



Winter January 2023

From Under the Straw Hat

A message from Todd

Wow! ... and just like that, here we are in 2023! It has been several years since we published a newsletter. The Lake Ontario floods in 2017 and 2019 and operating a business during COVID 19 seemed to keep us pre-occupied and wore down. I am pleased to say though, that 2022 seemed to bring back some "normal business operations" after five years of craziness.

There has been many changes here at County Shores over the past few years. Most significant is the changing of our Office and Reservations Manager. Krista has always been a caregiver at heart. She was in early childhood education when we first were married and seeing the elderly in the long-term care homes during the pandemic, I think really pulled on her heart strings. So, she went back to school in the Fall of 2020 to take PSW training and has been working with the elderly in our community since.

Rana Brintnell, joined the team here at County Shores in the Fall of 2020 as our New Office and Reservations Manager, taking over Krista's role. Rana has many years of education and experience in the hospitality industry. She is also very familiar with our operations having worked here for my parents when she was a student.

For those that haven't been here in a couple of years will find new floating docks in our harbour. No more climbing down into your boat when the water is low or having to worry about someone taking your spot on the docks. We are in the second phase of a five phase dock and harbour rebuild, with more improvements to come.



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THE SHORES

County Shores

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From Under the Straw Hat continued..

We continue to upgrade our electric and water sites to avoid the use of long cords and hoses. We also now have 2 - 50 amp sites for you folks with big rigs and dual A/C's.

The Ash Bore Beetle has hit us really hard this past year. The Spring of 2022 arrived and to find most of the ash trees in the park dead. We are currently cutting down nearly 50 dead ash trees as a result and it will be a huge lost to the park. Trying to plan ahead, 450 new cedar and maple saplings were planted this past spring and summer to help make up for this loss but it will be a number of years before they make up for the cover that the ash trees provided.

We have more projects to tackle before the start of the camping season including our new hiking trail that surrounds the property across the road, a new fish cleaning building and washroom improvements. The busy times never end around here!



Year Round Accommodations

Looking to explore the County or Bay of Quinte during the off-season months? We've got you covered! We currently have three vacation rentals available year-round for your convenience. Cozy up in our 3-bedroom Demorestville Den apartment or hang out in our 2-bedroom Northport Loft! Try out our little piece of private paradise with a view at our Solmesville Vacation House. This 3-bedroom country style home has a large yard with a beautiful view of the Bay of Quinte. Book your stay with us now through our new online reservation system!



AGRI-NEWS WITH ANDREW & CONNOR



Ingredients:

- 1 Whole Chicken
- Kosher Salt
- Black Pepper
- 2-3 Rosemary sprigs, plus 2 1/2 teaspoons finely chopped Rosemary
- 4 Tablespoons Unsalted Butter
- 2 Tablespoons Maple Syrup

Andrew has now graduated from college and has been extremely busy this past year with his property maintenance and lawn cutting business, North County Cutting. Connor is also finished high school and working full time with a local construction company. Andrew, Connor and Todd are all partners in County Shores Farms which is the umbrella that we sell our maple syrup, farm fresh eggs, meat chickens and firewood under.

You will now notice new labels for the maple syrup that Andrew has created. We are very lucky to be able to feature our local paint artist's (Judy Kent) painting of our old sugar shack back in the woods for the label background.



County Shores Farms will once again be participating in March Maple Madness every weekend in March. Join us here to see how we make maple syrup; have one of our locally famous pulled pork sandwiches or maple cinnamon buns; and stock up on freshly made maple syrup.

Don't forget that County Shores Farms has eggs and maple syrup available 7 days every week, all winter long at our after hours check-in door. Self pay system applies ... just walk in and help yourself.

Maple Chicken Recipe

Step 1: Heat oven to 375 degrees. Pat chicken dry and season well with salt and pepper, both inside and out. Place chicken breast-side up in a 10-inch cast-iron or oven-proof skillet and stuff the rosemary sprigs into the bird's cavity.

Step 2: In a saucepan, melt butter over medium-low heat. Add the chopped rosemary and maple syrup, and cook together until rosemary is fragrant and mixture has thickened slightly, about 1-2 mins. Spoon all of the mixture over the chicken, making sure evenly coated.

Step 3: Roast the chicken, basting with the pan juices every 15-20 minutes or so, until chicken is glossy and golden brown and registers 165 degrees with an instant thermometer in the thickest part of the thigh, about 55-60 minutes. Remove from oven and baste an additional time, if desired. Allow chicken to rest 10 minutes before carving. Whisk remaining juice and pass at the table.

Bon Appetit!

FROM BEHIND THE COUNTER

It's hard to believe we are already half way through winter and I am going into my third year at County Shores! If you haven't met me yet, my name is Rana and I'm the new face (sort of) behind the counter. It's been a pleasure meeting all of the wonderful campers and guests these past couple of years and building relationships. You truly make my job a great one!

New this past year, was our website upgrade and online booking system. Gone are the days of pen and paper reservations. Everything is now automated into our new software and website and you can book your campsite or accommodations directly online whenever you wish. Access to this is through the 'Book Now' buttons on our website. Because of this, 2023 reservations have been booking up very quickly. Long weekends seem to be filling up fast along with other popular camping dates. We have lots of space available for Fall camping up until October 31st. Come see the colours of the County and explore all that PEC has to offer with less traffic and tourists to maneuver around.

If you're looking to get your toes in the sand, check out the World's Famous Sandbanks or North Beach! Make sure to book your reservation as these are now required for these beaches -www.ontarioparks.com. Due to this new reservation process, we will only be offering complimentary beach passes to those staying in our accommodations.

Come see me in the store for any of your campground or farm questions!

STORIES FROM THE SHORE

This past Fall, the water levels of the Bay of Quinte drastically dropped in a significantly short time. We had to make the tough decision to pull our docks and boat rentals out of the water much earlier than planned. Anglers were struggling all over Bay of Quinte with launching or fishing from the shore. On a positive note, we have upgraded all of our boat rentals with a fresh coat of paint and newer, bigger motors. Our boat rentals include everything you need to enjoy a day on the water – your first tank of gas, paddles, life jackets and safety kits. Contact us to inquire about availability and more details.

From what we've been seeing through social media, ice fishing on the Bay of Quinte has been a hit this year. If customers book an accommodation with County Shores, they will have full access to the Bay of Quinte ice from our property.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the annual Kiwanis Walleye Tournament had to be cancelled for a third year in a row this past May 2022. This didn't deter the fishermen when walleye fishing season began. Most were limiting out for May and June. Lots of Sheepshead, silver bass and perch were caught as well. We are still waiting to hear if this tournament will continue on and will keep our customers posted.

RANA'S ROUND UP

