

FALL 2004

FLATHEAD

NORTHWEST MONTANA...THE LAST BEST PLACE

LIVING



FLATHEAD

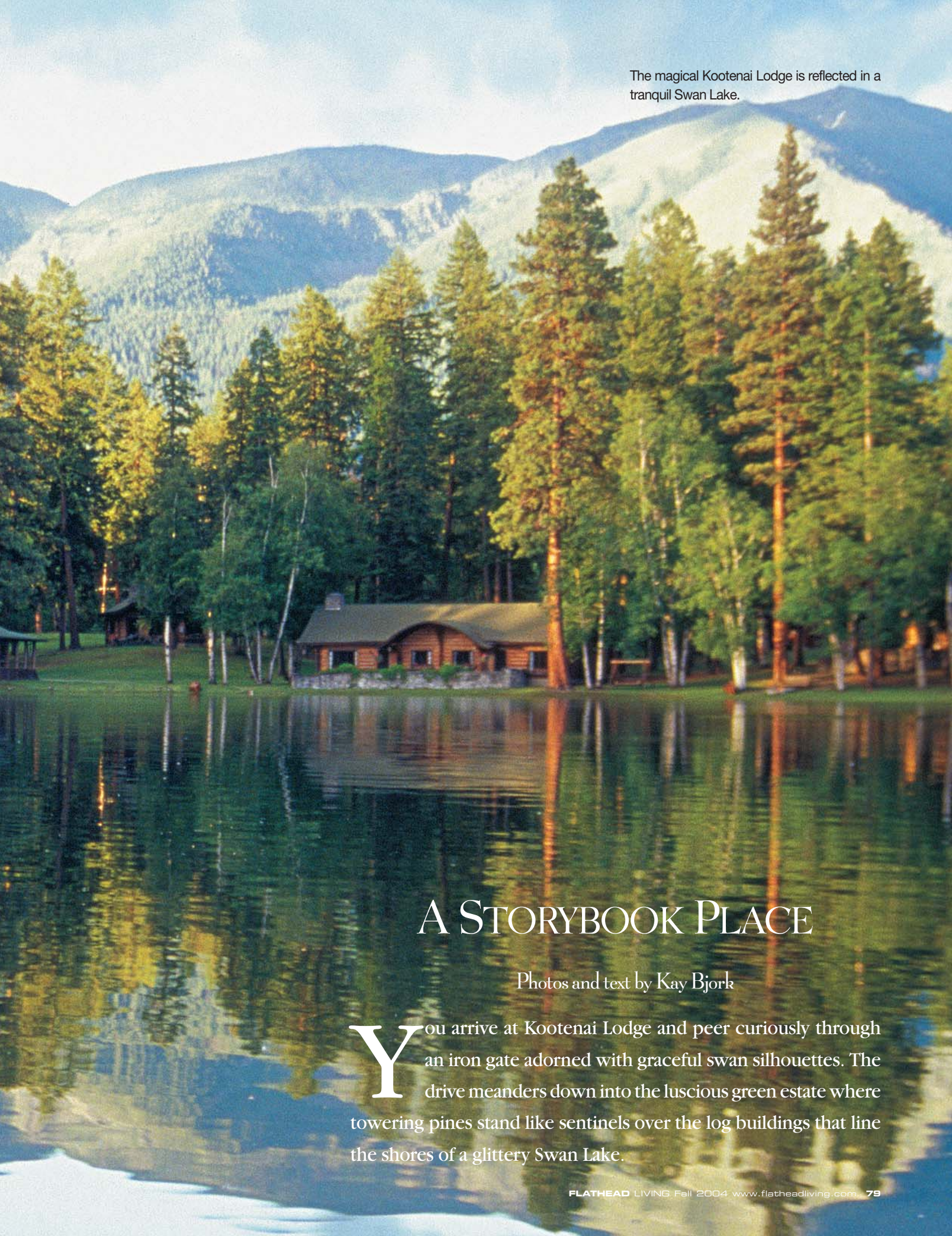
The history and romance of...

Kootenai Lodge

KALISPELL • WHITEFISH • BIGFORK • LAKESIDE • POLSON • COLUMBIA FALLS • GLACIER



KOOTENAI LODGE



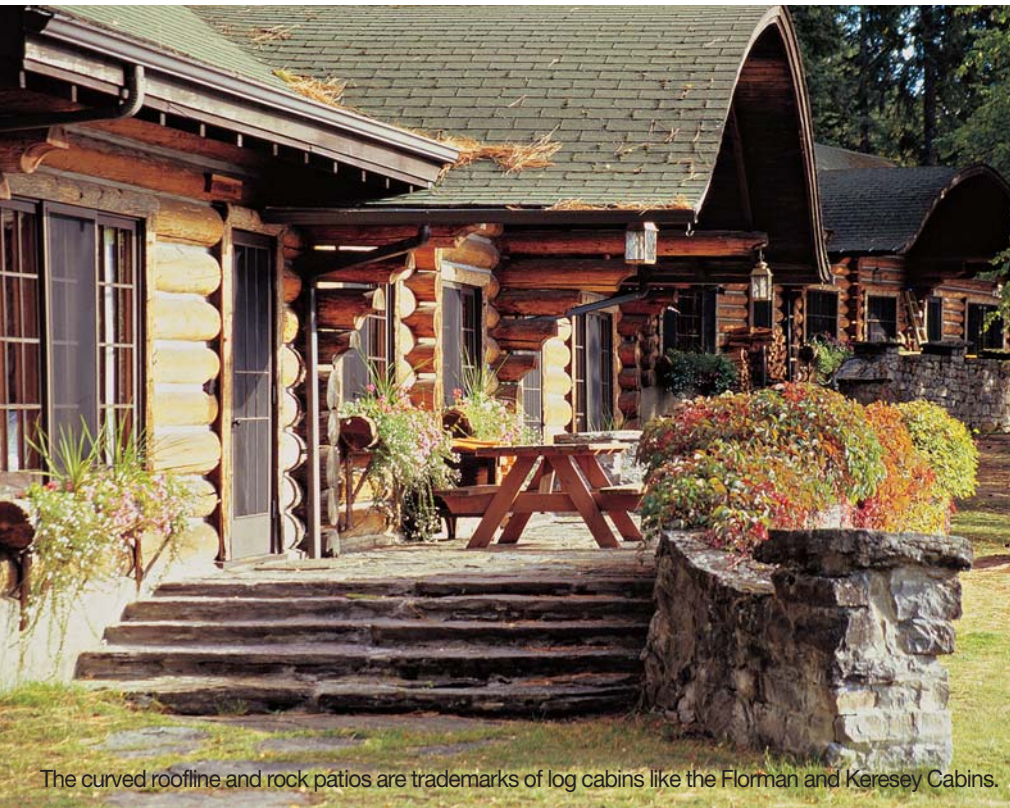
The magical Kootenai Lodge is reflected in a tranquil Swan Lake.

A STORYBOOK PLACE

Photos and text by Kay Bjork

You arrive at Kootenai Lodge and peer curiously through an iron gate adorned with graceful swan silhouettes. The drive meanders down into the luscious green estate where towering pines stand like sentinels over the log buildings that line the shores of a glittery Swan Lake.

KOOTENAI LODGE



The curved roofline and rock patios are trademarks of log cabins like the Florman and Keresey Cabins.

At the main lodge you enter another gate—this one small and inviting, like one you would expect in a secret garden. You immediately feel safe and quieted in the courtyard that leads to the grand main lodge. Whimsical etchings created by Charlie Russell in a bygone era are lit up by bright afternoon sun – salamander, turtle and a noble Indian headdress. You are tempted to take off your shoes so that you can feel the curve and dip of the salamander and the warm cement on your feet.

You swing the heavy double door open and the latch clinks with the thud of the door behind you. Twirling to take in the immense room, warmed by the red-hued larch logs and accented by the soft grey of unpeeled cedar, you imagine the delicious sound of music and laughter in this party place. You turn in a circle, slowly now, to take in the scope of this huge room: the walk-in fireplace, antique wicker furniture, a dozen animal mounts, and a Steinway grand piano.

Lured by the luscious green-blue lake mosaic created through the wavy old pane glass windows, you drift out onto the covered porch. Swan Lake stretches flat like a neatly made bed, mirroring Crane Mountain, blue sky and puffy white clouds – a dreamy up-

Kootenai Lodge

Touched by the past and kissed by the present, Kootenai Lodge in Bigfork, Montana transcends both time and space.

FOR SALE BY OWNER
FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS
COURTESY TO BROKERS 3%

Debi Roling, REALTOR
SELLER/BROKER
CIPS, CRB, CRS, GRI
Kootenai Lodge
1000 Sunburst Drive
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406-837-3000
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Karen Leigh



A place you thought existed

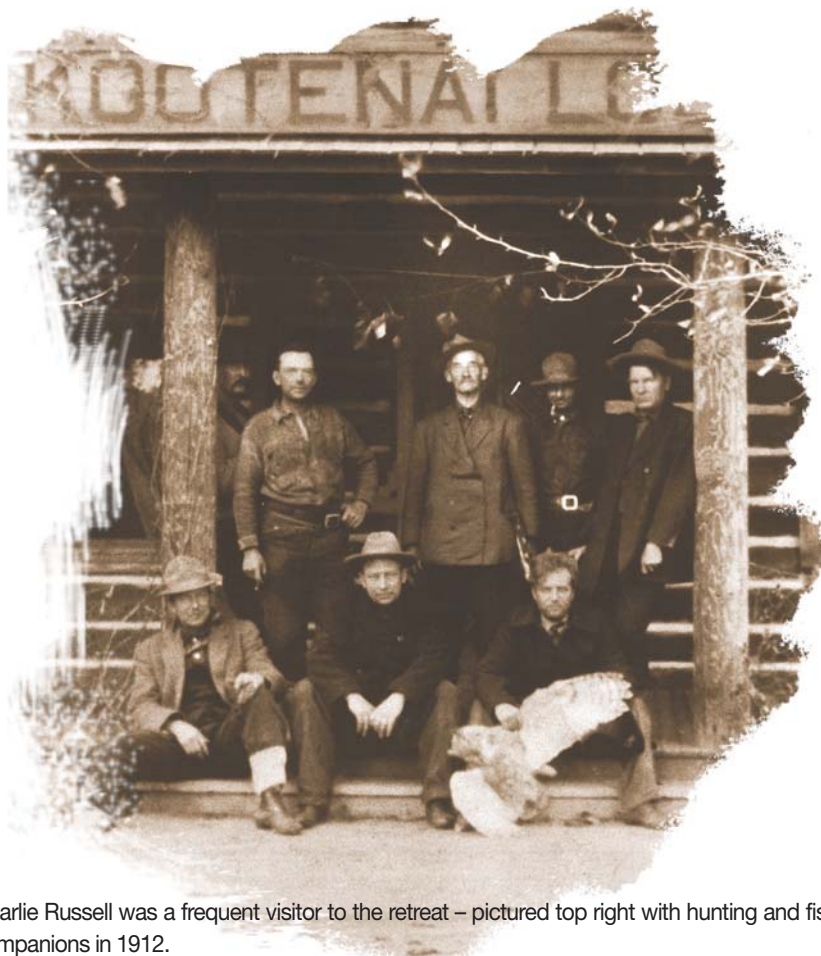
side-down painting of Kootenai Lodge, not too unlike its history, also slightly altered by the passing of time and fading memories.

If the log walls could talk, they would tell you tales of giggling children dipping behind the stately ponderosas during a game of hide-and-seek; grand parties with guests in evening wear arriving by Chris-Craft boats and Pierce-Arrow limousines; and of legendary western artist Charlie Russell sharing fishing tales with his hunting buddies around a crackling fire.

Kootenai Lodge is the storybook in the real estate library – exuding the magic of Harry Potter, the enchantment of Tolkien’s Middle Earth and the glamour and romance of *The Great Gatsby*.

The story began with the Kootenai Indians, who camped at the shores on the property where Swan Lake turns to river. This magical image of wheat-colored tipis set in the shelter of the verdant forest was captured by Charlie Russell and is now exhibited at the Montana Historical Society Museum in Helena.

Then came the Copper Kings and the parade of exquisite trappings and prestigious visitors when Anaconda Copper Mining Company President Cornelius Kelley and Chief Counsel Orvis Evans established the



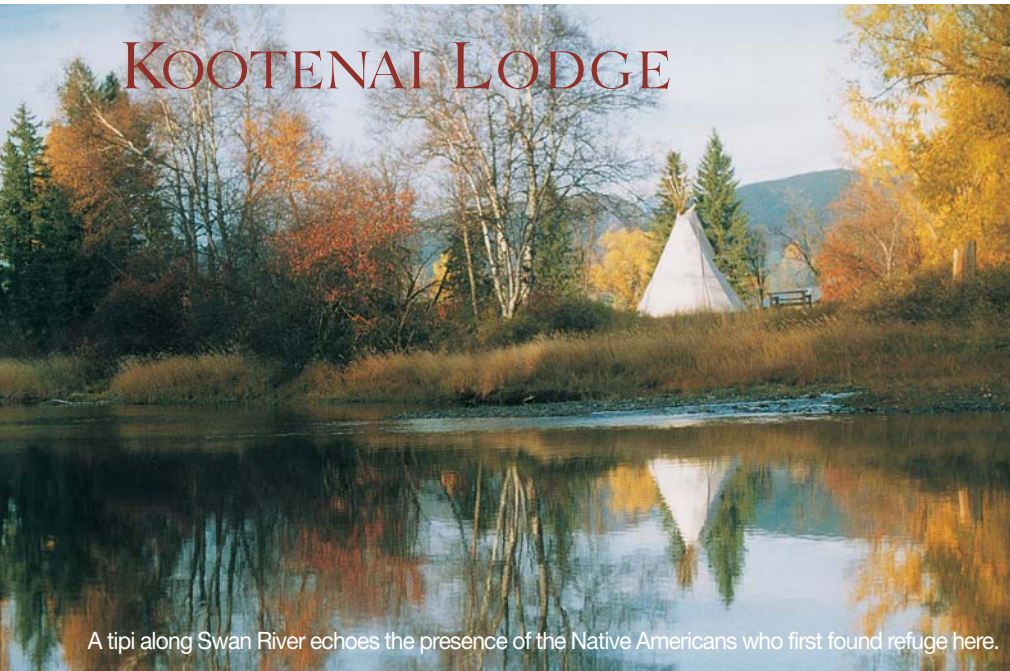
Charlie Russell was a frequent visitor to the retreat – pictured top right with hunting and fishing companions in 1912.



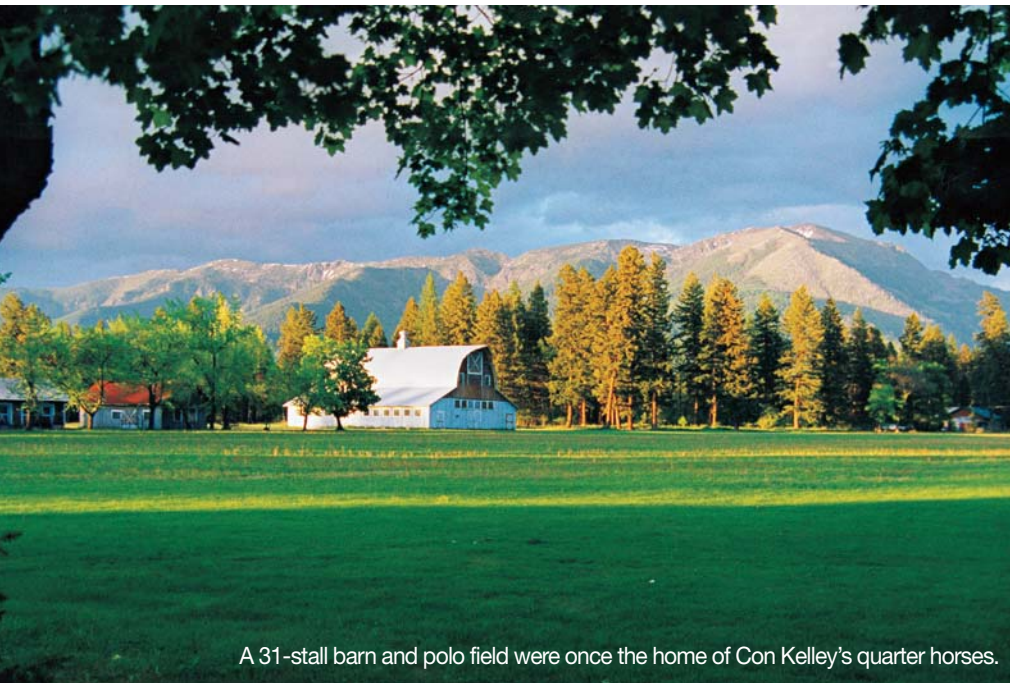
- Approximately 40 acres and 2,400 feet of waterfront on Swan Lake and Swan River
- Johnson Creek flows for 1,000 feet through the property
- Grand Main Lodge, cabins, Recreation Center and 31-stall barn
- Historic and original furnishings included
- Charlie Russell art etchings grace Main Lodge courtyard

only in your imagination...

KOOTENAI LODGE



A tipi along Swan River echoes the presence of the Native Americans who first found refuge here.



A 31-stall barn and polo field were once the home of Con Kelley's quarter horses.



An Indian headdress is one of many Charlie Russell etchings housed in the main lodge courtyard.

KOOTENAI LODGE SALE INFORMATION

Seller: Debi Roling REALTOR

Broker-Owner

CIPS, CRB, CRS, GRI

Phone: 406-837-3000

Email: Sales@KootenaiLodge.com

Website: www.KootenaiLodge.com

Specifications: Approx. 40 acres and
2,400 feet waterfront, 20 buildings

Asking price: Fifteen Million Dollars

wilderness retreat after Evans discovered the haven on a fishing trip in 1906. The magnificent estate, patterned to the Great Camps of the Adirondack, blossomed to 2,700 acres and nearly two dozen buildings during its heyday in the 1920s.

Today the 40-acre estate is owned by Mark and Debi Roling, who have completed extensive remodeling and restoration during their 14 years of ownership. The couple has brought both heart and glamour to the historic place with Debi's ambitious and loving restoration of Kootenai Lodge, Mark's position as NBC Golf Analyst, and their fostering of newborn babies waiting for adoption.

Their role as foster parents led to a desire to simplify their lives and the decision to sell Kootenai Lodge. Their hope is to build their dream home (with a dream nursery) somewhere in the neighborhood.

Kootenai Lodge is a diverse property with 2,400 feet of combined frontage on Swan Lake and Swan River; 1,000 feet along Johnson Creek; 20 buildings including the Main Lodge; a dining cabin with a commercial kitchen; a recreation center with a full gym and exercise area; a stunning 31-stall barn; and guest cabins. The cabins have been carefully restored to provide the comforts and conveniences of home while retaining their rustic charm.

The retreat is a wonderful playground for all ages, offering a variety of experiences from summer camp frivolity to heavenly serenity.

This is a place where you can rediscover the child that dwells inside through long days on the lake swimming and water-skiing and crackling campfires complete with sticky s'mores and funny (or scary) stories.

You can also get a little closer to the grown-up you are trying to be with the perfect rhythm of your fly rod as you find harmony with the river – or while sitting quietly absorbing a Technicolor sunset accompanied by the cheerful symphony of the singing birds and the scent of cooling earth.

Or maybe you are simply looking for rest and rejuvenation. Nature's spa treatment includes the caress of a gentle breeze, the embrace of warm sunlight, the massage of the cool lake as you savor an afternoon swim, and the soothing sound of a murmuring Johnson Creek.

You will find that Kootenai Lodge is not just a better place – it is a place to find a better life and a better self. ♦



A fly-fisherman captures the serenity of an evening at Kootenai Lodge.



Photo courtesy of GravityShots

KOOTENAI LODGE

The Good Life

Located on the shores of the pristine Swan Lake, Kootenai Lodge is cradled by the majestic Swan Range to the east and the Mission Mountains to the west.

Just ten minutes from the resort community of Bigfork, which lauds gourmet restaurants, a summer playhouse and a colony of artists, it is also less than an hour from Glacier National Park, millions of acres of wilderness, and Glacier International Airport. Approximately an hour away are Blacktail Mountain Ski Area to the west and Big Mountain Resort to the north, each offering miles of ski trails and seemingly endless mountain views. Nine championship golf courses dot the lush Flathead Valley.

Popular summer activities found right at the doorstep of

the lodge include fishing, swimming, whitewater rafting, canoeing, tennis, and evening campfires. Hiking opportunities abound with the proximity of the majestic Glacier National Park and thousands of miles of U.S. Forest Service maintained trails in the Swan and Mission mountain ranges.

Kootenai Lodge provides a “Currier and Ives” Christmas with the option of snuggling by the fireplace with a good book or the exhilaration of gliding along a frozen lake on ice skates or skis in a winter wonderland.

Whether you are looking for a splash of local color and culture, the exhilaration of an outdoor adventure, or the serenity of the wilderness, Kootenai Lodge offers all of these soul-searching and soul-finding experiences.