

IGNACE OUTPOSTS

GREETINGS

NOVEMBER 2007

*On behalf of Randy, Marcel, Matt, Joe, John at Ses, John at Met, Kris, Joanna and Lindor, **THANK YOU** for another great year of Hunting and Fishing at Ignace Outposts. Our 23rd season is over, the lake is frozen, and once again we are thinking about a new season quickly approaching.*

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The weather this summer was extreme. Early in the season, we were in a drought. Last winter we had very little snow and our spring concern was low water. By opening weekend our thoughts changed to forest fires as we had a 37,000 acre fire burning just north of Sesegana Lake. The fire came within a half mile of our camps but our government fire-fighters did a great job of protecting our cabins and the fire was under control by the end of May. By June we were in monsoon season. Rain came and came. A terrific storm, similar to one in 2005

tore through at the end of June damaging two of our aircraft. The Otter and the Cessna, while tied to our dock, were both lifted out of the water by the wind. The Otter was kept off line for a week. The Cessna was off line for the duration of the season as the wing had to be removed and sent away for

repairs. It was estimated up to 60% of the buildings in Ignace were damaged in the storm.



June 26, 2007 storm approaching

Our cabins at Irene Lake also took a large hit. Virtually every tree at the point cabin site was blown down. Thankfully, both groups at the lake then were at the cabins and no one was injured. By the fall our docks were under water and flooding had taken our concern away from drought. Ah, "the joys of living in the unpredictable North."



Irene Lake Point Camp before the clean up

FISHING

In spite of the weather, fishing at Ignace Outposts was as good as ever. We saw many trophies released again this year with every lake producing in our big fish contest. The largest Northern was 48.5 inches, with several dozen reported at over 42 inches. The largest walleye was over 32 inches and again we saw 30 inch plus walleye on Irene Lake, Seseganaga Lake, Hilltop Lake, Metionga



Lake and also Flindt Lake. Seseganaga led the way with numerous trout over 32 inches. We saw many bass in the 20 plus inch range on Irene Lake. With the change of rules for our big fish contest the free trip winner was not determined by biggest fish but by a draw of all trophies released and entered. We had over 300 fish entered in our contest over the minimum size we established for a live released

trophy! Congratulations to all anglers who released a trophy fish. The winner of our catch and release contest this year is... **Jamie Flint** from West Virginia who ironically was fishing on Flindt Lake in late July. Jamie will be our guest in 2008. Congratulations! The fishing is getting better quantity wise as well as quality wise and we have no doubt our conservation policies of returning trophies to the lake and eating only smaller, tastier fish is making a large difference.

HUNTING

This year we didn't have many archers but the archery hunt was successful. Weather in September made our early hunt challenging, with warm wet days. The rut seemed to start early then go on hold as the weather warmed. There is probably no thrill in the wilderness as exciting as calling a moose to within a few yards while armed with a bow and arrow. Whether the animal is taken or not, the grunting, crashing, thrashing and silence

of a 1000 lb plus animal heading your way makes your blood run warm to say the least. I must be getting old since I didn't bother to fight the elements this year and spent most of my hunting time making sure the fireplace worked. The Flindt Lake hunters bagged a bull right away and then had a quiet week seeing only cows for the rest of the hunt. The gun hunt

was boom or bust with some groups filling out their tags while others struggled. Weather for the gun hunt also proved challenging with high winds and lots of rain. Randy and Marcel struggled with the lousy weather just getting the hunters into their lakes.

Fighting the elements...the fireplace worked.

UPGRADES

This part of our job never ends. Besides spending countless hours cleaning up the blow-down at Irene Lake, we managed to upgrade a few solar systems, added a new deck at Irene Lake beach camp, leveled the cabin floor and replaced the foundation at Seseganaga West Bay cabin, painted, built new boat ramps

and otherwise tended to some of those little things that just don't get noticed until they are suddenly done. We continue to strive to have the finest outpost camps in the industry. Our summers are never dull. Everyone in our company is well qualified to get their hands dirty and we all keep work clothes close by

to grab on the way to another project. Our kids still offer to spend their long weekends banging nails, hauling wood and helping out in the bush.

DOLLARS AND (NON)CENTS

The US dollar has been on a free fall. Who could have imagined that in 5 years the US dollar would go from a premium of 45% to par with the Canadian dollar? Last week our dollar was actually trading higher than the US dollar. Because of the exchange rate we are again fighting to keep our rates competitive. We are holding our rates at all camps except our close lakes of Irene and Gamble. We have implemented a small increase at only these camps for 2008. We heard from our guests last year that many credit card companies are charging a premium for use in foreign currency. We suggest that to help reduce your exchange rate costs you acquire a bank draft or money order in CDN dollars for the amount of your trip before you leave the States. Last year due to the econom-

ics of operating the camps we chose to not open Kawaweo-gama, Tri and Gamble lakes. This helped us reduce our costs to keep our rates stable. This year we are planning to do the same. Be assured we are doing everything we can to hold our CDN prices. Unlike many of our competitors, we do not add fuel surcharges and other unexpected dollars to your trip. We ask that this year, in order to help us hold our costs down, all water, pop and beer you choose to have in camp is arranged with us well before you arrive so we can get it into the camp ahead of you. We will be unable to fly overloads of these items for no cost this year. Since these items are rather generic, we can get them here for you. If you arrive at our docks with too much weight consisting of these items you will be given the choice of leaving them be-

hind or paying for an extra flight. These liquids average 10 lbs per gallon! We have noticed that most groups that bring copious quantities of these items usually end up flying out much of it on their return to Ignace. Please do your part in packing lighter. On the GST (Federal tax) front, those of you who were denied your visitor tax refund, should contact Karen via email and provide her with the reference number on the government response to you. We will contact them to have the claim reassessed. The reference number can be found at the top right of the Notice of Assessment and is 17 digits long. Please email it to Karen at karen@ignaceoutposts.com

NEW STUFF

We are excited to have established a Forum for our friends and guests to share fishing tips, recipes, and other stuff. Please check it out at www.fish-walleye.com. We encourage you to register, post items and check the forum regularly for updates.

We have also developed a Google map for our camp locations. The link is on our forum as well as on the front page of our web site: www.ignaceoutposts.com

The sport shows we plan to attend this year can be found on our web site and in the forum.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Our 2008 dates are booking quickly. If you are not secured in our reservation book, please contact us and do so soon. We must insist on the deposits being in by the New Year. Because of an ever-increasing demand we must receive deposits from all groups before we head out to sport shows.

We will be on vacation between Nov. 24 and Dec. 5 so we will not be available to answer your calls and emails during that time. Keep your stick on the ice and have a great winter.

From the Great White North,
Brad and Karen



Picking away at another job



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Special Congratulations to our son Mike and his new bride Caralyn. They were married in July in Kenora. Our family continues to grow!