

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



SCOTT LAKE
LODGE & FLYOUTS
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES • SASKATCHEWAN

Memories From the 60th



On the 6th of June, GQD, our 75-year-old De Havilland Beaver landed in a narrow ice-free corridor near the north cut, about a mile from the lodge. After picking our way through the ice jams, Pat and I made it to the island on the 60th parallel, our summer home for 27 seasons. After two years of missing the morning rhythms of island life—the low throbbing wake-up call of the Beaver warming up for its first fly out, the relaxed conversation with guests at breakfast in Laker Lodge, the ritual of seeing off the boats heading out on Scott for another day's adventure—it was heavenly to be back in our Caribou Condo to start another season, our 25th, not counting the two missing Covid years. What's remarkable about this history is that despite that impressive number of years, most of the faces around the island are the same. On any given morning a walk along the waterfront brings memories of past seasons and adventures.

On the wood-chip trail from Caribou, I run into Cory Craig, the lodge's Head Guide and 29-season veteran, bringing back images of Cory working on the expansion of Laker Lodge way back in the fall of 1996. And I have even more vivid memories of spending weeks fishing Scott with Cory during the early years of the business—the lodge wasn't exactly full every week back then. I recall as well camping out with Cory several times as we explored new water for potential fly out lakes. I particularly remember a camping trip on Desmarais, a fly out lake we used for a few years but have since abandoned, when the plane just didn't show up, keeping us there an extra day or two. Those were innocent times before satellite phones. It's how we rolled. Dropping by the Guide Den I see other guides (Jan Phoenix, Chester Porteous, Jon Wimpney and Greg Hamm) who have all been around the island for over two decades, and I recall spending many camping trips, exploring new fly out water, "test fishing" we called it (it was still fishing, though). It's how we found fly out lakes—by just fishing as many as possible.

Jan was with me when we first fished Thomas Lake. That trip too had a late floatplane pick up and the mosquitos in that late summer evening there were terrible. Jan decided to stand chin-deep in the lake for protection. It worked. Jon and I fished Lacusta Lake and found the bay that's home to some dandy pike. We went there to build a dock but decided (well, I decided) that it was too nice a day to work so we just fished. Greg and I camped on Beauvais for several days and found the big trout hole, almost by accident because our map of the lake accidentally blew out of the Zodiak (the inflatable

craft that was our vessel for those exploration trips) less than 10 minutes after hitting the throttle. We were on a big lake without a clue, like Lewis and Clark, sketching a map as we went. On a memorable trip with Chester, better known as Poach, we watched a wolverine robbing goose nests for eggs and gave that bay its name—Wolverine Bay on Sandy Lake. On another trip with Poach we fished a big lake northwest of Smalltree hard for three days, trying to make it a winner but it went into the scrap heap of lakes that just didn't make the cut. Our standards are high, very high.

Back in 1996 there were just three fly out lakes (Ivanhoe, Labyrinth and Dunvegan). Building that system to its current two-dozen count was an incredible experience. For every "keeper" lake we have fished and rejected at least two others. I see Paul Hamilton, Biff Linder (OK, Biff Piston for you regulars) and Jason Terris, two-decade veterans, in their boats waiting for their guests and I

recall three other camping trips on distant lakes, McCann, Sovereign and Rennie lakes respectively, lakes that did not meet those high standards. Those were still great camping trips though with wonderful companions. The lodge's "newer" guys, Mike Demyen and Graham Coulombe with close to 15 years at Scott are talking with guests, planning the day on the water. I've fished often with both and have memories of great days on the water, but still haven't done a camping trip with either, maybe 2023 will be the year—we're always looking for the next Ivanhoe or Smalltree. And I haven't camped yet with Jordan Baker who I meet in front of the tackle shop. Until the 2022 season, Jordan was our "new" guide, even though he has been on the team since 2014. (That's how deep the experience is with the Scott Lake guide team.) So many memories of so many great days on the water with this amazing guide team. And the memory making isn't over. In 2022 we had two new faces in guide meetings—Spencer Vandenberg and Josh Reischer. I was lucky enough to spend a week last summer with both, getting a multiple pike trophy day with Spencer and a fat 45-incher with Josh. Both could have earned "rookie of the year" at Scott, helped by hefty guiding resumes from waters to the south.

It wasn't just guides that trigger so many wonderful memories. All around our island are familiar faces. Our core management team—Steve Yanish, our Maintenance Manager has 15 years on the island, our Chef, Nigel Rivera, has 10 years, Assistant Manager, Dani Grunberg, has 11 years and General Manager, Jason Hamilton, also has 11 years—trigger memories, not of fishing and fly outs but of business building. I've been in the management trenches with all of them, especially Jason, enjoying some wins and fighting through the tough spots that customers never see. It's a seasoned lot, all focused on one thing—making Scott Lake Lodge the best fishing lodge anywhere.

With such a group of dedicated individuals I can afford to indulge in sweet nostalgic memories. They do the work, keeping their focus where it belongs—right on our guests so they can make their own lasting memories. Perhaps more than anything else Scott Lake Lodge is a memory factory. This island, its people, the pristine woods and waters, the wildlife and of course the fishing create powerful impressions that stay with us for a long, long time, maybe forever. Let's all make some more in 2023. So from me, Pat Klein and Ron Spork, our partner in this noble enterprise, thanks to all our loyal guests of 2022 and of the previous 24 seasons for making all these wonderful memories possible. We made this place together.

Expressing our appreciation for our guests and staff in just a page is a daunting task, but I'll try. To our guests, thank you for trusting us, for sticking with us during the last two years of the Covid Catastrophe and navigating the travel maze to get to our island. It became apparent early in the season that two seasons of missed trips did nothing but deepen our guests' desire to visit this amazing island and lake on the 60th parallel. There were abundant tears, hugs, and handshakes to greet the 465 anglers who stepped off floatplanes at Scott Lake; our guests were simply thrilled to finally set foot again onto this northern paradise. Once the initial shock of being at Scott Lake Lodge again diminished, guests began to look around and notice the many infrastructure upgrades. The construction team of the 2020 and 2021 summers had been busy, sacrificing much to pour literally their blood, sweat and tears into improving so many facets of life on the island. We had a record number of guests visit us this year, including a record number of first-time visitors. Another record I am incredibly proud of is the number of first-time visitors to Scott that asked me about rebooking for next year... on their first night! Before any fishing, the shore lunches, or adventures, we had made such a positive impression they were already thinking about next time.



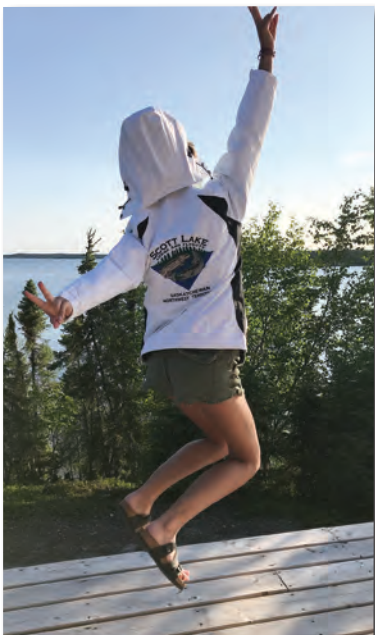
to many remote flyout lakes safely and efficiently. We look forward to expanding relationships with both and are already excited about what next year will bring. Our vendors and partners, spanning a big chunk of Canada (from Edmonton, to Saskatoon, to Winnipeg, to Prince Albert, to Stony Rapids) are critical to running this operation, all working together to get 30 staff members, over 400 guests and over 400,000 pounds of freight to this remote island each summer.

There was a lot to be proud of this summer and a lot to build on for 2023, especially our recently announced partnership with Orvis and their Endorsed Lodge Program. The good news is we have already started, in the middle of the Canadian winter, to move at full speed planning and organizing all the improvements we intend to bring into next season. The ownership buy-in of reinvestment in this product continues to be key in our mission of incremental improvement each season. I am confident this amazing group will not rest until we reach our goal of providing the absolute best lodge fishing experience in North America. We look forward to having you along on this journey with us.



To our staff, a big thank you for this incredible bunch of dedicated people who have made Scott Lake Lodge a part of their lives. For over 100 days this group showed up every morning to meet the challenges of the day and the continuously growing set of expectations on them. This is a bigger operation than a decade or even five years ago with many more moving parts, and more enhancements to our customer service program creating a lot more responsibility for every team member. This group performed in a way that sets the industry standard for personalized customer service and attention to detail. From prime rib to big pike, cocktails to plumbing, we had a group of people buy into a level of hard work and innovation that is rare in this world; we are extremely proud of our team.

There were many major changes to our operation in 2022, most significantly new aircraft suppliers for both our charter flights and float plane operation. We were thrilled with Edmonton, our new charter hub. The team from North Cariboo Air did an amazing job welcoming our travelling anglers. Our new float plane team, Wings Over Kissinging, helped us move guests to and from the lodge and



A Wild Roller Coaster Ride

If there was a moment that perfectly captures the essence of the 2022 season, it was when Kim Brown stepped off our Otter at the Scott Lake north dock and wept on my shoulder. These were tears of joy! That's how deeply she missed this magical island on the 60th parallel. Those were not only tears for the missed big fish over the past two years; they were tears also for missing the hugs from the guides and hospitality team, for missing the laughter, camaraderie, and warmth of this community of anglers, for missing the quiet moments sitting on the deck watching the lake and simply for missing the entire Scott Lake Experience. Many, if not most, of our other guests, as well as our staff, probably felt the same powerful emotions when they set foot on this magical island in the far north, just being back again. It was a powerful feeling for everyone.

The season had an inauspicious start with late ice cover preventing our Week 1 guests from getting their annual adrenaline shot. Luckily, we were able to bring in many of those anglers throughout the season with openings created by Covid cancellations. One of those "displaced" anglers, Paul Hanna, ended up getting the biggest

pike of the season, a massive 49-incher, along with four other trophy pike on the same day, on Premier Lake, a lake connected to Scott by a 20-minute boat ride. Sometimes things just work out as they did for Paul. Our first group to enjoy waters untouched for two years was our Week 2 gang. They didn't waste any time. On June 15th, our first day of the fishing season, nineteen pike trophies were brought to the guides' big nets, and a 40" lake trout was landed on Scott Lake by Terry Jones. For our first anglers since September of 2019, luck and skill were evident all week with the pike trophy total (40" or better) hitting over a hundred in just five days. While we were off and running, we were still getting our footing.

After two years without a customer on the island, the management team had some doubts about how smoothly the season would flow. Have you ever played golf or tennis without swinging a club or racket for 32 months? (Yes, it was that long.) Running a remote fishing lodge with so many moving parts is a complex process. Think of Scott Lake Lodge as four distinct businesses—a hotel, a restaurant, an aviation service, and a fishing outfitter—rolled into one. First, we needed to make sure we had all the parts. Would all the key staff be available when their careers were stopped cold in 2020? Would we need retraining programs? Would our vendors still be operating at full capacity or even still in business? Every week we need new supplies of fuel and food and dozens of other items. Could we count on timely deliveries? Would guests be able to navigate Canada's Covid requirements, including the required ArriveCAN app? Would Covid shut us down before we even opened? Would we even remember how to run the damn place? There were many unanswered questions as we prepared in the spring of 2022 to face a wall of unknowns.

After a couple of groups passed through the lodge, though, all those unknowns just melted away. The chefs cooked. The waitresses waited. The maintenance team maintained. The guides guided. The managers managed. And the guests just enjoyed—fishing, dining, and relaxing despite some of the most inclement weather we have seen at Scott over our 27 years of stewardship. In many ways the 2022 season was a wild roller coaster ride of fishing and emotional highs and lows. For half of June and early July the weather, while not great, was stable and so was the fishing. The first eight groups in camp



Terry Jones with the first big trout of the season.

tallied exactly 1,000 trophy fish, mainly pike, an average of 125 per group. Great numbers.

The roller coaster ride was pleasant at this point; we were easily cruising over the course. Then our Week 10 group hit a big dip, riding through some terrible weather and the trophy count dropped to 88. We went back to the top again for two groups with great fishing and abundant trophy fish. Then another cold, windy period brought tough fishing; our seat belts were tightened for Week 13 and the guides had to grind out big fish that week. What goes down must come up? Usually, and it did this time. Our Week 14 group was at the top of the coaster looking over a beautiful lake enjoying warm temperatures and sunny skies: all was right with the world and our fish; we hit our season high trophy count of 167 in mid-August. We had one more stretch of wonderful weather the following week before a cold, heavy fog period set in for two groups, cutting our trophy count way down to 62 on Week 17. The coaster ride was wild at this point of the season. The next group had sunny skies and our big fish count soared to 129, but Week 19 had by far the worst weather of the season and our trophy count plummeted to 53, our rock bottom of the season. The coaster had one more push left and we ended the season with a perfect sunny and warm week with great September fishing; the shallow reefs were teeming with lake trout and the pike were still hanging around the weed beds. It was a blissful time. The crazy ride of the 2022 season, driven by the wind and weather, was over.

Simply put, our big pike love warm water and sunshine. But we can't order those conditions to be delivered by an Uber driver; we fish what we get. The fishing action for this season depended entirely on what part of the ride you were on. But our anglers love catching big fish and they persevered, even during the dips. We ended the season with 2,177 trophy fish, our third highest ever trophy count. Ten years ago, that number would have seemed preposterous, but with more flyout options, a more experienced guide team, improved catch and release protocols, and a new fisheries management program, our trophy counts have been steadily progressing upward for two decades. Since the really big pike love warm water, sunshine and stable weather patterns, our pike count of 45" or better did drop; we boated 133 of these supersized pike, not too far from our record of 2018 when we hit 155, and way over the 15-year average of 68. And pike over 47", the "megs" as some guides call them, were down a dozen off our record number from 2018 but getting two dozen of those brutes was quite reward-



Todd and Paula Lee had a big day on Sandy Lake.

ing for the anglers at the other end of those lines. And these over 47-inch monsters too were way above the 15-year average of 10. The trout and grayling numbers were right in line with some of our best years. Trout don't care if the sun is shining, and grayling are always cooperative fishing partners; we set a record for grayling over 18". This was the season of north and northeast winds, our least favorite wind for all our guides. We could have counted the number of days with a south or southwest wind on both hands, maybe one. What we did learn, once again: it's weather not fishing pressure that is the determining factor in fishing success. The two-year break without a fly, spinner, spoon, or plastic landing on our lake's waters was trumped by the cool and windy weather.

Did that mean that fishing was always slow? Not on the many sunny or just decent days. We had some incredible fishing days and fishing stories. That's why people go fishing in the first place—to create stories. None topped Cole Booth's story. Our 9-year-old superstar angler is exactly 52" tall and he landed a 48" pike, one of the biggest of the season. Another 9-year-old, Gavin Faggen, got a 45-incher. At 14, Lachlan Williamson went on his first fishing trip. On his first day fishing (ever) he had the best day that anyone else had all week, getting five pike over 40". A couple of days later he caught a 45" pike. The moral of these stories: don't fish with kids. Some older folks also created their own stories. Long time Scott regular, Peter Myhre, set a lodge record for the most trophy pike over a 15-day period—86 with two of them at 47 inches. It just doesn't get any better than that. Unless it's a father/son story. Mike Manship and his son Nick had a day they will never forget. Mike is a real mushroom fanatic and at a shore lunch break he spotted lots of black morels, one of his favorite mushrooms. He and his son picked as many as they had bags to hold. He fed the lodge for days with those delicacies. But they still had time on that memorable day to pick up eight trophy pike, both getting a 47-incher. Now that's a mixed bag.

There were many astonishingly great single days: Cam and Andy Godden tallied nine trophy pike on Selwyn Lake with a top fish at 47"; Susan Saraka brought in seven trophy pike at Labyrinth Lake while her husband Frank took a lot of pictures (wives usually out fish their husbands because they actually listen to their guide); Len Dorr listened to his guide and landed seven trophy pike; Todd and Paula Lee had a great day on Sandy Lake, getting six trophies with three of them at 45-46- and 47-inches; Mike Strobel picked up seven trophy pike on Smalltree Lake; Tracy Kreiling and Tony Madonia also on Smalltree Lake brought nine trophies to the guide's big net; Smalltree was the lake too where Tom Granneman



Mike Manship with one of many big pike he and son Nick put in their memory bank.

and Terry Walker landed a baker's dozen pike trophies for their best day ever pike fishing; Ross Purpura Sr. and Jr. had a lifetime father/son day getting a dozen trophy pike on Selwyn Lake, and another memorable father/son day developed when Jim and Leland Williamson got a half dozen trophy pike and three of those 46 inches or better.

Big trout also made headlines in the Tundra Times last season. There were 227 trophies with 56 measuring over 40", our mark for a "supersized" laker. Not surprisingly they often came in bunches, especially on our top trout flyout lake, Selwyn. When big trout get active on Selwyn, there are often some big days, like the day when Liz and Ed Snyder landed 10 trophy lakera with six of them stretching the tape over 40", one hitting 44". What's spooky about that day is how closely it mimicked her day, also on Selwyn in 2018, when Liz landed four lakera over 40" with, you guessed it, the biggest one at 44". Lightning can strike twice. Other memorable Selwyn trout days: Rob Pace had an incredible day, getting seven trophy trout with five over 40" and his big one at 44.5"; Kevin Hassett had a nine trout trophy day, topping out at 42"; Bob Chadwell had a hell of a day catching six trophies with three of them over 40", but his daughter, Shanna Bohac, on the same day got the biggest trout of the season—a massive 46-incher. Also, on the big lake Mark Graf got a very big trout at 45.5", nicknamed "Tubby II" because it was a dead ringer for one of similarly ridiculous girth he got years earlier (an Annual Report cover shot, by the way).



Ed Snyder with one of the many trout he and Liz landed on their big day on Selwyn Lake.

Big pike and big trout—what's left? Grayling of course. In recent years we have found a true grayling mecca—the outflow of the Dubawnt River from Wholdaia Lake, our most far-flung flyout destination. It has produced some crazy grayling fishing, generally on fly rods but also with ultralight spinning, providing some very exciting angling. Nick Whitaker got 11 trophies there; Dana Albright caught eight with two at 19"; Peggy Light and Jeff Berg landed nine, two over 19"; Mark and Rebecca Graf caught 10 there with a 19" at the top, and Andrew Troop with Paul Barth scored an even two dozen at that outflow with six over 18". Our biggest graylings of the season were landed there: 20-inchers by Jim MacDougall, Brian Ermer and Dick Emens. Other grayling haunts produced as well. Carl Sparks caught a dozen at Labyrinth and the foursome of Marty Cannon, Peter Santry, Chris Maybury, and Charlie King rotated around the big pool at the outflow of Smalltree Lake and ended up with 21 trophies, most at or near 18".

Wholdaia isn't just a grayling mecca. It had some great days with mixed bags of trophy fish. Dick Emens and Joel Tune proved that with a pike/grayling fusion day, landing 19 trophies with eight pike (two at 45") and 11 grayling (five of the grayling over 19"). That's an exciting day. Marvin and Nancy Wehl must have gone to the same spots. Their Wholdaia day netted 21 trophy fish, but they added some trophy lake trout to their mix which featured several grayling over 18" and pike of 44.5" and 45".

We love to recognize and celebrate the really big fish, especially those monster pike over 47". Ask any pike guide how a pike of 45 inches compares to one of 47". It's only two lousy inches, right? They will all say that it's a completely different animal. The girth increases disproportionately with those two inches. For a pike angler these are fish of a lifetime, the ones you will never forget. What was impressive in 2022 is how those big gals (any fish of 47" will be a female) were spread around the season and around the geography of our fishing universe. In June on Scott, Paul Hanna's 49", Clayton Jennings's 48" and Ken Conley's 47" were the top of the list for our home lake. Other big June pike were spread all around the map: Rachael Bandt's 47.5" from Sandy; Steve Bandt's 47" from Selwyn and Allen Wortz's 48" from Ivanhoe to name a few of the June big pike. In July Tim Delaney found a 48" at Sandy; Peter Myhre landed a 47" on Flett, and John Green got a 47" on Wholdaia. Scott had a



Lachlan Williamson with his first of six trophies on his FIRST EVER day of fishing.



Susan Saraka with yet another big pike. Frank took a lot of pictures.

great August with Bill McGraw, John Kreiling and Carl Sparks all catching 47s on our home lake. Odin Lake popped out a 47.5" for Jim Flynn. Todd Lee got a 47" on Sandy. The fish wealth was well distributed. Check our Big Fish centerfold on pages 10-14 to see all the monsters of 2022.

As with every season, there is more to do than fish. With a lot of cool weather, the sauna and hot tub were busy last summer. In August and September, when the bugs are minimal, there were regular hikes on the Tundra Trail, a short boat ride from the lodge. And the bars at the Last Cast and at Laker Lodge saw a lot of traffic all season with guests celebrating their big fish or drowning their sorrows when they did get one. Wildlife sightings are always a topic of conversation around the dinner table and this season the conversations often revolved around muskox sightings. Read all details in *The Muskox Invasion* story on pages 20-21. Seeing wildlife is a big part of the experience at Scott. Some are totally predictable like watching a bald eagle arc across the sky, seeing an osprey making a nest on large, exposed boulders right out in the middle of Scott lake (there are several on the east arm) or hearing loons calling as you move around any of our lakes. Others are not predictable but common, like seeing black bears or moose from your boat or floatplane. Others are rare but wonderful, like seeing a muskox, a wolverine, or a wolf. All are part of the Scott Lake Lodge Experience.

As we have come to expect when the calendar flips to August, we start seeing northern lights—a real highlight of many guests' late season trips. This year was no exception. It's a bonus for making a trip this far north, but the skies must cooperate. This fall we had more cloudy nights that we would have liked, but there were



Mark and Rebecca Graf enjoying a remarkable grayling day on Wholdaia.

great displays on about a dozen nights. One thing that doesn't need any cooperation, just a little planning, are the fall bonfires. We've tried evening bonfires in June and July, but they just don't "work"; it's not dark enough to get the full experience. This fall we had many, sometimes with live music as an enhancement. Whatever the season, the almost perpetual daylight of June, the warmth of July or the crisp chill of August mornings, there is magic on the shores of Scott Lake. So, it was in 2022, even when the weather didn't cooperate. It was wonderful to be back together again. And it didn't matter for most of our guests which part of the roller coaster ride they rode: it was a thrilling experience.



REFLECTIONS

Adam Strobel
with guide
Steve Lindner



"Shore staff is great. I love the interaction they have with all the guests. They make you feel right at home."

- Adam Strobel (Denver, CO)

"I've been fishing all my life and I have to put this one on the top of my list as the best."

- Gilbert Marcel (Houma, LA)

"All the guides were quite happy to 'fish talk' whenever we bumped into them. Every person we encountered was fantastic."

- Eric Carlson (Maple Grove, MN)

"Over the top excellent. Obvious attention to detail. Thank you for giving us this amazing experience and leaving us wanting to come back again."

- Russ & Ketta Robertson (Cold Lake, AB)

"Everyone I met or interacted with was extremely friendly, courteous, and cheerful. And very good at their jobs. You have a wonderful staff and should be very proud of them."

- Maureen O'Leary (Jackson, WY)

"A great time that I will always remember. The staff made this my best adventure over a span of 54 years."

- Dick Smith (Omaha, NE)

"The fishing is nothing like I've ever experienced."

- Terry Gebert (Medford, WI)



"The food was beautifully presented, and the choices were wonderful. I just don't have enough compliments for your dining."

- Maureen Raquet
(Pottstown, PA)

"One of the best fishing excursions I've ever had."

- Ron Helm (Van Horn, TX)

Paula Lee
with guide
Steve Lindner



"Thank you to all the Scott Lake team for making our fishing trip above and beyond our expectations. You are all very organized and thoughtful."

- Jim and Karen Flynn (Auburn, WA)

"The shore staff at Scott Lake Lodge are absolutely phenomenal from top to bottom."

- Garek Peters (Pittsburg, KS)

"I had a fantastic week. The overall experience was top notch. I don't think there is any place else that can compete with the Scott experience. Truly outstanding."

- Jack Leonovicz (Brookfield, WI)

Jack Leonovicz
with guide
Greg Hamm



"Once in a lifetime experience. Amazing fishing, guides, staff and facilities."

- Rod Pace (Loveland, CO)

"Remarkable staff. Everyone is friendly, accommodating and helpful. Our room looked so inviting to return to."

- Paula Lee (Montgomery, TX)

WHAT'S COOKING?



There is something cooking every day of the season on islands and points all around Scott Lake. There is a noble tradition at Scott and at many Canadian lodges of taking a very fresh fish and turning it into a memorable meal. Our guide team takes great pride in their culinary talents. There is probably more competition involving the best shore lunch than in landing the biggest fish. Here are two classics.



Paul's Pike & Bacon Log

Ingredients

2 boneless pike fillets
(smaller ones of possible)
Cream cheese
Sweet chili sauce
1 carrot
1 celery stock
1 onion
Bacon strips x 5 per fillet
(thin works the best)

Procedure

Cut veggies long & thin
Lay 5 bacon strips down and put fillet on top.
Fill the removed bone strip concave area with cream cheese.
Lay veggies along the cream cheese lengthwise.
Drip sweet chili sauce on top.
Roll the fillet up and wrap the whole fillet with the bacon.
Place the bacon log in a double side grill and cook over an open fire. Flipping it often.
Or put in oven and bake.

Mike Demyen's "The Toe Curler" Bake

Ingredients

2 boneless pike fillets
1 onion (sliced)
1-1/2 cup ranch dressing
1-1/2 Tbsp Greek seasoning
4 slices cooked bacon (chopped)
4-5 big mushrooms
(sliced or chopped)
1-1/2 cup shredded cheddar
(or 1 cup cheddar and 1/2 cup
smoked Gouda or other soft cheese)

Procedure

If using a can cooker, layer in onions, fillets, ranch Greek seasoning, bacon, mushrooms and stir that all together a bit.
Add the cheese on top.
Cook until it starts to steam.
Shake the pot or stir with a spoon.
Put the can off and on the heat 2 or 3 times, each time waiting until it steams then removing it.
Check fish with a fork before serving, fish should flake easily.
Stir one more time before serving.



PIKE PARADE



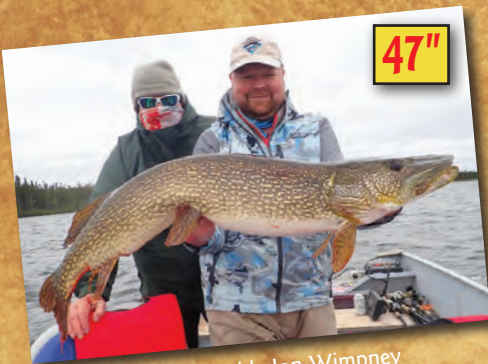
Paul Hanna
with guide
Spencer
Vandenberg

49"



48"

Clayton Jennings with guide Jordan Baker



47"

Steve Bandt with guide Jon Wimpney



47"

Scott Bixby



47"

Nick Manship with guide Chester Porteous

PIKE PARADE



Allen Wortz
with guide
Mike Demyen

48"



47.5"

Rachael Bandt with guide Jon Wimpney



47"

Kevin Denney with guide Jan Phoenix



47"

Todd Lee with guide Steve Lindner



47"

Ken Conley with guide Steve Yanish



47"

Andrew Godden with guide Josh Reischer

PIKE PARADE



Cole Booth
with guide
Josh Reischer

48"



47.5"

Leland Williamson with guide Jon Wimpney



48"

Tom Delaney with guide Mike Demyen



Mike Manship with guide Chester Porteous



47"

Bill McGraw with guide Steve Lindner



47"

John Kreiling with guide Chester Porteous

PIKE PARADE



Craig Mataczynski
with guide
Mike Demyen

48"



47.5"

Jim Flynn with guide Paul Hamilton



47"

Cam Godden with guide Josh Reischer



47"

John Green with guide Steve Lindner



47"

Carl Sparks with guide Jan Phoenix



47"

Peter Myhre

TROUT PARADE

46"



Shanna Bohac with guide Mike Demyen

44.5"



Mark Graft with guide Paul Hamilton

44.5"



Rod Pace with guide Chester Porteous

44"



Liz Snyder with guide Jason Terris

44"



Carl Sparks with guide Graham Coulombe

GRAYLING PARADE

20"



Brian Ermer

20"



Dick Emens with guide Jan Phoenix

20.5"



Jim MacDougall

★ **109.5"**

Mark Graf
with guide
Greg Hamm



★ **107.5"**

Joel Tune
with guide
Steve Yanish



★ **106"**

Kim Brown
with guide
Jan Phoenix



★ **100+ Club** ★
2022

Name	Pike	Trout	Grayling	Inches
Graf, Mark	45	45.5	19	109.5
Tune, Joel	44.5	43.5	19.5	107.5
Brown, Kim	45	42	19	106
Degaetani, Nick	43.5	43	19	105.5
Smith, Bob	45	40	19.5	104.5
O'Leary, Maureen	44.5	42	17.5	104
Kracum, Rich	43.5	41	19	103.5
Novicki, Joe	45.5	39	19	103.5
Williamson, Bill	46	41	16.5	103.5
Hassett, Jamie	45	40	17.5	102.5
Peterson, Scott	44	40	18.5	102.5
Tallman, Jim	45.5	40	17	102.5
Allen, Cooper	43	43	16	102
Calabresa, Bill	46	38	18	102
Emens, Dick	45.5	36.5	20	102
Heile, Bernie	45	38	19	102
Kracum, John	43	41	18	102
Rau, Bill	45	40	17	102
Towers, Amy	44.5	38	19.5	102
Johnston, Andy	42	40.5	19	101.5
Rowland, Paul	45	37	19.5	101.5
Hassett, Kevin	42	42	17	101
Wehl, Marvin	45	37.5	18.5	101
Wehl, Nancy	42.5	39.5	19	101
Graf, Rebecca	44	38	18.5	100.5
Jones, Terry	44	40	16.5	100.5
Purcell, Julia	40	42	18.5	100.5
Scott, Winfield	44	40	16.5	100.5
Spielman, Dan	44	39	17.5	100.5
Williamson, Lachlan	45	37	18.5	100.5
Light, Peggy	44.5	36	19.5	100
Rosenberg, Todd	45	38	17	100
Albright, Dana	41	39.5	19.5	100

BEYOND WORDS



FISHANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Fishing Season Ended September 16, 2022

Management Discussion and Analysis

Talk about a challenging year for management. We had a lot to contend with: the 2-season layoff, new vendors in the critical travel areas (the charter flights from the south and our float operation), and the lingering effects of Covid. Somehow the management team, led ably by General Manager Jason Hamilton, jumped over all the obstacles 2022 put in our way and pulled together a great season.

We were especially proud of our new Edmonton-to-the-lodge program. First, our guests found it much easier to get to Edmonton than Saskatoon, our hub for over two decades. Second, our vendor North Cariboo was top notch. They provided a beautiful, roomy and very comfortable plane, a Dash-8/300, with wonderful in-flight entertainment provided by flight attendants Kayre and Janice who always had a smile and a joke and definitely kept everyone's glasses full. Third, the float transportation link from Stony to the lodge was also handled exceptionally well by our new float operator, Wings Over Kississing. For our changeovers they had two otters and two beaver cued up at the docks at Stony with the occasional substitution of a 160 mph Cessna Caravan to really keep things moving. This season we kept the wait time for guests in Stony Rapids to just 10 to 15 minutes with the average time from the touchdown of the Dash-8 to the last guest stepping onto the dock at the lodge of just under 60 minutes, a huge improvement over earlier years. (We do get better at things over time.) There were two changeovers postponed for roughly 14 hours due to unflyable floatplane weather at the lodge or at Stony Rapids. Against all odds these were back-to-back.

Getting people to the lodge is only step one. Then, naturally, we had to take good care of them. While our hospitality team had some turnover with the 2-year break, none of our customers noticed any diminishment of service quality. The evaluations were stellar. With the leadership of Dani Grunberg, the new team had a great training program and hit the island running. Late ice forced the cancellation of our first group and those extra 5 days did provide some cushion for new staff members to learn the operation. With all four of our chefs back in 2022, the food service team, led by Nigel Rivera, had a banner year putting extraordinary breakfasts and dinners on the table for 95 consecutive days, working the entire season without a single day off. The maintenance department, led by veteran Steve Yanish, had an exceptional year, dealing with every challenge put in front of them (there were many). They worked 95 straight days as well, as did all departments. It is a marathon. We did integrate two new guides into a team that had not seen a new guide for 8 years. With loads of guiding experience behind them, Josh Reischer and Spencer Vandenberg both jumped right in their boats and became top performers.

Weather was the only factor that made life difficult for operations this season. We had a record number of flyout cancellation days—15 against an average of 4. Heavy morning fog was usually the culprit with visibility not allowing for safe floatplane flights. It's disappointing for guests, but safety will always be our top priority. Since fishing options from our dock, especially with the additions this season of Wignes Lake and Kimiwan Lake, are magnificent, no one suffered. The flyout system was in full gear all season with a record number of flights, even with the 15 cancelled days. We have a lot of explorers who want to see as much of the north as possible.

Evaluations:

A lot of companies email evaluation forms as a PR exercise. We read them, carefully, and consider all suggestions. Most of our customer service and infrastructure improvements started as guest comments. We received great suggestions this year from the 171 guests who returned the survey. Many of those were answering for their spouse or fishing partner, covering an estimated 80% of our guests. We appreciated everyone's feedback, even if some stung a little. Those are the ones we learn from and use as a springboard for improvements. Our goal has always been, and will always be, incremental improvement—every year. Our view: if a company is not improving, it's getting worse. We'll keep improving!

The numbers in 2022 were pretty darn good. Three cheers for the hospitality department. An astounding 97% of our respondents rated their cabin's cleanliness as Excellent and 83% gave that highest rating for cabin comfort. In evaluating our facilities overall quality, 98% went for the Excellent category and the Last Cast hit 82%, a huge increase over that building prior to the extensive remodeling and upgrades completed over the 2020 and 2021 summers. Guests really loved the renovations of several of our cabins as well. Comments like "Thank you for the renovation of Trout Cabin—truly excellent improvement" make all that effort seem worthwhile. On the food side of the business, we had solid Excellent numbers (Excellent, by the way,

Trophy Fish Released

Northern Pike ————— 1,557

Lake Trout ————— 227

Arctic Grayling ————— 393

TOTAL 2,177

Number of Guests: 465

Average Trophies: 4.7

is the only rating we like, not Good or Fair, or certainly not the Poor, a rating we rarely see): breakfast was rated Excellent by 89%, dinners by 87%. There was a big drop with ratings of our packed lunches. Only 59% Excellent and 31% Good. We still have work to do for the mid-day meal. Some guests will be getting phone calls this winter asking for suggestions.

In the critical area of evaluating the fishing (the one thing totally out of our control but still critical to running our business) **we had Scott Lake itself rated as Excellent by 55% and Good by 37%.** For the flyout lakes those ratings were 85% and 13%. The overall flyout experience was rated at 82% Excellent. For our supplied fishing gear (rods and reels) we had a 99% Excellent rating—hard to improve on that. Our guide team had impressive reviews. In six different quality measurements, guides were pegged at between 89% and 95% Excellent. More importantly 98% of our guests would use or recommend their guide—there are no soft spots there. The "Excellents" just kept rolling when looking at the other departments: management at 98%; dining service at 95%; bar services at 89%; housekeeping at 93% and maintenance at 95%.

The number we really like is the global question of rating the lodge from "an overall standpoint." That question landed at 97% Excellent. Here's a number we really liked: all respondents (yes, 100%) would recommend Scott Lake to a friend. Is there bias in this survey? Yes, not everyone responded and guests with less enthusiasm for the place are likely the people who did not return the survey, but we try hard every season to talk to everyone before they leave the lodge about their experience. We do have a lot to chew on with off-season. We had a total of 598 specific comments within all the categories detailed above. We will personally respond to all comments made—before the end of the year (it's a big job). Thanks to everyone for giving their honest feedback. It's how we make things better.

Fishing by the Numbers:

For three consecutive years (2017, 2018 and 2019) we set records for the total trophy count. Our cold, cloudy and windy summer of 2022 did end that streak, but we still had a very respectable count of 2,177 trophy fish. It's a number that shames records from our early years. Our 1,557 pike landed last season was almost double the 15-year average of 823 and only 250 off the all-time record. Our pike over 45" number was 133, also about double of that 15-year average of 68 and just 22 below our 2018 record. Likewise, our pike over 47" number was double the historical average but below our record year of 2018. All the data points were impressive: we handed out 52 Trophy Triple hats at our evening recognition ceremonies; we had 227 trout over 40"; we tallied a record 101 grayling over 18" (triple our long-term average), and we have sent out 31 beautiful 100+Club jackets for those anglers who were able to land trophy pike, lake trout and arctic grayling whose collective measurements hit or exceeded 100 inches. There were exceptional fish landed—a 49" pike, a 46" lake trout, and a 20.5" grayling. The number we are most proud of, though, was our rebooking percentage: 60% of our 2023 season guests rebooked at the lodge. That's a vote of confidence.

After the season ended, we were pleased to receive notification from Orvis that we were approved for their Endorsed Lodge Program. Beyond the prestige of this approval, Orvis will provide helpful management suggestions and marketing support. Starting next season you will see a lot of Orvis gear in the boats, especially their high quality fly rods and reels.



TROPHY HOLDERS OF 2022

Guest
Name = Trophy Triple

Pike
Largest Total #

Trout
Largest Total #

Grayling
Largest Total #

100+*

Abernathy, Lee	41	3		
Abernathy, Taylor	45	4		
Abraham, Doug		40.5	3	
Acri, Armond	41	1	37	3
Albright, Dana	41	1	39.5	1
Alfert, Jonathan	40.5	1		19.5 8 *
Alfert, Max	45	1		
Allen, Cooper	43	6	43	1
Allen, Graham	41	1	35.5	1
Anderson, Bill	45	3		
Anderson, David	45	2	35.5	1
Armour, Rick	41	3		
Bandt, Rachael	47.5	6		
Bandt, Steve	47	6		
Barth, Paul	43.5	5		19.5 11
Bennett, John	44	2		17.5 7
Bensema, David	43	4		
Bensema, Marian	42.5	3		
Benson, Lawrence	40.5	1		
Benson, Norm	41.5	2		
Berg, Jeff	45	6		18 4
Billing, Suzanne	40	1		
Bingham, John	40.5	1		
Bixby, Scott	47	6		
Bixler, Cindy	43	2	41	1
Bixler, Mark	44.5	3		
Blackstone, Amy	41.5	2		
Bohac, Larry	40.5	1	40.5	2
Bohac, Shanna	41	1	46	2
Boone, Sonya	41	2	40.5	2
Booth, Cole	48	4		
Bourgeois, Jim	40	1		
Box, Ken	40.5	1		
Box, Paul	45	4		
Bradstreet, Ken	40.5	1		
Brazeale, Dan	42	1		
Brazeale, Jim	43	1		
Brehm, Erich	42.5	2		
Bresler, Scott	40	2		15 1
Bronfin, Ken	41	4	35	1
Brown, Chris	40.5	2		
Brown, Eddie	44	4		
Brown, Eric	43	5		
Brown, Jerry	43.5	7		
Brown, Kim	45	4	42	1
Brown, Matt	40.5	1		19 3 *
Brown, Rusty	43	2		
Bruntz, John	42	1	36	1
Budski, Chris	44.5	1		
Byers, Larry	42	4		
Calabresa, Bill	46	6	38	1
Cannon, Marty	43	4		18 1 *
Carlson, Eric	43	4		18.5 4
Carlson, Kirk	41.5	3		16.5 1
Castro, Chad	44	4		17.5 2
Castro, Lynn	40.5	3		
Caulk, Carl	44	2		
Cervantes, Chris	43.5	3	35	1
Chadwell, Bob	40	1	44	6
Chapin, Brad	40	1	35	1
Chapin, David	43.5	2	36.5	1
Chapin, Jack	41	2		
Chapin, Ryan	40	1		
Cohen, Sim	45	6		
Coleman, Eli	46	5		
Coleman, Ethan	40	3		
Conley, Ken	47	7		
Croegaert, Paul	42	5	39	1
Curry, Brian	43	12		
Davala, Dan	41	1		
Davis, Eric	44	4		
Davison, Jason	40	1		16.5 5
Degaetani, Nick	43.5	5	43	3
Delaney, Tim	48	2		19 3 *
Denney, Kevin	47	2		
Denney, Patrick	41	3		
Diaz, Mike	41.5	1		18 3

Doerter, John	41.5	1	38.5	3		
Doerter, Randy	43.5	3	37.5	1		
Dorr, Len	41	11	38.5	2	15.5	1
Dry, Doug	41	1				
Edwards, Kevin	40.5	1	41	1	18	3
Edwards, Susan	40	1	37	3	19	3
Eland, Clint	41.5	3	36	1		
Ellis, Chris	45	8				
Ellis, Dave	44	2				
Emens, Dick	45.5	14	36.5	1	20	7 *
Ermer, Brian	40.5	1			20	5
Faggen, Craig	43.5	3				
Faggen, Gavin	45	1				
Faggen, Ivan	40	1				
Farrow, Scott	46.5	9				
Fierbaugh, Chris	40.5	1	41.5	1		
Fierbaugh, Jarod	42	3				
Fierbaugh, Tim	46	9	42.5	2		
Finney, Jay	43	3				
Flynn, Jim	47.5	3			17	1
Flynn, Karen	42	3	41	2	15	1
Fox, Chris	40	1				
Franklin, Bo	41	1				
Franklin, Paula	41.5	4	38	1		
Garijo, Xavier	41	3	37	2	18	2
Gebert, Sue	43.5	4				
Gebert, Terry	41	1	36	1		
Gerber, Ted	40	1			18	7
Gerber, Terry	41	2			15	2
Gesundo, Ian	40	1				
Ghee, Roger	40	1				
Giannini, Dino	40	1	37	1		
Giannini, Mario	42	2				
Gibson, John	43	5				
Gibson, Tim	46	1				
Gilbert-Kreiling, Kelsey	44	1				
Godden, Andrew	47	7				
Godden, Cam	47	7				
Graf, Mark	45	29	45.5	2	19	10 *
Graf, Rebecca	44	28	38	2	18.5	10 *
Granneman, Tom	44	8				
Green, John	47	16				
Guthrie, Cody	45	1				
Haleen, Todd	40.5	2	36	2		
Hall, Ava	41	1	37	1	17	1
Hall, Eric	43.5	3	43	1		
Hall, Greta	42	2	35	1	17	3
Hambright, Jim	42.5	7			18	4
Hammes, Michael					16.5	6
Hanna, Paul	49	9				
Hare, Eric	42	1				
Harris, Chris	43	2				
Harris, Debra	40	1				
Harris, Julieanne	45	2				
Hassel, Ruben	40	2				
Hassett, Jamie	45	5	40	2	17.5	6 *
Hassett, Kevin	42	2	42	7	17	4 *
Heile, Bernie	45	7	38	1	19	2 *
Heinmiller, John	43	8	38	1		
Heinmiller, Julie	43	3				
Helm, Ron	44	5				
Henderson, Jim	42.5	2				
Hetzel, Tom	41.5	1				
Hook, Alastair	42	4			17.5	8
Hoover, Ernest	41	3			18	2
Horton, Burl	43	1				
Horton, Susan	40	1				
Huml, Jan			38.5	1		
Hunt, Don	45.5	6				
Hunt, Marcia	44.5	5	39	1		
Hutchinson, David	41	5				
Jacula, Doug	40	1	38	2		
Jeffares, Mark	44	4				
Jennings, Brigitte	41.5	1	36	1		
Jennings, Clayton	48	5				
Jewett, Skip	42	1				
Johansen, Greg	42	3	37	2		
Johnson, Mike	42.5	1				
Johnston, Andy	42	3	40.5	4	19	12 *
Jones, Amy	43	5	35.5	1		
Jones, Terry	44	4	40	1	16.5	1 *
Jones, Wes	41	3				
Juergens, Ron	42.5	5				

Kalish, Dan	43	3				
Kalish, Todd	44.5	8				
Kehoe, Tom	41.5	4				
Keys, Jack	46	1	37	1		
Kimmel, Paul	43	1				
King, Charlie	40	1			18.5	4
Kirkpatrick, Cyrena	43.5	4				
Klein, Eric	44.5	5	35	1		
Kozlowski, Brian	45	5				
Kozlowski, Bruce	46	3				
Kozlowski, Ethan	41	1				
Kozlowski, Jim	44	8				
Kozlowski, Phil	40.5	1				
Kozlowski, Steve	46.5	6	39	1		
Kracum, John	43	4	41	2	18	4 *
Kracum, Matt	43	4			17	1
Kracum, Rich	43.5	2	41	2	19	7 *
Kreiling, Chris	40	1	37	1		
Kreiling, Jason	43	2	40	2		
Kreiling, John	47	3	36	1		
Kreiling, Tracey	43	5				
Kristo, Coyen	41	1				
Kristo, Griffin					17	3
Kristo, Steve	41.5	1				
Kusar, Jim	44.5	4				
Kusar, Matt	40.5	3	35	1		
Kusar, Trent	45	2				
Kyle, Jerry	42.5	7	38.5	1		
Laing, Brent	44	10	36	1		
Larson, Carrie	45	6				
Larson, Grant	45	5				
Larson, Greg	45	2				
Lechowicz, Andre	40.5	3	38	1		
Lechowicz, Mira	41	4	38	3		
Lee, Paula	46	2				
Lee, Taylor	40.5	1				
Lee, Todd	47	8				
Leonovicz III, Peter	41	1				
Leonovicz, Cole	41.5	1				
Leonovicz, Jack	42	6				
Leonovicz, Peter	46	2				
Levine, Stacey	43	1				
Levy, Adrian	44	4				
Light, Peggy	44.5	6	36	1	19.5	5 *
Limbach, Greg	40	2	37	1	17.5	5
Loken, Jim	41.5	1	40.5	1		
Lorber, Bob	41	6				
Lorusso, Paul	44	4				
Loughran, Jason	45	3				
Luke, Chris	42.5	2				
Luke, Don	45	5				
Luke, Eric	40	1				
Luke, Ryan	43	6				
Lynch, Patrick	46.5	3				
MacDonell, Wally	40	1				
MacDougall, Jim	42	4			20.5	7
MacKen, Nelson	40	1				
Madonia, Tony	43	5	41	2		
Mahler, Mike	42	6				
Makal, Joshua	42	4				
Maley, Bob	41	4				
Mancuso, Peter	42.5	3	39	1		
Manship, Mike	47	7				
Manship, Nick	47	5	39	2		
Marcel, GG	41	2				
Marcel, Steve	42	3				
Marco, David	40.5	1				
Marco, Michael	40.5	2				
Marco-Davis, Hannah	40.25	1				
Martin, Justin	45.5	1				
Martin, Steve	44.5	2				
Mason, Bob	41	4				
Massie, Cheryl	44.5	1				
Massie, Darrel	45	2			18	4
Masters, Bob	42	1				
Masters, Steve	42	1				
Mataczynski, Craig	48	4	35	1		
Matthew, Tom	45	2				
Matthew, Traci	42	3				
Maurstad, Steve	40	1				
Maybury, Chris	41	4			18	4
McCullough, Dick	44	4				
McGraw, Bill	47	3				



The Invasion of the Muskox

No, that isn't the title of a new horror film, but it is an accurate description of the startling movement of this ice age relic from the far northern treeless tundra to the birch and black spruce forests of the relatively balmy 60th parallel.

Seeing muskox has been a personal quest for three decades. As a customer at Scott Lake Lodge way back in 1995, my wife, Pat, had a goal of seeing caribou and muskox. Not sure why that seemed so important then, but it was. From Scott Lake we jumped in a chartered Beaver, carrying a 55-gallon barrel of extra fuel in the back, and flew all the way to Dubawnt Lake, a 250-mile flight, to see one as a birthday present for Pat. Even though the big lake was still solid ice (and it was July 10th by the way—Dubawnt is way, way up north), we did see a herd of the shaggy beasts along the west shore of the frozen lake and did some very low buzzes, not an experience for the faint-hearted. It was a revelation: creatures like that should only be seen in movies like Star Wars. It was a step back in time, a big one. That experience (and the big pike, of course) prompted us to buy the lodge the following year. For many years we continued the tradition of heading even further north to experience pure wilderness.

And we kept going on many other expeditions over the years, always stepping back in time. We went on long canoe trips on the Thelon and Coppermine rivers where we saw dozens of muskox grazing like cows on the treeless tundra, as we did on a trip to Ellesmere Island, the most northerly part of Canada, and to Victoria Island with its amazing muskox herds. Always we were headed farther and farther north.

To our surprise and joy, we discovered on our first of many “Beaver camping trips” (a blissful way to camp without portaging or paddling), that muskox were much closer to our homebase at Scott. We flew to the Elk River valley near where the Elk River flows out of Rennie Lake, just 120 miles north and saw several herds. Trying to get a close encounter of the muskox kind, we landed on a small lake (probably too small for a safe takeoff but this was a long time ago when floatplane rules were, shall we say, lax) near a lone muskox. I made a stalk over the tundra to get close before I wondered who was stalking who. It was a big old bull, probably tossed out of the herd by a younger, stronger bull. He was either curious or aggressive, but he moved within 50 feet, snorted and did a charge. There were no trees to hide behind, no place to run. Thankfully it turned out to be a bluff-charge. As I contemplated being stomped and gored, he abruptly stopped and moved off. It was a lesson learned: those solo bulls don't like company. The ice age past got a lot closer for me, a little too close. That trip was the start of many annual Beaver camping trips to the Elk River valley and to the junction of the Elk and the Thelon rivers, about 70 miles farther north, where just 25 years ago large herds of caribou could be seen as well as muskox.

Over the years the distance we needed to fly to see muskox has become shorter and shorter. One of the first close-to-home sightings was about a decade ago by Travis Peckham, our Otter pilot for many seasons. Travis was holding on a flyout to Labyrinth Lake, just 50 miles north of the lodge, on a very pleasant summer day when he decided to take a nap on the wing of his plane—Travis was that kind of guy. Awakened from a sound sleep by loud snorting near the plane, he almost fell off the wing as he spun around to see a herd of around 20 of the critters milling around the beach less than 30 feet away. That herd, or parts, are still hanging around Labyrinth. In more recent years, muskox has been spotted just north of Gardiner Lake, only 40 miles from home base. An Ivanhoe sighting, only 30 miles north, was next. Over the past



few years, our pilots, guides and guests started seeing them around most of our northern flyout lakes, like Smalltree, Flett, Wholdaia and Selwyn. It was just a matter of time before they arrived on our shores. That big step back in time landed on the northwest shore of Scott Lake in the summer of 2022. Our head guide, Cory Craig, was fishing with his guests on the edge of Trapper Boat Bay when he encountered an incredible sight—a group of around 30 muskox right on the shoreline. Several young-of-the-year calves were actually splashing in the water like little kids playing. It's all on video. That group, or parts of it, were seen about a dozen times over the summer. It marks the end of a long journey for this remarkable animal of the frozen tundra. It may well have been the first time a muskox had ever set foot (well, hoof) on the shores of Scott Lake. Muskox are animals of the true frozen tundra. Do a Google search and look for range maps. They all show the south edge of muskox range on the south edge of Great Slave Lake, well north of us. What are they doing at Scott Lake?

A little background on this beast, *Ovibos moschatus*, an animal that looks a lot like a bison but is related more closely to wild sheep and goats, is in order. The first muskox in the New World hiked across the Bering Strait Land Bridge about 100,000 years ago. They followed the retreating glaciers to eventually colonize most of northern Canada where now about 110,000 (latest estimate) live, the majority on Banks and Victoria islands, just off the Canada mainland. Another 60,000 call Greenland or Russia home. Just a few hundred survive in Scandinavia. They are big critters, with males weighing 600-900 pounds. Their history in Canada is not pretty. In the late 1800s, with bison wiped out on the US and Canadian prairies a commercial trade developed for muskox hides. Muskox are especially valued for their inner coat hair, a wool called qiviut that has been dubbed “Arctic gold” due to its value as an insulating material, more effective than goose down. Despite living in very remote areas, the herds were hunted down from the countless thousands to a few hundred. They were headed to extinction until the government of Canada declared a total ban on hunting in 1917. Ten years later the establishment of the 20,000 square mile Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary is often credited with saving the muskox in Canada.

It's been a slow trip back from the brink, but populations have recovered and recolonized all their historic range. In some areas like the 9 million acres that encompass the Scott Lake Lodge outfitting territory, they are obviously expanding. The roughly 40,000 air miles a season of floatplane flights to our network of 24 flyout lakes cover, along with our 25-year history of flying north of Scott, provide solid evidence of the increase populations in our area. The scientific research is also clear. In a 2019 paper from the MOXNET group, “Muskox Status, Recent Variation and Uncertain Future”, there



were 12 identified population clusters on the Canadian mainland. Of those, eight are increasing; two are stable; one is decreasing (oddly and sadly the Thelon area, their last stronghold of the early 20th century) and one is of unknown status. The report put the total mainland Canadian population at approximately 44,000. It shows our backyard, a zone between Scott Lake and Great Slave Lake, with only 164 individuals. Our own observations throw this estimate in doubt. That number is low and the mainland Canadian populations are on the move. Just as we have observed muskox right on Scott Lake, including a sighting of a lone bull south of the lodge (in Saskatchewan) by Wayo Lake this summer, there have been, according to Jan Adamczewski, the Northwest Territories muskox expert, reliable reports of muskox along the entire Saskatchewan and Alberta border with the Northwest Territories. He notes that in 2019 a young bull was shot near Fort Chipewyan, deep into Saskatchewan.

According to Jan, when herbivores recolonize a former range, they typically expand populations quickly but later decline and establish an equilibrium with fewer numbers. While many observers have watched muskox populations jump in recent years, the future of this remarkable animal is, unfortunately, cloudy. The warmer arctic temperatures (arctic warming is twice the rate as world-wide warming) have triggered an increase in parasites, mainly lungworm, and have created crusty and icy snow cover, creating difficult conditions for reaching the lichen food supply. Any critter, though, that has survived since the last Ice Age deserves a lot of respect. And the best population survey for our corner of the sub-arctic is conducted every season by our pilots, guides and guests. We know for sure now: the immortal muskox is on a southward march.



Summer 2023

Booking Schedule



Call for Information: 1-888-830-9525
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(10 consecutive days)

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- Round trip on private charter flight from Edmonton, Alberta
- Transfers in Edmonton and Stony Rapids, Saskatchewan
- One night southbound stay (double occupancy) at the Renaissance Hotel in Edmonton
- Complementary Global Rescue medical evacuation insurance
- Experienced guides (one for two fishermen)
- Use of lodge fishing equipment including waders, rods & reels
- 18-foot aluminum boats powered by 40 H.P. motors
- Exceptional accommodations and meals; complementary wine with dinner
- Use of canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, hot tub, sauna, fitness center and all lodge facilities

CALENDAR KEY:

(Sample schedule for 5 day trip shown here)

5 FULL FISHING DAYS

- Day 1 - **Changeover Day** Arrive in Edmonton by 2:30 PM, charter to the lodge for dinner.
- Day 2 - **Fish** Day 3 - **Fish** Day 4 - **Fish** Day 5 - **Fish**
- Day 6 - **Fish** until 3:30 PM and return to Edmonton late that evening.

- = **CHANGEOVER DAY**
Changeover days provide a full day of fishing for departing guests but no fishing for arriving guests.
- = **5 FULL FISHING DAYS**
- = **RESERVED (CORPORATE RETREAT)**

TRAVEL NOTES:

- You need to arrive at the North Cariboo charter facility near the main terminal in Edmonton no later than 2:30 PM on Changeover Day. Our flight to Stony Rapids will leave by 3:30 PM.
- Check with your travel agent regarding flights to Edmonton. Our customer service office can assist you with travel arrangements.
- We strongly recommend arriving in Edmonton the night before your charter departure.
- Travel protection insurance is recommended.

EXTRAS AVAILABLE:

- Flyouts to exciting destinations
- Fishing licenses for Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories will be procured for guests and billed at checkout.
- Massages
- Tackle/Gifts/Clothing
- Cash bar

TERMS:

PAYMENT:

- A non-refundable deposit of \$4,000 USD per person is required to confirm the reservation. The balance is due March 1, 2023.
- There is a \$1,000 USD per person per day stipend for solo anglers. Unless otherwise arranged, for groups with an odd number of members this fee will be applied pro rata to all members of the group.
- Mastercard, Visa or Discover accepted with a 4% convenience fee. Checks or money orders preferred.
- Past due accounts of more than 45 days will result in cancellation of the reservation and forfeiture of all payments made.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

- Forfeiture of all payments previously paid.
- Reservations can be transferred or sold to another party.
- If Scott Lake is able to fill a cancelled reservation, a refund less \$500 USD per person administrative fee will be issued. If a replacement reservation is made at a discount, the discounted amount will be deducted from the refund.

June 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 CD	10
11 WEEK 1	12	13	14 CD	15 WEEK 2	16	17
18	19 CD	20 WEEK 3	21	22	23	24 CD
25 WEEK 4	26	27	28	29 CD	30 WEEK 5	

July 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 WEEK 5
2	3	4 CD	5 WEEK 6	6	7	8
9 CD	10 WEEK 7	11	12	13	14 CD	15
16 WEEK 8	17	18	19 CD	20 WEEK 9	21	22
23	24 CD	25 WEEK 10	26	27	28	29 CD

August 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
July 30	31	1	2	3 CD	4 WEEK 11	5 WEEK 12
6	7	8 CD	9 WEEK 13	10	11	12
13 CD	14 WEEK 14	15	16	17	18 CD	19
20 WEEK 15	21	22	23 CD	24 WEEK 16	25	26
27 CD	28 WEEK 17	29	30	31		

September 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 CD	2
3 WEEK 18	4	5	6 CD	7 WEEK 19	8	9
10	11 CD	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUPER ²⁰²² SIZED



Bill Calabresa with Guide Jan Phoenix

Pike: 45+

Hanna, Paul	49	Bixby, Scott	47
Booth, Cole	48	Conley, Ken	47
Delaney, Tim	48	Denney, Kevin	47
Jennings, Clayton	48	Dog, Big	47
Mataczynski, Craig	48	Godden, Andrew	47
Wortz, Allen	48	Godden, Cam	47
Bandt, Rachael	47.5	Green, John	47
Flynn, Jim	47.5	Kreiling, John	47
Williamson, Leland	47.5	Lee, Todd	47

Manship, Mike	47	Word-Booth, Jessica	46	Larson, Carrie	45
Manship, Nick	47	Emens, Dick	45.5	Larson, Grant	45
McGraw, Bill	47	Hunt, Don	45.5	Larson, Greg	45
Myhre, Peter	47	Martin, Justin	45.5	Loughran, Jason	45
Sparks, Carl	47	Novicki, Joe	45.5	Luke, Don	45
Farrow, Scott	46.5	Sackash, Mike	45.5	Massie, Darrel	45
Kozlowski, Steve	46.5	Stanford, Jeremy	45.5	Matthew, Tom	45
Lynch, Patrick	46.5	Tallman, Jim	45.5	Moulopoulos, Aris	45
Tenney, David	46.5	Tallman, Nick	45.5	Noble, Bob	45
Walker, Bret	46.5	Wallace, Dave	45.5	Noble, Suzanne	45
Calabresa, Bill	46	Abernathy, Taylor	45	Rau, Bill	45
Coleman, Eli	46	Alfert, Max	45	Reese, Rhys	45
Fierbaugh, Tim	46	Anderson, Bill	45	Replogle, John	45
Gibson, Tim	46	Anderson, David	45	Robertson, Ketta	45
Keys, Jack	46	Berg, Jeff	45	Rosenberg, Levi	45
Kozlowski, Bruce	46	Box, Paul	45	Rosenberg, Todd	45
Lee, Paula	46	Brown, Kim	45	Rowland, Paul	45
Leonovicz, Peter	46	Cohen, Sim	45	Saraka, Susan	45
O'Donnell, Dave	46	Ellis, Chris	45	Smith, Bob	45
Purpura Sr, Ross	46	Faggen, Gavin	45	Snyder, Joel	45
Sawchuk, Dawson	46	Graf, Mark	45	Strobel, Mike	45
Sun, Frances	46	Guthrie, Cody	45	Thomas, Matt	45
Thome, David	46	Harris, Julieanne	45	Thornbrugh, Mike	45
Wanasek, John	46	Hassett, Jamie	45	Wehl, Marvin	45
Williamson, Bill	46	Heile, Bernie	45	Williamson, Lachlan	45
Williamson, Jim	46	Kozlowski, Brian	45		
Williamson, Wes	46	Kusar, Trent	45		



Andy Johnston

Lake Trout: 40+

Bohac, Shanna	46	Kracum, John	41
Graf, Mark	45.5	Kracum, Rich	41
Pace, Rod	44.5	Madonia, Tony	41
Chadwell, Bob	44	Snyder, Ed	41
Snyder, Liz	44	Spork, Ron	41
Tune, Joel	43.5	Williamson, Bill	41
Walker, Bret	43.5	Yocum, Mark	41
Allen, Cooper	43	Abraham, Doug	40.5
Degaetani, Nick	43	Bohac, Larry	40.5
Hall, Eric	43	Boone, Sonya	40.5
Pace, Austin	43	Johnston, Andy	40.5
Thompson, Lonnie	43	Loken, Jim	40.5
Fierbaugh, Tim	42.5	Hassett, Jamie	40
Brown, Kim	42	Jones, Terry	40
Hassett, Kevin	42	Kreiling, Jason	40
O'Leary, Maureen	42	Peterson, Scott	40
Purcell, Julia	42	Rau, Bill	40
Wright, Rory	42	Scott, Winfield	40
Fierbaugh, Chris	41.5	Smith, Bob	40
Bixler, Cindy	41	Swindlehurst, Dave	40
Edwards, Kevin	41	Tallman, Jim	40
Flynn, Karen	41	Wilson, Scott	40



Amy Towers with Guide Jan Phoenix

Grayling: 18+

MacDougall, Jim	20.5	Edwards, Susan	19	Cannon, Marty	18.5
Emens, Dick	20	Graf, Mark	19	Graf, Rebecca	18.5
Ermer, Brian	20	Heile, Bernie	19	King, Charlie	18.5
Light, Peggy	19.5	Johnston, Andy	19	Morse, Mark	18.5
Albright, Dana	19.5	Kracum, Rich	19	Peterson, Scott	18.5
Barth, Paul	19.5	Novicki, Joe	19	Purcell, Julia	18.5
Rowland, Paul	19.5	Peters, Gratz	19	Santry, Peter	18.5
Smith, Bob	19.5	Robbins, Ryan	19	Sheldon, Scott	18.5
Towers, Amy	19.5	Russell, Bill	19	Wehl, Marvin	18.5
Towers, Jeff	19.5	Thornbrugh, Mike	19	Williamson, Lachlan	18.5
Tune, Joel	19.5	Troop, Andrew	19	Acri, Armond	18
Stanford, Chad	19	Wamsted, Ron	19	Berg, Jeff	18
Brown, Kim	19	Wehl, Nancy	19	Calabresa, Bill	18
Degaetani, Nick	19	Woods, Jeff	19	Diaz, Mike	18
				Edwards, Kevin	18
				Garijo, Xavier	18
				Gerber, Ted	18
				Hambright, Jim	18
				Hoover, Ernest	18
				Kracum, John	18
				Massie, Darrel	18
				Maybury, Chris	18
				Purcell, Thomas	18
				Reese, Rhys	18
				Sparks, Carl	18
				Stanford, Brooks	18
				Tallman, Nick	18



SCOTT LAKE LODGE
1634 N. STEVENS STREET
RHINELANDER, WI 54501

Change Service Requested

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SCOTT LAKE LODGE
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