

DATE: Dec 24, 2020

Hello from Stormer Lake Lodge,

We first want to wish our Stormer Lake Lodge guests a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There is no doubt that 2020 could be described as nothing less than a very interesting and complex year but maybe we should describe it as the year that should go away and never come back. No one was left untouched by the COVID pandemic but we hope that you are all healthy and safe and 2021 will no doubt be a better year.

If we let ourselves look back at the events or timeline from this past year starting in March 2020, we never would have thought that our fishing season at Stormer Lake Lodge would have been cancelled completely. We held out hope as the months started to pass, that sooner rather than later we would have at least a few anglers visit us this summer so we could say we had a short but great season. We absolutely feel terrible for all of our guests as we know they so much look forward to their vacation at Stormer making memories with friends and family. Oh, and yes, catching a ton of fish.

Fast forward to today, the day before Christmas, we know there is a light at the end of this COVID tunnel and we again have all the faith in the world that the Canada/US border will be open before the start of the fishing season in Ontario Canada. The good news is that there has been a ton of fish that have been saved from the shore lunch pan this past summer so there will be even higher numbers of fish (if that is possible) and they all will be hungrier and larger. Be honest, how many of you have lost (fed fish) each day when you have set the hook and the fish is not there and they stole your minnow. These Walleyes and Pike are waiting for you to come back and feed them again. Lol.

In regards to what we know about the status of when and how the border will be open, we unfortunately do not have any concrete information at this time. Lots of rumors and conjecture from all angles in the industry but nothing that we want to say is concrete so we don't want to mis-inform our guests. We are involved with many many many websites, webinars, blogs, social media sites, government posts, tourism associations, etc. all related to the issues as to how and when the border "could" open. With the start of the vaccine rolling out globally, the trend of most conversations and online posts (rumors) appear to involve that a guest might have to have a vaccine prior to arriving to the border and/or a negative COVID test just prior to arriving to the border. Again, this is NOT any kind of formulated concrete plan as of yet but only conversations within the government and tourism industry. So, that is all of the rumors we are going to pass along at this time. Truly believe, you all will be the first ones to know if there are any plans set in place to give us hope that our season will be open in May 2021.

As you may know, the ALL CANADA Shows in Green Bay and Chicago have been cancelled. I don't think this comes as much of a surprise but we sure were disappointed to not be able to see all of our guests that come to the shows to talk about fishing and life in general. It has always been a great venue to allow us to forget about the cold winter and think about catching Walleye or Pike on Stormer & Kirkness lakes. I guess we will all have to watch rerun fishing shows on TV.

We want to thank all of our guests for rolling their fishing trip from the 2020 season to the 2021 fishing season. We also want to thank all of you for rolling your deposits as well. We usually never like to talk business, as talking about fishing is more fun, but with the Canadian government not offering any kind of grant assistance whatsoever to any tourism groups in Northwest Ontario, it has made this year interesting economically speaking. So, rolling your deposits to 2021 was a godsend for us and we are very very very grateful. Based on Linda and I being in the business for many years, we didn't necessarily plan for such a large economic change in 2020 (who did), but we maybe had a small advantage to other lodge owners who have just started or just purchased their lodge, and did not have the time to build up a nest egg so to speak. Again, with the Canadian government not offering any kind of non-loan assistance, many lodges need the border to be open this coming summer.

We have now finalized or organized all of our reservations for the 2021 season. There has been some interest from our guests in moving their current date to another week or maybe adding more anglers to their group. Most of the requests we believe we have answered for changing dates, but if we have not contacted you and would like to discuss details for your group, send us an email or call. We have a couple of cabins open for 2021 but that is about it.

That is all of the news we have for now. If we have forgotten to discuss a topic or you have any questions, feel free to email or call.

EXCITING NEWS: We are offering a 10% discount for our STORMER LAKE LODGE clothing that can be purchased directly from our website. Go to our website homepage at www.stormerlakelodge.com or www.redlakeontariofishing.com and you should see our ONLINE STORE icon. We hope you will take a look and promote Stormer to all of your friends and family. We thank you for all your support

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay happy & healthy

Dave & Linda

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