

## The Waldheim

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Dear friends,

On October 14, 2017, Craig and Tamara Martin (Keriann's brother and sister-in-law) were married at the Big Moose Community Chapel. Following the ceremony, guests continued on to The Waldheim awaiting the bride and groom's arrival by boat for a cocktail hour and reception to follow. It was a beautiful fall wedding with mild temperatures in the low 60's (unusual for that time of year). We'd like to think Howard and Wanda were looking down on them with warm thoughts and smiles.

Temperatures fell as November approached and North Bay froze over on the 28<sup>th</sup>, the main lake did not freeze until December 9<sup>th</sup>. On Christmas day we were blanketed with two feet of snow. This did not keep the animals at bay. A mink was spotted out in front of Kelly and Jason's house. The streak of deep brown caught their eye against the white snow as it pounced along. Shelby (their dog) did her best to track it down - sniffing each paw print and tree trunk the mink explored, but the mink could not be found. Four deer have been ambling through our yards. They've been visiting us daily sharing the feeders with the juncos, chickadees, blue jays, nuthatches, and occasional purple finches.

After two years of nail biting, meeting our project deadlines, the guys have decided to catch up on some of the smaller projects this spring that have been pushed aside and haven't made the cut these past few years. The list is endless, however, some in the running are: fixing parts of the sidewalk, creating steps down to the beach, finishing the railings on the dining room and tree trimming throughout camp.

We continue to include a confirmation card with your letter to be filled out and returned. Although it may seem redundant it is important to provide updated contact information and accurate personal information, e.g. allergies, dietary restrictions, number in party, etc. These pieces of information are necessary for our staff to properly prepare for your arrival. We've added a new line on the confirmation card- "Bringing a boat?". We need to be aware of all the boats that are launched from our property and since Big Moose Lake continues to be free of invasive aquatic species (one of only two lakes in the Adirondack Park) all watercraft will need to be inspected before entering the water.

We had several occasions last year where guests had to shorten or cancel their reservation last minute and requested a refund of their deposit. While we sympathize with them for the loss of their vacation, we are also a business and these last minute decisions affect the business. We are a unique place and off the beaten path which makes it a challenge to re-rent the cottage on such short notice. Our cancellation policy can be viewed on our website.

To confirm your reservation for this year, **please complete and return the enclosed card by January 27, 2018**. If you do not intend to confirm your reservation, please notify us as soon as possible so that we might rent to someone else.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Kelly, Jason, Keriann, Andrew, Nancy and Roger