

The Magic of Nunavut

The de Havilland DHC-3 Otter is the workhorse of the Arctic.

I enjoy the chase and challenge of big fish in wild places. That challenge offers with it the opportunity to explore some of the most exotic and inspirational wilderness of the far North. Nunavut has become one of my favorite places to fish and explore since my first introduction in 2003, when I flew into the Coppermine River to fish for arctic char.

Arctic char thrive in wild places that offer the kind of solitude, beauty and inspirational environments that few humans will ever get to enjoy because of the innate difficulty in accessing the remote northern frontiers. Nunavut is the largest yet least populated of all provinces and territories in Canada, and is primarily inhabited by the people of the Inuit nation. It can only be accessed by air and sea, which attributes to it remaining a fiercely wild and undisturbed land that remains beautifully close to its creation. With an 808,190-square-mile expanse of Arctic

wilderness, containing hundreds of pristine rivers and lakes, Nunavut is the epicenter of some of the best trophy-class arctic char fishing on the planet.

Arctic char

The arctic char is a fierce fighting fish with a penchant for long powerful runs and acrobatic jumps as they fight. Their incredible strength will test both the endurance of the fisherman and tackle. The ideal setup for char is a 7-foot medium-action spinning rod with a high-quality reel that has a good drag. Unlike salmon, char continue to actively feed when they enter freshwater and they prefer brightly colored spoons and spinners. These fish will make blazing runs down the river using the rapids as an energy multiplier of their innate strength to escape. You will lose almost as many fish as you hook, as the char ply the rivers' sweeping currents. Char are anadromous and begin to migrate to freshwater as chrome-bright missiles that have been feeding in the Arctic Ocean's currents and

There's a little Devle in everything we do.



Sure, it's a little flashier than the original red & white Eppinger Dardevle®, but our Firetiger design is every bit a Devle when it comes to consistently catching fish.

To see more of the 17,000 different lures made by Eppinger check our web site.

Visit local dealers for Eppinger!



Toll free
888-771-8277 • www.eppinger.net

Direct Charter Flight from Winnipeg to Bolton Lake!

Only Lodge on the lake!

Moose & Bear hunting available!



BOLTON LAKE Lodge & Outposts
Manitoba Fly-In



1-800-665-5321
www.boltonlake.com



building strength for their journey to freshwater spawning grounds in the late summer and early fall. Char migrate to freshwater in the fall to spawn because they cannot survive in water temperatures below 32 degrees in the saltwater oceans in the winter. In fall, the spawning males will develop a kype (hooked jaw) and their flanks will literally blossom with an iridescent canvas of vibrant red, orange and pink highlights, making them one of the most beautiful piscatorial creatures on the planet.

The tale of two rivers

The Coppermine River is located in a pristine glacial valley winding 525 miles through the Northwest Territories and Nunavut before it empties into the Arctic Ocean at Coronation Bay, near the village of Kugluktuk. The broad expanse that is its heart is sculpted with immense boulders and barren slabs of rust- colored rock left behind by the rivers of ice that were its architect—this is a place that appears to be on the edge of where life began. A crystal-clear emerald ribbon of rapid water follows the broken contours of the land as it rushes to the sea, filling the air with the music as it plays over the chimes of granite on its path to the sea.

The Coppermine River

This is my journal entry for the Coppermine River fly out August 14, 2003:

Four of us took off from Plummer’s Trophy Lodge at dawn to fly to the famed Coppermine River in Nunavut to fish for Arctic Char. The view from the De Havilland Beaver was a vast panorama of lakes, winding rivers and tundra interspersed with a lacework of Caribou trails. The floats of the plane settled on a long stretch of the river and motored to the shore. When we jumped out of the plane onto shore, the ground was like stepping on a bowl of Jell-O as it undulated with each step. This was just a crust of earth with water underneath (melting permafrost). This was pretty scary stuff for my first time setting foot on Arctic soil. We were surrounded by tundra and boulders that are scattered about like a giant had tossed them from the sky. A crisp wind steeped in the intoxicating flavors of Caribou moss, and wet granite sweeps through the valley as we head upstream to the rapids to begin fishing. We have entered the magic of the Arctic!

We quickly set up our gear and began to fish. I worked the currents with a 3/4-ounce fluorescent-orange Devle Dog spoon and caught a half dozen magnificent char that ranged from 6 to 10 pounds during the afternoon, each one putting up a dramatic fight as they launched themselves skyward and danced on the current’s stage. They were beautiful, energetic creatures that looked like silver torpedoes with light blue and red markings

on their flanks. One male had a hooked jaw with flanks of bright red and orange that reminded me of the ribbons of colorful maple leaves of fall in Michigan. Fresh sets of grizzly bear tracks scattered in the sand on the bank of the river, a reminder that we were sharing this wonderful place with the native wildlife. The four of us had an awesome time fishing along the gravel bars and watching each other catch fish after beautiful fish. Our guide fixed us a delicious lunch of fresh sizzling char fillets and oriental rice as we relaxed on the edge of heaven’s tailgate, feasting on succulent fillets and soaking up the beauty of the Arctic landscape. The view of the valley from the riverbank is a kaleidoscope of

story continued on page 70



The vast, rugged landscape of the Arctic is awe-inspiring.



Plummer's Tree River camp perched in a beautiful glacial valley.

SHOWALTER'S

FANTASTIC WALLEYE, NORTHERN & LAKE TROUT FISHING

FLY-IN SERVICE (1987) LTD. & OUTPOSTS

As seen on

MIDWEST OUTDOORS

Television!

15 Fully Equipped Outpost Cabins • Day Fly-Outs • Fly-Out Camping Trips • Moose & Bear Hunting

For information, Contact:

THE SHOWALTER'S

P.O. Box 880, Ear Falls, ON P0V 1T0

(807) 222-2332

www.fishshowalters.com



World-record arctic char caught on a Dardevle spoon with guide Bob Appatok.

vast arctic wilderness that compels the soul with its mystical, enchanting beauty. It has been quite literally a delicious afternoon to be alive in this Arctic paradise. If there is a God, I think this is where he comes to rest his soul.

The Tree River

To the avid arctic char fisherman the Tree River is considered “Holy Water.” The “Tree” is a 6-mile ribbon of raging-fast water containing Class III rapids and waterfalls that hold the largest char in the world. My fishing partner Mike McGuire

and I had flown into Plummer’s Tree River camp located in a “Tolkienesque” valley on the banks of the Tree River in northern Nunavut for the opportunity catch these famed, ruby- colored jewels of the North.

After getting our gear set up, we began casting heavy Dardevle Rocket spoons into

a rushing pool only a couple hundred yards upstream from camp. Immediately, we both had fish catapulting into the sky and plowing like bulldozers through the frothing rapids, trying to shake our spoons. By the end of our first few hours on the river we had each landed seven or eight char including a line-class world-record on a Dardevle spoon. We took a quick break for dinner and were back on the river fishing until midnight, before finally heading back to our cabin for a little rest.

The next morning I asked my guide Bob if he could help me catch a char on my fly rod. He showed me to a large submerged boulder 50 feet from shore overlooking a deep run in the middle of the river. He told me to go out and stand on the rock. It would give me a little extra reach to a prime holding seam in the river. He gave me a few pointers on what he thought would be a good drift for my fly, and a short time later after hooking and losing two very big char, I had a beautiful char doing “air time” over the surface of the river and trying to strip the backing off my fly reel with long powerful runs through the stiff current. After a spirited exchange, I had a 36-inch male char adorned in opulent hues of orange, green and pink settled in the net. This was one of the most beautiful creatures I have ever had the luck to catch with a fly rod, and it turned out to be a new fly rod line-class world record. During our short time on the Tree River my friend Mike and I landed over 20 beautiful char and set two line-

story continued...

FISH FAMOUS LAC SEUL WITH YOUR OWN BOAT!



Rent an
Air Conditioned Cabin
for only \$60⁰⁰/person/day

COMPLIMENTARY
32" Satellite TV & Internet Connection
in every Air Conditioned Cabin

- Boat launching
- Boat docking
- Electric at dock
- Ice

FREE!

Doug & Gayle Gawley gawleyslittlebeaver@hotmail.com

807-222-3333

www.gawleyslittlebeaver.com



Yoke Lake, NW Ontario Canada
Where variety is the spice of life!
Six Lakes ~ Six species!



American Plan Fly-in Lodge

- ~ Catch & release angling for
 - walleye
 - largemouth bass
 - smallmouth bass
 - northern pike
 - muskie
 - lake trout
- ~ Only lodge on the lake
- ~ A short 20-minute flight from Fort Frances, ON
- ~ Max of 18 guests per trip
- ~ Fully-modern guest cabins
- ~ Friendly, helpful staff
- ~ Professional chef
- ~ Experienced guides (optional)
- ~ Canoes & kayaks available

slipperywinds.com
888-244-7453

www.kabeelo.com

Remote Canadian Fly-out Fishing



Canadian Memories Will Last a Lifetime

by Mike Cyze

For all you folks out there who have experienced the beauty of the Canadian wilderness, it's not hard to understand when I say that for the angler looking to make some lifetime memories, a trip to Canada is a must. Those who have not yet enjoyed the beauty and the angling bounty Canada has to offer, it's time to take all that dreaming you have been doing and start planning your adventure of a lifetime.

As one who is fortunate enough to travel to many locations throughout Canada in search of trophy fish, I have come to realize over the years that when it comes to a great angling experience the choice of available locations are endless. From five- star resorts to primitive bush country locales, you can tailor your adventure to your liking and budget.

Folks who travel to Canada for fishing trips know that a great fishery exists here. From trophy northern to huge walleyes and lake trout, you can adjust your trip. Heck, I have even targeted big jumbo perch and whitefish on some trips with great results. For this adventure of a lifetime, I recommend you do your homework for what you are looking for on your trip. You can structure your trip specifically to your liking, making it even more memorable. When asked by folks heading to Canada for the first time I usually will recommend picking a location that offers a variety of species of fish. By doing this you can experience catching many different fish, and not just one species. The choice is ultimately yours, but you will have more fun fishing many species.

When it comes to Canadian resorts,

make sure you do your homework. When you talk to resort operators at sport shows or by telephone, make sure you get complete information for what is offered in their trip packages. I always stress to folks to make sure there are no hidden charges that can suddenly show up when you arrive at your location. If resort operators at sport shows are somewhat evasive in answering your questions, don't be afraid to move on—the same goes for the operator who makes everything sound "too good to be true." When you finally decide where you want to go for your Canadian adventure, always make sure you get everything promised to you regarding your trip in writing. Again, if the operator won't do that, walk away.

One thing I want to stress is that the vast majority of Canadian resort and camp operators are wonderful, honest people who will try to provide you with the adventure you are seeking. And, if they are not being honest with folks, they will surely not be in business very long. My point here is that you, my friends, work way too hard for your money and I want you to get your dollar's worth. Inquire about their cancellation policy of reservations. The reason is we never know when something could come up that would keep us from going on the trip. We don't like to think about it, but it is a fact and I don't want to see anyone lose his or her hard-earned money due to a strict "no-cancellation policy" in case of an emergency.

For first-time Canadian adventurers, make sure you know what documents you need to enter Canada and also to return into the United States after your trip ends.

I have found it's best just to use my passport for both entering and returning from Canada. Check the internet for regulations regarding children entering and pets.

As I mentioned earlier, you folks who have gone to Canada know what a great experience it is. For those planning that trip, now is the time to start. I guarantee you will be glad you did. The best part is that once you experience the angling Canada has to offer, those memories will without a doubt last a lifetime. The lure of Canada will keep calling you back, so go make some memories. **MWO**

Email your outdoor questions to Mike Cyze at: lastcast13@yahoo.com. You can also check out Mike's blog at: lastcastoutdoors.com or listen to him on ESPN Radio.

The Magic of Nunavut

...continued from previous page

class world records. There are just a few fisheries in North America that produce average catches of arctic char well over 12 to 15 pounds, and they are all located in Nunavut, including the current IGFA world record of just over 32 pounds, which was caught on the Tree River. As the float plane ascended from the river later that morning, Mike and I realized we had been blessed by the magic of one of the most majestic rivers on earth.

simply catching fish. Immersing oneself in the rhythm and cadence of the land, while enjoying the journey and adventure of wild places, is what creates memories of a lifetime. The wisdom and wonder of the Arctic is a great elixir for the soul, and the Territory of Nunavut serves up the best there is. **MWO**

For more information on Plummer's Arctic Lodges visit plummerslodges.com or call 1-800-665-0240. Or visit Nunavut Tourism at nunavuttourism.com.

The wisdom and wonder of the Arctic

Fishing is the engine that prompts me to explore the beauty and wonder of the earth's most remote places, but the significance of the experience is more than



NORTHERN WILDERNESS COTTAGES

Vacation in your own private & remote boat-in cottage on beautiful Dog Lake – Missanabie, Ontario


A fly-in atmosphere without the fly-in price:

Our housekeeping cottages are individually nestled around Dog Lake providing you with extreme privacy during your stay.

Walleye
Northern Pike
Lake Trout
Yellow Perch
Smallmouth Bass
Whitefish





www.northernwildernesscottages.com
Ph: (705) 234-2582
Email: info@northernwildernesscottages.com




Milton Lake Lodge

SASKATCHEWAN CANADA



Awesome Lake Trout Fishing



Fly Fishing for Pike




Arctic Grayling in the Rivers



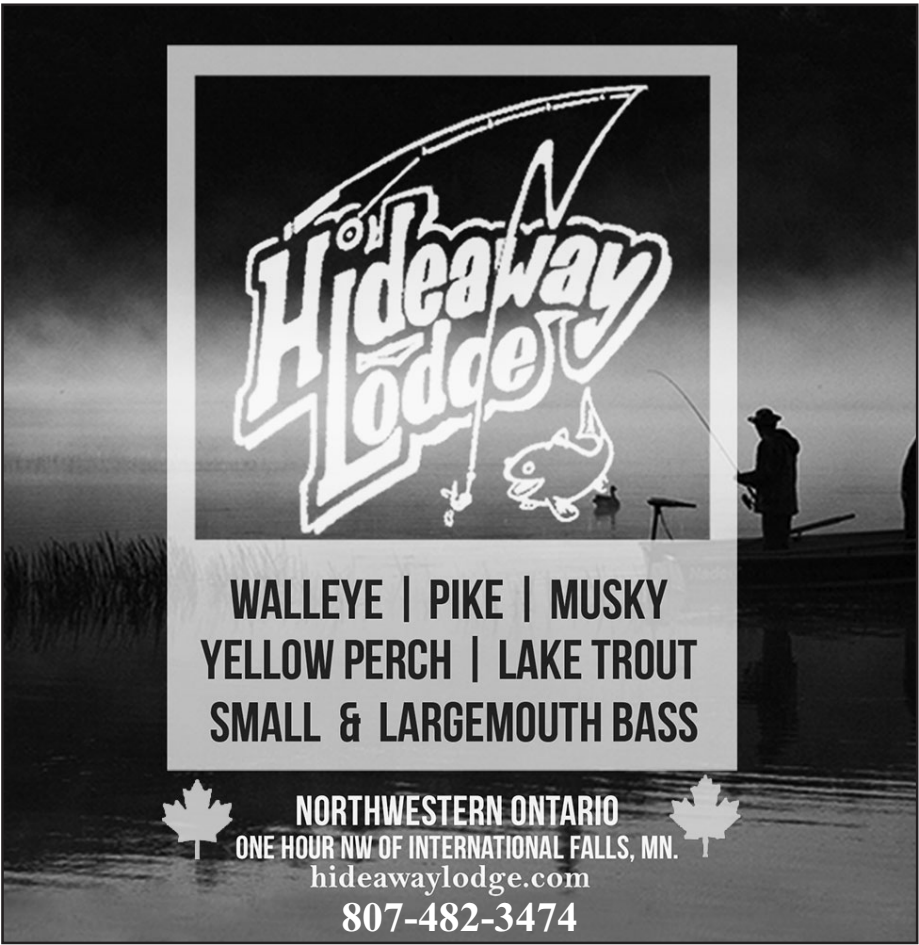
Limited Fall Bear Hunts



www.miltonlodelodge.com
1-855-fish-big (347-4244)
1-780-493-0455
info@miltonlodelodge.com



Hideaway Lodge

WALLEYE | PIKE | MUSKY
YELLOW PERCH | LAKE TROUT
SMALL & LARGEMOUTH BASS



 NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO 
ONE HOUR NW OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN.
hideawaylodge.com
807-482-3474