin crew: Don, John, Lorne, Eric, and Norm.

