



*Deerhurst Inn and Country Club enjoys a country setting, above, which also offers the most modern condominiums, below.*



# Living the good life...

*By Jeff Rosen*

**T**HINK of luxury, total relaxation, top-notch dining and entertainment and year-round sports facilities and your mind naturally turns to...Huntsville.

Huntsville?

Well, more precisely Deerhurst Inn and Country Club, situated minutes away from this Muskoka town. The resort plays host to 60,000 tourists and business people a year and the summer past I was fortunate enough to escape Toronto's traffic mess for a little R & R.

Unfamiliar as I was with resort living, it wasn't hard to settle into one of the Patio building's seventy spacious rooms, some of which feature their own fireplace, whirlpool and minibar.

Of course, there's more than one way to live at this holiday hideaway. Guests can choose from a variety of living arrangements — from rustic cottages near the lake to time-share villas. There are also modern condominium units which start at \$96,000.

The resort is in the process of building 300 more condos. To help offset the buyer's cost, Deerhurst will even rent out the unit when not in use.

Once settled in, the next *major* decision was where to dine and spend the evening.

So much to choose from, so little time.

With Deerhurst's growing popularity, Steamers Eatery was added just a year and a half ago. Situated just a short drive away from the resort's main lodge which was built in 1896 by Charles Waterhouse, the restaurant is actually two — De Cervo's and Seabroilers — offering patrons a choice of exquisite Italian cuisine or fresh fish and seafood.

Later, it was back to the piano lounge where Deerhurst entertainers Rhonda Silver and Mike Degazio provided the

# Casual comfort

proper mellow sounds to wind down the day.

When the summer sun rises on Deerhurst, so do its 350 guests, scattering in every direction to partake in the resort's many activities from golf, tennis, hiking and waterfront activities to lazing around the outdoor pool munching on some tantalizing snack while sipping a long cool drink.

After a full day in the sun, the whirlpool was a welcome relief to aching muscles before it was time for dinner in the main dining room.

The space is divided into three theme areas, the formal oak room which has a pianist at dinner time, the centre Tiffany room and gazebo which was originally the veranda of the main lodge.

After dinner it was off to the ballroom where the Deerhurst Entertainers provided entertainment with a Las Vegas style stage show featuring an array of dazzling dancers and production



it you couldn't get into the dining room without a jacket and tie and everybody had their own table."

While summer heat doesn't last forever, there's no shortage of things to do come winter months. The resort becomes a winter wonderland with a number of activities including skating, cross-country skiing, sleigh rides, tobogganing, and snowshoeing.

Last winter, dog sledding proved a popular recreational activity, and this season it is expected to be offered on an expanded basis. For alpine skiing lovers, Deerhurst runs a shuttle bus to nearby Hidden Valley Ski Resort.

Despite the capacity crowd of 350 at the resort, nary a crowd of people could be found. And with the new sports and recreation complex, expected to open in late 1988, the resort will appear to be even less crowded, says Waterhouse.

He says July and August weekends are the busiest time of the year for tourists with a lot of families and singles checking in. However, the backbone of Deerhurst remains the conference trade in June and September.

Deerhurst is located east of Huntsville on Peninsula Lake. Take Highway 400 north from Toronto to Highway 11 and continue traveling north to Highway 60. Go east to Canal Rd. and follow to Deerhurst Rd.

It is also accessible by Air Muskoka which flies from Toronto Island Airport to Muskoka daily. Fare is \$65 per person one way and \$99 per person return. Shuttle bus to Deerhurst can be arranged with the resort. □



numbers from the twenties to the eighties.

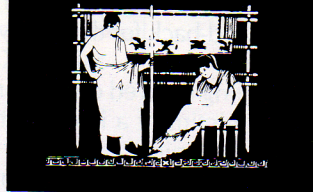
What made the evening even more enjoyable was the lack of formal dress among the show's patrons.

Sales manager Lori Potter says that being a resort property, Deerhurst tries to keep the atmosphere as informal as possible and therefore doesn't have a formal dress code.

"We try to be casual," says Bill Waterhouse, grandson of the resort's founder and president of Deerhurst. "You like to feel you're on holidays and don't have to wear formal if you don't want to."

However, looking at the resort's past, he added: "When my grandfather ran

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