

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



View From Caribou

By: Tom Klein

As I flipped through earlier annual reports (this format goes back to the 1998 season), I noticed that nearly all of the View From Caribou copy was focused on the rearview mirror, looking back. In this space last year, I highlighted two decades of summers that Pat and I have spent in the Caribou Condo on the north side of our island in the middle of expansive Scott Lake, in the middle of the vast wilderness of the Saskatchewan/Northwest Territories Border Country. Now it's time to look ahead. With Ron Spork, our partner in fishing, we have charted out an exciting future for Scott Lake Lodge. As a fundamental business philosophy, we have all believed that if a business isn't getting better it's slowly dying. That's why every year for the past 21 seasons there has always been "something new" on our island; it's our defining characteristic. I recall one guest from Texas who said it best: "I keep coming back every year just to see what's new around here." He's never disappointed. Now we are taking new to a new level.

We have made a commitment to a 5-year \$1 million upgrade of our facilities, starting with the expansion of Laker Lodge which we began in 2017 with a new deck. By the time our 2018 guests arrive on June 9 there will be more than just a nice dining room at the top of the hill. There will be a comfortable new bar/lounge connected to the west side of the existing space. No longer will guides and guests compete for a stool at the bar which will be more than doubled in size. There will be a larger (and yes, nicer) restroom attached to the new lounge. By the end of September 2017 our construction crew, led by guide Paul Hamilton, had the additions closed in and the entire roof on the lodge re-shingled. The crew will be back in spring 2018 to finish it. We will make our June deadline. Also on the spring agenda will be a total rehab of the two permanent docks at the waterfront, an upgrade of one of our staff housing units, a new walk-in freezer/refrigerator and some new showers in guest cabins. It will be a busy spring.

Tom Klein with one of his very best friends



The actual view from Caribou Condo

But that's just the start of this ambitious plan. All the guest cabins over the next four years will get major upgrades and several will disappear. By the time our work is done, there will be no more cabins with common walls as currently is the case with seven of our existing cabins. Starting with the Esox/Moose/Musk Ox building, we will be enlarging Esox and Musk Ox and eliminating Moose cabin. Trout/Aurora and Wolf/Wolverine will be converted to upscale suites. To keep our same occupancy three new free-standing cabins (similar to Raven cabin) will be built on the east-facing hillside. Also in the plan will be a new workout facility adjacent to the Sauna, right on the waterfront, and an upgrade of the shop by the back dock (we can't forget about the Silver Fox, Gerry Yanish).

The scope of this work will be close to what was accomplished during the 1996-1999 era when many of the current buildings were constructed. With no road access and no winter road possibilities, all the materials will come to Scott the way our guests do—in airplanes. It's a challenging and expensive process. As a ballpark estimate, we take the cost of building something in Saskatoon and multiply by four. You must imagine what a building weighs, then put a dollar sign in front of that number. (Getting anything to our island costs over a dollar a pound.) Expensive, yes, but needed? Also yes. It's our commitment to continually improve the guest experience on our island and on our network of lakes. We will not ignore the quest for new fly out lakes as we rebuild our island infrastructure. We started with three fly out lakes when we began this enterprise in 1996. Now we have 21. That list will keep growing as we explore deeper into the Northwest Territories, always looking for the next Ivanhoe, Smalltree, Flett or Wholdaia. Always looking for that magical place where big fish are just waiting for your next cast. It's what we do—make the experience better every year. None of this would be possible without the continued support of so many guests who keep coming every season to catch a lot of fish and see what's new. We thank you for being part of the Scott Lake Lodge Experience. It does get better every year.

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Manager's Report

By: Jason Hamilton

It's always an intense four months each year from mid-May to mid-September because 12 months of business gets condensed into four.

Each day has a lot going on: aircraft coordination, ordering supplies, checking invoices, management of 30 people, maintenance issues, freight coming in almost daily, and most importantly fishing and smiles! It takes a while to settle back into the "off season" from Scott Lake and shift gears to concentrate on the next season. A few weeks on the water and in the woods provides time for reflection. I've done that (and bagged a nice bull moose, too). The first thoughts in my mind after the season were focused on our staff for giving us in plain words "a damn fine 2017 season!" Each person in each department showed focus, maturity, attention to detail and attentiveness to customer service that they can all be proud of. We hope you, our customers, feel the same way about them. We also have some great vendors who go out of their way to make sure we have all the necessities from planes to fish pins. It's takes a large community to put together a season like we had last year.

Clearly the most important part of that community is the customer. Without you, there is no staff and no Scott Lake. Your investment, interest, generosity and energy make this place run and make it fun. From the staff and myself, THANK YOU! It is because of Scott Lake Lodge's commitment to our customers that we constantly strive to improve, reinvest and enhance the facilities and fishing. Our goal is to make sure each year we build upon the successes of the past and correct (we will eventually make everyone happy with sandwiches) the misses. Not every initiative we take will stick but we always try, and this is where customer feedback is key. We do read the evaluations carefully and we do listen carefully to every customer.

In 2017 there were a number of improvements that some may have noticed, and some may have missed. Since we are proud of the work we accomplished last year, here is a summary. The first building you see coming off our dock is the Last Cast. Last spring it got an expansion and facelift, offering more seating, a fully-stocked bar, and a TV for movies. It makes for a nice spot to toast the day on the water or relax after dinner. After many seasons of service, the deck at the main lodge was torn out and replaced. And thanks to many comments over the years we made it one level. Gone are those steps that could be trouble even without a few drinks behind you. Some new ventilation fans were installed to cool things down at dinner time. Our media system gained a second TV and the ability to play videos during the daily after dinner "fish porn." We added two satellite internet signals and an internet-based telephone to better conduct

General Manager
Jason Hamilton



business and keep everyone on the island connected. All five of our internet satellite connections are at the maximum capacity we can purchase. It's not perfect but it's getting better every year. Over the past few years we have added 12 new 18' boats to Scott Lake and 22 boats to replace the used and often bear-chewed fly out fleet. In 2017 we tested a few new lakes and added some more to the fly out roster. After many mentions in 2016 on the guest surveys, each guest cabin got new mattresses for every bed.

Going forward we have already started the major main lodge expansion project that will expand the bar, move the restroom facilities and add a lounge and games space. There are a few surprises in store as well which we think you are going to like. The main lodge also got a new roof last fall. While there are a few more items that will be ready to go for opening day in 2018, we need to save some surprises for you when you arrive!

After a record setting year of fishing at Scott Lake Lodge, with a pile of improvements completed and more planned, and promises that nearly all our staff will be returning for 2018 the future is bright for Scott Lake Lodge. We look forward to that future with you in the picture.



"Our goal is to make sure each year we build upon the successes of the past and correct the misses."

THE 2017 SEASON:

A Fishing Masterpiece

If the 2017 season at Scott Lake Lodge were a painting, it would have been the Mona Lisa, Leonardo da Vinci's undisputed masterpiece, the most famous, most visited and most valuable painting in history. OK, there are a few differences. Leonardo used brushes and paint to create his masterpiece. Our Scott Lake Lodge anglers used St. Croix spinning, casting or fly rods with Mepps #5s, turbo pikes, bunny leeches and whistlers to fashion this modern masterpiece on water. While it took Leonardo four years to paint the Mona Lisa, it took Scott Lake Lodge 21 years to get a season just right. While Leonardo was confined to a studio space, our anglers roamed over 9 million acres to find the ingredients for the Scott Lake Lodge production. While the 500-year-old painting has inspired countless songs, movies, copies and even parodies, the 2017 season has inspired just this short article—so far. Interestingly if we could travel back in time 500 years to Leonardo's time, we could probably have experienced the same kind of fishing we had in 2017. It was that good. The water would have been a bit higher and the tackle would certainly be different, but the fishing experience would have been very similar. Roughly the same numbers and sizes of fish would have been lurking in the same shallow bays, weed beds and deep holes. The fishing this season was indeed like going back in time, because in this Saskatchewan/Northwest Territories Border Country nothing has really changed over that vast expanse of time. In many spots on our 21 fly out lakes, encompassing 9 million acres of water, fish have never seen a lure of any kind. Were there days last season that were slow or challenging? Of course, we had some cold fronts that put fish deep and turn them sulky and some of those totally flat, calm days when fish don't want to move. There were doubtless days like that 500 years ago as well.

But there were far more days this season when at the dinner table guests were talking about their incredible days that produced 40, 50, 60 or even 100 fish per day — per person. There was even more talk about the BIG FISH. While everyone loves to catch fish, everyone loves to catch big fish a lot more. It's just in our fishing DNA to want big fish. The 2017 season delivered BIG TIME. The lodge set its all-time trophy record (guides do measure fish that approach trophy size — 40" for pike, 35" for lake trout and 15" for arctic grayling) of 1,965 trophy fish. There were 1,487 pike, 213 lake trout and 265 grayling. To give that a bit of perspective, the average number of trophies taken over the previous seven seasons was 1,371. That's 594 more times that one of our guests looked at a fish and said something like "that's a beauty." For pike, our marquee fish, the gap was even wider.



Trevor Meyers
with guide
Steve Yanish

Over the previous seven years we've averaged 882 pike trophies. This season nearly doubled that number. Put end to end, the 2017 trophy pike would have stretched out to 62,268 inches, just 1,092 short of a MILE of pike. That's only 26 more typically-sized trophies. We stopped painting just a little too soon, but now we have a goal for 2018.

Like Leonardo's painting, a masterpiece didn't happen all at once. The first brush strokes of the 2017 season were laid down in mid-June. While some very nice pike were landed during our first week of the season, like Tom Tarantino's 47 incher, our guests were fighting some cold weather that had the fish a bit sluggish. Things heated up during the second week and the colors were flying onto the canvas. John Heinmiller brought in 10 trophy pike in one day. Thanks to a big day at Smalltree Lake, Mike Rogers and Jameson Viljaste tallied 30 pike over their trip. After 50 years of fishing in Canada, Bob Noble boated his personal best pike, a monster 48 incher. Long time Scott veteran Joe Daugherty equaled his personal best, getting a very fat 48. That group almost ran out of paint, putting 147 trophy fish, mainly pike, into their guides' hands. As usual, especially in the early part of the season, weather and specifically sunshine, drives the pike fishing. That principle was dramatically underscored during the third group's late June trip. Guests were



Mike Rodgers
with guide Biff Lindner



Gus Ruetenik
with guide
Cory Craig

met on the first day out with blue skies, warm temps and light winds. They were quite busy: 20 of the 26 guests caught trophies that day, a total of 40 with four of them being 46" or better. Then the cold, nasty weather moved in and the paint no longer flowed. Instead of having 200 trophies that trip (the 5-day tracking based on that first memorable day), the group brought in 113. But the change of weather did not bother at least one lake trout that was cruising in shallow water not more than 200 yards from our island. On a day when very few guests even got in a boat, Bill Calabresa and Joe Novicki braved the daunting elements. Perseverance pays. Less than two minutes into their first troll, Bill hooks a very heavy fish. The waves were bouncing the 18' boat around like a cork but Bill hung on and landed a massive lake trout. It was too wild in the boat to get a girth measurement, but they got the tape on the tail and nose. It was 45.5" long with an unknown but huge girth. It was one of the best fish stories of the season.

Like it always does, the sun returned, and the big pike were happy and eating. In early July, Jim MacDougall turned his fly rod into a magic wand on Flett Lake and put a spell on the pike, landing fish of 48, 45, 44, 41 and 41 inches. Just a few days later John Green on another sunny day on Ingalls Lake had another amazing day, landing seven trophy pike topping out at 48 inches. Our seventh group experienced the hottest weather of the summer and unsurprisingly the most trophies of the season were caught – a whopping 157. Six of those, including another 48 incher, were caught in one day on Scott Lake by Dan Spielman armed only with his fly rod. It was mid-season now and the composition was set: a masterpiece was in the works. But it needed something else. How about huge lake trout? Trevor Myers responded to the call by landing in a single day trout of 43, 40, 39 and 38 inches. Rhys Reese added a 42 incher that week to accompany his 48.5-inch pike and 18.5-inch grayling, giving him 109 total trophy inches in the 100+Club sweepstakes, just a half inch less than Bill Calabresa's 109.5



Bill Calabresa
with guide
Jan Phoenix

– showed the veterans how to do it by catching pike of 48, 45, 45, 44 and 41 inches in a 1-day blitz – 223 inches of savage, angry northern pike. Just remarkable. On the final week of the season some bright colors were added. Arctic grayling are a fantastically beautiful fish and we were a little short on big ones until the final few days when Todd Rosenberg landed an elegant 20 incher and Bill Russell added a 19. It was time to let the oils dry: the 2017 masterpiece was complete. The season, of course, was not just about

The fishing this season was indeed like going back in time, because in this Saskatchewan/ Northwest Territories Border Country nothing has really changed over that vast expanse of time.

inches, a number that held up all season. Another huge trout, a 44-incher with a 26.5-inch girth, caught by Ralph Russell, was added to the canvas and the painting was really looking good by this point. A few blank spots were filled in by Tom and Tim Olson who put on a pike clinic, putting thirteen trophies on the board in an eventful day. It was time to stand back and admire this painting. Its highlights were so many huge pike. In 2016 we thought we had set an unapproachable record by getting 34 pike over 47 inches. Now in late July that record didn't look so unapproachable. It seemed like every group there were one, two or three of those monsters that showed up on the big screen after dinner during the fish du jour slide show. It was looking good.

In August it was looking even better. The weather gods smiled and brought a lot of sun and angling bliss. Our eleventh group painted during a classic high-pressure system, bringing warmth and some pleasant pike chop on the lakes. Along with the great weather came 129 trophies, a nice mix of pike, lake trout and grayling. The fish gods smiled on 93-year-old Gus Ruetenik who became the most senior (he's defiantly and definitely not old) angler to join the 100+Club. Over our thirteenth week another high-pressure system brought five perfect days and some huge fish. Long time Scott guest Dick Hutson had caught some monster lake trout on his many trips to Scott but never a monster pike. Dick got his personal best, a perfectly painted 49-inch beauty this season. Priscilla O'Donnell joined the personal best club that week with a 47.5-inch water wolf. By now we knew we had an amazing work of art, but it needed just a little dabbling. It took Jennifer and Jon Evans to apply those finishing touches. They pulled off a remarkable hers/his feat when Jen landed a 49.5-inch pike and Jon a 49 incher on the same day. During that same week (the second to last) Terry Parks who had only fished two times in his life – once as a little kid

fishing. Our guests enjoyed hundreds of perfectly prepared fresh fish shore lunches, beautifully presented dinners at the lodge, many encounters with loons, ospreys, bears, moose and even quite a few musk ox, extraordinary personalized customer service, professional and fun guiding, and the infinite satisfaction of spending time in a pristine wilderness. Not to mention being part of producing a true masterpiece. What a year!



Todd Rosenberg
with guide
Greg Hamm

Fishancial Statement

For the Fishing Season Ending August 29, 2017

Management Discussion and Analysis

Operations:

To put it in a single word, it was a fantastic year operationally at Scott Lake Lodge. Some years the cogs and gears of a complicated business like this one just don't mesh well. We are running four different businesses (the hotel business, the restaurant business, the aviation business and the outfitting business) that need to merge perfectly. In 2017 they all intersected beautifully, and we had our best season ever. It all starts with staff continuity. Scott Lake Lodge is fortunate to have a seasoned manager to head up our operations. Jason Hamilton, in his fourth season, had a firm grip on the tiller all season. His logistical planning was excellent. Everything was ready to roll by our June 9 opening day. We were fortunate to have all 13 of our starting guides back in action this season. That makes the fishing program predictable and dependable. We can't praise their work too loudly or too often. Their ability to find fish and communicate well with our guests is legendary in this industry. We had the same continuity in the hospitality and maintenance departments where Dani Grunberg and Gerry Yanish had their areas running like clockwork all season. We did have some challenges in the food service department, but we had a deep bench in the kitchen and the team there did a great job (our evaluations gave our dining very high marks). Our thanks to Nigel Rivera, Rachael Basler and Eli Mahoney for putting great meals on the table all season long.

One area of significant improvement in 2017 was the changeover process, an area of notable guest criticism over the past few years. Getting groups in and out in a timely fashion can be difficult because often all the aircraft we want are just not available. In 2017 we did it right by sending our Turbo Otter and our Beaver south to Stony Rapids with the southbound luggage early. With Scott Lake Lodge staff present in Stony Rapids to keep things moving, the entire procedure from the Saab's touchdown in Stony until the new guests arrive at the island took an average of just 60 minutes this season, about a half hour less than our historical average. That same on-time efficiency was apparent with our fly out departures and returns. Thanks to our guides' preparation, our pilots' dependability and our guests' eagerness, 95% of our fly outs left within five minutes of the scheduled time.

Just plain luck was involved in some areas. In 2017 we had very little smoke to contend with. Considering that Montana to the south and Alberta and British Columbia to the west had some of their worst fire seasons ever, we were lucky to have clean, clear air for all but around five days of the season. We were also fortunate to have an early ice-out, allowing us to have everything ready for our first guests. This was the first year ever all of our fly out lakes were open and available to customers on day 1 of week 1. With 21 fly out destinations, getting everything up and ready is no small task. Graham Coulombe, our fly out coordinator, deserves a big "atta-boy" for his work.



Trophy Fish Released

Northern Pike ————— **1,487**

Lake Trout ————— **213**

Arctic Grayling ————— **265**

TOTAL **1,965**

Number of Guests: 420

Average Trophies: 4.7

Evaluations:

First, our thanks to all the 2017 guests who completed our online evaluation form. We received 196 responses, nearly half of our total guests. We do read these carefully, listen and respond. Our "grades" this year were quite good. On the most general question of rating the "Overall Experience," 94% of our guests gave it an excellent and 6% a good. A phenomenal 99.4% guests say they'd recommend the lodge to a friend. It's in the very specific areas though where we learn the most. We had hundreds of individual comments that we will continue to process, evaluate and develop response plans for improvements. While 95% of our guests rated the cleanliness of our cabins as excellent, only 76% rated the comfort as excellent and 21% as good with 3% poor. By the way, we don't like anything other than excellent. We will be addressing this both in the short term next year with some new furniture and long term with major cabin upgrades. A full 90% of spa users found that an excellent space. On the dining side our excellent ratings did go up from 2016 but we still have work to do there. Last year 71% of our guests rated dinners as excellent and 77% rated breakfast as excellent. Close, but no cigar yet. We did get a kick in the pants with our packed lunches — only 60% thought those excellent. In the fishing areas, our boats/motors received an 84% excellent and our tackle 82%. Fishing on Scott Lake was rated at 57% excellent, 33% good and 10% fair. What can we say? Fishing is fishing and weather, angler skill and just plain luck come into play. For fly out lakes those numbers jumped to 82% excellent, 17% good and 1% fair. To be honest, the Scott Lake fish are more educated than those in more remote fly out lakes with typically incredible fishing and its rating often suffers from that comparison. On the guide front the numbers were astounding. Our guests love their guides. On knowledge of the water they scored 97% excellent, on communication 90%, on fish handling 97% and on shore lunch preparation 93%. Would guests recommend their guide? Yes, said 99%. Our shore staff had the same kind of numbers for their customer service — all areas between 90% and 96% excellent. These are all great numbers.

Fishing by the Numbers:

Speaking of numbers, none could have been better than our 2017 trophy results. We had all-time records for total trophies (1,965), total pike trophies (1,487), pike of 45" or better (140) and pike of 47" or better (40). We also had all-time records for trophies per day of fishing (24) and pike per day (18). The 4.7 trophies-per-person was also an all-time high. While no records were set, the lake trout trophy count (213) was very respectable and the grayling total (265) was one of our higher annual totals. The most impressive number though was the 62,268 total inches of trophy pike, less than 2% short of a full mile. That's an image you just have to get into your head—end to end almost a mile of pike. Here's another image. For our readers who have been to our island in the far north, this should really help you visualize: jump in the Beaver and fly just high enough to see all around the island. Then picture a ring of trophy pike swimming around the island right on the surface. Now picture seven rings of pike—that's a mile of trophy pike. Just amazing!

Trophy Holders of 2017

Guest Name	Trophy Triple	Pike Largest Total #	Trout Largest Total #	Grayling Largest Total #	100+*		
Albarelli III, Mike	40	1					
Albarelli Jr, Mike	41	2					
Albarelli, Joe			40	2			
Albarelli, Joey	47	5					
Albarelli, Mike	40	2					
Alfert, Arnold	41.5	3	35.5	1			
Alfert, Jonathan	43	1					
Babyn, Paul	41	2		16	2		
Bajalia, Sam	45.5	6					
Bajalia, Sammy	42	2					
Bandt, Rachael	41	1					
Bandt, Steve	41	1	36	1			
Barbieri, Ed	45	2		16	1		
Basler, Rachael			35	1			
Bellof, Gernie	43.5	1	35	2			
Bellof, Greg	42	2					
Bensema, David	44	5					
Bensema, Marian	45	5					
Berg, Jeff	46	7					
Berkowitz, Nathan	40	1					
Billing, Suzanne	40	1					
Bishop, Lynn			37	3			
Bixby, Scott	44.5	5					
Bixby, Tim	44	6					
Bixby, Will	45.5	9	43	1			
Bixler, Mark	41	2					
Blackstone, Amy	41.5	4					
Blake, Joshua	46	3					
Blue, Deborah	42	3	37.5	1	17.5	1	
Bohac, Larry	44.5	2		15	1		
Boone, Sonya	44.5	4	39	1	17.5	4	*
Borden, Jim	43.5	5	36	1	17	1	
Borden, John	47	8	36	1	17	1	*
Borden, Mike	40.5	1					
Borden, Rob	47	4					
Brazeale, Dan	42.5	1	35	1			
Brown, Ed "Rusty"	44.5	4	39	1			
Brown, Eddie			42	1			
Brown, Eric	43.5	6	42	3			
Brzek, Gene	44	5	39	1	17	1	*
Bucki, Shanna	40	1					
Budny, Chris	40	1					
Calabresa, Bill	46	8	45.5	2	18	1	*
Cappa, Conor	44	5	35	1	18	1	
Cappa, Gary	41	1		15	1		
Carlson, Chris	45	2					
Carr, Daryl	41	5					
Carter, Brad	41.5	2					
Carter, Eric	40	1					
Carter, Jake	42	1		15.5	2		
Carter, Justin	42	2					
Carter, Randy	40.5	1	37.5	1			
Carter, Robert	41	1		15.5	3		
Carter, Stan	40	2					
Cesare, Patrick	44	1		15	1		
Chadwell, Betty	44.5	5					
Chadwell, Bob	40.5	1					
Chadwick, Tim	43.5	4					
Chernus, Richard	46	4	36	1			
Clarcq, Fletcher	40.5	1					
Climaco, John	40	2					
Conley, Ken	42	7					
Cooks, Richard	40	1					
Craig, Tosh	46	4		16	5		
Crawford, Blake	43	7	36	1			
Crawford, Bob	42	1					
Crawford, Charles	43	3	37	1			
Crawford, Randy	44	2					
Creech, Steve	41	1	41	2	16	1	
Crocker, Derek	44.5	2		16	1		
Crooks, Ed	44	2					
Cryer, Ken	41.5	1					
Dannewitz, Chuck	44	5					
Dannewitz, Connor	48	4					
Daugherty, Joe	48	20	38	1	15.5	2	*
Daugherty, Mary	40.5	2					
Daugherty, Ty	43.5	2		16	1		
Davis, Don	45	7			16.5	1	
Denney, Kevin	45	2			18	3	
Denney, Patrick	42.5	2					
Dismukes, Ed	42	2			15.5	1	
Dismukes, Edward	46	2					
Doerter, Randy	43	2					
Doerter, Steve	42	3	40	2			
Doll, Walter "Buddy"	41	2					
Dorr, Len	40	1	35.5	1	16.5	2	
Duke, Barry	43	6					
Edwards, Jim	41.5	1					
Emens, Richard	44	8			18	9	
Evans, Jennifer	49.5	3	37	1			
Evans, Jon	49	7					
Faulkenberry, Bobby	44	4	35	1	18	1	
Faulkenberry, John	45.5	5					
Faulkenberry, Thomas	45	5			15	1	
Federico, Therese	40.5	3					
Ferraro, Chris	40	1			17	1	
Fierbaugh, Aaron	47	6	42.5	1			
Fierbaugh, Jarod	45	10	38	1			
Fierbaugh, Tim	46	12					
Fischer, Bjoern	43	2					
Flinchbaugh, John	41	1					
Floyd, Dexter	41.5	2	39	2			
Floyd, Greg	47	8					
Foster, Justin	41	4					
Fox, Chris	41.5	1					
Franey, Joseph	44	4					
French Jr, Skip	43	2			18	3	
Frimel, Greg	43	9					
Gesme, Russ	46.5	7					
Gil, George	42	3					
Gill, John					16.5	1	
Glaser, Dick					16.5	2	
Goebel, Pat	45	5	36	1			
Goebel, Tom	43	2	38	1			
Gooden, Dan	41	1					
Graf, Foster	47	7					
Graf, Mark	46	28					
Grainger, John	43.5	5	35	1			
Granneman, Paul	42	3					
Granneman, Tom	43.5	10					
Gray, Gary	41.5	2					
Graziano, Thomas	40.5	1					
Green, John	48	13					
Grunberg, Dani	42.5	1					
Habel, John	40	1			15.5	1	
Hambright, Jim	46	6					
Hammett, Nate	44	9	40	1			
Hanna, Paul	43	5	36.5	1			
Hanna, Sam	45.75	4	38	1			
Hauser, Mike	46	4	39	2			
Hawkes, David	43.5	6			16.5	2	
Hawthorn, Stan	40	1			17	1	
Hedgecock, Ray	42	4					
Heile, Bernie	42	2			17	2	
Heine, Mark	44	5			18	10	
Heinmiller, John	46	12					
Heinmiller, Julie	41	2					
Hill, Charles	41	2					
Hobson, John	47.5	2					
Holla, Kris	42	1	37.5	1			
Hoskins, Jeff	40	1	35.5	1	15.5	2	
Hudgins III, James	41	3			17.5	2	
Hudson, Travis	43	2					
Hunt, Don	43.5	2	36	1			
Hutson, Dick	49	5	37.5	1			
Irwin, Scott			39	1			
Jaffe, Mike	44.5	3					
Jaranowski, Todd	44	4	37	1			
Jewett, Skip	42	5					
Johnson, John "Buzz"	43	6			17	7	
Johnson, Mike	44	8			17	1	
Johnston, Andy	41	2					
Juergens, Ron	45	8					
Kahl, David					18	2	
Kalscheur, David	41.5	1					
Kalscheur, Peter	40.5	1					
Karr, Nathan	43	1					
Kehoe III, Tom	45	2	41	1	17	2	*
Kehoe Jr, Tom	41	2					
Keith, Steve	47	7	39.5	2	17	5	*
Kennedy, Mike	46	3	36	1			
Kiel, Eric	42.5	1					
Klenk, Jim	45	3	42	2			
Knoop, Tim	43	3					
Kozowski, Marissa	44	3	35	1			
Kozowski, Bruce	43	9					
Kracum, James	41	1	42	1	17.5	1	*
Kracum, John	44.5	5	42	3	18	1	*
Kracum, Matt	42.5	2			16	1	
Kracum, Richard	44	3	43	2	18	1	*
Krebsbach, Gary			37	1			
Kristo, Griffin	43	3					
Kristo, Steve	46	7					
Kroner, John	44	7					
Kusar, Jim	45	15					
Lackner, Mark	41	3			18.5	10	
Lail, Randy	41	3					
Laing, Brent	46.5	10					
Larson, Chase	41.5	4					
Larson, Grant	41	5					
Larson, Greg	44	5	39	1	19	1	*
Larson, Hunter	47.5	5	37	1	17.5	1	*
Larson, Loren			40.5	11			
Lazlo, Mary			39	1			
Lebbin, Roger	41	1					
Lechowicz, Andre	41	5					
Lechowicz, Miroslawa	40.25	1	37	1			
Leger, Adam	43	1					
Lepoudre, Phil	42	2	38	1	17	1	
Levake, Ken "KJ"	44	1					
Levake, Ken "Zeke"	40.5	1					
Light, Peggy	45.5	11					
Linaberger, Jake	42	2	43	1	15.25	1	*
Linaberger, Justin	43.5	2	40	1	16.5	1	*
Loken, Caroline	44	1					
Loken, Jim	46.5	1					
Long, George	40	1			19	2	
Longest, Terry			37	3			
Lorusso, Paul	40.5	3					
Loughran, Jason	44	5					
Luke, Chris	40	2					
Luke, Don	43	7					
Luke, Eric	42.5	5	36.5	1			
Luke, Ryan	43	6					
Lukert, Jason	42	2					
Lunow, David	43.5	2	37	2			
Lynch, Dave	41	1					
Lynch, Michael	45	5					
Lynch, Patrick	44	3					
Maccarone, Greg	47	2			16.5	1	
MacDougall, James	48	12	37	2	17.5	3	*
Mahler, Mike	42.5	2					
Maley, Bob	41.5	2			16	2	
Mancuso, Lee	40.5	1					
Mancuso, Peter	46.5	4	36	1			
Manning, Pat	41.5	2					
Manship, Joey	44	10					
Manship, Mike	44	7					
Markle, Claire	43	1					
Marshall, Scott	44	4					
Martindale, Danny	45	2	37	3	17	3	
Mason, Robert	44.5	3	35.5	1			
Massie, Cheryl					18	2	
Massie, Darrell	41.5	4			17.5	5	
Masuga, Chase	46	5	37	1			
Matacynski, Craig	44.75	4					
Mayfield, Katie	43.5	3					
Mayfield, Kayla	41	3			16	1	
McCadams, Joe	44	3					
McGahee, Ginger	40.5	1					
McGahee, Jeff	41	2					
McGraw, Bill	44	6					
McGraw, Tonya	46	3					
McKenney, Brian	40	1	37	2			
Melcer, Paul	41.5	2					
Meline, Ken	40.5	2					
Miller, Stephan	40.25	2			16	3	
Minadeo, Michael	42.5	3					
Mitchell, John	40.5	1					
Moore, Kevin	45.5	6	36	1			
Morrill, Dave "Bubba"	45	6					
Morse, Ken			36.5	2			
Morse, Kevin	41	1			17	1	

Recognition



★ 109.5" ★



★ 108.5" ★



★ 106.5" ★

★ 100+ Club ★ 2017

Name	Pike	Trout	Grayling	Inches
Calabresa, Bill	46	45.5	18	109.5
Reese, Rhys	48.5	42	18	108.5
Novicki, Joe	51	37.5	18	106.5
Myers, Trevor	45.5	43	17.5	106
Kracum, Richard	44	43	18	105
Kracum, John	44.5	42	18	104.5
Sailsbury, Brad	48.5	39	17	104.5
Sauger, Joe	46	41	17	104
Spielman, Daniel	48.75	38	17	103.75
Keith, Steve	47	39.5	17	103.5
Kehoe III, Tom	45	41	17	103
Preston, Darrel	44	42	17	103
MacDougall, James	48	37	17.5	102.5
Larson, Greg	44	39	19	102
Larson, Hunter	47.5	37	17.5	102
Trzos, Roberta	42.5	42	17.5	102
Daugherty, Joe	48	38	15.5	101.5
Rowland, Christopher	45.5	38	18	101.5
Witwer, Dick	47	38	16.5	101.5
Boone, Sonya	44.5	39	17.5	101
O'Brien, Gerry	47	37.5	16.5	101
Towers, Amy	48.5	37.5	15	101
Kracum, James	41	42	17.5	100.5
Sarason, Scott	44.5	39	17	100.5
Linaberger, Jake	42	43	15.25	100.25
Borden, John	47	36	17	100
Brzek, Gene	44	39	17	100
Linaberger, Justin	43.5	40	16.5	100
Peters, Gary	44	40	16	100
Rosenberg, Todd	43	37	20	100
Tallman, Nicholas	43	41	16	100

40 Big Pike - 47"+

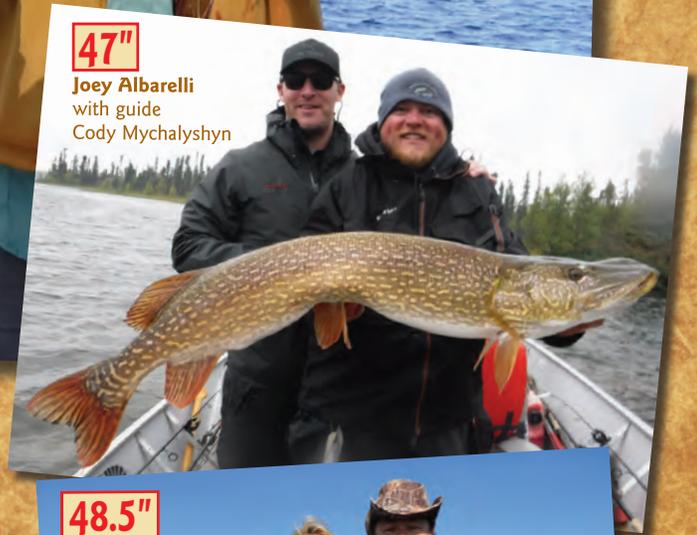
51"

Joe Novicki
with guide
Jan Phoenix



47"

Joey Albarelli
with guide
Cody Mychalshyn



48"

Joe Daugherty with guide Cory Craig



48.5"

Amy Towers with guide Jan Phoenix



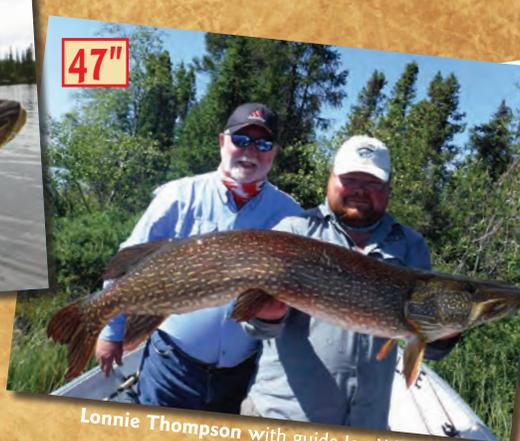
47"

David Thome



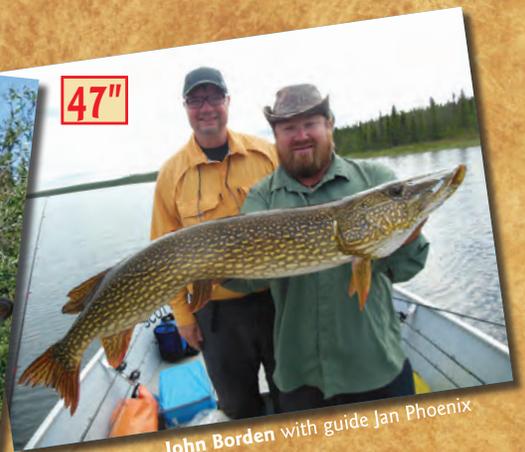
47"

Lonnie Thompson with guide Jon Wimpney



47"

John Borden with guide Jan Phoenix



49.5"

Jen Evans
with guide
Cory Craig



48.5"

Brad Sailsbury with guide
Paul Hamilton



48"

Ian Vaagenes with guide Steve Lindner



47"

Sean Saraka with guide Jason Terris



47.5"

John Hobson with guide Jordan Baker



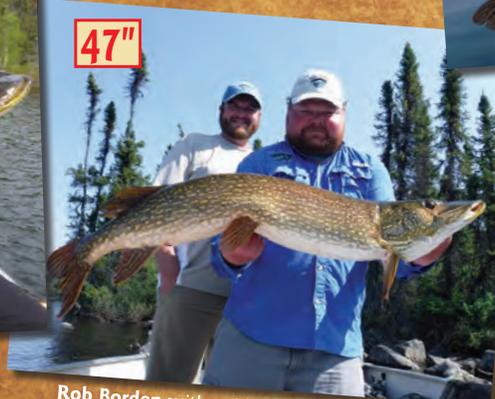
47"

Tom Tarantino with guide Steve Lindner



47"

Rob Borden with guide Jon Wimpney



47"

Greg Floyd



49"

Jon Evans
with guide
Cory Craig



48"

Bob Noble
with guide Cody
Mychalshyn



47"



Dan Walters with guide Jordan Baker

48"

Connor Dannewitz
with guide
Graham Coulombe



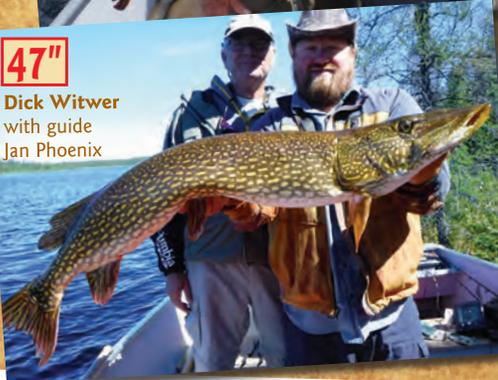
47.5"



Joe Wright with guide Steve Lindner

47"

Dick Witwer
with guide
Jan Phoenix



47.25"



James MacDougall with guide Mike Demyen

47"



Aaron Feirbaugh with guide Cody Mychalshyn

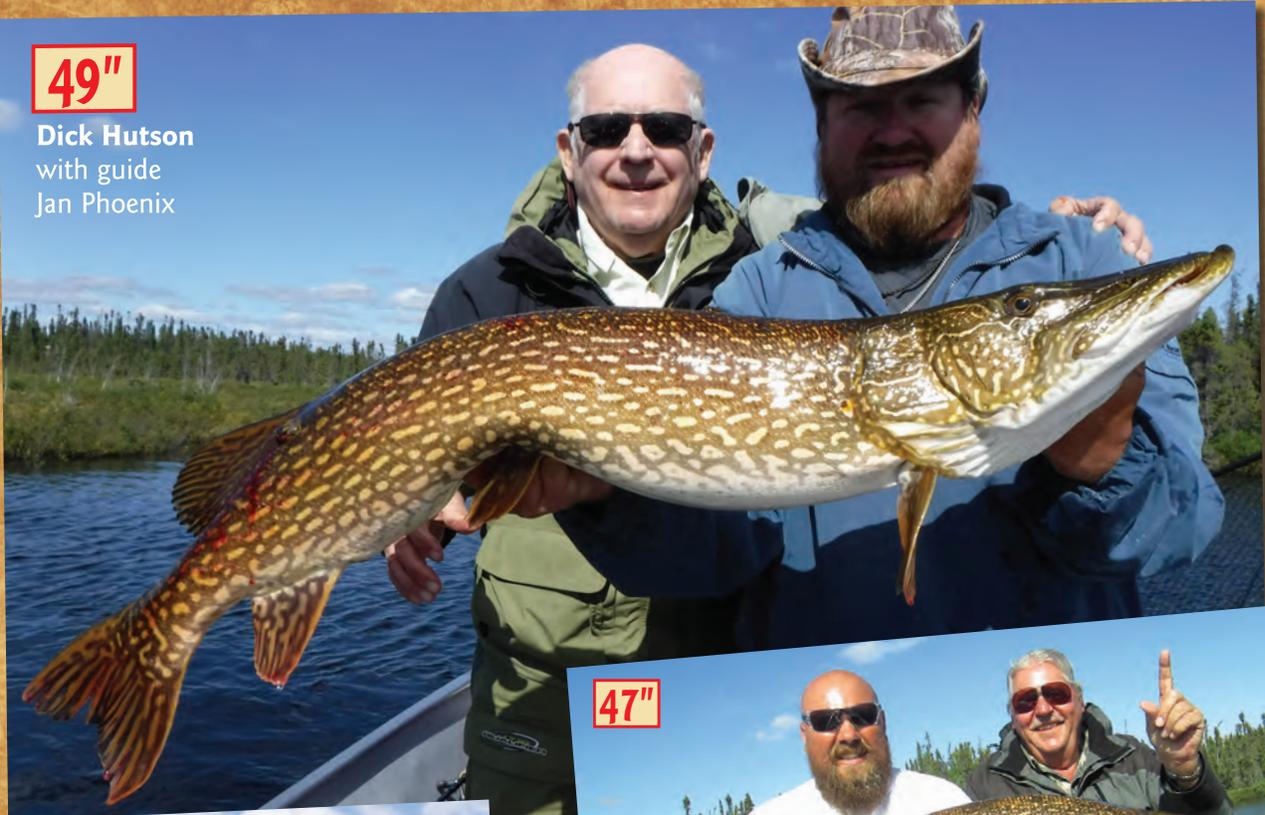
47"



Gery OBrien with guide Jan Phoenix

49"

Dick Hutson
with guide
Jan Phoenix



47"



Ed Reisdorf with guide Chester Porteous

48"

James MacDougall's
pike held by guide
Mike Demyen



48"



Terry Parks with guide Jan Phoenix

47"



Greg Maccarone with guide Curtis Woloshyn

47"



John Green with guide Steve Lindner

47"



Pat Spork with guide Curtis Woloshyn

47"



Steve Keith with guide Cory Craig

47.5"



Don Granata with guide Steve Yanish

48.75"

Dan Spielman
with guide
Jan Phoenix



48.5"



Rhys Reese with guide **Cory Craig**

48"



John Green
with guide **Steve Lindner**

47"



Foster Graf
with guide
Jon Wimpney

47.5"



Hunter Larson with guide **Steve Lindner**

47"



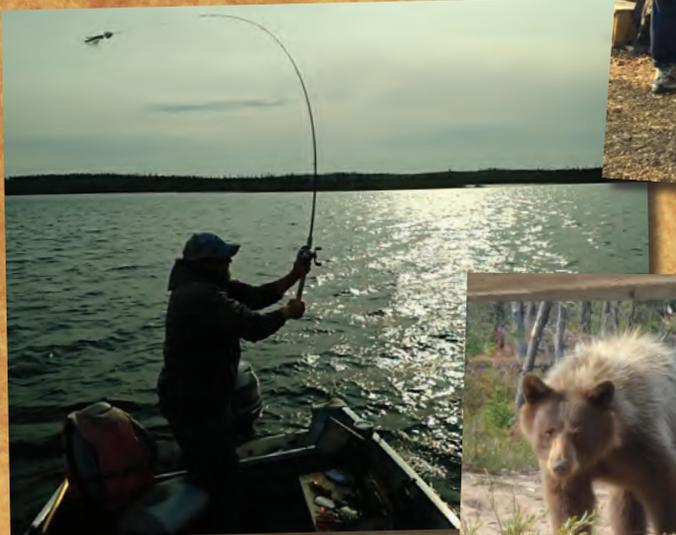
Allan Wortz Jr. with guide **Curtis Woloshyn**

47"



Tim Prasoloff with guide **Jason Terris**

Beyond Words



Reflections

"I've hunted and fished all my life. Scott Lake Lodge ranks at the top of outdoor experiences."

- Sam Hanna, OH

"Superb experience in every way. Great fishing, excellent staff, fantastic food, great guests and a relaxing atmosphere."

- Allen Wortz, Jr., WI

"Everything was so outstanding! The staff, the food, the lodging and the fishing were all top notch. Everything was seamless. It's a 10 out of 10 place."

- Marissa Koszewski, IL

"We had another fabulous week at Scott. It was a great week with great guides, great service, great food and drink, great weather, and so important to us — fabulous fishing."

- Dick Hutson, IL



Katie Mayfield
with Guide
Mike Demyen

"We have been to several lodges for both hunting and fishing. Scott is by far our favorite. This lodge was a smooth running machine from our arrival to our departure. We enjoyed the chocolates left on our bed, our guide, the staff, the trophy announcements, the nightly slide show of pictures, the food and, of course, the fishing."

- Katie Mayfield, TX



Sam Hanna with
Guide Curtis Woloshyn

"Best fishing of my life. My shoulder is still sore from catching so many fish. It was more catching than fishing. Please find a way to make the days last longer."

- James French, MD

"My week at Scott is my favorite week of the year. We have a terrific time both on the water and on shore — Scott Lake works its magic and I leave refreshed and looking forward to coming again."

- Susan Saraka, ON

"My two trips to Scott have both been over the top."

- Gary Peters, KS



Gary Peters
with Guide
Greg Hamm

Summer 2018

Booking Schedule

Call for Information: 1-888-830-9525
For all calls outside the U.S. use: 715-362-7031

www.scottlakeridge.com
E-mail: info@scottlakeridge.com

TRIP OPTIONS:

- **5 FULL FISHING DAYS** \$5,995* US Dollars/Plus Tax
- **10 FULL FISHING DAYS** \$10,995* US Dollars/Plus Tax

Contact our Sales Manager
Jon Wimpney at: 306-209-7150

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- Roundtrip air transportation from Saskatoon
- Transfers in Saskatoon and Stony Rapids
- Complementary Global Rescue medical evacuation insurance
- One night stay (double occupancy) southbound in Saskatoon)
- Experienced guides (one for two fishermen)
- Use of lodge fishing equipment including waders, rods & reels
- 18 1/2' aluminum boats powered by 40 H.P. motors
- Exceptional accommodations & meals
- Wine with dinner/soft drinks all day
- Use of canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, hot tub, sauna and all lodge facilities

CALENDAR KEY:

(Sample schedule for 5 day trip shown here)

5 FULL FISHING DAYS

Day 1 - **Changeover Day** Arrive in Saskatoon by 2:30 PM, charter to the Lodge for dinner
Day 2 - **Fish** Day 3 - **Fish** Day 4 - **Fish** Day 5 - **Fish**
Day 6 - **Fish** until 4:00 PM and return to Saskatoon late that evening.

- = **CHANGEOVER DAY**
Changeover days provide a full day of fishing for departing guests but no fishing for arriving guests.
- = **5 FULL FISHING DAYS**
- = **RESERVED FOR CORPORATE RETREAT**

TRAVEL NOTES:

- You need to arrive in Saskatoon no later than 2:30 PM on Changeover Day (CD). Our lodge charter will depart Saskatoon by 3:30 PM.
- Delta has non-stop flights from Minneapolis to Saskatoon. Air Canada flies to Saskatoon from many Canadian cities. Check with our recommended travel agent Travel Ex at 800/882-0499 or check with your favorite travel agent for flight options.
- We can assist you in coordinating travel to Saskatoon.
- Travel protection insurance is recommended.

EXTRAS AVAILABLE:

- Fly-outs to exciting destinations
- Massages
- Tackle/Gifts/Clothing
- Cash bar



TERMS:

PAYMENT:

- A non-refundable deposit of \$3,500 per person is required to confirm reservations.
- Balance due April 1, 2018
- There is a \$500 per day stipend for solo anglers. Unless otherwise arranged, for groups with an odd number of members this fee will be applied pro rata to all members of the group.
- MC, Visa, Discover & checks accepted.
- Past due accounts of more than 45 days will result in cancellation of the reservation and forfeiture of all payments made.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

- Forfeiture of all payments previously paid.
- Reservations can be transferred or sold to another party.
- If Scott Lake is able to fill a cancelled reservation, a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee will be made. If a replacement reservation is made at a discount, the discounted amount will be deducted from the refund.



FIND US ON



@SCOTTLAKELODGE

June 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 CD
10 WEEK 1	11	12	13	14 CD	15 WEEK 2	16
17	18	19 CD	20 WEEK 3	21	22	23
24 CD	25 WEEK 4	26	27	28	29 CD	30

July 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4 CD	5	6	7
8	9 CD	10 WEEK 7	11	12	13	14 CD
15 WEEK 8	16	17	18	19 CD	20 WEEK 9	21
22	23	24 CD	25 WEEK 10	26	27	28
29 CD	30 WEEK 11	31				

August 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3 CD	4 W. 12
5	6 CD	7 WEEK 13	8	9	10	11 CD
12 W. 14	13 CD	14 WEEK 15	15	16	17	18
19 CD	20 WEEK 16	21	22	23	24 CD	25
26 WEEK 17	27	28	29 CD	30 WEEK 18	31	1
2	3 CD	4	5	6	7	8

SCOTT LAKE LODGE

History

Imagine putting your home in an airplane. Quite a thought. Now imagine putting a collection of 30 buildings of various sizes into a bunch of airplanes, a big bunch. Now you get the concept and complications of building a fishing lodge 350 miles from any paved road. Every piece of wood, every nail, every window, every light fixture, every generator, every boat, every refrigerator, every piece of furniture, EVERY PIECE OF EVERYTHING at Scott Lake Lodge got here in an airplane.

Most of the materials used to build this modern edition of Scott Lake Lodge came in a twin-engine DC-3 on skis. For many years one was based at Points North, a major transportation hub 110 miles east of Scott Lake. That DC-3 made 93 trips here with a payload of around 6,000 pounds per trip before it tragically crashed on Ennadai Lake in March of 2000 due to a load shift, killing both pilots. Since that crash, all freight has been brought to the island in Twin Otters or Turbo Otters, either on floats or skis – too many trips to count.

Scott Lake Lodge has a curious history. In the early 1960s, a Saskatchewan company planned to commercially fish Scott Lake's abundant lake trout and whitefish, especially the whitefish that command a better market price. They constructed on the island four red and two blue wooden boats. Two were massive, probably 22-feet long with a beam of more than 6 feet. Four were smaller but still much bigger than any current watercraft on the island. None are floating any more, but three are still visible in shallow water, one in Red Boat Bay just east of the lodge, one northwest of the lodge and one above the rapids at Kimiwan Falls, in the east arm of Scott Lake. The other three rest somewhere at the bottom of the lake. The



Unloading the DC-3 in 1996

group built a few small buildings but those have not survived to current days. With boats, nets and some infrastructure they were ready to attack the lake. How they planned to get the fish out of Scott at an economically sensible cost is anyone's guess. There are no records with Saskatchewan to enlighten us about this story. So off they went to find their pot of silver fish. Within a couple of weeks of working nets, their commercial fate was sealed; they discovered that the lake whitefish in every part of the lake they fished had internal parasites, making them a Grade B product, virtually unsalable. So they just up and abandoned the project and our island. There are still fragments of fishing nets on the island's north side, relics of a failed enterprise. In effect, the harmless internal parasites in the whitefish saved Scott Lake. Had the whitefish been Grade A fish you would not be reading this right now: you would have never heard of Scott Lake. Even after 50+ plus years the fishery would probably not have fully recovered. Scott Lake would be just a blue spot on maps, not a productive sportfishing destination.

"How they planned to get the fish out of Scott at an economically sensible cost is anyone's guess."



Main dock in the mid-70's

The island rested quietly for a few years until 1968 when Slim and Hap Cave, who had run an unsuccessful fishing operation on Lake Athabasca, acquired the lease on the island and purchased the red boats, apparently then still quite serviceable. The first season they built a small cabin and over the next five years started growing the lodge, building eight more cabins, all different colors. But apparently the business was not doing well. The Caves wanted to sell. Enter Mike and Lenna Woloshyn, in-laws of the Caves. They decided to dive into the fishing lodge business. They sold their home in Chilliwack, British Columbia and purchased Scott Lake Lodge in 1973, bringing their young son, Steve, to the island. Steve later became a Scott Lake guide and Beaver pilot. Mike worked off-season at the Uranium mine in Uranium City, on the north shore of Lake Athabasca about 80 miles southwest of Scott Lake. The Uranium City story is worth a quick aside. In the post WW II Cold War era, the Canadian federal government invested over \$100 million, many billions in today's dollars, to build a city around a low-grade uranium mine. In the middle of nowhere a city of around 4,000 people not connected by road to anywhere blossomed. It even had a shopping center complete with a bowling alley. When the mine was shut down in 1982, it became a surreal ghost town, a setting fit for a Mad Max film. Its current population is about 200. Mike's mine job was a good one; he could take off the entire summer and the income allowed the Woloshyn family to stay in the lodge business for 14 seasons.

History



A cold unloading in 1998



The main lodge (now Trout/Aurora) in the late 70's

"...Mike recalls that only a couple dozen pike over 40 inches were caught every season with anything approaching 50 inches extremely rare."

Mike recalls his years at Scott fondly. He remembers "a lot of great people and a few dingbats." He especially appreciated the support of the Southland Corporation, the parent company of the 7-Eleven chain, who sent three corporate groups to the lodge and got them through their critical early years. By today's standards the lodge was primitive then, but the Canadian fishing market was different too – people came just to fish. The cabins had no indoor plumbing and no interior paneling. There was a community shower house. Mike and Lena lived in a cabin that is now The Last Cast Bar, the oldest building on the island. The main lodge was the structure that is now the Trout/Aurora cabin. For all those years they used those big red boats powered by 20 HP Johnsons. Mike can't recall for sure but it's likely that All Day Bay, 24 miles from the lodge, at the very east end of Scott Lake, probably needed a full day to get there and back with boats that could not have travelled at more than 10 mph. Asked about the size of the fish back then, Mike recalls that only a couple dozen pike over 40 inches were caught every season with anything approaching 50 inches extremely rare. There were no fly out lakes in that era. Scott was the fly out lake. The business was doing OK but new capital investments were needed to keep the place competitive. Fourteen years was a good run.

In 1989, Mike and Lena sold the lodge to the Ganglers, a Chicago family who had been in the Canadian fishing lodge business with a lodge at Reindeer Lake. They made some major investments in the lodge, brought in some celebrity anglers like Babe Winkelman, Lefty Kreh, Flip Pallot and the In Fisherman crew. At that time there were several fishing magazine stories about Scott Lake. It became a well-known lodge within the destination lodge market. After a couple of seasons, the old red boats were retired and 18' aluminum boats with 40 HP Mercury motors became the mode of travel on the water, making all points of the sprawling lake accessible. The cabins were given significant upgrades including indoor plumbing. In the early Gangler years all the buildings were painted white. Later the half-log siding was added to match the look of the main lodge which was built in 1993. It featured a huge dark-rock fireplace on the south facing wall (blocking most of the view of the lake) and carpet with a big pool table in the center of the dining area. The kitchen was about half its current size, but that's where the lodge staff had their meals. The capacity of the lodge at that time was 18 guests.

Tom Klein knew that they would be spending the rest of their summers at Scott. It was a love affair with a lake.

After spending three seasons as a customer, two at the Premier Lake outpost and one at the main lodge with his wife Pat, Tom Klein knew that they would be spending the rest of their summers at Scott. It was a love affair with a lake. In August of 1996, Tom and Pat purchased the lodge and embarked on a major 7-year building/remodeling/landscaping project. About half of the current buildings, including Caribou Cabin, the office, the Esox/Moose/Musk Ox complex, Grayling Cabin, Stone Haven Spa and several staff buildings and storage buildings were constructed during that period. The other half were rebuilt from the bottom up – new floors, new roofs, interior paneling, exterior siding, new wiring and new plumbing. The construction has never really stopped. In 2005, a new staff dorm was built, and the kitchen was expanded. In 2009, a sauna and new guide den were added. In 2011, Raven cabin was built. In the spring of 2014, a new women's dorm was constructed. In 2015, Ron Spork, a long-time Scott customer, joined the Kleins as a proud Scott Lake owner. In 2017, The Last Cast Bar was expanded and the big deck around the main lodge was replaced, having served Scott guests since it was first added in 1997. By opening day of 2018 there will be a new bar/lounge added to Laker Lodge. And that's just the beginning. Read about the future plans in this edition's View From Caribou. The beat goes on.



The deck on the current Main Lodge in 1995



Tundra Sharks and Tundra Tuna

By: Mark Graf, a Scott Lake Regular

For more than a decade, I've made an annual trek from Chicagoland to Scott Lake Lodge, an oasis of luxury in the middle of a vast wilderness, right on the border of Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. It's become my fishing home. When I flew into Scott on my first trip, I recall pressing my face close to the window of GQD, the vintage Scott Lake Lodge Beaver. Over the 50-mile early evening flight north from Stony Rapids, Saskatchewan, I watched a water wonderland unfold. It was difficult, impossible really, to discern just what was an island, what was a peninsula or what was mainland because the

whole concept of mainland disappeared into a blue/green maze of interconnected waterways. It was mesmerizing until I was shocked out of my waking dream when out of nowhere a little city on an island appeared. There were a couple of dozen buildings connected by trails — spruce chips I found out later. From the air, it looked like a miniature Disneyland with a soft sunlight hitting the main lodge, solar collectors shinning on the roof. Since I knew there would be fishing involved, it did indeed look like a magic kingdom, a fantasy land for anglers.

But even that aerial view wasn't as magical as my first fishing stop on my first day at Scott. We were running north on Scott Lake. The water clarity was stunning, even frightening at times, as Paul drove over reefs that appeared out of nowhere, some right in the middle of large expanses of water.

I was thinking how the glaciers really did a number on this lake. There was no rhyme or reason to the location of those shallow areas. Paul had a plan and a destination in mind, a bay in the northwest arm of the lake, about 15 miles into the Northwest Territories. I was loving every minute of this boat ride.



"... pike are just eating machines, wolfing down about anything smaller than themselves."

Tundra Sharks and Tundra Tuna

This was late June, still spring-time this far north, when the pike are still very shallow. Arriving at the bay, it was love at first sight. It had exactly the kind of dark silt bottom, creating conditions for warmer water, that pike dearly love early in the season. Paul knew this would be the spot. Standing on the casting platform, I was a voyeur in a private aquarium. There were pike everywhere and with the sun at my back, these fish were dramatically lit up. I had that kid-in-a-candy store feeling, a sight casting dream. Picking the biggest fish of course, I made a cast with a fly of my own creation. Instantly the fish spotted my fly, whipped its body around, accelerated before the fly sank even an inch and smoked it: all this in about two seconds. Explosive gamefish, pike like to put on a show and this one didn't disappoint as it ripped around the shallow bay. Despite a dramatic "coda crawl" of tail walking and the old dive-under-the-boat trick, the pike could not shake the hook; everything held together and Paul artfully lifted the heavy fish out of the water. The tape said 44 inches but was silent about the dramatic markings on this sleek creature. Its dark back had a flash of brilliant green with streaks of olive and brown on the flanks, accented with flecks of gold spots on the tips of the scales. It was a thing of beauty and it was a true tundra shark, a name I love more than the other pike handles – jackfish, gators, fresh water barracuda, or water wolf. After the pictures were taken and the silt settled, the other pike were still there; they had merely changed seats. The rest were easy pickings, excellent dance partners. Wonderfully, my first day at Scott had just begun. And these tundra sharks were cooperative. Paul explained that with the short growing season at this latitude pike are just "eating machines," wolfing down about anything smaller than themselves. Burbot are a favorite but so are whitefish, lake ciscos and, of course, any other pike just a little smaller and a little slower. Slow moving prey like leeches are sort of like pike candy, so easy to keep sucking down.

Since that first day at Scott over a decade ago, I've caught thousands of pike from 2-4 feet, some huge trout and hundreds of arctic grayling, a cool little fish that provides a relaxing change of pace from the adrenaline infused pike and trout fishing. Like many Scott customers, I love fishing Scott Lake itself but crave jumping in a floatplane and going even deeper into the seemingly endless wilderness north of Scott. Over the years, I've sampled the fishing at nearly all the lodge's now 20+ fly out destinations in the Northwest Territories, ranging in distance from a couple of dozen miles to over 100 miles from the lodge, and ranging in size from a few

thousand acres to a few hundred thousand acres. Favorites? I love them all but I go where Paulie, my guide for nearly all my trips, sends me. For me variety is the spice of fishing. Most years, one 5-day trip just isn't enough and I come back for one or two more. It's just that good. Typically, my son or my wife or both join me in these expeditions. It was a wonderful feeling last summer watching my son, Foster, land a monster pike, a fat 47 incher, on his fly rod. He's as hooked as I am. We all love the fishing, but also love the range of amenities that the lodge offers – the fine dining, the hot tub, the sauna, an excellent spa with massage services, the comfortable cabins and most of all the extraordinary customer service. It's a place that's run like a corporation but feels like a family. We all love the elaborate shore lunches with just-caught pike or trout, expertly prepared by the guides. What's not to love here?

My single best Scott Lake Lodge memory? That's easy. It was a July trip in 2012. We were trolling for lake trout, a fish I like to call the Tundra Tuna because they look, feel and fight like a freshwater version of the famed saltwater fish. It was right on Scott Lake at a spot called The Hard Rock, a spot best known for great action not especially for monster trout. That reputation would change. Within a few seconds of dropping down our Half Wave spoons, my rod buckled – there was absolutely no give at all. I knew it was a deep hole so being snagged was out of the question, but I was hooked into something big, real big. In a fight more reminiscent of saltwater fishing, it took 15 minutes to get the fish close enough to see just how big it was. This was one tough customer. Three times we had heart-stopping moments when Paul tried to slide the massive trout into the cradle. Three times the fish made yet another dive into the deep. The fourth try worked. Adrenaline-fueled energy turned quickly into pure joy. The fish was spectacular, a silvery beauty that measured 46.5 inches with an immense girth of 27.5 inches but fat, fat, fat from head to tail. Foster got to snap the photo of one very thrilled angler and proud guide. You can't forget a moment like that. Lakers are still on my menu every trip, whether I'm on Scott or one of the fly out lakes. Their power and stamina are legendary. On the other hand, pike are addicting, too. Tundra sharks or tundra tuna? You can't go wrong choosing between the two. Will I be back in 2018 and beyond? Do pike like Mepps spinners or black bunny leeches? Do lakers like Half Waves? Of course, they do. And of course. I'll be back in 2018. I'm booked!

“... but I was hooked into something big, real big. In a fight more reminiscent of saltwater fishing, it took 15 minutes to get the fish close enough to see just how big it was. This was one tough customer.”



Evolution of the Bunny Leech

By: Tom Klein

You don't expect to see the words "evolution" and "leech" in the same sentence. Because leeches are such primitive little suckers, it's hard to think of a leech evolving. There is one leech though that has had a rapid evolution – the Bunny Leech, that killer pike fly made from a strip of rabbit hide, the simplest and most effective pike fly that has ever left a fly-tying vice. These aquatic cousins of earthworms are absolute pike candy. And why not? They are probably tasty and they are s-l-o-w moving critters. Unlike chasing a burbot, a lake cisco, a whitefish or especially another pike, chasing a leech is a simple matter of cruising up and just inhaling. A big pike can do that dozens of times a day without breaking a sweat or whatever pike do when they get worked up. While the biggest freshwater leeches can stretch out to over a foot in length, our Scott Lake leeches are small, very small. We know this because our intrepid Head Guide, Cory Craig, has been measuring the ones in shore lunch pike and the ones that pike cough up while being released. He's never seen one larger than 2 inches. Apparently of the 500 species of freshwater leeches we must have just one species at Scott. They are all identical – tiny, non-descript gray little guys.

Does size matter? It never used to. During Cory's first years as a guide at Scott (like way back in the early 90s) fly fishing on Scott was brand new. The big pike had seen a lot of spoons and spinners but this neutral buoyancy thing that just dangled in front of them was just too easy. They sucked it in. According to Cory, the technique a couple of decades ago was simple: "Just find a big fish, throw out a big, fat bunny leech and they would eat it. If you hooked it and lost it, just find it again. They would eat again." I discovered that on my first trip to Scott Lake in 1995. My first morning in the boat my guide (Chester Tuck) handed me a bunny leech and said "Take it. It was tied by Lefty Kreh. He was in this boat yesterday." Indeed the legendary fly fisherman with his good buddy and famed angler, Flip Pallot, had helped to popularize fly fishing for pike at Scott. And Lefty's leech did work. On that trip, I became hooked on fly fishing for pike.

Now flash forward 22 years. There are just as many big pike in Scott Lake, but they are far more educated now. Over the years they have seen too many of those big leeches. Some take but many don't. What Cory started to notice over the past few years is that really beat up bunny leeches, often nothing more than a thin strip of rabbit leather, did work pretty well. Combining that fact with his measuring program turned on a



light in Cory's fishy brain. Thus, the evolution of the "micro-leech," a miniature version of the standard leech. It works. I've been experimenting with this fly for a few years and have watched (in the clear water of Scott sight fishing allows anglers to actually see what pike like and what they don't like) the results over and over. I've been sort of scientific about it. I'll spot a nice pike just lying in the silt as they often do in the warm, shallow bays. These are typically fish with an already full belly. Pike aren't feeding in our shallow bays. They are digesting the meal they ran down out in deep water, the burbot or whitefish that comprise most of their diet. They don't want a big meal so most of the time they will ignore the big leech that passes by. Those fish are my subjects. I'll give it two or three tries with the big leech and then switch with another rod that's rigged and ready with a micro. Does it work? Not always, but OFTEN. I recall one from last summer that was the perfect subject. It was a sunny day in the north arm of Scott in a bay (the lily pad bay) that gets a lot of traffic (well, at Scott that means someone fishing maybe every other day). Guide Matt Cornell spotted a very nice fish. I did the full protocol – several presentations with the big leech. And no cheating—they were careful casts with just the right amount of movement. This fish, as many big fish in this resting mode, never flicked a fin until the third cast when it slowly swam away, but not very far. Perfect. Time for the micro. On the first presentation the fish ever so slightly turned her head (not sexist, all big pike are females). That was the sign. I knew she would eat. She did, a fat 44 was in the boat. Over and over I've seen this work but only with big fish in shallow water. I never tried blind casting in deep water, never thought of it. But of course Cory has. Last August fishing over a deep milfoil bed in very choppy water, Cory puts on a micro. I was using a huge Deceiver-type fly as big as my hand, which is what I usually go to in the late season. I was thinking: "How will a fish even see that tiny thing Cory is throwing. This is blind casting." Apparently the fish in that hole weren't blind because on the third cast Cory hooks and lands a beautiful 45 incher. And he kept catching fish until we wore out the spot.

So, the leech fly has evolved and smart anglers on Scott are taking the bait. It works.



Cory Craig with a "micro-leech" catch

SUPER ²⁰¹⁷ SIZED



Mal Myers
with Guide
Steve Yanish

Pike: 45+

Novicki, Joe	51	Parks, Terry	48
Evans, Jennifer	49.5	Vaagenes, Ian	48
Evans, Jon	49	Hobson, John	47.5
Hutson, Dick	49	Larson, Hunter	47.5
Spielman, Daniel	48.75	O'Donnell, Priscilla	47.5
Reese, Rhys	48.5	Wright, Joe	47.5
Sailsbury, Brad	48.5	MacDougall, James	47.25
Towers, Amy	48.5	Albarelli, Joey	47
Dannewitz, Connor	48	Borden, John	47
Daugherty, Joe	48	Borden, Rob	47
Green, John	48	Fierbaugh, Aaron	47
MacDougall, James	48	Floyd, Greg	47
Noble, Bob	48	Graf, Foster	47

Green, John	47
Keith, Steve	47
Maccarone, Greg	47
Prasoloff, Tim	47
Reisdorf, Ed	47
Saraka, Sean	47
Spork, Patrick	47
Tarantino, Tom	47
Thome, David	47
Thompson, Lonnie	47
Walters, Dan	47
Witwer, Dick	47
Wortz Jr, Allen	47
Gesme, Russ	46.5
Keith, Steve	46.5
Laing, Brent	46.5
Loken, Jim	46.5
Mancuso, Peter	46.5
Peifer, Greg	46.5
Prasoloff, Tim	46.5
Towers, Jeff	46.5
Berg, Jeff	46
Blake, Joshua	46
Borden, Rob	46
Calabresa, Bill	46
Chernus, Richard	46
Craig, Tosh	46
Daugherty, Joe	(2) 46
Dismukes, Edward	46
Fierbaugh, Tim	46
Borden, John	46
Hambright, Jim	46
Hauser, Mike	46
Hoinmiller, John	46
Keith, Steve	46

Kennedy, Mike	46
Kristo, Steve	46
Masuga, Chase	46
Mcgraw, Tonya	46
Nettune, Bob	46
Newbury, Mike	46
Rowland, Paul	46
Ryan, Jeff	46
Sauger, Joe	46
Sumeracki, Mike	46
Tharp, Bryce	46
Thome, David	46
Vaagenes, Ian	46
Viljaste, Jameson	46
Vizzi, Carl	46
Hanna, Sam	45.75
Bajalia, Sam	45.5
Bixby, Will	45.5
Faulkenberry, John	45.5
Gesme, Russ	45.5
Light, Peggy	45.5
MacDougall, James	45.5
Moore, Kevin	45.5
Myers, Malcom	45.5
Myers, Trevor	45.5
Parks, Terry	45.5
Rogers, Mike	(2) 45.5
Rowland, Christopher	45.5
Walker, Christina	45.5
Wortz Jr, Allen	45.5
Barbieri, Ed	45
Bensema, Marian	45
Morrill, Dave (Bubba)	45
Carlson, Chris	45
Dannewitz, Connor	45

Daugherty, Joe	(2) 45
Davis, Don	45
Denney, Kevin	45
Faulkenberry, Thomas	45
Fierbaugh, Jarod	45
Goebel, Pat	45
Graf, Mark	(3) 45
Juergens, Ron	45
Kehoe III, Tom	45
Kennedy, Mike	45
Klenk, Jim	45
Kusar, Jim	45
Laing, Brent	45
Light, Peggy	45
Lynch, Michael	45
MacDougall, James	45
Martindale, Danny	45
Moulopoulos, Aris	45
Moulopoulos Sr, Harry	45
Nettune, Bob	45
Noble, Susan	45
Olson, Tom	45
Parks, Terry	(2) 45
Reese, Rhys	45
Rollins, Charles	45
Rowland, Christopher	45
Sauger, Ed	45
Skolnick, Zachary	(2) 45
Spielman, Daniel	45
Velas, Joe	45
Walker, Bret	45
Williamson Jr., Ken	45
Wisnosky, Carl	45
Witt, Brendan	45
Young III, CB	45



Ralph Russell
with Guide
Paul Hamilton

Lake Trout: 40+

Calabresa, Bill	45.5	Young III, CB	43
Russell, Ralph	44	Fierbaugh, Aaron	42.5
Bixby, Tim	43	Brown, Eddie	42
Kracum, Richard	43	Brown, Eric	42
Linaberger, Jake	43	Klenk, Jim	42
Myers, Trevor	43	Kracum, James	42
Williamson Sr., Ken	43	Kracum, John	42

Reese, Rhys	42
Spork, Ron	42
Trzos, Roberta	42
Brown, Eric	41
Creech, Steve	41
Kehoe III, Tom	41
Rosenberg, Mike	41
Sauger, Joe	41
Snyder, Seth	41
Tallman, Nicholas	41
Williamson Sr., Ken	41
Young III, CB	41
Larson, Loren	40.5
Myers, Trevor	40.5
Williamson, Bill	40.25
Albarelli, Joe	(2) 40
Albarelli, Mike	40
Brown, Eric	40
Doerter, Steve	40
Hammett, Nate	40
Linaberger, Justin	40
Olson, Tim	40
Peters, Gary	40
Sandbrook, Bill	40
Snyder, Liz	40
Young III, CB	40



Darrell Massie

Grayling: 18+

Rosenberg, Todd	20	Heine, Mark	18
Larson, Greg	19	Kahl, David	18
Long, George	19	Kracum, John	18
Russell, Bill	19	Kracum, Richard	18
Zagrodnik, Earl	19	Lackner, Mark	18
Lackner, Mark	18.5	Massie, Cheryl	18
Rosenburg, Todd	18.5	Novicki, Joe	18
Sandbrook, Bill	18.5	Parker, Joe	18
Troop, Andrew	18.5	Plapp, Peter	18
Calabresa, Bill	18	Reese, Rhys	(2) 18
Cappa, Conor	18	Rowland, Christopher	18
Denney, Kevin	18	Shiple, Will	18
Emens, Richard	18	Tune, Joel	18
Faulkenberry, Bobby	18	Zagrodnik, Earl	18
French Jr., Skip	18		

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