

The Ski Chalet

“It’s great to warm up our vacation home for a ski weekend before we arrive. All second homeowners should have housEvolve.”

Greg and Ellen own a two story vacation home in the Adirondack Mountains. Their home is a chalet about a mile down a dirt road, and that is about how close their nearest neighbor lives. They enjoy the solitude, their big Adirondack fireplace, and an evening of entertainment often consists of sitting on their deck looking at millions of stars.

They would tell you not having neighbors is great. They are close to hiking, snowmobiling, canoeing and skiing, and Greg has cleared a cross-country ski trail on their 15 acre property. But during the work-week and when they are not on vacation, they have to leave their beautiful home alone.

Greg and Ellen have installed the housEvolve Main Controller and Thermostat kit in their home. “We are always worried about pipes freezing in the winter and not knowing about it until it is too late. That happened to us once, and I never want to see it happen again,” states Ellen.

Greg says they have tried a number of different home monitoring systems. “We’ve gone through a couple of different devices for freeze warning, but there was just nothing out there as reliable or as efficient as housEvolve.”

Ellen explains that housEvolve is much easier to use than devices they have had previously. “housEvolve takes everything I can do at my thermostat when I am in my vacation home and puts it right in my cell phone. It is really easy to program in phone numbers, and it works just like my voicemail.”

During the winter Greg and Ellen turn their thermostat down to 45° to save on energy costs. Ellen says, “Before we had housEvolve, when we would arrive on a cold winter evening, we would have to wait hours for the house to warm up before we were comfortable. Now when I know we are going up there, I call ahead and set the temperature to exactly what I want and the house is all warmed up when we arrive.”

Ellen also appreciates the other functions of houseEvolve. “The other great thing about housEvolve is that I know it is always watching over our home and it will call me if anything goes wrong. Last month the power went out, and housEvolve called to tell me. We weren’t home at the time, so it left a message on the home answering machine, then on my cell phone voicemail (which was off at the time), then it called my son. It lets us program five phone numbers, and it will call them all until someone acknowledges the alert message.

‘When I got the message, I called the power company to report the outage. The person at the power company asked me if I was home. When I said ‘no,’ he asked me if I wasn’t home, how did I know the power was out? I told him my house called me and told me.’

“I wouldn’t trade my housEvolve for anything else. All second homeowners should have housEvolve.”