

Spring.

As winter relinquishes its icy grip and spring gains momentum, the shift feels gentle. The ferocity and severity of winter yield to a gentler time, though still, the weather of March is occasionally harsh and sporadically damaging. The drifts and berms of snow, once reaching depths of six feet and more, begin to retreat for good. The icy roads, once treacherous, regain their dry and safe state. Those who call this place home year-round start to reveal our optimism, acknowledging that winter has passed. Even when the temperature swings from a balmy seventy degrees one day to a chilly forty degrees the next, our optimism remains steadfast because we recognize the signs of spring.

The arrival of new birds, the nesting of swallows, the osprey constructing or repairing their nests, grasses and flowers starting to grow, and the migration of human visitors all herald the end of winter.

The stillness of winter becomes an out-of-beat symphony of activity, from the distant roar of boats departing Big Cove, luring fishermen to their secret spots, to the often annoying use of leaf blowers clearing properties of winter's pine needles and leaves, and the roar of chainsaws cutting through fallen trees. Just as bears now stir from their winter slumber and deer return from their migration to the valleys below, these changes also mark the end of winter and the beginning of a gentler season.

We get to relax and enjoy the longer and warmer days and the shorter nights, the earlier morning and later evening songs of myriad birds, and the call of the loons and ospreys from the lake.

Yes, it feels like we have earned this spring this time, and our smiles show it.

Written by Peter Skeels © 4-13-2024