

When we first found our Willy's Lane cottage, we were immediately captivated by its tranquil forest setting and stunning view of 14 Island Lake. Over the last 15 years, we have shared this idyllic place with numerous family and friends, all of whom have remarked on its remarkable beauty. Nothing beats waking up in the morning and looking out at the serene waters while sipping a cup of coffee or watching the sun set while sipping a cool drink on the deck. The personality of the lake shows itself at each point of the day and with each breeze and rainstorm. Our three kids grew up at the cottage and spent countless hours canoeing, swimming and fishing. 14 Island Lake is an excellent lake for fishing pike, bass and some walleye. All delicious! We love taking the boat out even just to explore our lake, as well as Mink Lake where there are well-known jumping cliffs for swimming. A quiet paddle, the lily pads on one side and the loons swimming alongside on the other always de-stresses the demands of our lives. The wildlife is plentiful as we see deer and muskrat on a regular basis, as well as the odd fox. We enjoy bird watching and see hummingbirds, nuthatches, phoebes, chickadees, woodpeckers, vermillion tanagers, loons, turkey vultures, and osprey. The fireflies in the trees are magical and evening fires for toasting marshmallows and telling stories are a special part of our summer rituals. Listening to the call of the loons carried across the water always signals the end of a full day of relaxing and water activities.

Martha Read-Gray and James Gray