



Viking Outposts

Newsletter Fall 2019

Dear Guests

I was talking with Craig Carlson one day in the fall of 2017 about Viking Outposts and how the Carlson family was ready to sell after only 50 years in business. Later, I (Dean Martin) was visiting my very close friend, Vito Tarantino, and we discussed Viking Outposts with growing excitement. Vito said, "Dino, let's look at the books and maybe partner up on it." Vito has a good head for business and is not afraid of hard work. So he made me think, "OK, let's have a go". I relied on Vito a lot through the buying process while we worked together to define our roles in our new venture. We are both pilots, bushmen, and construction guys so this business is a good fit.

Come spring, Vito and I were very excited to open up the outposts and start meeting the guests we had talked to over the winter and heard so much about from the Carlson family. The ice took its sweet time leaving Howey Bay and when we could finally get the planes in the water, we only had 6 days till the first of our guests arrived. We went to work dawn to dusk, to get prepped. Vito and I both did our best to open everything up while Craig and Hugh trained pilots and gave us advice.

May 28th, 2019 was a very windy gusty day. I got tossed all over in my Cessna 180 on my way back from a northern camp. I heard that Vito had gone to move his cleaning crew from Domain to Optic and I knew his little plane would have trouble with the gusts.

I was up at 5 am the morning of May 29th to find that Vito had not returned. By 6:30 am, I was fueling my plane to go check on him. At 7:20 am my world, along with the worlds of so many others, was turned upside down when I spotted Vito's small plane crashed at Domain with a forest fire burning around it. I landed, ran to the wreckage to find my worst fears confirmed. Vito had perished in the crash along with his employee, Shelly. I contacted Viking Air Base, climbed back in my plane and returned to base.

I was met on the dock by Enid who allowed me some quiet time. Then proceeding up to the office, I was overwhelmed with emotion when I saw Roseanne, Craig and Hugh in the office taking control, knowing I needed help without me even asking. The town of Red Lake went into shock at the news of Vito and Shelly's passing and many people showed up on my doorstep to offer help in any way possible. The next morning after finding Vito, I walked into the office at 5 am to find Tyson Pitura ready to learn how to run the office. He had to learn a ton of stuff in a short period and did an amazing job. He has returned to running his restaurant now, and I will be forever grateful for his hard work and enthusiasm. I got by with the help of my friends, my hometown and Viking Outpost guests. I am blessed.

Vito had left everything to his sister, Donna Tarantino, who even in her extreme grief has done a great job after being thrown into something she had no experience in. She is learning the business, working on the books and looking forward to meeting guests.

I would like to extend an apology to the guests who came to Viking Outposts in the month of June and July as I might not have been at the office to meet everyone and, if I was, I definitely was not myself. I was just trying to keep up in a business I had no experience in, without the help and brilliant mind of my best friend and business partner, Vito. I would like to say thank you to all our guests for being very understanding. If you didn't have the best trip, please consider giving us a second chance. I am positive your next trip will be top notch. Be safe and have a happy winter!

Moving forward my plan is to keep Vito's and my dream alive. There are cabins to upgrade, boats to repair, portages to cut, guests to meet and a good life ahead.



Dean Martin, Vito Tarantino, Hugh and Craig Carlson

Dean and Vito bought Viking Outposts on Nov. 1, 2018

Sincerely , *Dean Martin*



Harry Flaugh comes all the way from New Mexico to fish with family. Good fishing, good company, good food, that's the recipe.

Telescope Lake

Vito took a liking to this outpost and decided to concentrate on fixing it up as his first big project. He built a new deck at the entrance and brushed out the surrounding bush, planned on new docks for 2020. Dean installed a new solar powered 24 volt freezer. It even has USB ports. In spring of 2020, we plan to build new floating docks (lumber and floats already on site) and to build a new front deck and railing.

Telescope is in Woodland Caribou Wilderness Park. The lake is 90 feet deep and slightly stained. Walleye, northern and lake trout are easy to find. Two portage lakes are available. The cabin sleeps 8 people comfortably.

Maintenance and Upgrades

Dean loves the bush, flying, construction and fishing, as did Vito. They made many plans for cabin repairs and upgrades. Solar power has become more reliable in recent years and our outposts will be outfitted with solar appliances during the next few years. This past summer, Domain and Optic were outfitted with solar fridges. Telescope got a solar freezer and Dolphin got both. Middle Camp got a new water pump which allowed Dean to learn about the water systems.

We worked on brushing out and tidying up around the cabins and much more is planned for 2020. Optic and Telescope will get new floating docks. Boats repairs are scheduled at all the outposts.

We tested the new Garmin In-Reach satellite technology this past summer and found it worked well. They provide 2 way communication



Telescope's new 24 volt solar powered Freezer



Garmin In-Reach at every outpost in 2020

Our Team

This spring Craig trained our new pilots. As the season progressed, Rob Hall took over as chief pilot and operations manager. Dave Robertson, who has flew in this area for 30 years flew a Beaver. Nick Muller flew out of Sandy Lake before moving south to work with us. Marek Lattenberg was trained on the Cessna by Craig and quickly caught on.

Tyson Pitura held down the office. He just jumped in and got to work this spring when we needed him.

You are more likely to spot Dean out in the bush, repairing motors, working on cabins, or cutting portages. It is his aim to get to know each outpost location and portage lake by visiting you out there.



Marek Lattenberg



Robert Hall



Tyson Pitura



Nick Muller



Dave Robertson

2019 FLY-FISHING RATES

Outpost Location & Price for a 7 day Package Plan in U.S. Funds (shorter stays available)		
<u>Remote Outposts</u>	25 to 45 miles from Red Lake	
Night Hawk and Domain	Groups of 2 or more	\$985/ person
Telescope, Optic	Groups of 6 or more	\$1030/ person
and Crossland	Groups of 4 and 5	\$1070 / person
	Groups of less than 4	\$1099/ person
<u>Remote Northern Outposts</u>	80 to 105 miles north of Red Lake	
Rheaume, Orono, Critchell,	Groups of 6 or more	\$1130 / person
Dolphin and McInnes	Groups of 4 or 5	\$1170 / person
	Groups of less than 4	\$1199/ person

2020 FLY-IN FISHING RATES

Outpost Location & Price for a 7 day Package Plan in U.S. Funds (shorter stays available)		
<u>Remote Outposts</u>	25 to 45 miles from Red Lake	
Night Hawk and Domain	Groups of 2 or more	\$1060/ person
Telescope, Optic	Groups of 4 or more	\$1145/ person
and Crossland	Groups of less than 4	\$1175/person
<u>Remote Northern Outposts</u>	80 to 105 miles north of Red Lake	
Rheaume, Orono, Dolphin	Groups of 4 or more	\$1245 / person
Critchell, and McInnes	Groups of less than 4	\$1275/ person

FLIGHT SCHEDULE & CHECK-IN TIME

Thursday Rheaume 8:00 am			
Friday		Saturday	
Telescope	6:00 am	Viking Island	7:00 am
Optic	6:00 am	Domain	8:00 am
S. McInnes	7:15 am	Night Hawk	8:00 am
Power Bay	9:30 am	Crossland	8:00 am
M. McInnes	12:30 pm	Dolphin	10:30 am
Orono	1:30 pm	Critchell	12:00 pm

Return Groups will be charged the 2019 rate in 2020.

YOUR BOOKING in 2020

Please check with us this fall to confirm your reservation for 2020 and beyond. We had a very hectic season and may have made mistakes when booking your next trip. Dean is busy contacting each group leader by phone or email to talk about plans for 2020. He is anxious to make sure our valued return guests have their desired spots before Sports Shows begin and new fishermen start to call.

Your reservation is not confirmed without a deposit of \$300/person. For convenience, we accept VISA and Mastercard for deposits only.

Moose Hunting

We offer unguided 7 day moose hunts. Please refer to our website for more details and call us early to reserve a spot. (season dates are tentative, confirmed by Ontario government in April)

Northern Hunt Area 1C

rifle and bow season opens Sept. 21, 2020

Rheaume, Orono, Critchell, McInnes and **Dolphin (new in 2019)**

\$2250USD/person for 4 or more \$2450USD/person for less than 4

Area 2 and 3 East of Red Lake

rifle season opens Oct. 12, archery season opens Sept 19

Telescope, Night Hawk and Crossland

\$2050USD per person 4 or more \$2250USD/person for less than 4

ALL HUNTING PACKAGES INCLUDE COST OF LICENSE (\$450 CAD)



An archery hunt for moose can be lots of patience mixed with moments of excitement. It worked out for Jeff Schultz when he got this moose with a 58" rack at Telescope.



Ron McLennan's group was our first guests. No problem finding fish.



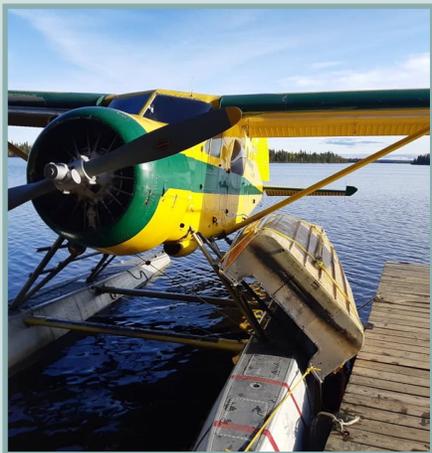
Austyn Butler found a old and healthy lake trout.



Everyone wants to catch a big fish then some small walleye for lunch



Vito at Night Hawk this spring with his Piper PA-12 Super Cruiser



Our planes haul many supplies, including boats



Dean servicing the portage boats and checking out portages

SPORT SHOWS for 2020

Hugh will be at the Sports Shows in 2020. Come by and chat!

January 3-5 : Milwaukee: The All Canada Show at Milwaukee County Sports Complex, Franklin, WI,

January 10-13: Chicago, St. Charles: The All Canada Show at Pheasant Run Resort Mega Center

Viking Outposts

52 Howey St
Box 318
Red Lake, ON, P0V 2M0
Canada

Phone: (807) 727-3461

Fax: (807) 727-3462



Fishing season is not far off. Hope to see you soon.

Dean Martin