



Solbakken Scene

News From Sunny Hill!

Solbakken Resort

Fall Issue, December 2008

Thanks For A Great Year!

In spite of a soft economy, expensive fuel and the seemingly endless increases in everyday expenses, we have had a great year! You, our beloved Solbakken Guests continue to choose Solbakken as your place to stay. We want to thank all of you for your ongoing patronage. It allows us to continue to operate as one of the last small family resorts on Lake Superior's North

Shore. It has been a real privilege to serve you this year. We began the year with a great winter with plenty of snow all season. In fact, we began skiing in late November and we were downhill skiing through the 3rd weekend of April!!! We were happy to see the snow melting by then and an excellent spring rainfall that helped Lake Superior's level rise by over 1 foot from its historic low in 2007. The

summer was cooler than normal, but quite nice in terms of outdoor activity. Not too hot, just right by many standards. Our tomatoes barely made it, however! We enjoyed one of our longest fall color seasons ever beginning in early September and with plenty of color even up to MEA weekend—the 3rd weekend of October. We are now busily preparing for winter and hoping for another great season!



Above: The Historic Sawbill Lodge snuggled into it's winter whites.

Below: Waves crashing into shoreline last winter



The Solbakken—Cascade Connection...

Many of you have noticed that Maureen and I drive vehicles that have Cascade Lodge logo's on the side. That is because we also own Cascade Lodge and Restaurant. The story of how we decided to purchase and manage Solbakken is a long one. I will try to condense it down to a few lines. Michael and Bill had been skiing buddies and shared grooming responsibilities for 55km of ski trails connecting Cascade and Solbakken. Through this friendship we learned that Solbakken may be for sale. With six cabins on the lake, a motel

and the fabulous Sawbill Lodge plus a Lake Home adjacent to the resort, we were extremely interested in the proposition. The resort is one of the few remaining family owned and operated resorts left on the North Shore. One of our goals is to maintain and preserve such places, Solbakken was an obvious fit. After a lot of soul searching we decided to make an offer on the property. A short and easy negotiation lead to a sale and as most of you know, we took over from Bill and Beth in June of 2006. Since then, we have attempted to manage the resort as a small family resort,

even though we are busy with two places. Relative to other large conglomerates up here, we are still fairly small—but some days it doesn't feel that way! Overall, we are happy with our decision to purchase Solbakken. Our guests now enjoy reduced price meals at our Restaurant, the two resorts do a lot of referrals to one another and our advertising budget has been greatly reduced because we now buy joint space for our marketing. Further, our staff all works for one company allowing us to offer competitive benefits and wages! So, now you know the connection.

What's New At Solbakken

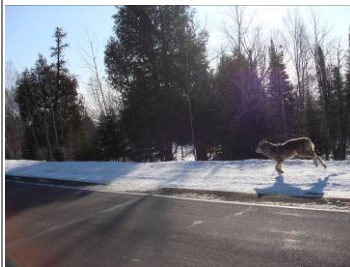
In addition to the constant upkeep of the resort, we always try to upgrade as we are able. This year we put new carpet and vinyl into Cabin 4 as well as a new range, furnace and shower. We also put new carpet and comfy

chairs into Jonas house as well as new fireplace doors. During work week we put a wall and new door into the caretaker apartment and refinished the entire main lodge! It was a huge task, but with many hands we com-

pleted it in just over a week. This fall, we are hoping to complete our added parking for the suites and fix the driveway which washed out during a June storm that delivered 5 inches of water to us overnight!



Work Week Volunteer helping refinish Sawbill Lodge



Michael caught this wolf on film on an early morning drive up Highway 61.

This past May we saw more moose than ever before. Almost daily we saw a variety of bull, cow and young moose. We took a lot of pictures! The wolves are out in force and look quite healthy. We have seen a beauti-

ful one recently that is more of a brownish red color. Reports of cougar are becoming more frequent especially just north of here, but we have not personally observed a cougar as of yet. The annual bird migration is still going

on but many of the smaller song birds have already headed south. We enjoy a large variety of migrating birds every spring and fall. Fishing and Hunting has been excellent this year both inland and on the big Lake.

“The Kids Corner” Sarah, Shannon, Elizabeth and Samuel



Us-Enjoying a Sunday afternoon cross country ski excursion with our nieces and nephews. Mulligan is doing well—she is going to the dentist next week for a teeth cleaning!!!!



Hi from the O'Phelan kids. Sarah turned 16 in November. We celebrated with a surprise party at the “Pickled Herring” at Sven and Ole's in Grand Marais. It was a great time, Mom and Dad had to buy 7 large pizzas to feed our friends! Shannon's volleyball team took 2nd place in the regional competition held in September and she is planning to take up snowboarding this winter at Lutsen. Elizabeth

took up tennis, volleyball, soccer and head cheerleader for the Cook County varsity football squad who almost made it to State for their second year in a row. Samuel is now in 4th grade and busy with karate, fishing and piano lessons. This winter he plans on reading a lot and snowboarding at Lutsen. All of us are very happy to now have a house with our own rooms. Soon, we may even get a TV!

07-08 Winter

We had plenty of snow last season and enjoyed excellent skiing from the resort out into the backwoods on a regular basis. With the fuel price increases we saw a lot of vacationers who may have chosen another state, choose the North Shore instead. We were quite busy all winter long and most weekends we filled to capacity. We urge you to make your winter vacation plans early for the best possible options.

Staff Notes

We had a busy summer here at Solbakken and our children, Sarah, Shannon and Elizabeth all helped out tremendously! We also had 2 students from Russia and Ukraine help out during our busiest time. This is a program known as J1 Visa that allows us to hire from other countries for 4 month spans of time. Margie's son Andrew started college in late summer and is doing well. Boni is now work-

ing 5 days per week at the desk. She entertained family at her home in Grand Marias this Thanksgiving. Dale has taken the reins as Caretaker with his soul-mate Debbie helping out on weekends. They have the caretaker apartment looking wonderful! Scott continues to manage the resort and is presently in his 18th year of employment at Solbakken! After a long and difficult search, we

have hired an excellent head housekeeper by the name of Shelly. She has two adorable children and a smile that can't be beat. Most importantly, however, is her intense attention to detail and the perfection that she expects of herself and her helpers. We feel very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff to meet our guest's needs. We think that you will agree!

Work Week 2009!

We really enjoyed work week this past spring and got a lot done besides. This year we will again host work week from May 6 to May 13, 2009. You can sign up for 1/2 or 1 full week. In exchange for 1/2 day of work each day, we give you lodging, breakfast and lunch, a pot luck during the week and a whole lot of hardworking fun! Join us this year by calling us at 800-435-3950. We will be cleaning out the Motel and possibly doing some roof work. We may also be building a ramp.

Green Team Update

Slowly but surely we are getting most of our bulbs switched over to compact fluorescent bulbs. We have been managing our heat better this year by turning down the cabins when they are unoccupied. All of our new appliance purchases are energy star rated for re-

duced electrical usage. We continue to keep the spa covered to save on heat and water losses. We just finished putting up the winter storm windows on the Sawbill Lodge and we have added curtains to the caretaker apartment to save on heat and keep the unit

more cozy. We are testing out a new type of heater that works by blowing air over high wattage light bulbs keeping a sitting area nice and warm without heating the entire space. We continue to urge our guests to conserve precious water.



Cascade Restaurant is located just 5 minutes from Solbakken and features excellent home cooked meals. Enjoy a fine breakfast or evening meal with a glass of wine while overlooking Lake Superior

Vacation Home

The Holt House rented for the last time over MEA weekend. We want to thank all the guests who have enjoyed the Holt house over the years. It is now a private residence and no longer available

to our guests to rent. We suggest either Jonas house adjacent to the resort property or Cabin 1 as alternatives to Holt. If you have interest in a larger inland home (six bedrooms overlooking

Caribou Lake) we manage a home called Caribou Hideaway. Please call for details about that. We continue to search for another management opportunity for a home on Lake Superior.



View of Lake Superior off of Jonas House Deck.

THE SOLBAKKEN SCENE

Solbakken Resort
 4874 West Highway 61
 Lutsen, MN 55612

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Address Service Requested

SOLBAKKEN RESORT		WINTER 2008– 2009			1-800-435-3950 or (218) 663-7566		
Rate per night for 1-2 persons	3 BR Cabin	2 BR Cabin	1 BR Cabin	Jonas Lake Home	1 BR Fireplace Suite	2 BR Fireplace Suite	Motel
<u>Peak Season:</u> December 19 – January 3 Feb. weekends	\$230	\$149	\$139	\$269	\$139	\$159	\$89
<u>Regular Season:</u> January weekends (except Jan 1-3) March Weekends	\$195	\$129	\$115	\$230	\$115	\$139	\$79
<u>Value Season:</u> Dec 1-18 Midweek Jan 4 to Mar 31	\$140	\$99	\$79	\$156	\$79	\$99	\$50
Extra people, any units, all seasons: Aged 13 thru adult are \$10/night each. Children 12 and under are free with adult Pets: No pets in lakehome or fireplace suites. Pets in cabins and motel accepted by advance reservation only: \$10/night/pet (2 pets max.) Must not be left unattended in unit; dogs must be leashed on grounds.							
Deposit: Deposit of one night's stay required to reserve room. Cancellation policy: Refund of 90% of deposit available on cancellation made at least 14 days in advance for reservations of 4 nights or less. 30 days advance notice of cancellation required for reservations of 5 nights or more. Taxes: 6.5% state sales tax; 3% local lodging tax. Fees: 1% CCEVB Payment of balance: Due on arrival. Charges made for full length of reservation or total package. Minimum stay requirements: Three nights in cabins, fireplace suites, and lake homes during holiday periods and weekends. Three nights in motel during holiday periods; two nights all other week- ends. Reservations which include a Friday or Saturday night are subject to minimum stay requirements and weekend rates apply. Check in: after 3:00 p.m. Check-out: 11:00 a.m. Non-smoking: All units are non-smoking.							