



ST. MARTIN
Join Judy as she takes
us on a tour of this
beautiful Caribbean Island



**News for Elkhorn
Vacation Club Members**

VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 1 • SUMMER 2014

Elkhorn Echo

RCI OWNER ORIENTATION SESSIONS

To learn how to make the most of your membership, please phone the Owner Services Office to set up an appointment for a 1-on-1 orientation with one of our Owner Services team members.

Call 1-888-462-8785 or 1-866-856-3437.



General Manager's Update New Patio Ready, New Pool Underway at Elkhorn Resort in Onanole, Manitoba

After that long winter, it's time for another memorable hot summer at Elkhorn Resort! The wildlife are out and about; we've had deer, moose and even bear sightings already. The summer forecast is looking nice, with long stretches of heat, great for playing a couple rounds of golf on our course.

There's a lot of excitement happening up here. The **new patio is done**, located between the front car park and the guest room entrance; it is open and just waiting for the perfect day to have a BBQ party. Or feel free to just sit and enjoy a nice cold spirited drink or two.

Building on the **brand new pool** is set to begin in the next few days; we'll be posting regular updates on our website so everyone can see the progress. I can't wait for that waterslide to arrive!

Our first group of **foreign workers** arrived from the Philippines in mid-May, with a second group set to arrive in June. All have impressive experience from working on cruise ships and at resorts from around the world, and despite the drastic time and weather change, they are very enthusiastic and excited to become part of the Elkhorn Resort family. You will see them around the



The new patio is ready and waiting!

Resort, at the front desk, with housekeeping, and preparing the new dishes at Mountain Grill. So give them a big friendly Canadian welcome when you see them.

With all these exciting and new things happening, I know this will be one of the great summers at Elkhorn Resort. I hope to see you up here with us soon!

— Chris Phillips

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ISLAND GETAWAY

ST-MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN

Vacation time is always so exciting.

We pack and try to figure out what we have forgotten, but it really doesn't matter. As long as we have our passports, credit cards, medication, and insurance card,

we are good to go. The bracelet we forget, or the extra pair of shoes that never made it into the suitcase, don't make or break the holiday.

This year my husband, Lamont, son, Brian, and I decided to go somewhere different. Off we went to St. Martin—one small island, two different countries, 36 square miles. We did our research and decided to go to two different RCI resorts for our two-week stay. The island is half Dutch (Sint Maarten) and half French (Saint-Martin), but both resorts were on the Dutch side.

Landing in St. Martin is an experience—small island, big plane, short runway. The start of our adventure was at the RCI resort Sapphire Beach Club #2637 in Cupecoy



Lamont & Judy George

Beach, about three kilometres from the airport. We grabbed our luggage and got a cab. Just as we had heard, cabs were expensive. What a great location, right near the Blue Mall and Porto Cupecoy Mall & Marina where the Le Gourmet Marche (grocery store) is located.

When we go somewhere, planning out each day is not one of our virtues. We know what we want to see, but when is always a question.

After dropping off our suitcases, we checked out the area, eventually making our way to the grocery store. Two things we learned very quickly: some things in St. Martin are expensive; and even though they all say the Euro is the way to go, American dollars are the best bet. Glad we brought all those Euros instead of dollars.

The Sapphire Beach Club is a smaller resort. Staff were very friendly, but this was definitely not a Gold Crown. The unit was clean, the largest we have ever had for a one-bedroom, sleeping six. The view was breathtaking. Overlooking the ocean, you could sit on the huge balcony and be amazed. Repairs that needed to be done (such as

the shower head falling off) were put on the maintenance list. What happened to it after that is unknown since despite asking twice about the repair, no one ever showed up to fix it. No big deal for us; we could still use the tub and had another shower. It's what you make of it, and it wasn't going to ruin our holiday.

There were no beaches right at the resort, but two great ones were really close by. During the first full day we checked out Mullet Beach, along the golf course. We were on our way to Sunset Beach, a small but touristy area. This is where everyone goes to see the planes come in. Coming in so low, you felt like you could almost touch them. It's really something you have to see! From there we stopped for lunch and then kept on walking. Through Beacon Hill we went, admiring all the gorgeous homes, leading up to Simpson Bay. Everyone was so friendly.

Soon we realized we were miles from the resort and we didn't have the energy to walk back. Local transit was wonderful. Vans are used, and were well marked as to what area they were going to. We just flagged one down, told the driver where we wanted to go, and they gave us the price. For the three of us

it was \$4.50 (pay when you get off) right to the hotel lobby.

After a little rest, we decided to go out for dinner. Down the street, which was up the hill, there were many restaurants to choose from. St. Martin is hilly, so for people with mobility problems, walking could be an issue.

Renting a car was a must for the Island, even if it was just for a day. Driving was easy, with the most courteous drivers I have ever seen. Constant honking was heard, but it was their way of saying thank you. The cars were small, but that was all we needed. We took pictures of the car when we checked it over, right in front of the clerk. We had a record of the damages, and they knew we had the pictures. Paper work was done—destination Marigot—which was on the French side.

Off we went, determined to not let the traffic circles get the best of us. Right away someone honked at us, but then we realized they were letting us pull onto the road.

Marigot has an open market so we wanted to check it out. By the time we got there, the fresh fish was sold out, but we still had an enjoyable time. From t-shirts to bags, all the touristy things could be found right there, along with spices and tropical fruits. From there we walked through the town and decided to stop for lunch at the Marina. Since we were on the French side, we decided to go to a French restaurant. We found the perfect one, with white linens and fresh flowers: Café de Paris (4 ½ stars-out-of-5 rating). Having the special—fresh fish and shrimp—was just what I wanted.

Then we were off to Fort St. Louis, the largest historical monument on St. Martin. The fort was built in 1767 to protect the settlement at Marigot from invaders. It's about 100 stairs to the top, zigzagging back and forth. The sun was shining and humidity was high. I was prepared; I had my water with me. It was all worth it, though. We had a panoramic view of the island and the sea surrounding it—totally breathtaking!

We drove around to all the different towns and beaches; each spot was so different from the last. Some of the areas were gated, so we

had to ask the guard if we could go through. They let us as long as we promised not to take pictures of people or villas. From what I have heard, some rich and famous people have villas there.

Saturday was our day to move over to Royal Islander Club Great Bay #7628 in Philipsburg. The pictures we saw through RCI were unbelievable.

We had been on the go, and I wanted to get settled and just take a nap on a huge terrace, enjoying the view. The one-bedroom unit was nice and clean—everything we could want. We did not get the beautiful terrace with the potted palm trees, but a small balcony overlooking the pool. When I asked to be moved, I was informed that the other units were not part of RCI. I understood, but still didn't like it. The ocean was right there, with cruise ships lined up, and yachts bigger than my house glistening on the water. We poured ourselves a drink and took in the view.

Philipsburg was definitely a tourist city. The Boardwalk has so many restaurants and bars, it was hard to decide where to stop. All the souvenirs we could ever want were found there or on Front Street. Items made of gold were sold in almost every shop. Being duty-free, the prices seemed too good to be true!

I soon realized I should have done my homework on jewelry. I wasn't sure if I was looking at real stones in the ring I loved, or if it was really a good price. The stores in Philipsburg are known to provide you with a "drink" while you browse. Brian didn't want to be rude and took them up on their offer. Not in a rush, I decided to think about my purchase and come back another day.

Being only four to five streets deep, we decided to check out the rest of the area. Back Street took us right into the real Philipsburg. I soon realized this was not a place I wanted to be at night. Lamont and Brian thought it was great, with little bars and restaurants where the locals go.

As it started to get dark around 6:00 p.m., stores started closing their doors. Cruise ships were preparing to leave, so there was

no reason to stay open. However, restaurants on the Boardwalk did stay open later.

One disadvantage about planning on finding the perfect ring at a later date was that I never thought I was going to get sick. It should never happen when you are on holidays, but it did. On Saturday, I thought I was just tired; On Sunday, I slept most of the day. My big adventure was going to the balcony for about five minutes, and then heading back to bed. This was not good. By Monday morning, I had no energy to even move.

I know firsthand that the hospital in St. Martin is very good. Dengue fever, which is carried by mosquitos, is prevalent in the Caribbean, so I needed to be tested. Lamont and I had to wait a few hours in the emergency room, and then they hooked me up to an IV and did blood tests. Results showed a bacterial infection, probably food poisoning. Antibiotics were what I needed.

Even though we had insurance, we had to pay the fees of \$250 US. (After sending my medical bills to our provincial health care, and to my private insurance company, we were not out any money.)

We went down the hall to the pharmacy, then we were back to the hotel. Thinking back, I started feeling off soon after we ate in Marigot, but thought I was just overdoing it. After two more days in bed, Lamont and Brian decided they could now leave me and tour the town.

Friday was our last full day. We did a bit of walking, but never did go back to get the ring I loved. We didn't get in the water, though the beach did look very nice. The hotel seemed to have all the amenities you could want, but I didn't get to enjoy any of them.

We will definitely consider going back to St. Martin. Cupecoy is the area we would stay in. We enjoyed going for late dinners, checking out the casino, and going for a stroll. Philipsburg will be a day trip we will take. But, our next holiday will not be to the Caribbean; it's time to visit some place new. — Judy George



Exchange Fees / Cruise Fees / Last Call Fees / Points Partner Fees

Standard Transaction Fees	Call Centre (CAD \$)	RCI.com (CAD \$)**
Home Resort Priority Reservation for 7 nights	\$60	\$48
7 Nights or More	\$204	\$192
1 Night	\$59	\$46
RCI Weeks Exchange Fee	\$264	\$252
Last Call Vacations	\$313 (H/S) \$343 (1BR) \$373 (2BR)	\$294 (H/S) \$325 (1BR) \$355 (2BR)

Points Protection / Misc. Fees / Rental Fees / Guest Certificates

	Fee (CAD \$)**
RCI Points Protection 5+ nights	\$59
Points Saving Fee	\$31
Points Transfer Fee 1 free transfer per Use Year, then...	\$118

Rental Price Per Point	\$0.0241
Points Ext. – Less than 30,000 points	\$78
Points Ext. – 30,000 points and above	\$127
RCI Points Guest Certificates	\$71

Network Dues and Subscription Fees / RCI Platinum

	Fee (CAD \$)
Annual Network Dues and Subscription Fees	\$136
Subscription Renewal – 5 years	\$545
RCI Platinum Renewal Rates for Points***	
1 Year	\$64
2 Years	\$118
3 Years	\$165
4 Years	\$212
5 Years	\$250

*RCI fees are subject to change at RCI's sole discretion. For complete details of RCI subscribing membership, including RCI's cancellation policy, please 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. The GST/HST rate for each Canadian Province, effective July 1, 2010, is as follows: BC-12%; ON, NB and NF-13%; NS-15%; All other Provinces and Territories-5%. * Subject to change.

Elkhorn Resort, Spa & Conference Centre—GET MORE

"Holding our event at the Elkhorn has to be the most successful event we have had yet. Everything we needed was right there at our fingertips."—Corporate Client, 2013

For over 30 years organizations have been taking advantage of the Resort's full-service conference facility and the inspiring natural beauty of Riding Mountain for conferences, meetings, retreats, and training sessions.

With over 4,000 square feet of meeting space, audio visual services, cozy and comfortable accommodations, comprehensive food and beverage services, and a plethora of on- and off-site activities to enjoy, the Elkhorn can accommodate corporate groups of 2 to 200.

Conference participants relax amid the luxurious amenities of the Resort, become energized by the natural beauty of our surroundings, and let go of the mind-cluttering pressures of everyday life and work.

This powerful fusion leads to highly productive sessions characterized by deeper and more creative thinking, enhanced problem solving, and an increased level of trust and camaraderie between co-workers.

If you are looking to get more out of your



Venues such as Elkhorn Manor are the perfect setting for your next meeting or event

corporate functions—more productivity, more success, and more lasting results—your answer is right here at Elkhorn Resort, the beautiful place you've already chosen to enjoy your leisure time.

For more information or to receive a con-

ference package, please contact one of our conference planning professionals, Kris Jordan or Julia Brown.
kris@elkhornresort.mb.ca or 204-848-8730,
julia.brown@elkhornresort.mb.ca
or 866-355-4676 ext.

RCI® Cheap Inventory

The Feature highlighted in this edition is the "Cheap Inventory". Points Owners who have a smaller Points package or who have 10,000 points or less will benefit from this feature.

You can narrow your search under the tab **Search for an Exchange Vacation** by selecting **Points range** from the filters on the left side

of the map towards the bottom of the page. Click on **0-10,000 points**. From there you can proceed to narrow your search further to the areas in the world that are of interest to you and confirm your reservation as usual.

Just another great way to make your Ownership and RCI work for you!

QUICK NOTES

Fireplace Update for Elkhorn Resort

Please be advised that effective May 2, 2014, any chalets with fireplaces will burn compressed fire logs only. Upon check-in you will receive your check-in package that will include a voucher for one complimentary compressed firelog per stay. Additional logs will be available at the front desk for purchase at \$3.50 per log plus tax. You also have the option to bring compressed firelogs with you to use in the fireplaces.

Vacation Club Website and Member Login

A few weeks following the release of this newsletter, you will receive a separate email with instructions on how to log into the new

Vacation Club member website.

The member section of the website will be an area you can go to view past meeting minutes, newsletters, financial documents and post a note on the message board. The message board will be where you are able to post a classified for a week you have for sale, or if you would like to purchase a week.

Watch for upcoming emails to come for further information.

Share Your Photos!

We would love for you to share your experiences and memories about your ownership with us so we can put them on our website in the testimonial section. Email photos and comments to mandi@elkhornresort.mb.ca.

Owner Services Office Staff Information

MANITOBA OFFICE

Phone: 1-888-462-8785

Office Hours: Monday - Friday,
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Central Time)

Monday to Friday you can reach:

Mandi Riffel mandi@elkhornresort.mb.ca
Judy George service@elkhornresort.mb.ca

Monday to Wednesday you can reach:

Linda W. linda@elkhornresort.mb.ca

CANMORE OFFICE

Phone: 1-866-856-3437

Office Hours: 7 days a week,
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)

Monday to Friday you can reach:

Chris Kern chris.kern@elkhornresort.mb.ca

Wednesday to Sunday you can reach:

Moilah moilah@elkhornresort.mb.ca

THANK YOU, ELAINE!

We would like to let all members know of an upcoming change within the Owner Services Department.

Elaine Louheed has worked with the Elkhorn Resort Vacation for Life – Owner Services Department since February 2007. She has shared her expertise regarding the RCI program with members over the years by providing one-on-one orientations, has passed on her *Excursions with Elaine* in past newsletters, and has filled an integral role at the Owner Services office. We wish Elaine the absolute best as she begins her next adventure; she is retiring at the end of June. Thank you, Elaine, for all your hard work and dedication. We are all going to miss you.



MEMBER NOTICES

Reminder: Annual Maintenance Fees

Please accept this notice as your reminder that **annual maintenance fees** are mailed out to each member by November 1st of each year and are due by November 30th of each year.

Pre-Authorized payments, either monthly or annually, have assisted many of our Owners to overcome obstacles that previously resulted in past-due payments and the associated fees. Contact the Owner Services Office today to receive assistance in setting up your pre-authorized payment!

ATTENTION: Any account with an outstanding amount due at this time will be sent to the collections department to proceed to small claims court, and your personal credit report with the credit bureau will be updated.

Important Reminder:

Third-Party Resell Companies

Elkhorn Resort will not work with or assist third party resell companies. This decision was made in the best interests of you, the member, and the condo association that you belong to.

There are a number of third party companies that claim they will sell your ownership for you or rent it out on your behalf. This is a scam! Do not provide personal information or send them any money.



CAUTION!

Please use extreme caution if you are purchasing a timeshare in Mexico and believe you are trading in your property. You are the legal owner of your property until the land title is transferred out of your name. When purchasing in Mexico, you may be advised that you are trading in your property, but the company does not go through the process of completing the transfer. Essentially you are left owning two properties and are responsible for both maintenance fees.