

SMALLMOUTH BASS, MUSKIE

WALLEYE

NORTHERN PIKE

JUMBO PERCH, WHITE FISH



### *HOLIDAY GREETINGS.....*

**THE 2009** fishing season at Manotak Lodge can only be described as "The summer that almost was". The fishing was absolutely fantastic but the weather was nothing short of cold and wet. Normally our lake levels decrease slowly through the summer but this year they increased based on how much rain we had throughout the summer. We even had frost one morning in July. Yes, I said "Frost in July".

We now know that our guests are truly diehard fishermen because they made the best of their vacation and fished hard and found that the fishing was nothing short of fantastic all summer long. The comments that we heard most often were that the fish were larger in size and numbers were incredible.

It is hard to believe that the upcoming summer will be our 10th season at Manotak Lodge. Linda & I are very grateful for all of our guests that came to the lodge. We know that economic times are tough and making a decision as to where to spend your vacation dollars can be difficult. We truly hope Manotak Lodge was a good choice.

All summer long Perrault Lake produces Walleyes over 30 inches and this year was no exception but the real story was the larger average size of Walleyes during a normal days catch. We have asked our guests for the past 7 years to release all Walleyes over 18 inches unless they are going to have it mounted by a taxidermist and there is no doubt this is making Perrault Lake one of the best drive-to lakes in Northwest Ontario. With the weather being colder than normal throughout the summer, Walleyes stayed shallower in depth which made them easier to find and it seemed they were biting more often during the day.

We have to admit that we are always impressed at our Northern Pike fishery. We have been told by many of our long time guests that Northern Pike quantities and size of fish were depleted in many lakes across Northwest Ontario back in the 1950's thru the 1980's, and Perrault Lake was no exception. However, today Perrault Lake can boast some of the best Pike Fishing in all of NW Ontario. This is due to catch and release practices. It has always been the goal of a fisherman to catch a Pike over 40 inches and we can honestly say that this was a common occurrence. Casting with small bucktail type baits such as a Mepps Spinner or trolling stick baits were two effective methods for hooking up a toothy critter throughout the summer. Early season a popular method is using a live Sucker minnow using a large circle hook.

When fishermen think of fishing in Ontario the species of Walleye and Northern Pike are usually what come to mind. Most people are not aware that Ontario can have some of the best Smallmouth Bass fishing in the entire World. What our guests are finding out is that Perrault Lake can at least be considered one of the best Smallmouth Bass fisheries in all of Northwest Ontario. Our largest Bass this summer was a 21- 1/4 inch plate size Smallmouth but the average size of our Smallies were consistently 14-18 inchers. Since coming to Manotak Lodge, we have not found a fisherman who will not have a smile on their face after pounding 30 or so Smallies in a typical day. Then you can finish the day by throwing top-water baits such as Rebel Pop-R's near the rock piles in the evening. This will "hook" any fisherman everytime.

Quantities and size of Yellow Perch this summer were very good but locating them was more interesting. The cooler summer temperatures did not allow for weeds to grow as quickly which made the normal spots for Perch to be less productive. However, we definitely found Perch in spots that we normally would not look for them and when they were found, they were huge and in good numbers. We have always asked our guests to only keep Perch that are bigger than 9 inches. This was not a problem this summer. We consistently see Perch 10-13 inches. All in all, Perch fishing was much better this year than last which is somewhat confusing because we always look for warmer temperatures to stir on the Perch which was not the case this summer. What a great bonus.

And last but not least we talk about Muskie's. This was by far one of our best Muskie years for numbers of boated brutes. Time and time again, August & September have been the best months for Musky with this year being no exception. In fact, one week in particular in August there were over 15 Muskie's boated and quite a few more that just followed the bait. Our largest Musky was a 49 inch brute. I said this last year but it is worth repeating. Perrault Lake has always been one of the sleeper (secret) lakes for Musky and that is somewhat how we like it. We do not want all the pressure on our lake like some of the larger lakes in Northwest Ontario gets. We know that is why we catch the fish we do.

**EXCITING NEWS FOR MANOTAK LODGE** are the 6 new upgrade boats that we purchased for the 2010 fishing season. We demo'd a few new boats this past summer with the intent of replacing our 18ft. Alumacrafts fitted with 40hp Yamaha outboards. We had every intention of buying the same boats as our other upgrade boats which are 17.5ft. Lund Outfitters. However, Yamaha Corp. is now producing a boat specifically for resorts under the boat name of G3. You might have seen these G3 boats on your local lakes as Yamaha first introduced them to the consumer retail market. They are now making what looks like a great boat for Manotak Lodge. The head representative for Yamaha in Ontario brought the G3 boat to our lodge this summer and we were impressed with the quality and layout. We will be putting the new 50hp Yamaha outboard with electric trim & tilt on the back of these new boats. Our guests will be able to give us feedback so we are excited to try these new boats.

We will be organizing a new one day fishing contest this summer that will take place each week for Manotak fishing guests. The details of the contest will be explained when you arrive at the lodge. Manotak Lodge apparel will be available to win along with a Trophy Plaque with the engraved names of each week's winners. This plaque will then be displayed at our sport shows the following year. We have been trying to organize this for many years and we are now going to finally implement it. This will not be your normal fishing contest. There will be fun twists to add to the fun and excitement of the contest.

The remote trophy Walleye and Pike "Walk-in" lake that we fully opened in the fall of 2008 is proving to be everything we had hoped it would be; a world class Trophy Lake. For the people that went to this lake this past summer found that the walk to get to the lake is quite wet and muddy. However, the same guests commented that the fishing is incredible and the walk is worth it. In September, we took chain saws along the route to try and cut a dryer path and we believe we have made it more accessible. There are still wet patches but the fishing is still worth the walk. I fished the Walk-in lake this past September along with a good friend of mine and we caught about 45-50 Walleyes in about a half days time and the size ranged from 14 to 22 inches with most being 17-20 inches. We caught a few Pike but nothing on the large size. We do know that a few of our guests this past summer did catch Pike over 40 inches.

**IMPROVEMENTS AT MANOTAK LODGE** continued in 2009. Despite the exorbitant amount of rain this past summer, we were able to paint cabins 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 and our log laundry building. We even painted in the rain as long as the overhang of the building kept us dry. New exterior decks were installed on cabins 1A, 9, 14, and 16. Again, the rain was a challenge to keep tools dry but hats off to our dock hands staying at it diligently. We remodeled the interior bathroom and living area for cabin 14 and replaced the exterior leaning front concrete steps with a new wood deck. The interior additions included a new shower stall, and new laminate flooring throughout the bathroom and living area. We think it looks great. As we have done the past 4 years, new gravel was spread throughout the camp to always keep our driveways in great shape.

**2010 RESERVATIONS** are ahead of schedule with most weeks in May, June and July completely full. With the challenging economy, we know it is difficult to budget vacation dollars and Linda & I are very appreciative that our guests continue fish with us at Manotak Lodge. That being said, we have only increased our prices for a few plans at an average of 2%. Please check out our website for all of the information. The currency exchange of the \$US dollar vs. the \$CDN dollar and the increase in fuel costs have been a challenge for most lodge owners while trying to keep prices in line with the market. We still hope and feel that a Canadian fishing trip to Manotak Lodge is still a good value and we will always try our best to insure your fishing trip is a memorable experience. We also know that the fishing on Perrault Lake will make memories you will not forget and will want to make you come back each year. If you will be sending us your deposit for your 2010 fishing vacation, you can send it to our new Wisconsin address: Manotak Lodge PO Box 318 New London, WI 54961.

**THE 2010 SPORTSHOW** season is right around the corner. We have made a few changes as to which sport shows we will be attending so we hope you will come out and visit with us at our booth. We have added 3 new sport shows to our schedule 2010; St. Louis, MO All Canada Show, Sioux Falls, SD All Canada Show and Dallas, TX All Canada Show. Please see the schedule below and by all means come out and share you're fishing experiences with potential new guests, it really gives meaning to what Manotak Lodge represents and we feel proud as owners.

### **2010 SPORT SHOW SCHEDULE**

#### **JANUARY**

8-10	St. Louis, MO – All Canada Show, St. Charles Convention Center
11-13	Indianapolis, IN – All Canada Show, The Fountains Banquet Center, Carmel IN
14-17	St. Charles, IL–All Canada Show, Pheasant Run Resort
21-24	Milwaukee, WI – All Canada Show, Milwaukee County Sports Complex, Franklin, WI
28-31	Green Bay, WI–All Canada Show, Shopko Hall

#### **FEBRUARY**

5-7	Minneapolis, MN – All Canada Show, Minneapolis Convention Center
8-10	Sioux Falls, SD – All Canada Show, Ramkota Hotel & Conv. Center
19-21	Dallas, TX – All Canada Show, South Fork Ranch, Parker TX

#### **MARCH**

Mar 10-14 Milwaukee, WI–Journal/Sentinel Show, State Fair Park Expo Center

**HOLIDAYS...**We would like to take this time to wish you and your family a very safe and joyous holiday season. Before you know it, the 2010 fishing season will be here and you can start setting hooks into big fish.

## **DID YOU KNOW.....**

Manotak Lodge will be 65 years old this coming summer.

You will fill out a new boater's safety checklist when you arrive at Manotak Lodge for your fishing vacation. It is very simple and easy. It is required in Canada for renters of boats.

That a lot of people wear camouflage clothing when their fishing? Why?

If you bought a fishing license in Ontario this past summer, you should be receiving an Ontario Outdoor Card in the mail prior to the end of this year. If you do not receive the card, give us a call and we will help follow through.

That the gestation period of a Gray Wolf is approx. 63 days and litter size is typically 4-7 pups.

Manotak Lodge uses 5400 eggs and over 700lbs. of flour in the lodge kitchen in a typical summer.

The difference between a hunter and a fisherman? A hunter lies in wait. A fisherman waits and lies.

Manotak Lodge uses approx.

Did you know that a 30+ inch Walleye is typically 12 years old or older.

Black bears are not true hibernators. During their winter dormant period, though, they do not eat, drink, urinate, or defecate but may wake up if disturbed. Sounds like a determined Muskie fisherman.

Fishing licenses are available at Manotak Lodge when you check-in.

It is easier to catch nightcrawlers at night with red cellophane over your flashlight lens rather than white light.

The word "Moose" comes from the Algonquin Indians. They called this animal "Mooswa" which means Twig-eater or the animal that strips bark off of trees.

The word Manotak means "The Fishing Hole".

Bass often strike a lure right after being released and not remember it? Because a Bass has two memory centers one for each eye. Say the first time he hit your lure he sees it with his right eye and if he hits it again right away, more than likely he saw it with the left eye.

Velcro was invented in the early 1940's by Swiss inventor George de Mestral when he went on a walk with his dog... Upon his return home, he noticed that his dog's coat and his pants were covered with cockleburs. His inventor's curiosity led him to study the burrs under a microscope, where he discovered their natural hook-like shape.

More species of fish live in a single tributary of the Amazon River than in all the rivers in North America combined.

Manotak Lodge has been listed in the publication: "Greatest Fishing Lodges in North America"

Fish caught and released during a fishing vacation grows by approx. 1 inch per 100 miles on the trip home. While this may not be an exact fact it seems to be true more times than not. Go figure.

**Happy Holidays and good fishing,**

*Dave & Linda*

Dave & Linda Becker

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