



THE PAWISTIK NEWS



A COMPENDIUM OF HARD FACT AND OTHER NEWS FROM THE BEST RIVER IN NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

GREAT NEIGHBOURS MAKE FOR GREAT ATMOSPHERE AT THE LODGE

You've heard the expression "Good Fences Make Great Neighbours." Well, at the risk of sounding obvious, at the lodge we simply say "Great Neighbours Make Great Neighbours."

As most of you know, the lodge is located on a little spit of land, surrounded on three sides by water and shared with six summer cabins, all owned by longtime northern residents. Our neighbours are great, but two couples stand out as prime examples of what northern hospitality is all about. These two couples are Andrew and Angie Gryba, and Carl and Bernice Galay.

Many veteran lodge guests know the Grybas and the Galays, as they have been invited to their cabins, shared dinner and drinks with them, and even given

Carl their fish to have them smoked. But

don't go rushing over, as Carl only does this when he's in the mood.

George and Erma, the lodge managers, know only too well the nature of our two neighbours' friendship. Angie and Bernice will share produce from their prolific gardens, and Carl and Andrew are always available if George needs a helping hand with a project. Both Carl and Andrew have even guided lodge guests on occasion, and with their knowledge of the river system, the guests received a special treat.

We at the lodge are ever in their debt, but try to repay their kindness in small ways. If a welder or some other equipment or tool is needed, or a small part, or some work needs to be done that requires the use of the quonset, our door is always open to the two "G's".

As much as anything else, though, is the positive atmosphere that is generated by neighbours that always have a smile on their faces, and are always there when you need them. Once again, thanks Carl, Bernice, Andrew, and Angie, and let's share some stories and drinks when summer rolls around again!



Neighbours Andrew Gryba (left) and Carl Galay show off a good feed of walleye, probably caught just south of the bridge, about 30 seconds away from both their cabins. Angie and Bernice will cook 'em, but they won't clean 'em!

GAZEBO NEARS COMPLETION

For those of you who were beginning to wonder, at last the gazebo is starting to look like something! This architectural gem reflects the work of a number of individuals, starting with Charlie three summers ago. He prepared the ground and laid out the plan, then poured the foundation. The summer of 2001 didn't see much outward signs of progress, although the lumber was purchased and Scott's cousin built the galvanized firepit canopy. The main structure was built in the spring of 2002 by Scott's brother and seven of his pals from the Edmonton area (more of this in the next story). Then Andrew Gryba and George got up on the roof and shingled. In the meantime Andrew fitted the door, an important step in the mosquito-proofing of the structure. A coat of stain was then applied, as well as window screen and soffit.

This spring it will be Scott's turn, with the firepit, to be constructed of local limestone, and electricity. Benches and a table, and four summers of work will finally see the christening of a project that while never in doubt, certainly had an uncertain finish date.



The work of three summers, and finally something to see. Presenting our new gazebo!



LODGE MANAGER'S RETREAT

This is the setting for George & Erma's off-season, located just outside of Mistatim, SK. Looks pretty

LODGE AND EDMONTON CREW ENJOY A WIN-WIN RELATIONSHIP

For a number of years now, Scott's brother Dean has brought up a crew of Edmonton-area residents on a fish for work scheme that pleases both parties. The gang has consisted of at least four, and sometimes as many as eight individuals, all with real skills and a yen to try out the great fishing on the river.



Construction proceeding on gazebo

The boys went up again last spring, but somehow Mother Nature didn't get the arrival date, and she decided to leave the river iced in. This was the latest ice-out in recent memory, with no boats in the water until June 1, opening day for the river south of the highway.



The Edmonton crew admiring their masterpiece. From left to right- Bob Smith, Kim Yurchak, Dale Feiseler, Terry Aronyk, Dean Jeffrey, Harvey Walker, Bob Weiss, Dave Balon.

As a result, Dean and crew arrived May 30, and got right to work because they couldn't wet a line. In three long days, the crew managed to frame, sheet, and side the gazebo, build an 8x12 foot deck, run wire for seven electric fan heaters in two locations, install and program a satellite dish (to watch the hockey playoffs), hook up a high efficiency fireplace and chimney, and finally build four chairs for the odd time they might have been sitting around.

On top of this they managed to catch more than enough fish once the ice disappeared, although

their biggest northern this year was a mere 17 pounds. Needless to say, Scott feels that next year's trip should include far more fishing than work, although the boys already have plans for a large deck and porch area for Lodge House. And the way they work, a four day trip should give them at least three days of hard fishing.

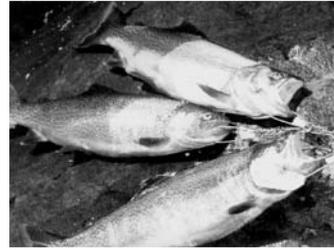


The fireplace installation at Lodge House.



Building the deck outside Lodge House.

MAFFENBEIER FAMILY FUN!



Three nice rainbows from Mid Lake, caught by the Maffenbeiers. These beauties weigh in at about five pounds apiece.



Jeremy Maffenbeier caught this northern just off the bridge by the lodge.



The whole Maffenbeier family had a great time, catching lots of fish and exploring the system.

BRUSH CLEARING IN A BIG WAY

The pictures don't look like much, but anytime you get an open area of about an acre that isn't a lake in our part of the world, it's big news. We decided to get busy and clear the scrub brush and dead trees from behind the four cabins on the west side of the lodge. Starting from Steve's and running north to Dean's, this gives us an area of almost an acre which can be put to a number of uses. We're exploring the idea of a camping and RV parking area, complete with running water and power hookups, both of which are lacking in the provincial campground across the road from us.

We currently have numerous spots throughout the lodge grounds for campers and Rvs, but this is an opportunity to have a central area dedicated entirely



Cleared area behind the four west cabins, probably to be used for a camping and RV park.

SEPTEMBER FISHING - CHALLENGING BUT REWARDING

The weather at the lodge in September can be variable, to say the least. On the one hand, it can be a time of hot days and cool nights. On the other, it can rain endlessly, finally turning to snow just when you need to portage the boats over a slippery hill.

One thing that doesn't change, however, is the fishing in the month of September. It seems that every fish in the system is trying to cram that last mouthful in before the weather turns really cold and everything slows down. As



A little snow on the portage never hurt anyone.

a result, big northerns and big wall-eye seem to gang up on the hooks, and the percentage of big fish rises dramatically. Especially for walleye, September seems to be the time when you can anchor at the top of rapids or even a speed-up, and catch fish over five pounds all day long. We have guests who have come only in September for years, sometimes enjoying, and sometimes enduring the weather in their quest for big fish. And best of all, you can virtually have the river to yourself, as fishing and September don't seem to go together for most people. Think about trying it this year. You'll love it, especially if the weather cooperates.



Sometimes the weather can be a little challenging in September, but the rewards are definitely there for the truly committed (and I don't mean insane).

In ALL HIS - OR DO THEY JUST LET HIM HOLD THEM?

looking over a bunch of photos for this newsletter, I was struck by the fact that Richard Vogel, our perennial visitor from Columbia, Missouri, was prominent in a very large number of the shots his group took of their fall 2002 trip. If all these fish are ones he hooked, as opposed to simply being the poster boy for the party, then this resident of the "show me" state is actually showing **us** how it's done.



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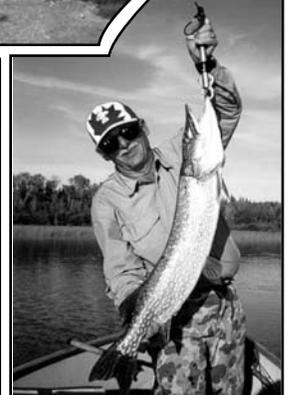
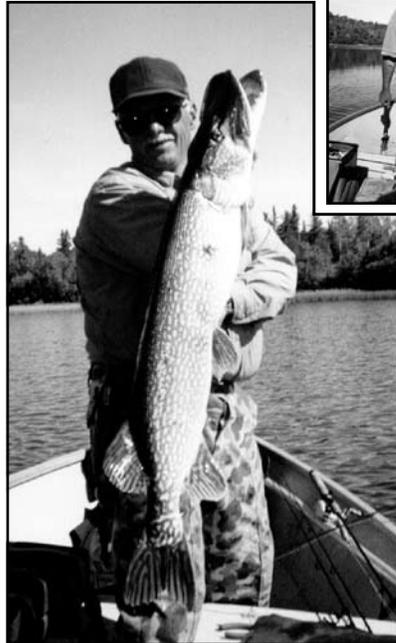
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a-g: Vogel, Vogel, Vogel, Vogel, Vogel, Vogel, Vogel (gets a little boring, doesn't it?)

**A FEW SATISFIED CUSTOMERS FROM
THE SUMMER OF 2002...**



*For information on rates and availability, please call
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