



Hasbala HIGHLITES

HASBALA
LAKE LODGE

“2006 SEASON”



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

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OUR “2006” SEASON IS NOW COMPLETE and it was the year of the “BIG PIKE” but more importantly to myself, Rene, Ronnie, Pierre and Joseph, “HAPPY GUESTS”.

I like or want to think all of our Guests were happy when they got on the Otter to return home and that is really our “bottom line”. Our Guests this year were as nice a bunch of people I have had the privilege to meet in my twenty one years in this business. We had lots of Repeat Guests and all our New Guests were great people...it was a fun year and we hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

MYSELF, RENE, RONNIE, PIERRE AND JOESPH WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR COMING UP TO HASBALA LAKE THIS YEAR, WE REALLY DID ENJOY HOSTING EVERY ONE OF YOU!

As I mentioned, our guests caught some Big Pike this year...actually some very big Pike. One of our Guests...Dennis Anderson landed a 52”Pike and it may be one of the biggest Pike caught anywhere this year. Dennis sure seems to have a knack for catching big Pike...last year he also landed some very nice fish.

Mike Opatril caught a 49 inch Northern and Dave Smith a 47” fish and Steve Ausenus landed one 42½ inches weighing 30 pounds, he also landed some really nice fish last year including a trophy Lake Trout and Grayling.

Big Pike can look or appear skinny at times as they are either on the “downhill” or just their length in itself can make them appear thinner than they really are, the fish I have just mentioned were not scrawny!

Then we cannot forget all of the Northerns our Guests caught in the 38”- 45” range & there were lots of them. I would have to say our “2006” Pike Fishing was as good as we have ever had. Sure, we had a couple times where it was a bit slower...but overall, I do think it’s the best I’ve seen.



DENNIS ANDERSON 52” PIKE

MORE PIKE....

“A PICTURE IS WORTH APPROXIMATELY 1,000 OF MY WORDS”



MICHEAL OPATRIL 49" PIKE



DAVE SMITH 47"



STEVE AUSENHUS 42.5" PIKE



ED OPATRIL 46" PIKE



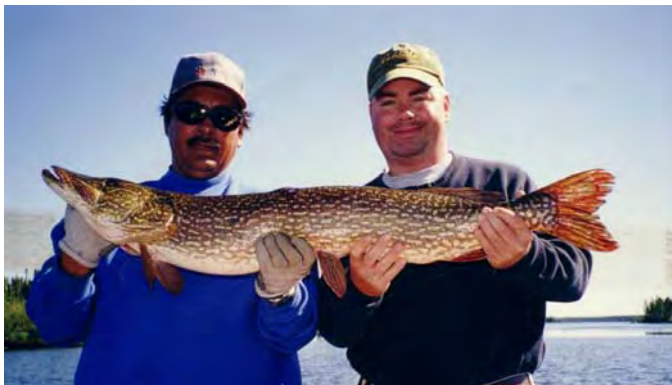
STEVE AUSENHUS 42" PIKE



KERI OHREN 44" PIKE



KERI OHREN 42" PIKE



CHIP BATTLES 43" PIKE



CHIP BATTLES 41" PIKE

MORE FISHING...

“IN 2004 CHIP CAUGHT A GRAYLING, PIKE AND LAKE TROUT THAT TOTALLED NEARLY 100 INCHES IN LENGTH...IN ONE DAY!

LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT SOME MORE OF OUR GUEST'S PIKE.....



JACK FETIG 44" PIKE



NATHAN FETIG 41" PIKE



JOHN MOODY 42" PIKE



"THE TWO RONNIES"



DENNIS ANDERSON 44" PIKE



CONNOR MCMAHON'S PIKE



LYNN OPATRIL 42 1/2" PIKE



"THE OPATRIL'S CATCH ALL KIND'S OF PIKE DON'T THEY"

MORE FISHING...

OUR ARCTIC GRAYLING FISHING was the same as it always is...good. Over the years our Guests consistently land and release Arctic Grayling that rank right at or near the top of the Manitoba Master Angler list and this year will be no exception. Not only did our Guests catch some nice Grayling, the numbers were pretty good with fish in all slot sizes, which we want to see. It seems we are getting more and more fly-fisherman every year and it seems they have the best luck with the Arctic Grayling.



CONNER MCMAHON AGAIN



DAVE ODDEN 19" GRAYLING



STEVE AUSENHUS 19 1/2" GRAYLING

LAKE TROUT numbers were as per usual. We just can't seem to get our Guests serious about Lake Trout, they get into the Northern Pike and then forget all about the Lake Trout. However...those that will spend a few hours on the Lakers will invariably land 10-20 trout in the 3-8 pound range and have lots of fun in doing it...as the average Lake Trout will give you a better fight than a good sized Pike.

And once again...we were reminded Hasbala Lake is loaded with Lakers by the number of

fish our Guests did land and the fact that they were spread out over the whole lake...at both shallow and deep depths throughout most of our season. Once again it was nice to see that all slot sizes were being caught, with several in the 12 to 14 lb. range.

Our Guests also caught lots of Lakers on their ultralite gear while over at the river fishing for Grayling and as you can imagine, that adds up to a lot of fun, I remember one guest saying he caught 7-9 Lakers this way...one day...he also caught the same amount of Grayling.



DENNIS ANDERSON WITH A NICE TROUT



"RENE HOLDING A DICK JENSEN TROUT"

TO SUM UP OUR "2006 Fishing"....it was very good. We like to say if you come up to Hasbala Lake...you will get lot's of action and your chance of landing a trophy is excellent. Hasbala Lake is loaded with fish in all 3 species and that's the reason that we can offer our Guests some very good fishing and it sure ain't an hour's boat ride away.

I OFTEN SAY TO MYSELF AND MY GUESTS....

”THE FISHIN AIN’T EVERYTHING”

And once again it was great to just spend time up at Hasbala Lake...it is beautiful, unspoiled country and if I have anything to do with it.... **that’s the way it will stay!**

“My” wolf was back...a little bigger and more beautiful than ever and this year I managed to to get a photo, he stayed around for just a few minutes and then disappeared but it was good to see him again. He will be back next year, I know he will.

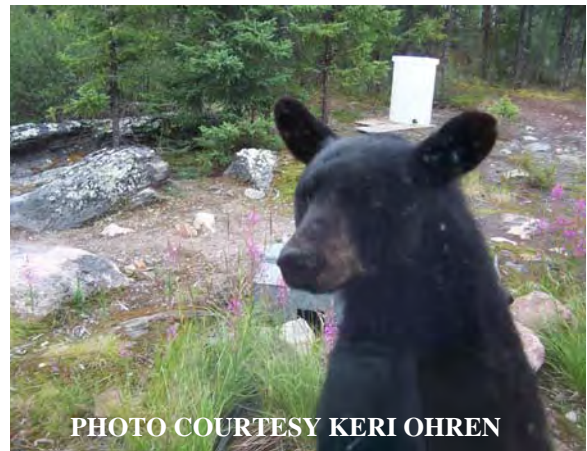
Our bush rabbits that reside under the lodge must have had a prolific year...don’t rabbits always...as we had the little rabbits running all over the place. For a guy who is in camp alone pretty well every day, they are a good source of entertainment, simple eh.

Then we had a young black bear wander into camp early one evening, take a look in pretty well every window and then casually wander off...no harm done.

The sunsets and rises were as wonderful as they always are and one of the main reasons I get up at 3am. And the air was as clear and clean as a real good Vodka....it always is up there.

Our Moose, Bald Eagles, Osprey, Swans & numerous song birds were all back again.

And to top it all off...for a couple months I don’t have a clue what the heck is going on in this crazy world of ours and that in itself is very important to me...I’m realizing.



MORE NEWS FROM “2006” AND SOME OF OUR PLANS FOR “2007”

OUR MANITOBA MASTER ANGLER PROGRAM went great again this year, our Guests really enjoy participating in it. This year we averaged almost one Master Angler Fish per Guest. That is, if we divide our number of Master Angler Fish by the number of Guests we come very close to one Master Angler Fish per Guest. The minimum size of fish for this program is quite high, as an example for Pike it's 41 inches, if you also take into consideration the Pike caught in the 38-40 inch category... which is still a real nice fish, our Guests landed an awful lot of impressive Northern Pike this year.

I've mailed in all your Manitoba Master Angler application forms, you should receive your badges and certificates early in the New Year. Some of you will be near the top of the provincial list for Northern Pike and Arctic Grayling when the 2006 book is out.

THE INDOOR COMPOST TOILETS we installed this year worked wonderfully, I was impressed. We will have the shower in the separate guest cabin ready to go for the "2007" season. As you know we had everything in place but didn't have time to get it hooked up this year.

WAKULA AND TANUCK our Manitoba "walk in lakes" were absolutely great again this year. When one of our Guest returns from spending a day over there the scenario is almost always the same...they walk up to the lodge with a grim look on their face...the other guests relaxing in the porch having a drink will ask them how it went... the reply is... "no fish"...then a smile begins to appear...then the truth begins to come out...and in tremendously great detail...I might add. I get a kick out of it. I can't remember when less than 50 fish were caught, often it's a lot more.

We have received permission to put two boats over at Wakula so in "2007" we will be sending four Guests at a time over there but the "Only One Visit Per Guest" policy will still apply as we do not want to ruin a good thing.

OUR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM will see some changes in "2007".

Beginning with our "2007" season we are going to request that our guests not use gang hooks or multiple treble hooks on the same lure. Our guests will be asked to remove all but one of the treble hooks.

We must reduce the "die off" rate on caught and released fish, most of our guests catch a tremendous number of fish, over the season it amounts to many thousand. The mortality rate even with our "catch and release" program is estimated at 10% by most biologists, it does not take a nuclear scientist to realize that if we do not reduce the die-off rate, eventually the quality of our fishery will begin to erode.

I feel it is my responsibility to do everything possible in this regard. We do want as good a fishery in 15-20 years as we have now, if possible.

OUR "2007" SEASON STARTS SATURDAY JUNE 9TH and our seven day Guest Packages will run Saturday to Saturday...so our first group will come in on June 9th and depart on June 16th and so on, if you are working out a possible trip date. We will be able to get most guests right up to the lodge in the same day. For the trip home you will overnite Saskatoon Saturday and depart early Sunday AM for home arriving early afternoon. Using "Saturday to Saturday" our Guests lose less workdays.

WESTWIND AVIATION CHARTERS will be used as much as possible for Guest travel between Saskatoon and Points North, return. It'll be a direct flight and take one hour and fifty minutes. The people at Westwind Aviation are very professional.



Jetstream 31 - Turbo Prop

- may be configured for 11, 15, or 19 passengers
- pressurized and air conditioned
- cruising speed 280 mph
- range 1100 miles
- hostess service is available on request

2007 WILL BE OUR TENTH YEAR AT HASBALA and we will be doing something special to mark the occasion. Maybe we'll put out a special anniversary cap or jacket and something else. I have some other ideas but haven't made a final decision but will post it on our website, when I do. Anybody have any ideas? The time has flown by, I can remember landing on the ice, putting up the tent and it being 30 below and three feet of snow the first night I spent at Hasbala Lake...I can also very clearly remember wondering what the hell I got myself into!

OUR "2007" GUEST PACKAGE RATES have not been finalized yet. And to tell you the truth, I am having a terrible time setting them. However...I can tell you they are going to have to go up a bit because of the darned exchange rate. It has narrowed from 1.52% to right around 1.10% and that translates into lot's of dollars right off the top. There is one other thing I can tell you...the price increase will be kept as low as possible and our prices will still be quite reasonable compared to most "far north" lodges.

I will post the "2007" Guest Packages on our website as soon as I arrive at them. We will have this done within 2-3 weeks.

As I receive more photos from my guests, I will post on our website.

Well, I guess that's it for now. Thanks again to all of you folks who came up to Hasbala Lake in "2006". Everybody take care and have a good winter!

Mo Miller Owner/Operator Hasbala Lake Lodge