



## *Greetings from Ross' Camp!*

2007 handed us another great year! We thought that we were in for a bit of a quiet year - May and June seemed a little slower, but by mid-July things started to pick up and we have been on a roll ever since. It was wonderful to see you all again and we thank you for spending your vacation time with us at Ross' Camp. It is the constant mix of first-time guests and long-time friends that inspires us week after week, all season long.

We always like to thank the guys and gals who work so hard to keep this place looking great - Maggie and Robert were back for another season, and Deana was a welcome addition to the staff this year. Jason and Zack were back to help Wayne with the guiding, and we had quite a few people who helped us out for short periods of time bringing with them their own particular talents.

Mother Nature sent some wind this year . . . and I think everyone caught a piece of it! The rains came mainly in the early and late parts of the season, leaving the summer fairly warm and dry. Water levels started out pretty normal, were very low in the summer, and by late fall the level was back to normal.

### **WINTER:**

The ice was very good all winter - just a little late getting started. Trout fishing was either very "on" or very "off", but the northern picked up the slack in the first part of March.

## **FISHING:**

2007 was a good year for bass, walleye, and pike. The trout took a bit of a breather at the beginning of the season, but hammered those baits pretty good in August and September. The big muskies were a little elusive this year for some reason - lots in the 34" to 37" range throughout the season, but nothing like we are used to seeing.

With the start of June, we saw some unbelievably good walleye and bass fishing . . . again! Big fish and/or lots of fish right through to the end of September . . . only this year, the fish were extremely depth specific. Last year presentation was the key - this year the bait had to be within inches of the depth the fish wanted and then it really didn't matter what was on the end of the line at all. Milton Wright and Aaron Williams found some nice walleyes and got to play about 20 bass per day all in the 2.5 to 4 pound range. Bob Bendel and Cayla concentrated on the Clearwater walleyes with great success including a 28" beauty. Chad and Tom Myers enjoyed some days of 30-45 bass/day - lots in the 3.5 to 4 lb. range and a few 27"-28" walleyes to boot. Ray and Jack Bennett hit the top-water bite dead-on with a 20" and a 21" smallie to sweeten the pot. David and Carl, the Denapolis and the Beaumonts, all caught 5-7 pound walleyes and 17-19 inches smallmouth. Keith Kluge released a personal-best 30" walleye in July, and the Beviers also found lots of walleyes . . . I hear that Ryan handed Jim a couple of lessons on "fluke" fishing! Nick Mandich managed a second trip this year and thoroughly enjoyed watching Katie land a 24" walleye, a 28" lake trout and a 34" muskie on her first Canadian fishing trip. Ed & Chris Raasch landed a 30" and a 27" walleye as well as 18"-20" bass. The Preuss boys had fun with the bass and walleye as well, best bass at 19" and best walleye at 24", and Harry Eskritt's September trip produced 20-40 walleyes a day with many 3-5 pounds.

Jeff Harley had lots of good pike action at the end of May, and both the Dahlke groups enjoy their trek into the b lakes for the pike action . . . must have them all named by now I would think!! Marc Lindahl was thrilled to land his 37" northern pike, and Aaron and Milton got into some pike action in September . . . 10-15 a day with lots in the 27" to 35" range. Tim Mead fought a 37" muskie in the spring; Tom and Larry found some decent muskie action on Clearwater in September but size eluded them this year . . . then they went south to fish pike, and Tom got a chance to figure-eight the big muskie that lives by the portage . . . and got him! For all of you that saw him while you were waiting for the cart to lower, he is 51.5 inches long - Tom released him so you should get a chance to see him next season.

Pete Johnson and crew were back for some early-May lake trout fishing and thoroughly enjoyed their day with Dean. Ken Carson and Dick Rude had a great trout day with Wayne, many 7-9 pounds. Bobby Dahlke made several trips to Pipestone this year and really enjoys that laker action! Chris Raasch found out that you get way more fight out of a good trout if you hook it near the tail! Mel Peterson's group and Bill and Tom Kessler all enjoyed excellent September lake trout action in the 8-10 pound range.

Loonhaunt Lake once again produced some awesome fishing for bass, walleye and lake trout. A few of the shorter trips were hampered by stormy weather in June. The pike and walleye were moving in May - Lonnie Webb caught and released a 37" pike and Margie found some great action for big walleyes. In June, the smallmouth was awesome . . . 30-50 bass a day - big ones were 19"-20" - for both the Larry Anderson and Jeff Cox groups. John Griffith found some good smallie action in July and Adam Shewey had a blast with the August smallies (up to 20"). The largemouth bass fishery is starting to get our attention, and this year Christopher Tomczyk landed a 20.5 inch beauty. Anthony & Amelia found the early morning lake trout and had lots of fun until noon winding in those lakers! The Buckners ended our Loonhaunt season with some unbelievable walleye action - lots and big!

## **HUNTING:**

The moose hunt caught some terrible weather. Del and Greg saw some cows, but the horns were not to be found. Everyone enjoyed the hunt though, and I guess we'll see you guys back in 2009!

The deer hunt was very successful this year - lots of deer around and some pretty nice horn mass on the bucks. Mark Dhaene patiently waited for his 12-point to show up (dressed weight 250; B&C 145), and Roger Pivec shot a nice 10-point (dressed weight 200; B&C 130). Marty Speight harvested a nice 9-point with good mass and a very unusual growth on one side (main beam). John Connor finally put his muzzle-loader to work and shot his first buck and Clint Barr ended his long wait to find his first buck. Peter Delmonte harvested a nice 7-point, and Denis Levesque had a really nice 12-point in his sights, but a couple of misfires means Denis will be back next year to hunt the big one.

A warm Ross' welcome to Art Garcia, and it was great to see Randy & Gloria back. Brian, Corey and Kevin - you were missed . . . the birthday song just wasn't the same! Rick Sutton, John Siegmeier, the Hartweins, Larry & June, Indiana John (Maxwells were asking about you), and the Hernandez brothers . . . look forward to seeing you next season.

The implementation date for passport requirements when driving across the border is still not definite - Homeland Security wants it in force as early as January 2008, but the U.S. congress has it scheduled for no sooner than June 2009 . . . and now they are talking about possible enhanced drivers licenses or border ID cards - phone or email after January for updates.

Loonhaunt now has a brand-new fish house for you to enjoy! The cabin is going to be open for ice fishing - Wayne has the cabin all ready to go - he just needs some decent ice in January to get enough wood put up. Let us know if you are looking to do some ice-fishing this winter.

We start sport shows on January 4th. Please note that we will NOT be doing the Green Bay show this year - we love that show but we needed to free up some time in January this year. The list is printed below - if you get a chance, drop in to say "Hello".

Our apologies if we missed mentioning your personal trophy - fish or deer . . . we'll try to correct that next year. For those of you who couldn't get up our way this past summer, we hope we'll get a chance to see you in 2008. If you know the dates you want for next year, give us a call. If we already have a reservation for you on our 2008 schedule, there will be a separate letter attached. We look forward to hearing from you.

All the best to you and yours!!

Keep in touch, stay healthy, and keep smiling!!!

As Always,

Pat & Wayne

### **\*\*\*\*\* 2008 SPORT SHOW SCHEDULE \*\*\*\*\***

Jan 4-6: MINNEAPOLIS All-Canada

Feb 8-10: ST. LOUIS All-Canada

Jan 10-13: CHICAGO All-Canada (Pheasant Run)

Feb 15-24: INDIANAPOLIS - Booth #14

Feb 4-6: OMAHA All-Canada