

“So we had all these experts underfoot, or we were under their feet all the time,” says Marilyn, who began guiding in her early thirties.

“I already knew all of this but I didn’t know I had a hidden career,” she says. “And you have to think about this job too, it was always thought of as a man’s job.”

She remembers her breakthrough opportunity when she was hired by Silverwood Lodge for a day to fill in for someone else.

“I went out with these three judges in their seventies and we just had a blast” she recalls.

They asked her to take them out again the next day – and she wound up working for Phyllis and the late Ray Holl, owners of Silverwood Lodge for nearly 30 seasons, as well as doing some guiding for private customers.

She views guiding as meaningful work because she’s enjoying what she’s doing.

“You’re generally in a 16-foot boat with one or two people and this is their holiday and you want them to have the best possible experience they can have ....” she explains. “You want them to see the best of what is here, visit the islands, fish, get out and have some space from you. Other people want to stay in the boat all day and that’s fine. You want them to see the openness and you want them to see different things. There are lots of areas where you can have no sight of buildings at all – that’s awesome.”

Sometimes she’ll simply encourage her party to stop what they’re doing and simply listen – to the water lapping the shoreline, the wind rustling through weather-beaten bushes, or the splash of a plump frog.

Maybe they’ll pick cranberries, blueberries and raspberries, strawberries or gooseberries – nature’s own delicacies which have been known to make their way into Marilyn’s shore lunch pies. Or they’ll check out some of the natural and man-made points of interest.

“When you take people out, a lot of the time, it’s the first time they’ve ever been here,” says Jim. “So part of my tour is making sure they see the sights around us, like the various rock formations around here. Some places, especially south of here have beautifully, sculptured rocks.”

They can learn about the history of the area waterways, islands and their inhabitants, from a family which has been immersed in it.



Marilyn Longlade Capreol and Jim Longlade stop for a shore lunch near Pointe au Baril. For tips on how to create your own shore lunch see page 7 for recipes and more ideas.

“My grandfather, [Mike], started out in a rowboat being towed by a motorized launch, then he would take the guests, and row around,” says Jim. “My dad started off with an inboard boat and later outboards came out. I started off with motorized boats and outboards. And I was the last guide to row a customer – a Mr. Yentil from Hamilton, who made motorized aircraft hangar doors.”

The Longlades have also seen changes in local fishing.

“When we were growing up, pike were considered a [unpopular] fish because there were so many of them,” says Jim. “Now you can’t catch them because there are so few.”

“Like most of the fish, we’re losing the species,” explains Marilyn. “Like rock bass. We used to catch rock bass by the bucketfuls now you’re lucky if you catch one or two in a day. Smelts – we don’t get smelts anymore, or lake trout, things that are being stocked here that aren’t indigenous to the waterways.”

“Some of the species are coming back, like the whitefish,” she explains. “They were very severely damaged back in the old days with the commercial fishing. The reduction of the commercial fishing has helped, but then we have predators like the cormorants.”

Donna and Marilyn openly express concern about the low water levels in the area, particularly when they return to the good fishing spots they knew

as children, only to find these now lack water or are now dry land.

While out boating last month, the pair saw changes in water levels of those fishing holes they’d always considered ‘tried and true’.

“So it changes a lot of the feeding places for fish too,” says Donna who, only half-jokingly suggested to her sister that she’d like to spend next summer puttering around in a boat with a fishing rod, camping and exploring, “just to find out where things have all moved”.

“We have our fishing spots that we know are still working, meaning we know that fish are there, but there’s a lot of places, that because of the low water, have changed,” says Donna. “And a lot of the channels that we really relied on to get us back and forth for safety reasons [inside chan-

nels], can’t be driven, but you can get out and walk your boat over the boulders. There’s just no water.” So, new highways for passage would be discovered for guiding hopeful anglers on the waterways. 🌞

**Sunys**

**GAS BAR & RESTAURANT**

Featuring  
**The BEST**  
**Fish & Chips**  
**South of the North Pole**

**Eat In or Take Out**  
**Serving Breakfast ALL DAY**  
**Gas • Oil • Propane**

**Hwy 69 South • MacTier**  
**705-375-2963**

**Body Logic**

**It's a healthy thing to do and it feels good too.**

Massages available in  
MacTier,  
Horseshoe Valley,  
Huntsville & Baysville.

APPOINTMENTS  
AVAILABLE  
DAYS, EVENINGS &  
WEEKENDS

Treatment-based registered  
massage therapy by  
**Denice Spykerman RMT**  
**705-794-5519**