

# LAKE BUSINESSES

## Running motel is family affair

Alyssas Motel, on Thomas Pond in Casco, welcomes guests in all seasons.

By ROBIN AASKOV

**W**ould you stay at a motel named after an 11-year-old? Alyssa is my daughter. My husband, Alan, and I are owners of Alyssas Motel on Thomas Pond in Casco. We also have another daughter, Arianna, age 5.

Alyssa goes to school in the winter, but in the summertime, she works right next to Mom and Dad. We truly are a family operation.

The motel has been refurbished since we bought it in 1999. Alan, being a plumber by trade, has upgraded the bathrooms and installed a new heating system. Before we bought the place, my husband

### MY BUSINESS

worked full-time as a plumber.

Alyssas Motel is open year-round, and is conveniently located on Route 302 in Casco. Our real home is just up the street from the motel, making commuting a breeze.

But during the summer season, we are so busy we practically live at Alyssas. We have great views here. Alyssas is located directly on Thomas Pond.

During the winter, guests come to ice fish on the pond. We had a nice couple from Massachusetts who told us that they fished a lot of spots in Maine last year, and didn't catch anything. I wished them luck on Thomas Pond, and they came back with a beautiful 15-inch brook trout.

The pond was stocked with brook trout last fall, but it has lots of other varieties of fish, including salmon and bass.

Thomas Pond is a good choice for folks who prefer a quieter lake than the bigger lakes in the area, such as Sebago Lake and Long Lake. The water is amazingly clear. There are some shallow spots, and areas with depths up to 64 feet.

Fishing is also popular at Alyssas in the warmer weather.

My daughter is convinced that there is a big fish that lives under the dock. "I catch him a lot," she says, "and of course with catch and



View of Thomas Pond from Alyssas Motel on Route 302 in Casco. The year-round motel, left, has a new heating system since Robin and Alan Aaskov bought it in 1999.

release, he's always there for the next time."

If a family with children are guests at the motel, Alyssa and Arianna will volunteer to show the kids exactly how to catch the fish around the dock (worms work best).

The children are always thrilled, and Alyssa offers to sign their name and their catch size in Alyssas Motel book entitled "Alyssas Hall of Fishn' Fame." When guests come back, they can check to see what has been caught since their last visit.

The motel also works with Eric Eklund, a fishing guide who runs Fat Bass Tours, [www.fatbass.com](http://www.fatbass.com). Guests can make an appointment with Eklund and he will come to the motel in his boat (usually around 6 a.m.) and pick them up at the end of our dock.

Guests are also welcome to use Alyssas' canoe free of charge, or bring their own boat and tie up to their dock. There is a public boat

launch directly across the street.

Getting married? You can have your wedding on the lawn, and exchange vows at water's edge.

Summer attractions keep us busy. The Point Sebago Camping/Beach/Golf Resort is within five minutes of the motel, as is Tassle Top Beach on Sebago Lake in Raymond, and State Park Beach in Casco.

Boat rentals, restaurants and movie theaters are other resources in the area.

Also on the property, for history buffs, is Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Inspiration Rock," at water's edge. Hawthorne's boyhood home is still standing just a short distance from the motel on Hawthorne Road. The rock is shaped like a chair, and as a boy Hawthorne would perch there and write.

Alyssas has a Web site: [www.alyssas-motel.com](http://www.alyssas-motel.com). The phone number is 655-2223.