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"Our family involvement with Loch Lyme Lodge dates back to the early 1940s when my mother became dining room hostess for Alice Thayer," Judy Fulton Barker recalls. "My parents owned Loch Lyme for three decades during the middle of the 1900s. My husband Paul and I enjoyed a similar length of time there. We could write a book detailing the reasons why Loch Lyme, for almost a century, has been a tremendous asset to the community. Its role in the Town of Lyme's history cannot be denied. When it came time for us to sell the business, we looked into dividing the property into lots and selling it off piece by piece. We were saddened by the thought of how much would be lost if we chose this path. We felt extremely fortunate to be able to pass the property on to a group of people who had a vision that would keep the property intact and allow people for years to come to continue to enjoy this unique part of Lyme's history."

A NEW VISION

Liz Ryan Cole, one of the founding members of the Pinnacle Project, recalls "Loch Lyme Lodge came about as a group process. One evening we had a dinner party and the conversation turned to what we would do when we got older. The cohousing model that came from Denmark was something that we could all get behind. We started putting the money aside and looked for a place for the project. We found this property and thought it could work well for clustered housing with about 90 acres of open, shared land. The Barkers gave us a mortgage, which made it simpler. I remember thinking, 'Wow we are really going to do this!"

Since the Barkers had \$140,000 in bookings already for the summer of 2006, the new owners decided to run the lodge for the summer and hired some local people to assist. The group eventually hired Jay and Amy Kelly, who have been the innkeepers since 2007.

Keeping the lodge running was something that the owners decided could work well in parallel to the cohousing project. Member Rich Brown says, "The hospitality business brings a lot of life to the property, and we decided to continue it while the project got going and to keep it as a point of interest for new members."



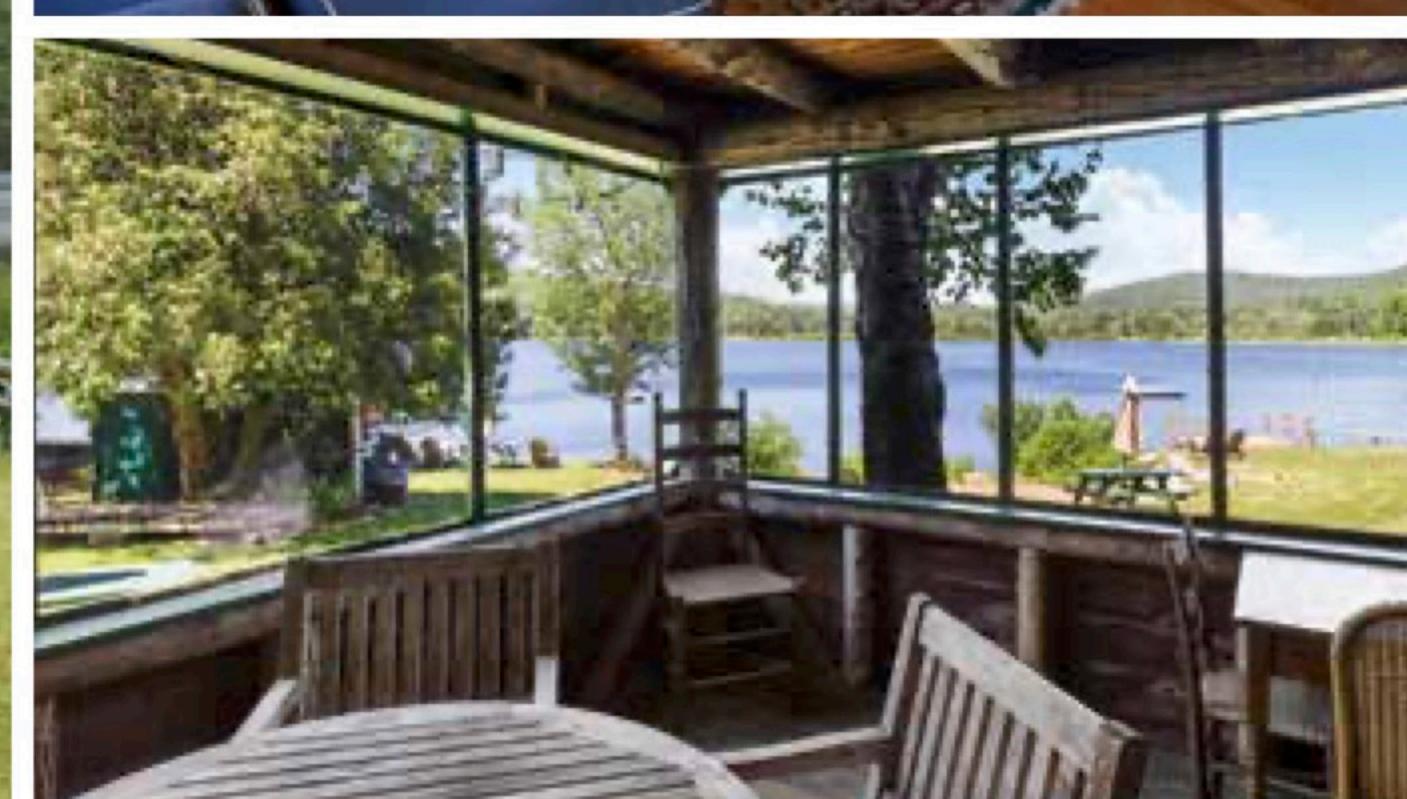


Top: A view of the Lodge from Route 10, 1940s.

Above: The barn, likely built in the 1890s. Loch Lyme Lodge plans to move the barn back from the road and renovate it for retreats and weddings.













Clockwise top left: Lakeside, the largest cabin with a lawn right by the beach. Lakeside's living room and screened porch. Edgewood, a typical one-bedroom B&B cabin. Fernwood's living room. Lakefield's screened porch. Swim dock at the beach.



"Loch Lyme Lodge is beloved by an untold number of families who have been coming back for years and years. Besides being a beautiful and tranquil place, we have the pond for swimming and boating, tennis, volleyball, hiking, or you can do absolutely nothing—which is allowed here."







Clockwise from top: The Lodge has welcomed guests for 100 years. The arch greets guests to the waterfront. Playwood cabin is filled with games and books. Kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards at the waterfront. A couple has their wedding ceremony on the waterfront and then use a tent behind the barn for their reception.





GENERATIONS OF SPECIAL MEMORIES

Now Loch Lyme Lodge is a 115-acre tranquil retreat on Post Pond with 20 rustic cabins and miles of hiking and biking trails. The Lodge serves guests from mid-May through the end of September. Guests can prepare their own meals in the cabins with kitchens or enjoy cuisine from the dining rooms in the old farmhouse turned inn. The current owners continue to operate the Lodge in much the same manner as it has been over the last century, drawing back families year after year for a one-of-a-kind rustic experience.

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"It has been wonderful to share this special place with what we call the Loch Lyme Family—people who have been coming for generations," said Liz. "They share their memories with us. A guest came and introduced us to his wife, whom he had met here years ago when they were only 12. There was a couple who spent the first night of their honeymoon at the lodge then came back on their 50th wedding anniversary to celebrate. We have families who have been coming for decades, now bringing the grandchildren or great grandchildren to experience a summer vacation here. Shirley Avakian, for example, now stays in the room in the Lakeside cabin that her grandfather used to stay in when she would come with him as a girl. K. Karpen's mom worked here as a cabin girl and he has spent at least one week at the lodge every year of his life (and I think he is probably in his 70s now). Many people are astonished to see that things have barely changed over the decades."



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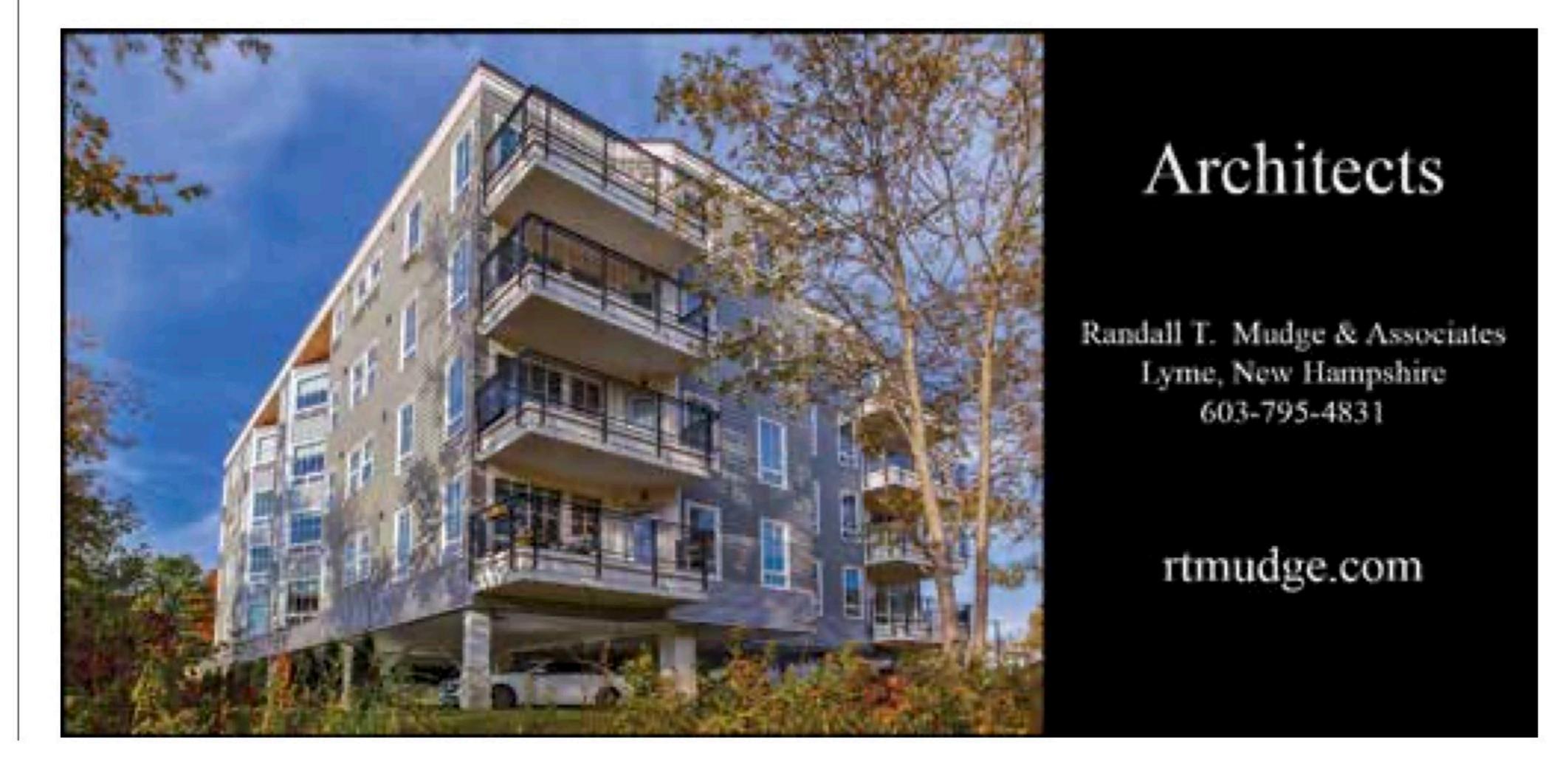






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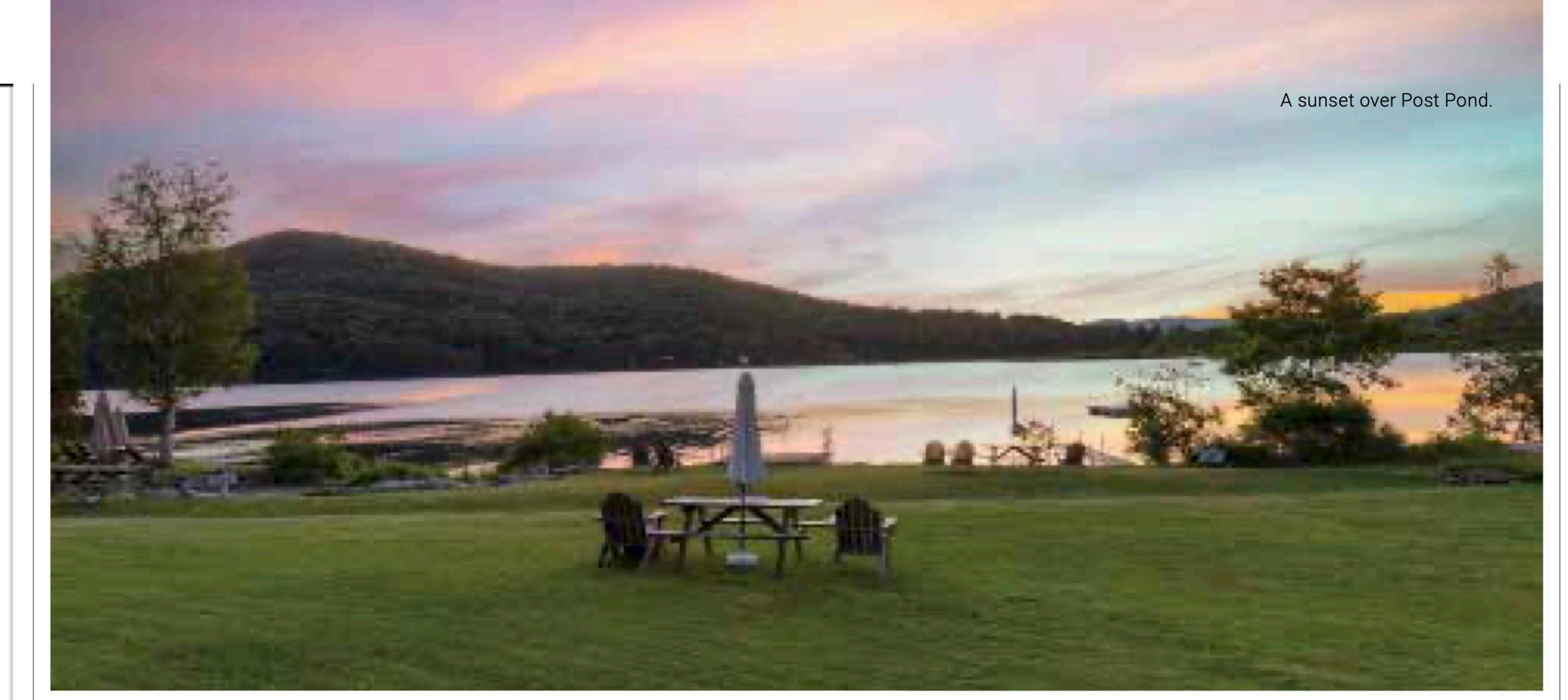
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"But first and foremost, we want to preserve this special place for future generations. Our hope is that people will sit by the water 100 years from now and appreciate everything we have done to preserve these fields and woods, and provide vacation and permanent homes while protecting the property."

Rich recalls speaking to a teenage boy one summer. "He said, I love to come to the lodge because each year the same families are here. I get to hang out with the kids and it's like they are my fake cousins.' Another example is four families who came by happenstance for the same week. Their kids all hung out and the parents did too, after which they made a point of booking the same weeks for years."

As a business, Loch Lyme Lodge is an integral part of the community. For generations the lodge has been a source of summer jobs for local kids. They also bring in summer workers who are students from other countries. "They get to meet the local kids as well as get to take time off to schedule trips to other parts of the country," says Liz. "We had one young Englishman recently who came because his mother had been a summer employee here and wanted him to have the same experience she had."

LOOKING AHEAD

For Liz and the other owners, Loch Lyme Lodge is a labor of love. "A summeronly model isn't sustainable in the 21st century. To protect the Lodge, we must look for ways to make the business more profitable. We host several weddings here each year, but we could hold more events as well as offer retreat space by renovating the barn, which will have a large open space for dinners and dancing as well as breakout rooms."

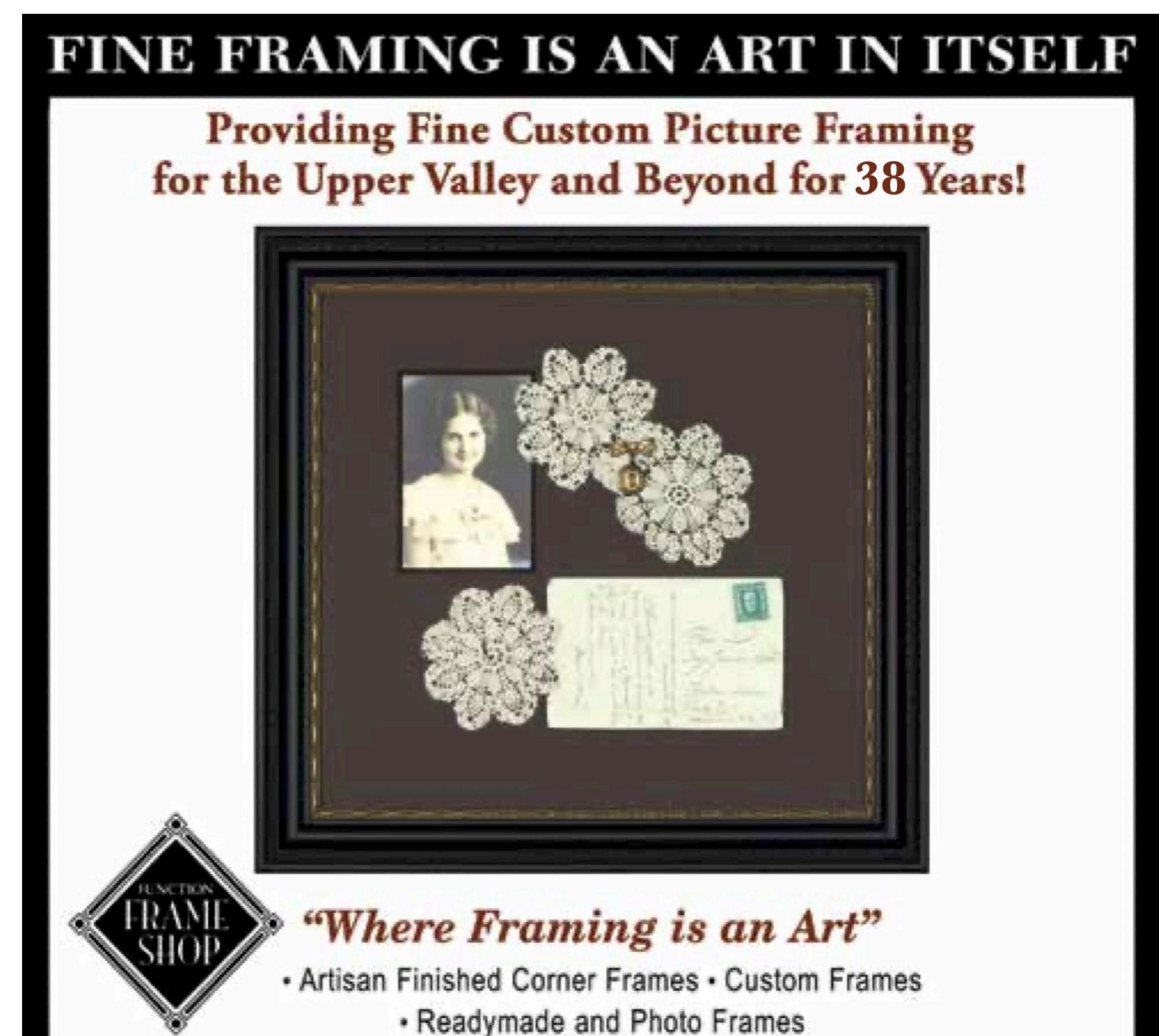
Pinnacle is made up of members who make a capital contribution to the corporation. Membership is open, says Liz. "Basically, we are looking for people who value community, have a vision to protect these 115 acres, and can laugh at

themselves. We have annual meetings, elect officers, and have a transparent decision-making process. We have local members and members who live across the country. Members get to use the property, get discounts, and some will buy cabins, which range in price from \$100,000 to \$170,000. The Lodge manages the rentals and cabin owners get a small share of the profits."

Liz continues, "The group still has plans for the cohousing project and envisions a cluster of energy-efficient units on eight acres, while keeping about 90 acres of land undeveloped, building a mix of independent living and supported living with care on-site, just a mile from town. But first and foremost, we want to preserve this special place for future generations. Our hope is that people will sit by the water 100 years from now and appreciate everything we have done to preserve these fields and woods, and provide vacation and permanent homes while protecting the property."

Loch Lyme Lodge

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