

STORMER LAKE LODGE

DATE: April 15, 2021

Dear Stormer Guests,

We hope everyone reading this letter is well and hopefully getting back to somewhat of a normal lifestyle. We know it has been some time since we last updated our guests in regards to Stormer Lake Lodge and more specifically, how and when the border will open and we can all resume our passion: YANKING FISH AND MAKING MEMORIES.

We have hesitated to send out more frequent updates for many reasons but the general news coming out of Canada in 2021 has not been considered positive so we have resisted just sending out the same redundant news stating “nothing new yet”. (although this letter will be similar to that type of news. Sorry).

As the normal fishing season opener draws ever closer, we thought we would at least let you know we are still working diligently with as many resources that are at our disposal, to keep track of any news that comes out of Canada, and to work tirelessly with tourism and government organizations to TRY and make any progress we can to get our US guests across the border.

Let's first try to describe where Canada is right now as it relates to COVID and how that effects our business at Stormer. Many if not most of you probably follow the internet with any news that comes out of Canada. It goes without saying that the internet is a great tool but it also can be a dangerous tool with not all news being completely true especially when it relates to anything political. I know most of you are probably sitting there saying: “No Kidding”. Linda and I have been trying to navigate the real news from the fake news so we can decipher what is best for Stormer Lake Lodge and how we would communicate news to our guests. So, while there are endless news stories, and theories, and opinions, and just plain old wrong stories being published, we will only state a few quick overview issues that we hope are helpful.

That being said, here is what we know as of today. Canada has in place a border opening (or conversely stated, a shutdown ending) date of April 21, 2021 and will review that date as it gets closer as to whether to extend or actually open the border. We are expecting news very soon as it relates to this April 21 date and believe this will be extended for another month. In addition, the province of Ontario just went in to a complete shutdown/stay at home order as of this past Thursday, April 8, for a period of 4 weeks. As you can interpret, the two dates of April 21 and the 4-week shutdown starting April 8 do not coincide so we are confident that the April 21 date will be extended until probably another month similar to what they have done for the past year.

Covid cases are on the rise for many parts of Canada and Ontario is one of those provinces that cases are increasing. That is the first of “not good news” for the border not opening sooner rather than later. In addition, the vaccination rate in Canada is extremely slow compared to the US rate. There are many reasons for this slow vaccination rate of which we prefer to not be political here but Trudeau has stated

that he is “hoping” to have most Canadians vaccinated by end of September. This is the second of “not good news” for the border not opening sooner rather than later.

Many of you have asked us why can't they open the border when most folks in the US are vaccinated and that Stormer Lake Lodge and most resorts are very remote locations which means that the chance of spreading any virus are almost nil? That is a great question and one that all of us Canadian lodge owners have been pushing for some time. However, the top Health Minister in Canada has stated many times that they believe the virus can still be transmitted via a vaccinated individual to another individual whether they are vaccinated or not. Also, government and health officials have also let us to believe that while US citizens are vaccinated, they would like all Canadian citizens to be vaccinated to insure everyone's safety. That is the third “not good news” for the border not opening sooner rather than later.

There are many other issues that relate to tourism and our business but the above stated topics are the overall main problems we believe we are facing to try and get our guests to Stormer Lake Lodge.

OK, by now you are all getting anxious to know (and we appreciate the patience in reading this letter):

WILL THERE BE A FISHING SEASON AT STORMER THIS COMING SUMMER?

We hope you do not get frustrated with us (as we are with the Canadian government) but the best answer we can give at this time is we believe YES and NO. We really wanted to say maybe but we are trying to stay positive and give you as best of an informative answer as possible.

It is our belief that the border will not be open for our May and most likely June's guests. We believe that early July is a very good possibility to have the border open as many of the lower-level politicians in Canada have stated this date to get the border open. We also believe this a very good possibility as the higher rush of traffic to Canada is usually in May and June and also around the US July 4th holiday. There have also been quite a few meetings with government officials to try and formulate a plan for the border opening for the early July date. While we do get a sense of this being government lip service, we are holding out hope as a positive step.

So, you are probably wondering, what does this mean for my fishing vacation at Stormer Lake Lodge.

While we have stated above that we believe May and June are questionable, we are not cancelling any dates as of right now.

We know this may be confusing and does not give you a direct answer to allow you to plan your family and friends' vacations for the summer, but we are trying to be as positive as possible for all scenarios. In other words, we do not want to cancel or postpone any dates and then for some miraculous reason, the Canadian government opens the border in May or June. However, we do want to be realistic and understand that you may want to formulate other vacation plans elsewhere so you won't miss other opportunities.

That being said, we are more than willing to hold your current dates in 2021 at Stormer until a few weeks prior to your arrival with the understanding that you may want to make other plans elsewhere and hedge your bet as to which one will actually come to fruition. In other words, we are willing to be as flexible as possible to allow you to make any necessary plans for what is best for your family and

friends this coming summer. Rest assured, if you decide to cancel your dates in 2021, you will automatically keep your exact date for 2022. We also will push you deposit to 2022.

Linda and I are allowed to travel across the border to Stormer this coming May based on being business owners. If the government opens the border for our guests on any date, we hope to get Stormer ready for our guests soon after.

We hope the above stated options and suggestions as they relate to your vacation are not too confusing. This obviously has been a very difficult and tiring time for everyone globally and we just want all of our lives to get back to normal. Hopefully, yanking a few Walleyes and Pike will be part of that normalcy this summer.

Finally, we want to thank all of our guests for being very patient with us as we navigate through these issues. We know how important your trip is to Stormer as we have heard many stories about past fishing adventures and the memories that were made. Linda and I got in to this business not really knowing how it would all turn out but we are extremely grateful and proud to be a small part in all of your lives.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER AND WE PLAN TO BE AT STORMER WHEN YOU ARRIVE!

We know you may have questions that we may not have identified or touched on. Please feel free to email or call with any question or issue. If you call and we do not answer, please leave a message. We would love to talk fishing instead of listening to an automated robocall message regarding our out-of-date auto warranty policy. Lol.

All the best.

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