

## SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER



### FISHING

The lake opened up the earliest in history this year and one would think that the fishing would've bumped up a week or two due to early ice out. Fishing has been both consistent and sporadic at times. It's a strange year for fishing but in spite of the irregular patterns since the walleye opener we're still recording many quality fish and our log of registered trophy catches to date is greater than ever! Most of our guests are pleased with the results of their week of fishing and especially participating in a mouth-watering shore lunch is a tradition that never gets overlooked.

One would think early ice off – early fishing. Logical but wrong - it's obvious the fish spawn according to their needs and not what we think they should do. Winter conditions play a large role for fish. What happens below the ice largely depends on what's going on above. The results of a winter with little snow fall, insufficient run off in the spring along with wind swept lakes allowing for long days ultra-violet sun rays to penetrate through the ice has changed the fish habitat and therefore the fishing.



Our lake is down approximately 1 ½ feet and on a 5,000 acre lake this is a huge volume of water loss. The fish will adapt for this change, meaning the angler will also need to change their techniques, presentation and location in order to find the fish. A word of advice is to listen to our guide since he's been on the lake more than anyone else and can tell you what's been going on.

**WALLEYE:** We're getting reports that trolling is working better than vertical jigging. Therefore using spinner rigs or troll with a jig will provide excellent results. The objective is to get the bait/lure right in front of the fish. Reports have been that the fish are in three feet of water at one time and 12 feet the next time. *Suggestion: consistently work the shorelines (shallow to deeper)*



**NORTHERN:** The high end 30's and 40"+ have been caught trolling while fishing for walleye with the odd one caught while casting. They are elusive and it will be necessary to hunt for them.



*Look what's going on in the background.....*



## **WILDLIFE Encounter**

Here's a great story that happened just this spring. A couple visiting from Toronto, Ontario came up prior to our resort opening. On one of Paul's first trips out on the lake with Rick and our guide were talking about wildlife and what could they expect to see while on this trip.

Turning into the narrows (waterway that joins our big and small lake together) Paul asked Rick if guests ever saw moose walking the shoreline or swimming. The words no sooner came out of his mouth when they saw a mother cow and calf swimming from the south shore of the narrows to the north shore. They slowed the boat to watch when suddenly they



noticed the calf floundering and submerge. The cow kept swimming without noticing the difficulty her calf was having. Concerned Rick and Paul quickly pulled along side of the calf and Paul immediately looped his arms around the calf's neck before she went under again. The calf was scared, shivering in Paul's arm as they slowly made their way to shore where they observed the cow getting out of the water. The calf's fur was cruddy as if it had just been born and it was obvious that it wasn't strong enough yet to make that kind of swim. What could the mother be thinking of? Was it trying to get away from a bigger threat? The cow's natural instinct is to get as far away from the placenta as possible, and, there was nothing

but water around on three sides. Meaning there must've been a bigger threat such as wolves or bear that prevented the cow from going inland.

The calf now eased in Paul's arm somewhat but her eyes bulged in utter fear, unaware that Paul and Rick were only trying to get her safely to land – back to mom. Closer to shore now they could hear the cow calling out to her young but once she saw the boat getting closer to her she charged towards them. Rick never took his eye off her as he continued towards shore and towards the threatening cow. He knew the only chance the calf had was to get her out of the water as soon as possible. The cow now realized that the boat wasn't letting up and soon ran back into the trees. As they reached shore Paul supported the calf until she found her footing and then he gently assisted her in the direction the cow went. They anxiously watched as the calf called and continued to walk towards her mom. Soon both mom and baby were together again and without hesitation, quickly disappeared into the thick bush.

After all was said and done what was Paul's take on all this? He said I don't waste time catching 40"+ northern – I catch moose! It was a once in a lifetime experience.

## **Wildlife Viewing**

Most of our guests have reported seeing black bear, moose, wolves, fox the odd lynx and numerous grouse and rabbits while driving up the Graham Road towards the resort. Therefore the black bear and moose population look good, and as well the small game such as grouse and rabbits are at peak.