

Plummer's
LODGES

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THE ARCTIC LURE

Winter 2013



GREAT SLAVE LAKE • TREE RIVER • GREAT BEAR

CELEBRATING



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Printed in Canada

Our 2013 season up in the Arctic was another success. The lodges are all still standing and our guests all went home happy with stories to tell throughout the winter. It was predictable Arctic weather... as long as you predicted the weather would be unpredictable! We had a late ice out at the same time we were having blazing bright, sunny, calm days, and then it got cold, and then it got hot, and then it got cold and then it got hot... This kept our guides on their toes trying to figure out the fish but as the centerfold photos will attest – they did an outstanding job!

Thanks go out to all our returning guests that were lured back to Plummer's by the call of the north, and a big thank you to our new friends who came up to one of Plummer's Arctic Lodges for the first time. Everyone at Plummer's hopes you enjoyed your Northern initiation, and we apologize in advance if we have inflicted you with the lifelong addiction that draws us back repeatedly to the land of the Midnight Sun.

"We've Been Changed"

Our trip really began long, long ago when I was a little boy spending hours fondling my enormous collection of dog-eared "Field and Stream" magazines, most of which had achieved the status of Sacred Scripture in my imagination. Foremost among them were stories about Great Bear Lake and Tree River, photographs of which, though faded, were Holy Iconography to me.

My wife Marlene and I are both now "Silverbacks," but we finally reached the "Promised Land" of my youth.

As I tell my friends, while subjecting them to our 350+ pic slideshow, all words and representations are futile while trying to convey the experiential grandeur of the place. It is magical, indeed. The flowers and sunsets are surreal. The fish are phantoms. The guides and staff are all in the prime of competence and courtesy.

All superlatives and generalities need specifics to flesh them out. Here are a few "vignettes" that come to mind: Our intrepid guide Ryan O'Donnell, standing up and speeding the boat many miles in search of "bigger trout" than the 30+ "Teeners and 20's we caught every day, and preparing awesome shore lunches of sushi, Cajun-honey-blackened, and curried trout; beautiful Butterfly Red Fin trout eaten with gratitude; 20" airborne Grayling caught while waiting for lunch; comradery at camp: Aivars the vagabond Trout Hunter and his 83 lb "Monster" pics, and our tablemates – the Boys from Ontario – generous, loud, and full of life – barging into our cabin at night with macabre Elvis wigs, singing "Hound Dog" in horrible harmony; beautiful and charming young women filling our plates with culinary delights; the mystical enchantment of the Tree River where we caught 16 big char, 5 of which were 33" or better, including a big red male caught from shore, a fish that nearly sent me into cardiac arrest while making multiple power runs in and out of the boiling rapids, hanging by a heartbeat on my barbless spoon: and finally the culmination of my dreams - a huge, red male with full kype and psychedelic color, a 38.5" x 23" Behemoth caught the morning before our flight out...

Did we wake or dream? We've been changed...

Mike LaChat (with editorial advice from Marlene)



This past summer I did something I thought I would never do, go to the Arctic! I'm a mother of 4 boys aged 17,19,21,23. Needless to say there is a lot of testosterone in the family and I always get out voted on where to spend our family vacations! When my husband first went to Plummer's Lodge at Great Bear 25 years ago he had such an amazing time he ended up returning at least six more times since then, each time he would bring up customers giving them an experience of a lifetime! Two years ago he decided to bring his boys up knowing they were at a great age to appreciate a fabulous Arctic adventure, leaving me home for week alone. Well this past summer John asked me if I'd like to join them in returning to now what is one of their favorite places. Not wanting to miss out on a family vacation I agreed to go. All the stories and pictures I have seen over the years did not do Great Bear justice, the pristine water, the beauty and vastness of the landscape, and the fishing!!!!

I see now why anyone, whether you like fishing or not would love to experience this type of trip. The staff at Plummer's was amazing; they were very accommodating to every group that stayed, whether it was a group of fisherman, a man and wife or a family

like us. The guides did an exceptional job looking after everyone. Thank you Chummy and staff for giving our family a very memorable experience...

We will be back!

Jane Carrick

What Our Guests have to say



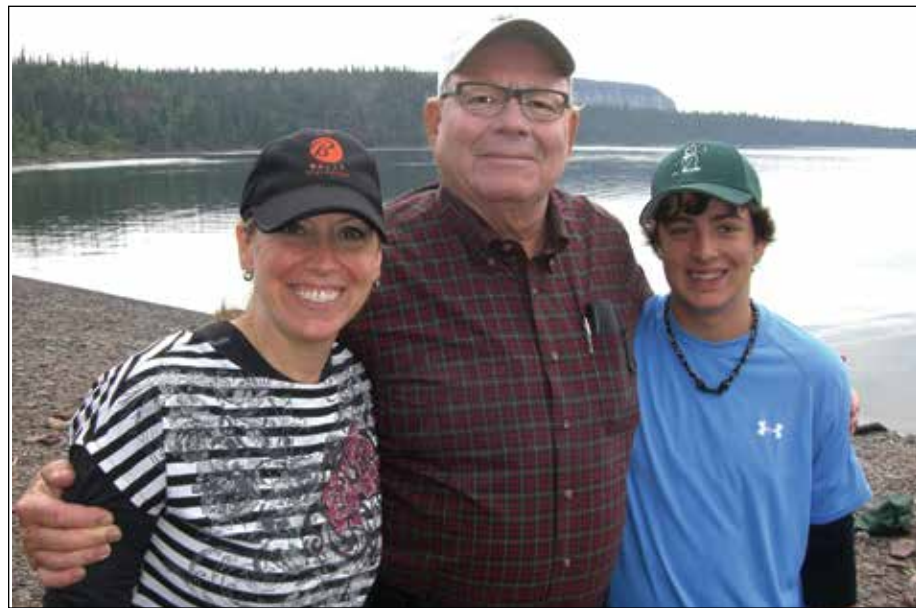
Dear Grant,

Hope all is well, and that the fish are still biting! I will be most interested to hear if the 46lb season record is broken in the next couple of weeks. Regardless of whether it is or not, I had a spectacular time catching that fish, and will remember it for a lifetime (and have certainly told just about everyone I know about it).

Thank you for the hospitality, and outstanding service, at your lodge on Great Slave Lake. An amazing trip was had by all, with 3 generations catching more fish in one trip than have been caught before. The guides were exceptional, and the camp staff top notch. This is a trip my father, son and I will remember for a lifetime.

Best regards,

Becky Gall



This beautiful lake trout was caught and released in Clearwater Bay. We had been "hunting" for big lakers for 4 days. My buddy Mike had caught 6 fish over 20 lbs. but I hadn't caught any big ones until I hooked into this 42 lb. beauty. We were the first ones to fish this bay this year. The lake started out calm but as the day progressed we had a nice chop that seemed to spark the bite. Just 30 seconds or so before I hooked the fish our guide, Craig Blackie from Plummer's Lodge called out that he had spotted a large fish. Anyway, I knew the fish was a big one as it started taking line and all I could do was hold on. I was able to get the fish close to the boat and we saw how big it was and then it took off. Craig said "that's your 40 lb'er Al", and I responded with "no pressure, right". As my reel had a line counter I was able to see that the fish ran for over 120 feet before stopping. Then my line went slack. It was swimming back toward the boat. I have never reeled so fast in my life and with a huge sigh of relief I felt the fish again after reeling for what seemed like an eternity.

The fight took between 10 and 15 minutes and we weighed the fish in the net and left it in the water until we had all of our cameras ready. We were quick with the photos and when we released the fish, it swam away immediately. What a thrill.

My previous biggest laker was 38 lbs., which I caught back home in Manitoba, so I was excited about breaking the 40 lb. barrier. Catching and releasing this gorgeous fish capped off an amazing week at Plummer's. All praise to our amazing guide, Craig. I will be back next year looking to land a 50 lb'er.

After nine consecutive years of going to Plummer's Lodge Great Slave Lake it's still equally as tough to leave at the end of the week, just as it was the first time I visited. Over the years we've made some great friends up there. A year without traveling to Yellowknife just ends up leaving a void in our summer fishing adventures.

My first year at Plummer's started out as a father-son trip. It only took this one trip to get 'hooked'. Despite hearing of stories of this enchanted place far up in the north from both my uncle and grandfather some 20+ years ago, no pictures or stories could ever have prepared me for the enjoyment and experiences that this place has to offer. It is truly a place where memories are created. During every annual return trip with my wife, Monique, we spend hours laughing and reminiscing over the special moments that this place has provided: Personal bests broken; new places we've discovered; tournaments lost and won; unbelievable shore lunches; and the special attention that Plummer's constantly delivers day in and day out.

I would have said you were nuts if you would have told me nine years ago that some of the most memorable moments in my life would be created under the arctic sun amidst the most beautiful landscapes in the world travelling with my wife across the crystal clear waters of Great Slave Lake in the company of a man named Bob. However, those moments have become a reality, and Bob has become a fixture during our trips and a great friend of both Monique and I.

Now I must admit that I have in past questioned his allegiance, especially given that my wife already has a replica of a monster trout caught at Slave mounted on the wall, all thanks to Bob. My wife may say that the trip was a little like groundhog day at times: Leave dock; Pass Coulton's Cove; Continue up to the reef; Insert a few stops along the way; Have lunch; and, Repeat. But the formula seemed to work because Monique and I saw some of the biggest fish we've ever seen pulled out of Great Slave. The added bonus was that they were on the end of my line, and I now have the choice to either have a replica made of a 45lb or a 49lb lake trout to match, and slightly out-size, my wife's.

Year after year we return wondering how next year could possibly top the year previous but it always does, and this year was no exception. Grant and the rest of the staff have provided Monique and I with some of the most memorable moments and world-class fishing over the past nine years. Not to mention we've made numerous new friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Looking forward to doing it all again in 2014.

Ryan and Monique Lloyd

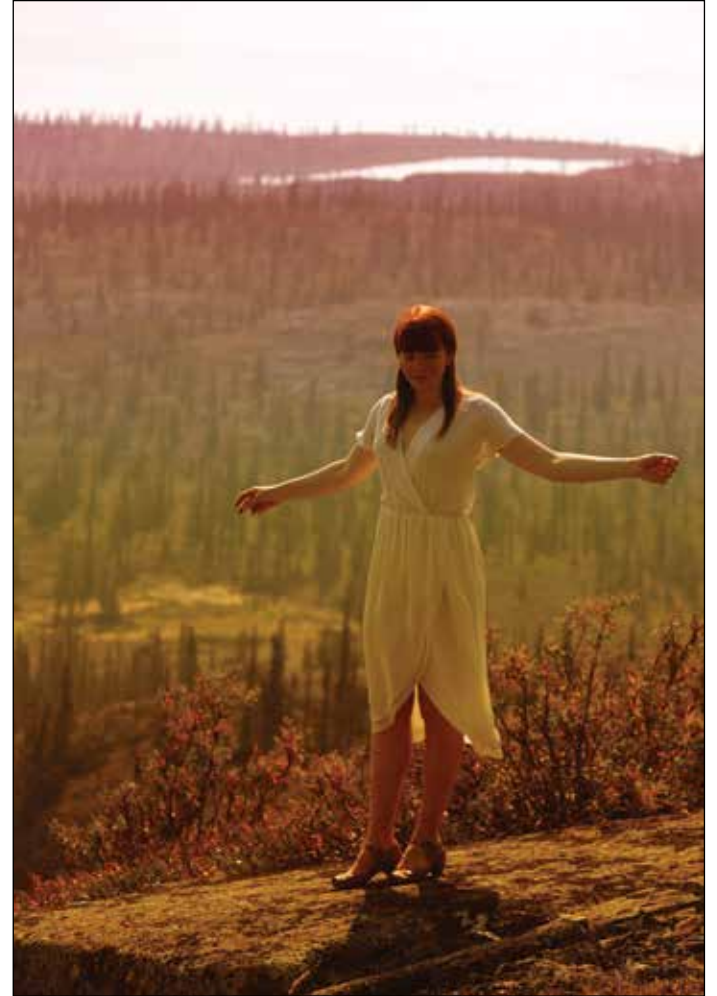
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Great Bear Lake Elopement



It was important to us to pick a special place for our elopement, and somewhere that felt like “us” to exchange our vows. We flew into the Lodge for the week and spent the first couple of days scouting locations. With perfect weather (20 degrees and no bugs!) the two of us set off across Great Bear Lake towards the Narakays. We packed our gear on our backs, and started our hour and a half climb to the top of the hill. With seemingly no one around for miles, we exchanged our marriage vows overlooking the fantastic views of the Arctic. It was truly a perfect day to become Man and Wife, with our only witness a curious white wolf.

Sheena & Jeff



Recipe

Lake Trout Gravlax

This easy to prepare method of curing fish is a traditional Nordic recipe used since the middle ages. Normally made with salmon you can use any fatty fish of your choice and I find it’s a fantastic way to enjoy Great Bear lake trout or the char caught on any of our breath taking fly out destinations. Classic gravlax cure is made with sugar, salt, and fresh dill but here’s my simple twist I use to make “Great Bear Gravlax”.

Ingredients:

- 2 very fresh boneless fish fillets of your choice (skin on, approximately 2 kg)
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1.5 cups sea salt
- ¼ cup fresh cracked pepper
- 1 bunch fresh parsley
- 2oz Crown Royal Rye Whisky (or whisky of your choice)

Rough chop bunch of fresh parsley, place in blender or food processor. Add remaining dry ingredients to blender and pulse until fairly consistently combined. Lay plastic wrap on your cutting board enough to put your fish on. Put a .5 cm layer (approximately) of the sugar salt cure down. Lay your first fillet of fish skin down and cover entirely with a 1 cm layer of cure. Evenly sprinkle 1 oz of whisky over fillet. Take second fillet and cover flesh side of fish with 1 cm of cure, sprinkle evenly with whisky and lay on top of other fillet flesh side down. You’ll make a bit of a mess doing so but don’t stress, you’ll be just fine! Then finish with a layer of salt on the skin side of your second fillet now facing flesh to flesh with

the other one. Wrap both fillets like that in more plastic wrap and place in a suitable sized flat dish. Place a similar sized flat dish on top with a bit of weight in it and refrigerate for 12 hours. Remove from fridge, turn over, cover again with second dish and refrigerate for another 12 hours. Remove plastic wrap, rinse in cold water, slice towards the tail on a 30 degree angle and enjoy! Serve with fresh bread, cream cheese, or whatever you’d like! See you next summer!



A Fourth Generation Fishing Family Tradition



It started back in the early 1950's when Warren Plummer owned the lodges and Jack Mercer came up from the U.S. to fish. Warren and Jack became good friends and Jack soon started to bring his son Tim up to fish. Tim eventually brought up his son-in-law Caleb and when Caleb's son Tilt turned 7, the tradition continued. From the age of 5, Tilt's brothers have been chomping on the bit to join the fishing trip and in 2013 the twins finally got the green light to come to the Arctic and demonstrated their love for the sport as well. On the wall at the lodge we have a picture of great grandpa Jack up at Bear in the 1950's. We decided it was time to honor Jack and the Mercer family with a photo. The twins are holding the picture of their great grandpa so we could capture all four generations of great fisherman and great friends.



From Back left: Tim, Caleb, Chummy
From front left: Tilt, Mercer, Max with Jack Mercer in photo

Plummer's Arctic Lodges 2014 Trade Shows

January 9-12 Chicago, IL	All-Canada Pheasant Run Resort Mega Center	February 20-23 Glendale, AZ	International Sportsmen Exposition University of Phoenix Stadium
January 9-12 Sacramento, CA	International Sportsmen Exposition Cal Expo, State Fairgrounds	February 27 – March 2 Suffern, NY	World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition Rockland Community College
January 16-19 Denver, CO	International Sportsmen Exposition Colorado Convention Center	March 5 – 9 Houston, TX	Houston Fishing Show George R. Brown Convention Center
January 29 – March 1 Boston, MA	Yankee Dental Conference Boston Convention & Exposition Center	March 13-16 Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Boat & Sportsmen Show Edmonton Expo Centre
February 5 -8 Las Vegas, NV	Safari Club International Mandalay Hotel and Casino	February 20-23 Quebec, PQ	Hunting Fishing & Camping Show Centre de foires d'ExpoCite
February 6-9 Toronto, ON	Toronto Sportsmen's Show Direct Energy Center	March 26-30 Minneapolis, MN	Northwest Sportshow Minneapolis Convention Center
February 14-17 Mississauga, ON	Spring Fishing & Boat Show The International Centre		

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Bragging



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THE ARCTIC

The Arctic. You don't really realize how far north you are until you look at a map. You are truly in one of the last untouched places on Earth. For 10 months of the year, it is uninhabited by people. The Lodge is open only two short summer months and only a few hundred people get a chance to experience it every year. You also don't realize how vast this area is until you are either flying in one of the Otters or exploring areas of the lake.

This year I was fortunate to explore another new area with my guests Tom Lansing and Jim "Doc" Schlafer. Tom and Doc are regular guests at Bear who have exploring the area and surrounding lakes for over a dozen years. Each year they return with plans for a new adventure, and Chummy tries to figure out how they are going to top the previous one. On the docket for this year's adventure was a pre-season trip at a small northern lake system. This lake and river system is home to Walleye, Pike, Whitefish and the odd Lake Trout.

Each year I learn new things about the lake and the fish, and see things that 99% of the population would never see. This year was no exception. When we first arrived in Yellowknife, the ice was still locked up tight on Great Bear. This was the second last week in June, when the majority of lakes in Canada have been ice-free for well over a month. Even Great Slave Lake to the south had been ice-free for quite some time. Great Bear Lake is just that much further north and is a much larger body of water. As a guide, I was very excited to see ice. Early in the season when the ice is still on, the fish pile up in shallow water, making them easy to target. This time of year is the best time to do the fly-outs around the lake.

We spent 7 days camping, fishing, and exploring the new area. The fishing was nothing short of incredible. We found a few spots where big post-spawn Pike were piled up over emerging weed growth. It got to the point where we were pulling lures away from 30-35" Pike because we had caught so many in that size range and wanted bigger. Our two biggest fish for the week were a 47" and a 48". Both were spawned out but I'm sure in their prime were absolute tanks.

The Walleye fishing was some of the craziest I'd ever seen. Even from the beach where we were camping, they were on almost every cast with the fly rod. This is the furthest north of the Walleye's range, and with no fishing pressure, they're everywhere. We didn't have to try hard to catch them and the average size were 20 -22".

At one point we decided to try the "100 Walleye in an Hour Challenge" on our last day. Two guys, midday, blazing 30C heat, and not a cloud in the sky - the worst possible conditions for Walleye fishing. We managed to catch 100 in an hour with a few minutes to spare, and that was pretty slow fishing.

The wildlife in that area was quite special too. We saw two moose and a wolf just across the river from camp. We also saw three other moose on our trip that were submerging themselves in the water to



try and escape the hoards of horse flies. Surprisingly, although the water on Great Bear was still mostly frozen, where we were the water was a balmy 65-70F! The third day we decided to traverse the river. The river isn't mapped out and we just had a few print outs from Google Earth. We knew there would be rapids but we weren't sure how big and whether or not we'd be able to get down them. We took our time going down and it took the majority of the day. We stopped in one in-flow where we found a ton of Pike stacked up like cord wood. Interestingly, the water in the main channel of the river was 55F and in the channel it was 65F, hence why the Pike were stacked up in there.

My guests absolutely had a blast and we landed a lot of fish in the 40" range - including our second biggest of the trip, a 47". Doc whipped out the fly rod and got a few on the long rod too! The arm was mostly open and we were able to scoot across the calm water to a bay on the West side of the arm. We wanted to try and get the Grand Slam - Pike, Walleye, Whitefish, Lake Trout and Grayling. We had crossed two off the list and we needed to get a Lake Trout.

Right away we had one follow up to the boat and then we managed to get into a few, including a 20 lb Laker. After a couple hours I noticed the wind was really starting to kick up. With a long



trek back we decided to call it and head back. We didn't get far before we were rocking and rolling in some pretty hefty waves. We made a unanimous decision and decided to wait it out instead of chancing it. I headed straight south with the direction of the waves towards shore. We were a few miles from the nearest shoreline and luckily there was an island where I aimed the boat. We tucked in behind and sought shelter. This island had great shelter from the wind and a lot of wood for us to burn. Making an executive decision, I decided it would be best for us to stay the night, get some rest and have a fresh start in the morning. Although there is 24 hours of daylight at this time of year, the angle of the sun made it impossible to see rocks and I didn't want to chance it and end up wrecking our motor trying to get back to our camp.

The next morning the wind was still blowing but not nearly as bad. The island was only a mile from the mouth of the river so we booted back and started our way back up-river. It took us about 6 hours to get back to our camp,

although we took our time. It was quite the adventure although we all thought it best to not try it again. When we got back to the camp we still had Grayling and Whitefish to cross off the grand slam list. Unfortunately with the wind it was impossible to get to any of the Grayling spots. We did manage to get a few big Whitefish.

The weather the rest of the season was unusual. The ice was off very quickly due to a lot of wind that broke it up pretty good. The wind also churned up the water and the warmer water in the shallows was quickly cooled off, scattering the fish. There were some days where you just had to put on the miles with the lures in the water to find fish. Even still, a lot of big fish were caught, as usual, and a lot of camera cards were filled up with pictures. Can't wait for next year!

Smile and Memories

Plummer's



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Plummer's Great Bear Lake Lodge will begin the 2014 season June 28. GBLL is where Plummer's two turbine Otters are stationed. It is from here that the trips to the fabulous Tree River originate. It is also the starting point for the "custom" trips, whether it is to explore seldom visited barren ground lakes, navigate some of the historic Arctic rivers, or just doing a day trip to one of the famous "fly-outs" that consistently put a smile on anglers' faces.



Plummer's Trophy Lodge will open July 5 after a single season hiatus. This motel styled lodge has not been fished since early August 2012, so you can count on some big fish being caught for a "Hug and Release" next summer! Trophy Lodge is not only known for its big Lake Trout, but some of the best Arctic Grayling and Northern Pike are found there in the Smith Arm of Great Bear Lake.



Plummer's Great Slave Lake Lodge enjoyed an amazing fishing season in 2013. The fishing was fast and furious with anglers enjoying the rare combination of "lots of fish" and "lots of BIG FISH"! Nestled in the acclaimed East Arm of Great Slave Lake, this is the original Plummer's Arctic Lodge that began 75 years ago by Chummy's Grandpa and Dad. Fishing here has somehow only gotten better over time. Some of the best hot spots on the entire Great Slave Lake are undoubtedly within view of the lodge! Great Slave will begin hosting anglers June 28, 2014.



Plummer's Arctic Circle Outpost ran its inaugural season in 2013 and was an unqualified success! This is an unguided week-long trip available only for groups of 6-8. Reports came back about some of the most non-stop fishing action that our guests had ever seen! Tucked into arguably the most beautiful region of Great Bear Lake, many of the groups booked again for 2014 immediately after finishing their trip. Guests at Arctic Circle spend the last night of their trip at GBLL, and there was no shortage of praise for the Arctic Circle resurrection.



Plummer's Tree River Outpost is our only camp in Canada's Nunavut, and 2013 had some of the finest Arctic Char fishing that anyone could recall. The river was loaded early with feisty chromed bullets and some anglers had a tough time keeping these extraordinary fish off their lines! They were taking spoons, jigs and yes... flies. The Tree River is an overnight trip available to guests at Plummer's Great Bear Lake Lodge, but the option to fly directly to Tree River from nearby Kugluktuk is available for anglers who want nothing more than to fish this world renowned river.

Chummy's Thoughts

Plummer's



Every evening up at Bear I watch the boys come home, lugging their batteries and chargers around for their fish finders that are equipped with side scanning and GPS Chartplotters that map the lake and makes 3-D pictures and apparently are necessary to find all these "secret" reefs and fishing spots, that are obviously unknown to us old timers.

Back when I was guiding at the age of 14 we would head out onto Slave Lake with a steel rod and a 5.5 HP Johnson motor. We looked at the water and knew from the color if it was deep or getting shallow. We didn't worry about hitting reefs because we were fishing... not going for boat rides. We pushed off from the dock and dropped our lines and we were fishing! We trolled and caught fish from morning until suppertime, with a fried trout shore lunch followed by a nap.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Plummer's. I was looking at my Grandpa Plummer's leather tackle box and one of his old spinning reels and thinking about technology then and now. It was 1938 when my Dad and Grandpa first went out on Slave Lake with a small freighter canoe and 5 HP motor and scoped out Taltheilei Narrows... without a piece of electronics between them.

The boys tell me things have changed and there's different expectations for being a fishing guide today... but I tell you, expectations or not - they still can't out fish me!



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Family Week at Plummer's Lodges



Great Bear Lake: August 2nd – August 9, 2014

Great Slave Lake: July 19 - 26

This is our eighth year offering family week and it continues to be a success. We still fish two fishermen to a boat, but one family member gets a 25% discount. This week has become a favorite trip for

fathers, mothers, son and daughters to spend some unforgettable time together.

Fly Fishing Week

Aug 9 – 16, 2014 at Great Bear Lake Lodge and Tree River

Fly Fishing Week Aug 9 – 16, 2014 at Great Bear Lake Lodge and Tree River Spend two nights at the Tree River and receive a remote grayling flyout for the package price of \$5995 per person. It is a perfect time for fly fishing as the lake trout are starting to move back up onto the shallows of the spawning shoals and the Arctic Char are showing their glorious red colors as well!

Musk Ox Hunt

Aug 16 -23 at Great Bear Lake Lodge

We finished off our 2013 season with an unbelievable musk ox hunt on the shores of Great Bear Lake. We had five hunters and all five went home with Boone and Crockett Muskox! This achievement is a result of the huge animals in the Sahtu and one of the reasons we offer this hunt

on a very limited basis. One of the hunters this season was well-known outdoorsman Babe Winkelman with his production company, filming the action for Babe Winkelman Productions to be shown in upcoming episodes on NBC Sports. They went home with some fabulous footage so keep your eyes out for those episodes! There are limited tags available for this hunt. Call for details.

Packages for the 2014 Season

Trips for our 2014 summer season will begin on Saturday, June 28 and our last trip will begin August 16th. Trips into Great Bear Lake will be one week running from Saturday to Saturday and trips into Great Slave Lake are your choice of three, four or seven days. Of course, we will make every effort to customize trips to fit your schedule. Our rates for 2014 are:

Great Bear Lake Lodge – Seven Days	\$4995
Trophy Lodge – Seven Days	\$4995
Arctic Circle Lodge – Seven Days	\$3595
Great Slave Lake Lodge – Seven Days	\$4495
Great Slave Lake Lodge – Four Days	\$3395
Great Slave Lake Lodge – Three Days	\$2595

These packages include air transportation to and from the lodges from Yellowknife, all meals prepared and served to you, lodge accommodations, daily maid service and fully guided fishing. (One professional fishing guide for every two guests.)



21st Annual Dental Seminar at Trophy Lodge on Great Bear Lake July 5th – July 12th, 2013

Join hosts Dr. Terry Donovan and Dr. Dave Hall as they head the 21st annual dental convention back at Trophy Lodge. Participants will earn continuing educational credits in the remote Smith Arm of Great Bear Lake. Your spare time will consist of catching monster Lake Trout, as well as grayling and pike. Priced at only \$4695 for a full week of guided fishing with space limited to only 30 participants, this week books up early.

CHUMMY'S CLOSE-UP



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