

Chapter 1: The Beginning

"You think I should do what?!"

There was more than a little shock and disbelief in my voice when I asked that question to my husband last June. It was the morning of June 21 and what I thought was going to be the beginning of a beautiful summer spent enjoying my kiddies.

Peter called to ask me to have a look at Milton Lake Lodge's website. I was so excited, my birthday was days away and what a great gift. A fly in fishing adventure! I started singing "Happy Birthday to me." Oh, how I couldn't have been more wrong.

Peter quickly cut me off and said, "No I think you should buy it, it's for sale."

"You think I should do what?" I blurted out, while changing Riley's diaper and watching three-year-old Jayden trying to strap Bob (our cat) into her stroller.

Things sure have changed since that day. In September after a summer of lawyers and financing and more lawyers, we went up to the lodge to do our first inspection. Peter and I met Ted at the Saskatoon Airport. Ted, now our general manager and the original owner of the lodge, agreed to accompany us on the trip. The view out of the float plane window was breath taking and I was already dreaming of life at the lodge.

As we stepped off the plane and onto solid ground I couldn't help but feel that we were in a different world. The fresh air and smell of evergreen trees combined with the gentle lapping of waves on the rocks below us made me feel more peaceful than I had felt in years. Maybe a little too peaceful, we didn't care that bears ate the snowmobile or that the wood peckers love the 4500 sq. ft. pine lodge as much we do.



And the fishing! Wow! If I had any doubts about buying this place before, they all disappeared as I stood at the front of the boat staring into the crystal clear waters of Milton Lake. Ted steered us over a cabbage bed and I couldn't stop yelling.

"There's a pike", and "look at that one" and "Oh man, did you see the size of that one!" It must be heaven when after fishing for a while I would actually start reeling faster when a fish was chasing my lure to try not catching her!

Then we moved off to a different area and with my same five of diamonds spoon I hooked onto a lake trout. I've never fished for lake trout much in the past and it sure put up a good fight. We caught one after the other and I thought they were great until Ted said, "We could stay here and keep catching these little guys or we could move a little deeper for the big girls." Little guys! Really?!

Back at home a few days later we knew how much we wanted this purchase to happen. We had to find another one or two investors. Pete's dad, Doug was the first to agree and join up. Then I realized that my sister Diana is as brave and crazy as we are because she jumped at the chance to join our team. I'll let you know if we still love each other at the end of the first season up at Milton Lake Lodge.

Here we are well into our first winter of marketing and believe me, it hasn't been easy. Watch for my next chapter where I will tell you all about my first trade show in Chicago. I got searched, my booth didn't show up and where the heck is Ted?!

