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Petoskey area inns celebrate a century of hospitality

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By **Kim Schneider**
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Courtesy photo

Stafford's Bay View Inn in Petoskey is celebrating 125 years this year.

PETOSKEY — Stafford's Bay View Inn and the Bay View Terrace Inn are both marking birthdays with a look toward the past.

The \$4.50 rooms offered in 1886 at the new Woodland Avenue House were likely a popular option in the United Methodist Chautauqua community of Bay View. Visitors who flocked north for concerts, lectures and spiritual fulfillment had, after all, typically slept in tents.

Also popular was "the New Terrace Inn," which came on the scene another

25 years later, boasting electricity and "hot and cold baths" and gaining a mention in a local newspaper for being "specially built with a view to sanitation and ventilations."

Both properties — one now known as Stafford's Bay View Inn, the other as the Bay View Terrace Inn — are celebrating notable birthdays this year, with several special events.

The Terrace Inn festivities take place between June 28 and July 2. The inn will host the Treasure Hunters Roadshow, an antiques event.

Locals and guests can bring a favorite antique for appraisal and potential sale inside the inn's dining room — a room boasting the original tables, chairs and woodwork.

In addition, from June 26-30, select rooms will cost \$19.11, in honor of the inn's 1911 founding. (To book, call 800-530-9898). At some point, owners Mo Rave and Patty Rasmussen plan to feature offerings from the original inn menu; look, for example, for veal croquettes with jelly; tomatoes and mayonnaise; and Sally Lunn cake. Check the website for more information (theterraceinn.com).

At Stafford's Bay View Inn, the anniversary taste treat is a red velvet cupcake, a longtime inn specialty, offered free on the 17th of every month for dinner guests at any Stafford's restaurant. There's also a "50 years, \$50" lodging promotion offered on select dates to guests who participate in Stafford's e-Club or friend their [Facebook page](#). Look for other anniversary package offers or events at staffords.com/fifty.

The inn has been part of the Stafford hospitality family since Stafford Smith bought the Bay View Inn in April 1961 at age 22. He started running it with new wife, Janice, whom he had met the previous year when she was a dining room hostess.

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