



November 2010

The end of October is our natural year end for Lodge business, but it is also our financial year end. This year we must extend a large thank you to all our guests who made our year – literally. Going into 2010 we were very conservative in our estimates of how the Lodge would fare given the economic state. But we have been pleasantly surprised. Our steady growth up to 2008 followed with a downturn in 2009 – like most businesses. But 2010 has us back on the same pre 2008 growth curve with our best ever year end. Certainly we had a very busy February, and we also had many sold out weeks this past summer, but overall, it looks like that trend is continuing into 2011.

We are also pleased to say that Chris and Shari-Lynn Williams, our Innkeepers, will be with us for a few more years, providing that great service and food everyone is getting used to up at the Lodge. We are certainly proud of the way they look after our Lodge and their Home.

We are also pleased to be the recipient of a Alberta Government Travel Alberta ALTO award for Sustainable Tourism. We have been runners up for an ALTO award the two previous years in small budget tourism marketing and sustainable tourism, so we are grateful of the selection committee to recognize our efforts in conservation and reducing our output of waste. Over the past few years our reduction of carbon emissions, our recycling program, our overall energy reduction, our buy local program and our start towards using fresh grown herbs and local produce when we can, all have contributed to our success in providing a sustainable tourism product for our guests.

In this connection, we continue our process to reduce. By the time you read this, we will be well on our way to finishing up another major renovation at the Lodge. The three bathrooms in the Meadows Edge Chalet, and the four bathrooms in the common areas of the main Lodge will all be renovated. The Cabin rooms within the Chalet will have a complete makeover including newly tiled showers. In all, 9 new low flush toilets will be replaced reducing our usage of the local water by about 50%.

Operating and maintaining the Lodge takes a very committed and coordinated team effort. It is remote, it is at altitude (almost 2000 meters), it is small, it has its nuances attributed its age. But it remains one of the premier locations in Alberta to enjoy.

Cheers Andrew and Sharisse Kyle

June 2010

What a special winter! Early snow, then a mild mid-winter and then some big late season snowfalls made for a great skiing filled year. This is my 55th year, and my goal was to be skiing 55 times this season and with a mid November start and a 4 day glacier traverse in late April, I am happy to say that I got them all in.

Other milestones in 2010; it was the year of the Winter Olympics and we were excited to host the Canadian cross country ski teams just prior to the games in Vancouver. These games proved to be their most successful race results for a long while and we are proud to have helped them along as they took advantage of our altitude to get some additional oxygen filled blood cells to help them in the endurance races. (Not to forget about our good nutrition too!)

This winter, Sharisse and I also sponsored an up and coming Biathlete: Kurtis Wenzel. Kurtis grew up in our neighbourhood, is the same age as my daughter and attended the same schools until Kurtis focused on Nordic skiing and enrolled in a Biathlon Bears program at Canada Olympic Park when he was 12. Shortly after, he was recruited by the Rocky Mountain Racers club and, under the watchful eye of Peter Zidek, began the enduring process of mastering his rifle shot. Kurtis participated in his first national championship in 2006, and the following year represented Canada at the Youth World Championships in Ruhpolding, Germany. Kurtis won the 2009 World Youth Sprint Championships in Canmore and was recently named junior athlete of the year (in all sports) in Alberta. Sometime last fall, Kurtis approached us for financial aid which we gladly obliged and hope to continue his support until the next Olympics. He spent part of his winter in Norway and his passions extend far beyond sport. He dedicates any free time left to photography and film, backpacking, cooking and eating.

He plans to visit the Lodge while he trains in the off season and if you see him while you are visiting the Lodge, ask him about his most recent successes – he accomplishes a lot and loves to talk.

Thank you again for your stays at the Lodge and for those thinking about visiting us this year, we welcome you to our “slice of paradise in Canada”. Cheers Andrew and Sharisse Kyle

January 2010

Sharisse and I and some of our friends, just returned from a XC ski around Pocaterra in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park (for reference: about 25 minutes from the Lodge on the way to the Lodge from Calgary). Three things were worth commenting on.

The first is that generally in the south end of the park and surrounding the Lodge, we are having some incredible early season snow conditions. There is well over 2 meters (6 ft)of fallen snow so far this year and the skiing and snowshoeing conditions have been remarkably above average. Also kudos to

the crew out track setting as the trails were in superior condition – readying for the famed Cookie Race mid February I bet!

The second was the cougar that was watching all the skiers getting ready for there outing. Cougar sightings are very, very rare and to see one so close to human activity is again remarkable. The conservation officers were doing their best to scare it back into the wild. This must have something to do with the depth of the snow as well, but a great experience none the less.

The last thing was just that is was so nice to see all the families and groups out taking advantage of the conditions and dusting off those skis. Every parking lot was full! We have seen a slight shift to snowshoeing at the Lodge over the past couple of winters and it begs the question of where the skiers have gone – but I was glad to see them out in force.

I am of the opinion that any winter sport is worth doing and taking advantage of the great outdoors by XC skiers, or snowshoers or skaters, or backcountry skiers or toboganners is all good. We are lucky to be able to spend time in the mountains and we make the best of it, even as the demands of life seem too many to count.

Thanks for taking the time to visit our Lodge in 2009. If this past holiday season is any indication of the year to come, it will be spectacular, full of activity, thrilling and enjoyed outdoors. Cheers and Happy New Year !

Andrew and Sharisse Kyle

August 26 2009 We are grateful when visitors from all over the world find our unique bit of nature. But when the comments flow from Jack Hanna and his partner Sue, they are worth sharing.

The following were exerpts from The Canmore Leader article found at:

<http://www.canmoreleader.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1707150>

“I’ve literally travelled the world,” the man who’s sometimes known as Jungle Jack said. “North Pole, South Pole and everything in between and this, right here what we’ve just seen . . . you don’t get any better than this.”

The Hannas were just as excited over the meadow that stretches below Mount Engadine Lodge and the mountains in the background. “You can see these animals in many places,” Jack said, “But you don’t see these animals with this backdrop, obviously, anywhere else in the world: I don’t care where you go.”

“Where ever you go, there’s always something about it or something that captivates you,” Sue said. “This is absolutely gorgeous and everybody would say that, but there’s always a uniqueness. And I think we’ve come to the point that we appreciate that no matter what it is.

Having watched the moose, nearly up to its belly in a wallow, walk off through a creek and across the meadow, Sue marvelled at the ease with which the animal could extract itself from the thick mud.

The couple said they'd like to stay.

"The more you learn about an area, the more you take away," she said. "You can just quickly look and leave, but you're not going to get as much out of it as if you're really observing something: taking time, spending time with it, and trying to absorb as much as you can out of it.

I could not agree more – but of course I am biased. Cheers and thanks Jack, Andrew Kyle

Mid August 2009 – OK the Music in Meadow series has become a run away success and I can see that next year we will have some tough decisions to make in regard to keeping our music loving guests happy. The artists have been so wonderful and the performances so grand, that I am sure they get as big a kick out of doing our small house gig, as the audience does hearing it .

I am writing this half way through our summer season (mid June to mid October), and I am on one hand encouraged by our much better than average season but on the other hand feeling sad for my industry friends that are struggling through this downturn. It really is a time to reflect on what great staff we have here at Mount Engadine Lodge and the effort they have put in this summer and last winter during this economic slowdown. They have been working extra hard when needed to and stretching their talents in slower times. Cheers to the staff at Mount Engadine Lodge!

I have also noticed a much more appreciative guest this summer. Times are tough. Maybe everyone is taking time to reflect on what a great place we live in, sharing more "slow" time with their friends and family and enjoying the simplicities of life. We have a great location to do this. Hiking in such pristine rocky mountain environs, using our own human power to get around and eating good old healthy meals must be the basic mantra for life. And if you have been lucky enough, enjoying music in our meadow must be part of the basics of enjoying life this summer.

I know the moose really don't know there is a slow down and this year we continue to see an abundance of moose at the lodge. Thank goodness they don't stop coming during a recession. Thanks again to all of our new guests and returning guests; it has been fun to visit with you at the Lodge this summer.

Andrew and Sharisse Kyle