



Hasbala LAKE LODGE Highlites

FALL 2005



“Where the Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Borders Meet”

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OUR “2005” SEASON IS IN THE BOOKS, and as I sit here looking back on it, I cannot help but appreciate all that Hasbala Lake provides myself and guests. Once again Hasbala Lake provided it’s challenges, beauty, peace, excitement and wonderful fishing. We made new friends and seen some old ones again.

As always...I first want to thank all of you who visited us this summer, myself and staff enjoyed hosting you and appreciate your patronage. We hope you had a good time.

Although of course the fishing is the main thing and I will get into that a bit later, after each season, I like to reflect upon the time just spent up at the lodge. There is always something that sticks out in my mind, often it’s the fishing, sometimes the weather, like last year with the record late spring break-up. This year it’s the fishing and the wildlife seen.

My guests do love fishing but they also enjoy nature and seeing the wildlife. As usual there were the moose, cows with their calves and big bulls. I especially remember one early beautiful morning when a cow decided to wade out in the river mouth across the bay from the lodge and the guests getting a big kick out it. We saw our share of Bears and the Whistling Swans, Bald Eagles and Ospreys were all back. However Ma Marten had moved out from under the lodge, so we didn’t have any young ones running around this year.

This year we also experienced some rarities, Wolverines and Wolves, they are always there they just don’t show themselves very often. I’d like to tell you about the wolf....

As you may know wolves are not social butterflies by any means. As a pack...they rank right up there at the top of the food chain. I’ve been in this game for 20 years and been close to a wolf once, that is until this year when a lone wolf provided me with one of the most memorable experiences I’ve had in this business and to tell you the truth I still do not really yet know why...but it was.

One afternoon myself and a couple of guests were in the veranda chatting, when one of them said “Mo for xxxxx sake there’s a xxxx wolf.” Sure enough about 30 feet away there was this big lone wolf staring at us. He hung around for an hour or so, showing himself once in awhile... then left.

I had pretty well forgot about the wolf but every once in awhile I’d wonder if he’d show up again. I don’t know why...but I really wished he would...actually I knew he would...I still can’t explain that either.



Otto Genutis & Rene Durocher



Mike Weathers

“NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY”

Three weeks later I was alone in camp & outside working on the solar batteries when I saw a large animal out of the corner of my eye.... very close. My natural instinct was to think bear, jump a bit more than 3 feet in the air and beat a hasty retreat to the lodge. In my retreat I managed a quick glance back...there was no bear it was the wolf... he'd come back...just like I knew he would.

We stood there no more than 15 feet apart looking at each other for a minute or two, me with this still unexplainable feeling of total serenity and a strong sense of attachment to that wolf and him with his head tilted and a look on his face as if he was trying to figure out what the heck I was. I then turned around and calmly walked into the lodge, the wolf hung around for a minute or two and disappeared.

Now I know this sounds corny...but for the rest of the day and a few after, I had a feeling of total peace and serenity and I couldn't figure out why...still can't. This from a guy with a terrible fear of dogs...toy poodles freeze me in my tracks!

Knowing Pierre Besskeystare had a spiritual attachment to nature far stronger than mine, I asked him if he had ever had such an experience in all his years spent in the bush on his trap line when he had returned to camp from guiding. Pierre told me it happened to him once. One winter morning he stepped out of his trapping cabin and there was a wolf ten feet away staring at him...he also told me the wolf was not going to hurt me that afternoon, but I knew that when it happened. He also told me it meant that I would have good luck, I hope he's right.

I still think of that wolf often and I am still trying to figure out those feelings I had that day, I think I might for years to come. Maybe I got a little Indian in me. Sorry, I had to tell the story.

NOW LET'S GET FISHING....

THE PIKE FISHING was very good most of the time, it usually is...however we do get those days where they are there teasing the guests but won't bite, I guess you can call it "role reversal". The northern pikes were in prime shape right from the get go this year, as the photos show. Many guests were landing 42-44" pike that looked like they would weigh up like normal 48" fish. That's one thing about northern pikes...you can land a fat, happy and healthy 42-44" fish and she will look much more impressive than a skinny 48" fish.

Guests were catching northern pikes in all slot sizes again this year. Actually we want our guests catching small fish along with big ones...it means our fishery is in good shape. We've got to have the younger fish coming up to replace the older and bigger fish...it's essential for the long term health of the fishery.



THE LAKE TROUT took awhile to go down in the holes this year, up to mid July the guests were still catching trout when fishing for northerns in 4 to 6 feet of water. The summer was unusually wet and cool so I think thats the reason for it, but what do I know.

I had a couple guests at the beginning of July who fished exclusively for lakers in the holes and were landing 25-35 trout a day, but were marking fish all over the lake and at all depths... so they were still spread out all over the lake. This is a comment I often receive from my guests who are “veteran lake trout fishermen”..... “in all their year’s of fishing, they have not seen a lake where the lake trout are all over the place like they are at Hasbala.”

Hasbala Lake has a lot of deep and fresh water, a lot of bait fish and a lot of lake trout, we cannot and will not guarantee you a big one, but we can honestly say you will likely have lots of action fishing for lake trout at Hasbala Lake. And yes, you may catch a trophy. This year one of my guest’s who is a real good lake trout fisherman told me I’ll have a very good lake trout fishery for many years to come if I manage it properly. He went on to say why....the lake trout habitat is exceptional and all slot sizes are well represented.

ARCTIC GRAYLING FISHING was as usual, when the bugs are bad, the grayling are good. And as per usual, when the guests were fishing grayling, lake trout and pike would strike and on ultra lite gear and in fast water a fun time was then had by all. Several grayling of 19 inches and over were caught.

One of these days we are going to really check out the inflow river on the southend of Hasbala Lake for grayling, it has several sets of rapids that I’m sure have grayling, it’s finding the time. Then there are the “day use” lakes in Manitoba, we haven’t even fished for them over there simply because our guests get over there, get into the pike and forget about everything else.

THE MANITOBA MASTER ANGLER PROGRAM was once again a big success, it always is, it’s a great program, the guests really enjoy it. You Master Anglers should be getting your certificates early in the new year and remember, you will also be listed in the Manitoba Fishing & Hunting Adventures Guide.



Steve Aussenhus



“Rene just doin his job at Grayling River”



Steve Aussenhus



Ron Opatril



Kevin Mark

WE HAVE A FEW OTHER PLANS FOR 2006... time permitting of course (in this business nature let's you get in just a few days before the first guests arrive (lately it's been less than a few days) then it's get the place in shape, then it's look after your guests for the rest of the summer)

"THE KUSSMAUL BOY'S"



We will be putting a 2nd boat over at the Manitoba day use lakes. I have wanted to put another boat over there for years as I always felt a bit uncomfortable with just the one boat. With two boats we won't have to worry if one happens to have motor trouble. There is enough fishing water over there for 3-4 boats but I want to keep it at two. As those of you who have fished this chain of five smaller lakes know the pike fishing is something else. There is also lake trout and grayling fishing, but our guests get over there, get into the pike and completely forget about everything else.



LEDFORD LAKE OUTPOST IS A GO...we have now received final government approval for the outpost camp on Ledford Lake. If everything goes "According To Hoyle" we'll get it built in the fall of "2006". Ledford Lake Outpost will accommodate up to four guests.



I HAVE TO END WITH A REQUEST...This summer, guide Rene Durocher asked me if Ronnie Misponas one of the other guides had told me about the northern one of his guests caught 2-4 years ago, he hadn't. So I asked Ronnie about it and he said yeah...one day he had two of his guests over at the day use lakes and they had a bet on for the biggest fish. One of the guests landed a 42" pike and figured he'd won the fifty bucks...but a little later the other guest caught a bit bigger one, quite a bit bigger...**53 inches** to be exact. I asked Ronnie if it was fat and he said it was, I don't know what the fish would have weighed...I do know it would have been a lot.



Ronnie remembers the guests took pictures and it was 2-4 years ago, the two guests were young men at the lodge with their fathers, that's it. I would sure like a picture of that pike. If it is true...that fish is the largest fish we have ever caught at the lodge, heck in going back on the Manitoba Master Angler records, it's the 6th biggest Master Angler Pike caught in Manitoba since 1991 the year the program began. So, if you are reading this and caught that fish, please get hold of me. I will trade you some **Genuine Canadian Maple Syrup** for a photograph of your fish.

I guess that's it for now, I hope you enjoyed reading about our "2005" season and some of my plans and dreams for the future. If you would like to discuss a "2006" fishing trip, please contact me at any time. Have a good winter!

Mo Miller Owner/Operator Hasbala Lake Lodge

