

September 3rd

Well the last couple of weeks have flown by, between a full house of guests, relatives visiting from Ontario, meetings in K-Country and some decent weather it is now September and the Fall season is quickly upon us. We are all excited about the two upcoming concerts in the next few weeks with John Wort Hannam being sold out completely and Suzie Vinnick still having a few dinner/concert tickets left, so if you want to experience some great music you need to contact us very quickly in order to not miss out! The moose have been en masse over the past week to ten days and it appears that the rutting season is going to be an active one around the lodge. Grizzlies have been sighted daily within 10km of the lodge and combined with our other regular visitors it has been a bonanza for our guests who have been enjoying sharing their latest pictures with each other. Time to get back to work for me, hope to see you soon!

August 19th

What a beautiful week it has been in the Spray Valley – daytime highs have been between 21-26C, lots of sun and cooling off nicely in the evening – so this is what summer was supposed to be like – haha! We had an amazing concert up here last Saturday night with Karla Anderson – hard to describe just how powerful a voice Karla has and more importantly what a lovely person to have at the Lodge along with her partner Dave. Everyone enjoyed the performance, a few tissues were out with some of the passion in the songs – thanks to Karla for a remarkable evening – if you haven't heard her music yet, I would encourage you to head to a great local music store or check out her website online at www.karlaanderson.com and buy both of the CD's – there is some serious music going on here!!! We do have our concert this coming Monday with Willy Blizzard and we are excited to be welcoming this trio from Vancouver Island to our part of the world – should be a great evening – still some dinner/concert tickets left at \$65pp – send me an email at chris@mountengadine.com.

August 13th

There was a small group of us last night hoping to stay up to watch the Meteor showers, however with a cold damp day that carried on into the evening there was only brief glimpses of the sky, so it was back to bed for all involved. The summer has been flying by, and even though the weather has not been ideal this season it has made for a beautiful display of flowers and a very lush summer. We are all very excited about Karla Anderson's concert this Saturday night and wanted to let everyone know that we are now completely sold out for the Music in the Meadow series for this year – yahoo! As a bit of a bonus, we do have a small concert going on for the night of the 23rd with a band out of British Columbia called Willy Blizzard. Guests of the lodge who are staying overnight on that date get the concert for free, and for those looking for a dinner/concert package

you can do that for just \$65 that evening with the \$20 concert portion going directly to the band – should be a fun evening.

August 5th

Great weather in the Spray Valley right now, with sunny days and warm temperatures. The Lodge is still very busy and the guests are enjoying their hikes with all the great weather combined with all the alpine flowers it is pretty special out there. Had our first guest spot a porcupine on Burstall Pass trail, we know they are around but I still haven't seen one myself so it was great to actually see some shots from their camera to confirm they are in the valley. All of us are getting excited about next weekends concert with Karla Anderson – we are pretty much sold out for the entire Music in the Meadow series now and are already getting requests from guests as to who will be playing here next year, and at this point I have no clue to be honest, that will be a fall project to decide who will be part of the 2011 series. Time to get ready for afternoon tea!

July 27th

The summer is flying by!!!! We are finally receiving the great summer weather we have been waiting on all season and the wildflowers are beautiful. We had an amazing evening with Eileen Laverty this past Saturday night – the stories and music were all very special and the guests had a wonderful evening. Eileen has been under the radar for sometime now and she has promised us (her words not mine – haha!) a new CD sometime in 2011 – can't wait! We are hosting our Country Walkers group in house right now and they have been having lots of great hikes even though their proposed hike to Chester Lake was cancelled due to grizzly activity, apparently a couple of them are enjoying the nice summer weather and don't want to share the lake with anyone – go figure. Both Whitesox and Mooselini have been back in the wallow in the past few days and by the size of both of them it should be an interesting rutting season this September – they are both huge and their racks are enormous – I will keep you posted as this develops! Otherwise, hard to believe August is quickly approaching and we still have a few small openings in the first couple of weeks, but don't really open up again with lots of availability until the 3rd week of August – so if you are still trying to figure out when you can get out here, that would be a good time!

July 16th

The concert on Tuesday evening was wonderful. Cara's new songs are fabulous and everyone at the concert will be eagerly waiting for the new CD to come out. Many hilarious names for the new CD were recommended but we will wait to see what Cara chooses. The moose calves are here on a more regular basis and we are starting to see 6-8 moose each morning and evening with a few drop-bys during the daytime as well. Trails have really cleaned up with very little snow on any of them and lots of great

wildflowers out everywhere. Shari-Lynn and I were up at Black Prince earlier this week and were amazed at all the Columbines that were out and that was even before we hit Warspite Lake, we were on a bit of a time crunch so didn't have the opportunity to get into the alpine meadow behind the lake but assume it is full of glacier lilies!! Still some dinner/concert tickets left for Eileen Laverty performing here next Saturday the 24th – hope to see you there!

July 10th

Every once in a while you get a chance to experience something really special, and this Tuesday evening the 13th is going to be one of those nights. One of our Music in the Meadow alumni, Cara Luft, is about to head into the recording studio this August to record her latest CD. Fortunately for a few of us in Western Canada, Cara is doing a 'sneak-peek' tour of some of her favorite spots to play and let the audience hear the new material before it gets recorded. That is what is happening this Tuesday night, still tickets left for this one of a kind event – dinner at 7pm, concert starts around 8:30pm – cost for the dinner/concert is \$65 – contact me directly at chris@mountengadine.com if interested in becoming a part of this – act quickly!

We are getting daily viewings of our last moose calf and what a sight it is. Standing about 4 feet high at the top of its head, Mom and baby seem to be doing very well and are frequent visitors to the wallow – see you soon!

July 5th

A busy holiday weekend was had by all of our Canadian and American guests with a few bonuses thrown in. We hosted an Australian writer over the weekend and Shari-Lynn and I had the opportunity to take her out for a walk along the Watridge Lake Trail on Sunday morning. We had been discussing the whole bear spray issue and what to watch for and how to react, when we saw two young guys on the left side of the trail taking pictures. As we got closer they were walking towards us and let us know that there was a black bear about 20m off the trail. As we slowly approached (Anne wanted to see a bear, but maybe not this close up) we discovered that not only was it a bear, but also two of the smallest cubs I had ever seen climbing up the tree while the mother kept an eye on us. We watched in astonishment for a few minutes and then decided it was best to return to the parking lot and leave the mother to tend to her cubs – an amazing experience, and Anne was absolutely thrilled. Add to that the moose that have been coming back in droves and the guests are having a great time regardless of our non-summer weather. Just to keep everyone up to speed, John Wort Hannam is now completely sold out, and Karla Anderson and Eileen Laverty only have a few dinner/concert tickets left. Suzie Vinnick has a few rooms left but we anticipate having the whole Music in the Meadow series sold out in the next couple of weeks, so if you have been holding out trying to decide, it is already too late for John, and getting very late for the others – call now!!

June 25th

What an opening we have had! We were scheduled to officially open on June 17th, but late in the afternoon of the 16th a wet and very tired cyclist from Northern California arrived at the lodge a little damp and worse for wear combating the rain and wind and looking for a room. Ed got to sit down for a little family dinner with the staff that night and so the season began. It has been quite busy since and with the warmer temperatures the meadow has been greening up quickly which means the moose have been very frequent. Two days ago our guests awoke to 8 of them in the meadow including 3 bulls, and several grizzlies have been seen down the valley – lots of fun. Our regular June group from Edmonton arrived a few days ago and fortunately for me the 3 guys invited me to join them on their annual golf game at Kananaskis Country Club and we all had good fun and some great golf shots (not as many by me, but that's another story!). Last night at the dinner table we had two guests celebrating their 3rd day of marriage while the couple sitting next to them were celebrating their 56th year of marriage – inspiring for all. Well it's a full house this weekend, time to get some treats ready for afternoon tea – talk to you soon!

June 10th

In the last 10 days we have been visited by all of the following: Moose, whitetail deer, elk, black bear, grizzly, lesser weasels, Columbian ground squirrels, steller jays, whiskey jacks, pine grosbeak, wilson's warblers, red tailed hawks, falcons, osprey, ravens and I am sure I am forgetting a few other birds, but yes, spring is finally making its way into the valley which is quite evident from the list above. It has been a treat to stand on the back deck at any time of the day lately and watch the wildlife/birds become so active as the temperatures warm up, the snow completely disappears and the meadow starting to green up.

We have been keeping busy getting the Lodge ready for next weeks summer opening and look forward to welcoming back our staff and guests to another busy season out here in the Spray Valley. We had a chance to do a litter pickup from end-to-end on the Mount Shark Road as well as the stretch from Rummel to the Commonwealth Creek pullover area on the Smith-Dorrien and collected in our opinion a few too many things that had been 'disposed' of, including the usual collection of beer cans, but also a cellphone that had to have been about 5+ years old if its size was any indication, a pager, a doll, old metal pail and many more numerous things that you wouldn't think would be found in this area, however.....

We are starting to get quite a few reservations for outside dinners so for those of you still waiting to make your own reservations I would recommend doing it fairly soon to avoid disappointment for you and your guests visiting you this summer as we limit the amount of outside dinner spots to 10 maximum. Give us a call at reservations and we can get you booked in for some of the best food in the Bow Valley!

May 30th

The time has been flying since I last had an opportunity to write in this space and wanted to catch you up on what is going on as we approach our summer opening on June 17th. Shari-Lynn and I have been away most of the month of May, spending just over 3 weeks hiking around the Utah National Parks and getting some great exercise, tasty food and 'decent' weather. We returned to not too much snow (until this mornings little 8 cm dusting) and reasonable temperature and lots of obvious activity from our 4 legged neighbours we share this area with.

The deer in our area are quite active right now, and a good sized grizzly stopped by the Lodge to say hello on Thursday, we didn't get a chance to see him/her personally but they were kind enough to leave a little memento for us to remember them by – haha! Moose are out as well, and the Columbian Ground Squirrels have started their takeover of the local landscape once again.

Otherwise the trails still have some snow on them, but mostly in sheltered areas only, and with a couple more weeks until we open most of the trails should be in decent shape for hiking, although a pair of gaiters would probably help.

Bookings are quite busy so far, but still lots of availability in certain time periods, and while the Music in the Meadow series is quickly selling out, still some space for Suzie Vinnick on the 18th of September. Anyone looking to book in for the concert/dinner series of these events should be doing that relatively soon as we are already receiving reservations at this time. As well, afternoon tea will once again be open daily from 3-5pm and outside dinners are happily accepted with a minimum of 24 hours notice, so if you are looking for that special evening in the Rockies with friends and loved ones, contact us sooner than later as we only have 10 open spots each evening for outside diners.

Time to get some more work done around the Lodge for opening – look forward to hearing from you soon!