



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

# From Thailand to the Lodge Improbable But True

**I**t all began when Scott received an email from Southeast Asia, Thailand in particular. The call came from Adrian Schnee, an Alberta native, with parents in Wetaskawin and an uncle in Viking.

Although he has been running a retail operation in Thailand for the past 15 years, he has remained an avid fresh water fisherman, especially with the fly rod.

His uncle, Jack Allen, had looked us up, and they were both intrigued. After a few emails back and forth, Scott was able to convince Adrian and Jack that there were still big fish in northern Saskatchewan, with the added bonus that they could drive right to the lodge. They booked for a week in late June, and I think it is safe to say that they left happy.

Here is a quote from Jack, when he emailed the pictures below:


*"There is no way that I can thank you enough for our trip. The experience of Scoop Rapids and Dog Rapids would easily be enough, but we caught way over 30 pike over 20 lbs. in seven days (one day I alone caught nine pike over 20 lbs). Ade's 45 inch pike was the biggest pike I have ever seen, and I have fished for big pike for 35+ years."*

Adrian also achieved a personal best when he hooked and released



*The biggest of the trip. Jack Allen thought it likely that this one would have weighed in at over 30 lbs.*

his biggest pike to date with a fly rod. He caught a 22 lb. beauty that was 38 inches long.

I don't know if Adrian's busy schedule will allow him to get back to Canada this summer, but I think I know where he and his uncle will be heading if they want to catch fish. 

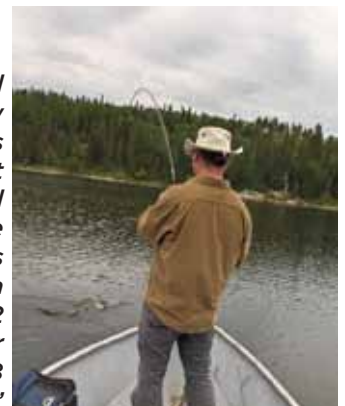


*"Our longest at 45 inches, but not our heaviest."*

*"I can't imagine how big, our scale broke on a different pike, but he was 39 inches."*



*"Not only did my nephew catch his biggest pike of all time, but he caught his biggest on a fly rod. A 22 lb scrapper that was 38 inches long."*



# A Good Year for Rainbows

Mid Lake, just a mile to the west of us, has always been a good lake for rainbow trout. Because of its depth and wealth of fresh water shrimp, fish are able to over-winter, and they grow fat, with beautiful pink flesh as a result of their feed.

Another bonus is the fact that our rainbows do not taste swampy, and the flesh is always firm, again because of the depth of the lake.

Over the past three years, the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment has stocked Mid Lake with a total of 7,500 fingerlings, which ensures a sustainable population despite fishing pressure. There is also some evidence that natural breeding is occurring.

What is beyond dispute, however, is the fact that our Mid Lake rainbows get to grow up, and we see regular catches of trout over 9 lbs. You have to go a long way in so-called prime mountain trout waters to catch a fish even half that size, and most who do come away very happy.

And so, if your appetite for those multi-hued beauties is stimulated, the next time you visit the lodge take one of our boats or canoes up to Mid Lake, just off the highway, and see if you can match the headliner you see pictured in this article. 🐟

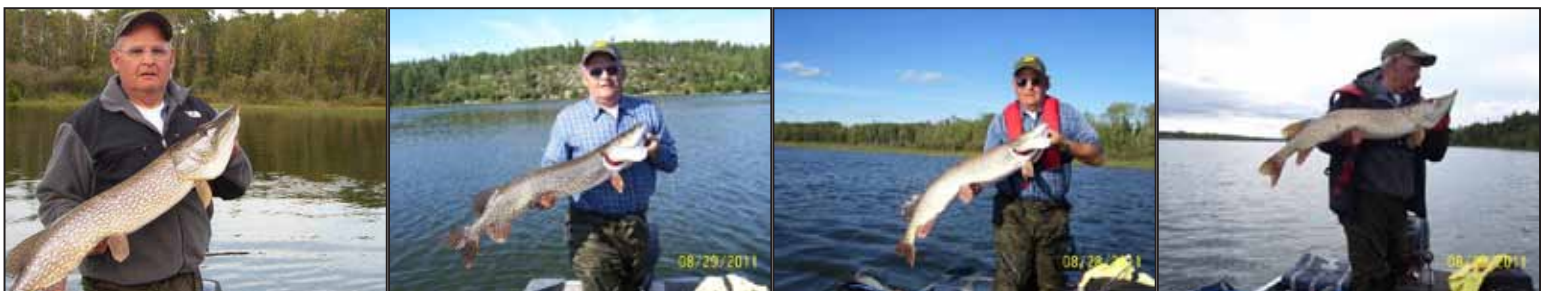


Todd McCombie, who spent the summer camped at the lodge. He left the bright lights of Creighton so he could be closer to the fishing. He did well, as evidenced by this fine Mid Lake rainbow.



Breakfast of champions. A little Crown Royal and rainbow trout to start the day! Does it get any better than this?

## Another Bloede (and Lundholm) Summer




# They Also Come for the Scenery

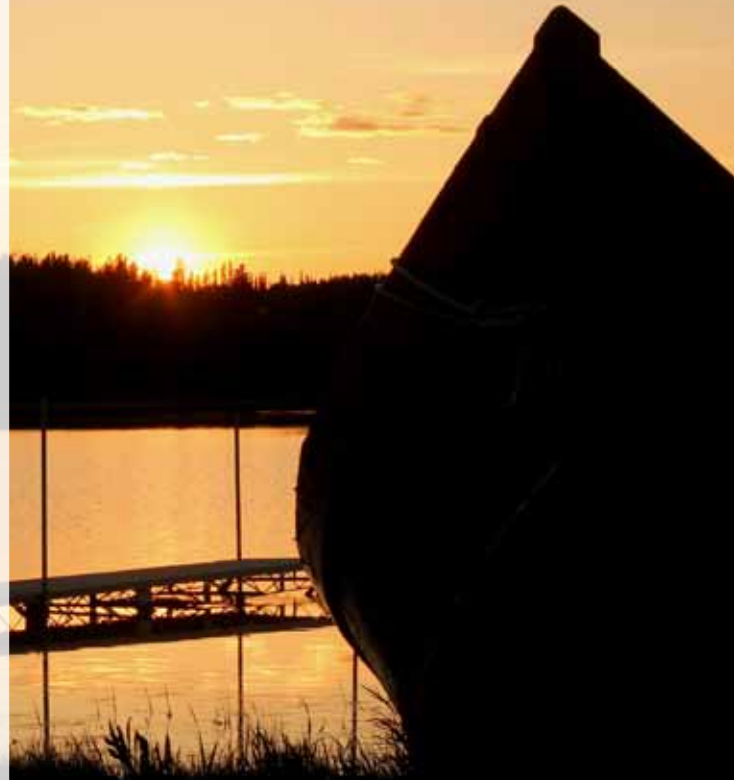
**I**n late April of 2011, Scott got a call from Dorothy Wark in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. She told him that she had hung up her rod and reel, but she had exchanged her gear for a camera. She was wondering if there was room at the lodge for her and her sister, Norma McLean.

We replied in the affirmative, and Dorothy and Norma checked into Charlie's as the first guests of the 2011 season. According to Dorothy, Charlie's was just what she wanted. We have better appointed cabins, but she said that the cabin reminded her of an earlier time, when her father had a trapper's cabin that Charlie's very much reminded her of.

Over the next week, Dorothy and Norma traveled the area, but the highlight of her trip was when lodge manager Kelly took her downriver to Scoop Rapids. The trip south was an amazing experience, and contributed heavily to the over 1,000 pictures Dorothy took of the river and surrounding area.

Our focus is fishing, both for the family and the hardcore, but there is more than enough to see and do if you want to do a little hunting with a lens.

Scott talked to Dorothy in February, and she'll be up for more northern experiences. We may have to tell her when the ice is out, so she doesn't show up too early! 



*Reflections in rock.*

*Scoop Rapids, overcast.*

*South from the lodge.*



## Bloede (and Lundholm) Summer Continued



# More Scenery from the Air



1.

1. Ant Island - Facing north.
2. Scoop Rapids is home to hundreds of pelicans during the summer.
3. Morton Creek in the foreground. The Sturgeon Weir stretches north to the horizon.
4. Macdonald Creek marks the entrance to three small lakes east of the river, all with excellent walleye fishing.
5. Dog Rapids marks the beginning of the river proper. Corneille Lake is in the background.



2.



3.



4.



5.


# Interactive Fishing

## How the Pelicans Do It

The following shots also came from Dorothy Wark, who observed these pelicans at Scoop Rapids for a couple of hours.

We have no scientific data to prove this, but it appeared as if this group of fish eaters was working together. First, they would slowly herd a school of fish into the shallows below Scoop, in relatively quiet water. Next they would circle the area slowly, taking care not to disturb their quarry unduly. Knowing they had fish in their circle, they would then create a ruckus, flapping their wings and lifting their bodies from the water. Their next act was to dive quickly, almost submerging their bodies, in an attempt to capture their prey in their massive bills. On at least one occasion, the tactic worked, as Dorothy saw one of the quartet with a fish in his beak.

This example of pelicans working together for their common good is yet another example of the surprising wonders of this part of the country.

Scoop's pelicans are there every year, so if you take the time to have lunch there, you may be rewarded with the extraordinary sight Dorothy captured with her camera. 

**Step 1**  
*four pelicans slowly herd a school of fish into the shallows.*



**Step 2**  
*they begin to form a rough circle, trapping the fish within their reach.*



**Step 3**  
*flapping their wings and raising their bodies, they attempt to panic the fish into fleeing in all directions.*



**Step 4**  
*all four dive into their circle in an attempt to make a catch.*



# Adventures in Fishing 2011



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