

"Where the Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Borders Meet"

# HASBALA HIGHLIGHTS

2008 Season

Issue no. Three

hasbalalake.com

FEEDBACK TO:  
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The 2008 season came and went.  
Many Trophies were caught.

We are very remote  
and located in a  
beautiful, unspoiled  
sub-arctic  
wilderness.

VISIT  
[WWW.HASBALALAKE.COM](http://WWW.HASBALALAKE.COM) TO  
SEE 2008'S PHOTOS

## COMMERCIALIZING HASBALA?

We have talked about expanding the lodge and have decided to keep it small and maybe even restrict the amount of guests that we book each year. We have great fishing on Hasbala as well as the other lakes in our lease and we plan...

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## WILDLIFE AND SIGHTSEEING

We saw several wolves; we had one bear in camp a couple of times but he was scared off and did not return. Pierre, Terrie and Robert saw a Wolverine and Pierre told me it had been many years since he had seen one there.

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## OUR FISHING AT HASBALA

Terrie Long is one guy that did very well this year at camp. Terrie will be awarded 5 Master Angler Awards from Manitoba. guys that has achieved the Grand Slam getting large trophy fish in all 3 species at Hasbala.

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*Many upgrades were made in 2008 pg. 3*



*Our guests 2008 on pg. 6*



*Rhonus tempor placentat.*

Due to the size of Hasbala Lake, our "good fishing" is not an hour's boat ride away! There is wonderful grayling fishing only 500 yards from the lodge.



Hasbala Lake Lodge 2008 Season



Ron Opatril, Owner

## UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The 2008 Fishing season is in the books and we learned a great deal. This was our first season running the lodge on our own after purchasing the Lodge from **Mo Miller** in September 07. Ed and I had a great time and did not want to leave the lodge at the end of the season. It is understandable that Mo is missing the lodge, lake, the guests, guides and atmosphere of Hasbala Lake Lodge.

## SMALL LODGE. BIG MEMORIES.

We made friends with our new guests at the lodge and enjoyed the company of our return guests as always.

One thing that all guests agreed on is that they like the small lodge and the atmosphere. Hasbala is a special place and once you are on the dock after the float plane ride in, you do not see anyone except the 7 other guests that you arrive with and the crew. We have talked about expanding the lodge and have decided to keep it small and

maybe even restrict the amount of guests that we book each year. We have great fishing on Hasbala as well as the other lakes in our lease and we plan to keep it that way. Our catch and release and barb less hooks program is providing all the guests great fishing! When we bought the lodge we did so thinking it would be our summer getaway when we retire. Now we want to spend more time there and even sooner than we had expected.

## RON AS A GUIDE?

This year one of our guides (Ronnie) twisted an ankle before the season so we made do and I got a chance to be a guide for several of our guests. Pierre and Rene were there this season and both did a great job with all the guests catching lots of fish and some Trophy's along the way! We want to thank each and every one of our guests for their visit and we enjoyed each and every one of you.

## DICK JENSEN

Dick Jensen was back with us this year and we are especially thankful for his visit! He has been coming up north for 38 years and told us upon his departure this would be his last year for his Northern fishing trips.

He will continue to fish closer to home and hopefully will keep in touch. Dick left all of his gear for use by guests that may need a pole or gear when theirs is lost by the airline which as we all know, almost never happens....

We really enjoyed Dick's company and wish him the best in the future! He did tell me that in his 38 years of visiting the North he has never experienced the quality of cooking that Ed provided this year. Ed is a wonderful cook and baker and also surprised us with Ice Cream this year. What a treat, home made brownies and Vanilla Ice Cream on my Birthday!



## MY BIRTHDAY AT THE LODGE.

We got into the lake on June 16th, my birthday. I can't think of a better place to spend a special day.

Hasbala was clear of ice, but as we flew in we could see that Kasba Lake just north of us in the Northwest Territories was almost all ice. The weather for the first week was a little chilly and we had some rain, but it really did not present a major problem as we had lots of work to do.

## UPGRADES TO THE LODGE.

This year, as promised we did the upgrades to Hasbala Lake Lodge. We had help from Dave Morris, my brother Lynn, John Moody, Ed's son Joey and of course Pierre and Rene.



We moved lots of rock to make a safe walkway from the dock to the lodge. You will see photos of the work and it really looks good and makes the walk much safer for all. We also remodeled the inside of one guest cabin and finished up the bathroom with shower and all. Dave and Lynn worked very hard on the cabin.

We also built new bunk beds and brought in new mattresses for them. The guests all commented that the beds were very comfortable. The work crew also built the new floating dock

once the floats and all materials arrived, it showed up late but they got it completed and it looks and works great!



John Moody did a great job of rewiring the solar system and it is very organized and really looks good!

The first week ended way too soon and the friends and family that worked so hard headed home. We did get in the new Lund boat and 30HP motor and it worked out quite well. We may bring in another new boat next year, but that depends on the bookings for next year.

## THE BIG BAD BEAUTIFUL WOLVES!

June 23rd was our first week of fishing and we had a great group of guys, just like the other weeks. Mo's grey and white wolf returned this year, that is 4 years in a row. Ed and Joey were face to face with the wolf for quite awhile. It was about 11:30 p.m., Richard Boyce also got a view of the wolf and they were eye to eye for some time. Ed says the eyes on the wolf were blue and the wolf showed more curiosity than anything. This Grey and White Wolf stayed around for 30 minutes or so and left never to return for the season.

We did see a great big white wolf across the bay a couple of times. Once he even swam out to a small island and looked around before swimming back and disappearing into the bush. He walked the shore of the bay 2 days in a row to the amazement of all the guests. Everyone had time to look at him through the binoculars and Alex even had a spotting scope, he was a beautiful animal!

Terrie Long saw another wolf while were Grayling fishing on the river but none of the wolves cared to stay around. It sure is nice to be able to see these animals while on our trips to Hasbala.

## This year was a good year for sighting the wildlife in the area.

### IT'S AMAZING TO SEE AN EAGLE FLY.

We saw several wolves; we had one bear in camp a couple of times but he was scared off and did not return. Pierre, Terrie and Robert saw a Wolverine and Pierre told me it had been many years since he had seen one there.

Rene spotted a Moose up river and of course we saw an amazing amount of bird life this season. I am sure it is due to Alex Gray and his motivation for us to keep an eye out for the birds at Hasbala. Alex came up to do just that, watch birds. He is a true gentleman and made

our lives better for knowing him and what he taught us. I have never really watched for all of our feathered friends but caught myself watching and looking at each an every movement I saw.

We saw eagles, osprey, a White Swan and all the other usual suspects. Alex saw 48 different species if my memory serves me right, I was amazed that there would be so many different species at Hasbala.



*A small native frog*



*A young Eagle in Hasbala.*



# Hasbala is for the true fisherman looking for an adventure. We'll Fly you there!

## AT HASBALA, YOU'LL NEVER BE A NUMBER!

This season was no exception at the outer lakes; the guests did well and had great fun and a little adventure on the short walks to the other lakes. Pierre and John blazed a trail to one of the lakes he had visited last year and each guest got a chance to sample the fishing there. Pike and Trout abound in this lake and it is a short walk to some great Arctic Grayling fishing. Harry Baker and I took an entire day to work the river for Arctic Grayling and it was well worth it. We also caught some very nice trout in the river, they were big and great fighters. They are fun to catch but do not get with the jumping program like the Grayling...

Terrie Long is one guy that did very well this year at camp. Terrie will be awarded 5 Master Angler Awards from Manitoba. He fished hard each and every day and has told me in e mail since his return that we met his expectations and more. He is one of the few guys that has achieved the Grand Slam getting large trophy fish in all 3 species at Hasbala. Northern Pike or Jack as the locals call them, Lake Trout and Arctic Grayling were all caught and released by Terrie and he has photos of them that will provide great memories for a lifetime!

We had some great fishermen at the lodge this season, Dick and Herb Boyce caught many fish and some trophies and the father son team of Bob and Bryan Singelyn caught more than their fair share of fish and trophies as well. Mark Parker and Robert Frederic also had a great fishing experience with us this year.

### KEEP HASBALA LAKE LODGE THE SAME?

Hasbala Lake Lodge is a very small lodge on Hasbala Lake and we are the only lodge on the lake.

Much of the lake is virtually unfished most of the time because the lake has never been heavily fished.

Ed and I have talked about it and plan to keep Hasbala Lake Lodge the same size and we will not expand our operations and we do not want to be a big business like so many of the lodges are up north. Some lodges advertise that they are the most remote lodge in northern Saskatchewan. My guess is they have never visited Hasbala because if they had, they would not put that claim on their brochures and web sites.

We will continue to do our very best to make our guest very comfortable, give them good meals, clean comfortable beds, a good shower, great fishing and get to know each and every one of them and all of this is only possible in a place like Hasbala.



*You will never be a number at our lodge, and you won't have long boat rides to the best fishing spots on the lake. You will not have to worry about other boats on the lake taking the best spots because there are no other fishermen on the lake. You and the other 7 guests have the entire area to yourselves, lakes, rivers and trials. This guys, is a place where dreams come true!!*

# Get away from it all at Hasbala Lake Lodge. It's as good as it gets!

I have asked many of this years guests if they mind that I publish their e-mail addresses. The response has been great but I have decided not to do it for security reasons for them. I will however send you those names and e-mail addresses if you want to speak to them about their experience at Hasbala Lake Lodge.

Please ask them about the accommodations, the food, the fishing and the guides. I am sure you will like what you hear and you will want to book a trip for next season.

Ed and I have decided to only accept a maximum of 8 weeks reservations for next season. We know it is limiting the amount of money we could make, but we have decided that quality is much more important than quantity. We want to

make sure that the fishing stays the way it is and never want that to change.

We also have made a commitment to keep the lodge in good shape and do upgrades when needed but want to keep it a bit rustic, and a place to really get away from it all. We may add a dish next year for communication but do not want the outside world to spoil the remoteness and the serenity of Hasbala Lake Lodge.

This off season we will upgrade the web site and print some new brochures. We also hope to be able to sell our Hasbala Lake Lodge hats, shirts, jackets, rain gear and other accessories on the new site.

We will work on the new packages and pricing for the 09 season and we look forward to seeing all of you next season.

*If any of you has not sent me your photos I would really appreciate it if you could send them to me so we can use them on the web site and the new brochure.*

*One last note, the Master Angler Awards will go out soon so be watching for your package. We had great trophy fish in all categories and congratulations to all of you, even Harry Baker who did not want the recognition for the great Arctic Grayling he caught this year!!*

*I wish a great year for all of you, it is slow here in Phoenix and these are challenging times for all of us. Have a good winter and we look forward to fishing with you next season at Hasbala Lake Lodge.*

Until then,

*Ron and Ed Opatril*

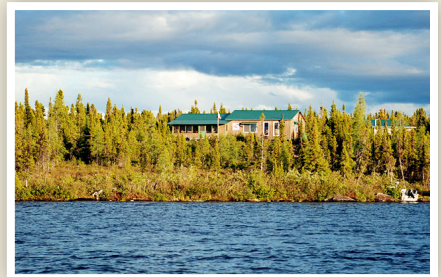
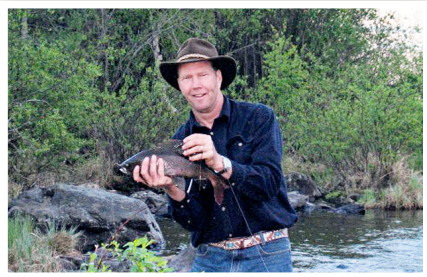


*Our guests in 2009.*



*The Northwest Territories!*







# For The True Fisherman



*A description of the photo will go here.*

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## HASBALA LAKE LODGE

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