



Florida is Made for Families

Join Elaine as she takes us on a tour of Florida's family-oriented attractions



The Gift of Green

You have a role to play in helping us move toward a greener future



RCI Fees for 2012

We've summarized all the pertinent RCI fees in one easy-to-use guide

Elkhorn Echo

News for Elkhorn Vacations Owners

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Moving Forward

▶ DID YOU KNOW?

The 1st Annual **Elkhorn Resort Charity Golf Tournament** will be held in the Fall of 2012 at Clear Lake Golf Course. Proceeds from this charity event will go to Make-A-Wish Foundation. Details to be announced. Watch the Elkhorn Resort website (www.elkhornresort.mb.ca) for details as they become available.

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by Stephen Tadman, General Manager Elkhorn Vacations for Life

There are some very positive developments occurring this year for Elkhorn Vacation for Life Owners.

At Elkhorn Resort in Clear Lake, Manitoba, we are proceeding with a substantial upgrade of our dining room and lounge facilities. Construction began in early February with completion planned for the spring. Owners visiting the Elkhorn property this summer will enjoy a new state-of-the-art lounge and dining experience in a truly spectacular environment. Please check out the New Elkhorn Resort website for more details on future plans, and to view our Calendar of events.

We are also pleased to report that upgrading continues at Lodges at Canmore. In recent months we have seen a substantial improvement of common areas in building one. Bellstar, the on-site property manager, will extend the facelift throughout the

remaining buildings during 2012.

We continue to get mixed signals on the Canadian economy. As a result, Elkhorn has decided to slow down its expansion of sales activities. Regretfully one area we have suspended is the Alberta Owner Referral Program. We had reactivated this last fall but the initial response was less than we hoped, and our costs were higher than anticipated. Not a good combination. The Owner Referral Program remains in full force for our property in Manitoba. However, in 2012 we will only provide a referral bonus if your friends choose to purchase. Details of our 2012 Owner Referral Program can be found on our website at www.elkhornvacations.ca.

Winnipeg owners will soon see new signage on the Elkhorn offices on Portage Avenue. The office was much bigger than
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www.elkhornvacations.ca

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Florida is made for families

Cold weather in Manitoba in March 2011 made taking flight and heading south very exciting! The nine years since our last visit to central Florida had us pumped to experience what was new and different.

Upon arrival at **Orlando Airport** we sought the **Budget Rental Car** desk and presented the RCI coupon, as prior research pinpointed them as best value. Family, luggage and beloved GPS all settled in the car and we're headed towards Kissimmee, not quickly mind you, as traffic on the Interstate flowed like a Manitoba stream in March.

We checked into our RCI unit at **Orbit One**, selected and booked with points to squeak two weeks out of our annual allotment. A central location, spacious unit, well-kept amenities and friendly, obliging staff made our stay most pleasant.

I researched the perks under our Platinum Membership weeks before our departure and ordered our **Go-Orlando** cards. The guidebook that arrived with the cards proved to be a huge asset in planning our itinerary at impressive discounts, and was incentive to experience some unique activities.



We had the good fortune to visit **Disney World** in the past so we opted for a two-day pass and explored **Epcot Centre** on our first day. You must try **Soarin'** and **Test Track**, but utilize the **Fast Pass** for both to make best use of your time and energy. We also walked (eventually limped) our way around the **World Showcase** and visited Mexico, Norway, China, Germany (Mmmmm, German chocolate), Japan (loved the Taiko drum show), Italy, France, U.K., and of course Canada where we tapped our toes with Off Kilter. (No, not us – the Canadian Celtic rock band).

The second day of our Disney Pass was spent in the **Animal Kingdom**. The **Kilimanjaro Safari** ride was a bumpy, awesome time which resulted in very odd photos of a vast array of real animals and an odd animatronic one. The less faint-of-



heart might scream their way on **Kali River Rapids** and **Expedition Everest**. A little more tame but still fun: **Flights of Wonder**, **Festival of the Lion King**, the parade by **Tree of Life**, and kids will love **It's Tough to be a Bug**. (Grandma's maybe not so much when the stink bug arrives or when experiencing the early departure of creepy crawlies over and under you?) This is just the tip of the iceberg, but wear comfortable footwear!

Baseball fans will enjoy a day to sit and rest your tired feet while you cheer on your favourite team at **ESPN World of Sports**. Easy to get to but allow lots of time for lineups.

The remainder of our days in Florida

BUZZ FROM THE BOARDS

Elkhorn Owners Assoc.



1. The EOA Board has improvements to announce that will make stays even more enjoyable. The Lodges at Canmore has refreshed the corridors with new carpet and fresh paint. Secondly, Falcon Crest has increased their comfort level with new sofa beds in all units.

2. The Annual General Meeting for Elkhorn Owners Association members will take place on March 17, 2012.

3. Elkhorn Owners Association members are encouraged to take an active role in the organization by seeking a position on the

Board of Directors. If you are interested in being considered, forward your name and qualifications to Mandi Riffel via email to mandi@elkhornresort.mb.ca.

Neepawa Condominium Corporation #3

1. The Board of Directors of NCC#3 is pleased to share some of the upgrades and enhancements underway at Elkhorn Resort which impact us all as property owners of NCC#3.

The Sewer Project is progressing more quickly than expected. The lovely warm weather has made it possible for work on the project to continue through the winter. This has resulted in the A-Frame chalets being tied into the sewage treatment plant at Riding Mountain National Park. The main building has also been on the system since the end of January, completing Phase 1 of this project.

The Electric fireplaces have been installed

and renovations completed in all but two of the A-Frame chalets.

Winter is more enticing than ever at Elkhorn with the new outdoor skating rink and warming hut complete and ready to enjoy.

2. The 2012 Annual General Meeting for NCC#3 will be held at Elkhorn Resort on Saturday, April 21. Watch your mailbox and the website for further details.

3. The Board of Directors is accepting names of members who would like to be part of the Finance and Building Committee. Prior experience in accounting / collections would be beneficial. Those who are interested are encouraged to contact the NCC#3 Board at the email address below.

4. Members with questions or comments may direct them to the NCC#3 Board of Directors by email to ncc3fbc@gmail.com. **That's the buzz!**

were spent using the Go-Orlando cards which provided entry and select perks. **Boggy Creek Airboat** ride at the Southport location gave us an opportunity to leave the city and explore the natural home of gators, birds, snails, and more. The airboat ride was great, but the best was to actually hold a three-foot alligator (mouth taped shut – on the gator, that is!). This little gator felt like a lovely soft leather handbag; I'm kidding, but he was soft.

Congo River Adventure Golf in Kissimmee allowed us to walk our way through the lives of Stanley and Livingston as we chased our ball around the miniature golf course.

Gatorland had some of the largest alligators and we were introduced to the rare blue-eyed leucistic gators. My personal favourite was the **Florida Eco-Safari** at St. Cloud, about one-and-a-half hours from Kissimmee. This venue brings you up close and personal with the flora and fauna of the "real" Florida and introduces you to the history of how the state was settled.

The guides are very interactive with guests and the giant safari jeeps take you about as far from Disney as possible in every sense.

Florida Springs will take you on a drive in another direction to see more of the state and on arrival you will be at Florida's first attraction. A variety of glass-bottomed boat rides, animal exhibits, turtles and snake shows are all within 350 acres of natural beauty. Original Tarzan movies were filmed here. The **American Police Museum** was an unusual but enlightening stop and served as our Go-Card attraction to activate our bonus entry to **Kennedy Space Centre**. The Endeavour was on the platform during our visit and our interest had been piqued with the sonic boom Discovery created upon her



re-entry into the atmosphere. Good fortune smiled on us as we actually got to be awed by a launch of a Delta 4 rocket lifting a classified satellite into orbit.

Now about that footwear: after a couple of very long days of walking, my award-winning-size blisters necessitated a stop at the **Orlando Premium Outlet Mall** for shoes, (well, maybe a few pairs!). The Go-Card also afforded us more discounts at select stores and thus a marvelous day of bargains was about to be revealed.

After two amazing weeks in central Florida we came to realize not only that Mickey lives in a magical place, but also with eyes and minds wide open almost anywhere has magical qualities to be discovered. Until next time, make every day an adventure. — Elaine

"Remember that happiness is a way of travel – not the destination." – Roy M. Goodman

Elaine wears many hats, not unlike most women today. "Wife," "Mother" and "Grandmother" are the hats she wears in her family. They became Elkhorn Owners in 2004 as a way to travel and explore the world, but also to be assured of comfortable, safe and affordable lodging that would accommodate her growing family.

For the past four years Elaine has also worn the "team" hat with the Owners Services office at Elkhorn Resort. Elaine and her family have been most fortunate to have experienced amazing vacations after some initial learning curves were overcome.

Elaine's wish to 2012 to all Elkhorn Vacations Owners is for a healthy year of travel and exploration. If Elaine can be of any assistance to help you ensure that your dreams come true, you are most welcome to contact her Wednesday to Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by phone at 1-888-462-8785 or email at elaine@elkhornresort.mb.ca.

The Gift of Green

There are times we may take for granted the gift of pristine beauty of Riding Mountain National Park or the majesty of the Mountains as we enjoy all they have to offer twelve months of the year. We aspire to reduce our impact on the "green" spaces and on our world in general so future generations will enjoy the same tranquil beauty we have experienced.

We would appreciate any assistance you can afford us in this direction. Our desire is to move forward in a "greener" future by reducing paper (invoices, newsletters) and transport (mail) costs. One manner of improvement in this area would be increased utilization of email contact with our owners.

Now here comes the really good part: Owners who provide us with their current email address will have their name entered in a draw. The winner will receive \$100 towards next year's Maintenance Fee.

You can email us your info at linda@elkhornresort.mb.ca or call us at 1-888-462-8785. Hope to hear from you soon!



Moving Forward

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we required. The utility bills in this ancient building were mind-boggling, and we have decided not to renew our lease.

In general we believe 2012 will be a turning point in western Canada.

The Alberta economy continues to build momentum, Saskatchewan is still enjoying strong economic growth, and Manitoba remains a stable environment. All of this bodes well for the travel and hospitality industry.

MEMBER NOTICES

RCI® Fees*

RCI® WEEKS FEES (as of January 1, 2012)

WEEKS EXCHANGE FEE (CAD)

Call Center Domestic/ International	\$217
RCI.COM Domestic/ International	\$206

RCI® FEES (as of January 1, 2012)

TRANSACTION FEES

FOR ONLINE TRANSACTIONS —

Transaction fees shown are for services provided online at RCI.com. Transaction fees for services provided via the RCI Call Center will vary from these rates.

Reserving own vacation time for 7 nights	No Charge
Home Resort Priority Reservation for 7 nights	\$43
7 Nights or More	\$162
6 Nights	\$140
5 Night	\$119
4 Night	\$108
3 Night	\$86
2 Night	\$64
1 Night	\$42

NETWORK DUES & SUBSCRIPTION FEES

RCI Points Platinum (12 months)	\$54.22
Annual Network Dues and Subscription Fee	\$122.25
Subscription Renewal - 2 yrs	\$225.77
Subscription Renewal - 3 yrs	\$314.52
Subscription Renewal - 4 yrs	\$403.25
Subscription Renewal - 5 yrs	\$491.97



CAUTION!

If you receive a phone call from a company claiming to rent or sell your unit this is a SCAM. Do not provide personal information or send them any money.

MISC. FEES / RENTAL / GUEST CERT. / VACATION PROTECTION CAD**

Points Saving Fee	\$28
Points Transfer Fee	No Fee
Points for Deposit Fee	\$28
Rental Price Per Point	\$0.0218
Points Ext – Less than 14,000 Points	\$42
Points Ext – 14,000 Points and above	\$108
RCI Points Guest Certificates	\$64
RCI Vacation Protection 5+ nights	\$53
Membership Transfer Application (MTA) †	\$107
Duplicate Points Directory (Shipping & Handling)	\$8

* RCI fees are subject to change at RCI's sole discretion. For complete details of RCI subscribing membership, including RCI's cancellation policy, consult the Terms and Conditions of RCI Points® Subscribing Membership.

** These services for RCI subscribing members residing in Canada are provided by RCI Canada ULC. The listed fees for Canadian members include GST/HST as applicable to such member's province of residence.

† Network dues and / or enrollment fee may be required in addition to the MTA processing fee.

Weeks Program: New Values

Do you have any questions regarding the RCI Weeks Enhancement Program? Do you understand the values assigned by RCI? We encourage any Owners who have these questions to speak with an RCI agent by calling 1-800-338-7777 or visit RCI.com. These new values under the Weeks program are a positive improvement, but do make it imperative to request your week(s) for space banking as early as possible to ensure you reap the benefits.

Outstanding Maintenance Fees

The outstanding Maintenance Fees for all owners are now in arrears. These outstanding accounts have incurred a \$25.00 late fee as well as monthly interest and RCI members have those accounts blocked. Once payment has been received these blocked RCI accounts are only reinstated, with submissions to RCI, once per week — so we encourage you to avoid delay with vacation plans and contact us as soon as possible.

Owner Services Staff welcome your calls at 1-888-462-8785 to assist with your payments and questions and look forward to getting you on vacations again.

PREMIER POINTS CLUB EXCHANGE FEES

The Elkhorn is delighted to have received confirmation from RCI on exchange fees incurred while booking under the Home Group. RCI has provided the following guideline: PPC members are allowed one free exchange into the Club inventory each year – Providing it is booked under Home Group and points required for reservation are in the amount of the owner's annual allotment of points or less. If you have to borrow points from another use year to complete the exchange that will trigger the RCI system to charge an exchange fee as it has now altered the Home Group criteria. Home Group reservations must be made 10 to 11 months prior to your desired check-in date and exact dates will be displayed in this area of the RCI website.

Owner Services Contacts

MANITOBA OFFICE:

Phone 1-888-462-8785
Office Hours: Monday to Friday,
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CDT
Staff: Mandi, Judy, Elaine and Linda

CANMORE OFFICE:

Phone 1-866-856-3437
Office Hours: Tuesday to Saturday,
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MDT
Staff: Moilah