

Plummer's
LODGES

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THE ARCTIC LURE

Winter
2015



GREAT SLAVE LAKE • TREE RIVER • GREAT BEAR

CELEBRATING



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Chummy's Thoughts

The 2014 season at Plummer's Arctic Lodges was one that will not be forgotten. Fires that raged throughout the N.W.T. forced Great Slave Lodge to be evacuated and it looked as though we were going to lose the lodge. However, Mother Nature had other plans, and a change in winds and a dramatic back burn saved the day for Taltheilei Narrows. The lodge remained closed for the remainder of the season as spot fires and smoke made it unsafe to host guests. Great Bear Lake lodge hosted the Great Slave Lake guests and as luck would have it, produced the best summer of fishing that anyone could remember! Well over a dozen fish broke the 50 lb benchmark at Great Bear with a 70 lb lake trout taking top spot and a 31.5 lb Arctic Char was caught on a fly at the Tree River! Great Slave Lake escaped unscathed and will be back in business for 2015.

The True North seems to stand forgotten, but I can recall my first day at Plummer's Great Bear Lake Lodge perfectly. From the moment my feet hit the dusty runway by the lake, I knew that I'd found myself in a special place. At once I was standing amidst a flurry of activity and anticipation as I tried to get my bearings in this ancient and sacred wilderness. During the short boat ride to camp, I caught my first glimpse of the resort and it's mirror image reflected on the smooth water. I didn't know what was waiting for me there, but the vista before me whispered the promise of big fish, new friends, and mouthwatering meals in some of the most emotive and captivating terrain in the world. All of those things and more were delivered. For me, this experience was a gift, a perfect moment in time that I can conjure whenever I wish and live over again and again. To be among people who instantly felt familial, guests and staff alike, is something I've never experienced elsewhere and the life changing events we shared with those people will live on in my memories for the rest of my days. I often drift back to last summer and all of the epic events that always seem to come with the season. What stands way ahead of everything else is my trip to the Arctic and when asked what I'm smiling about, I can only grin wider and reply: "Great Bear."



Sincerely,
Brianna C.

A Fish of A Lifetime To Go With A Trip Of A Lifetime



Summer 2014 was my first visit to Plummer's Arctic Lodges at Great Bear Lake as well as my first Lake Trout angling trek. I was very excited my traveling companions decided to book the self guided program at the Arctic Circle Lodge. Remote angling coupled with spectacular beauty and the opportunity to catch impressive Lake Trout I knew I had found myself on a trip of a lifetime.

My fishing buddy Bill Siemantel and I were following a strategy that we use on any body of water to pursue various species of game fish. As a side bar, when I say "fishing buddy" I should explain that Bill isn't your average angler. He is a "Hall of Fame" freshwater bass angler who has dedicated over 25 years developing techniques that apply to all fishing disciplines.



Based on Bill's method and homework we covered the water looking for prime lake structure while evaluating what areas the biggest fish were using. While casting over a submerged ridgeline, Bill hooked up with an impressive Laker. As I reeled my Eppinger Husky Devle back, I spotted what looked like a small whale tracking my offering. The massive fish followed my lure all the way to the boat, as I ran out of water I began to carve a figure eight. This 'last ditch' tactic worked, the Lake Trout attacked my spoon slamming into the side of the boat. The hook was set and the battle was on. Staying tight letting her go where she wanted and after a relatively short battle we managed to squeeze this big long heavy fish into the net.

If we were able to pull this off, imagine what it must be like with the leadership of Plummer's experienced Guide Staff! I've been on several similar trips to Alaska, British Columbia and Baja Mexico. All excellent trips but by far the adventure and angling here at Plummer's Great Bear Lake Arctic Lodges has been the best, beyond awesome!

Derrek Stewart - Venice Beach California

A FAMILY AFFAIR

"Moby Dick seeks thee not. It is thou, thou, that madly seekest him!"

Those of us who fish likely know a few people that can best be described as "fish magnets."

They are not necessarily experienced fishermen, but regardless of where you are, or what the conditions may be, they catch while everyone else just washes lures.

The subject, or subjects of this particular story are not merely a random collection of unrelated individuals, but rather an entire family of bona fide, highly skilled "fish magnets" – the Harback's – who hail from Harriman, Tennessee.

Three generations of the Harback family have been fishing Great Bear Lake for well over 30 years, and the number of big fish – and by "big" I mean Lake Trout 50 pounds or better – they have hauled in over that time frame are more than just a little impressive.

As a matter of fact, even if you discount those that tipped the scales at 50 pounds or better, the fish they have caught in the 20 to 40 pound range, number in the hundreds.

The family patriarch, Ed, who sadly is no longer with us, has likely caught more 50 pound plus Laker's than anyone who has ever fished the Bear. While unlike son Rodney and nephew Kevin he never topped 60 pounds, Ed has well over 20, 50 pounders to his credit.

Which then brings us to Rodney.

While his 50 plus list is nowhere near as impressive as his Dad's, he has certainly caught his share, and to top it off has a 66.5 to his credit, which was at one point, the All Tackle World Record.

A relative newcomer to the dance - nephew Kevin Addwel – represents the 3rd generation of the Harback clan to fish these storied waters.

While Ed and Rodney collectively have over 60 years on the "Bear" between them, Kevin has made just 3 trips, but his rather short tenure notwithstanding, it's fair to say that he is without a doubt a chip off the old block – or in this instance "blocks."

During his first trip in 2009, Kevin not only caught 2 Lake Trout over 20 pounds, he also landed a 23 and 26 pound Arctic Char. The 26 may very well have been the largest Char taken on a rod and reel that year.

He returned in 2010, and while unable to add any more trophies to his resume, truth is, it was slim pickings for all of us that year, in terms of overall numbers, Kevin pretty much out fished all of us.

It's often times been said that 3 is a charm, and in 2014 he started things off with a 30, and then, rather than work his way up the ladder like the rest of us mere mortals, simply jumped to 70 – yes, that would be a 70 - pound Lake Trout.



This remarkable fish, which I'm willing to bet will be the biggest Lake Trout caught angling anywhere on the planet in 2014 was, according to the Chance Prestie, a Trophy Lodge guide who also happens to also be a fisheries biologist, likely over 100 years of age.

To put this into some perspective, when this old girl was just a fry back in 1914, notable events included the first air flight out of sight of land, the first transcontinental phone link was established between San Francisco and New York City, and the First World War had just gotten underway in July of that year.

Pretty heady stuff when you stop and think about it.

It's also worth noting, that this fish was a healthy release due to the efforts of veteran Great Bear guides Paul Reynolds – who guided Kevin too, and landed the fish – and Harvey Anderson, who happened to be fishing in the same area, and came over to help Paul get her back into the water safe and sound.

And just in case you were wondering exactly where this particular fish was caught, if I may borrow yet another quote from the novel, Moby Dick:

"It is not down in any map; true places never are."

This story would not be complete without acknowledging the contribution that Art Ross has made both in this instance and otherwise, in "helping" others catch some really big fish.

While Art has certainly caught plenty of big ones during the 30 plus years he has fished the "Bear", including several 50 and over, he has also distinguished himself as being a rather remarkable "fish magnet" of another sort, or to be more precise, not only does Art catch big fish, he attracts them so others can join in on the fun.

For example, guess who was in the boat when:

- Rodney caught some of his 50's, including the 66.5
- I hauled in my first fish over 40
- Bob Resnick landed his 57, and
- Kevin caught the 70

Go on - take a wild guess. Give up?

Hopefully Kevin and Rodney will be back next year thereby ensuring the continuity of this rather remarkable "Family Affair" which, when you look back on their family history, means continuing to catch some of the biggest Lake Trout in the world.

BTW – Art, do you think you may have some room in your boat next year?

When last December my wife Brenda requested we go fishing come summer, I knew where it was she had in mind. In 2008 and 2011, we visited Plummer's Great Bear Lake Lodge and the Tree River. For the both of us, those two trips instantly and undoubtedly became the favorites of our lives. Always wanting to return there, this year it simply wasn't in the cards.

Over the coming weeks no matter what other options I presented, she would go right back to "Plummer's," the frequent thoughts of revisiting there intensifying our desire. And as so, because jigging really is a favorite method for fishing lake trout, my wife prefers calm, scenic waters, and we were both open to a new experience, traveling to Great Slave Lake Lodge became our number one choice...

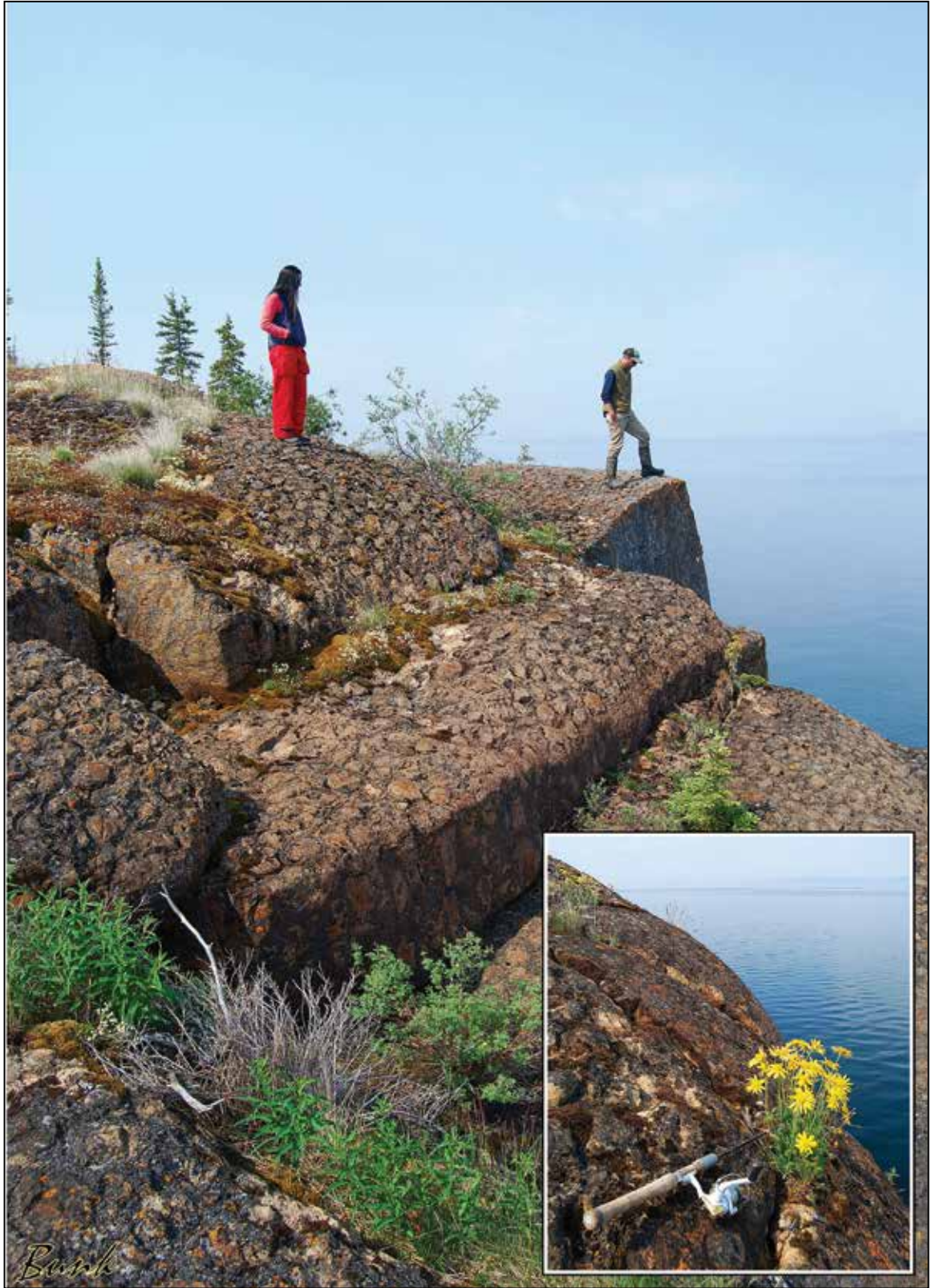
Arriving this past July at Taltheilei Narrows the land around us was on fire. After a first short afternoon fishing we retired to the lodge where we simply sat in awe, gazing out at billowing sunset smoke rising off nearby hilltops.



At Slave the main lodge and its priceless window view are stunning. Casting from the rocky shoreline directly fronting it and the cabins, one can easily catch grayling and lake trout.



Out exploring the gin clear waters and the land bordering the lake, high vertical cliffs and ancient fossilized islands painted alive with arctic flora left Brenda and I speechless.



An inland ocean seemingly all to ourselves, it becomes quite easy to cast away any of life's little problems, only ever being interrupted by a tug on the line...

An angler, hunter and published writer, our guide Adrian proved with every delicious and timely shorelunch that he could easily add chef to his resume.



What Our Guests have to say

Plummer's



Sometimes during our week the smoke and ash would become quite thick, for burning hot in the fins of beautiful lakers were there many fires of orange in red ablaze.



Everything about our trip to Great Slave Lake was perfect. As we have always known it to be with Plummer's, the food, hospitality, scenery, company and fishing is second to none. The numbers of lake trout to be caught near Taltheilei and in close and safe proximity to the lodge is ridiculous. It is surreal jigging up 20, 30 and even into 40 and 50 pound fish on lighter bass spinning and casting gear, rather than trolling heavier muskie outfits. Although one can pull Huskies and Flatfish if they like, hunting arcs, dropping jigs, banging bottom, and playing that game of cat and mouse before hammering a hookset on the tap-tap, that's a total rush for any fish junky. Originally it was this style of angling for that quality of lake trout which peaked my interest in Slave, and boy did the place ever deliver up our week of fishing real hot. Threatening forest fires, smokey skies, fire crews and an evacuation as part of the whole big deal, in the end it all just made for one truly unique and unforgettable first experience. Can't wait for the next time.

We loved our trip to Slave and are happy the lodge survived the forest fires of 2014.

Thanks again Plummer's for everything.

Brenda and Andrew Bunker

Carleton Place, ON.



Although petite in appearance and quiet by nature, I watched on as my mighty competitive wife became animated with each determined hookset, some excellent rewards coming to us both...



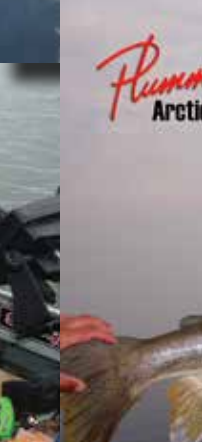
... And during the final innings as she swung for the fences, Brenda hit a home run with this incredible grand-slamming, trophy lake trout...



... But... unlike our Plummer's years past, this season my lovely lady will have to admit her defeat and bow to the new Champion as, someone else's laker was BIGGER!!!



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Flummer's



Fighting Fire with Fire

Controlled Burn to Save the Day at Plummer's Great Slave Lake Lodge - JULY 2014



Photos & Text by: Adrian Skok

2014 will live in infamy as the year of wild fires, with over 100 raging their way across the Northwest Territories. Fire #17 was situated near Taltheilei Narrows on the east arm of Great Slave Lake, essentially on Plummer's Lodges doorstep. Camp is positioned on a slight peninsula, with the airstrip and small lake hopefully serving as a firebreak should the blaze crest the wooded ridges behind us. The previous week, offered mild winds from a favorable direction slowing the burn, despite now in view. Our predicament was serious however. Further up the lake, a well respected freight pilot and husky breeder, Dave Olesen, lost his homestead to sudden strong winds from the north. Before the water-bombers could save the day, the situation was sadly lost. We feared the same for our lodge.

With winds worsening, the fires flared and crawled closer yet. The NWT Forestry Department advised us they were dispatching a squad of Saskatchewan firefighters to help and evaluate the situation. To ensure the safety of the guests and staff, the season was temporarily put on hold and camp was largely evacuated. A few staff members offered to stay and help, including myself. The fire crew worked tirelessly to cut a fire-barrier around camp by clearing tress and undergrowth, spanning from shore to shore across camp peninsula. In addition, a high pressured sprinkler system was installed, blasting interconnecting arcs of water around camp. It's unsettling watching the fires grow and creep, but with precautions taken we felt more comfortable. It was my task to shuttle the fire crew by boat and truck to examine the fires each morning. Over the next few days the smoke thickened and the fires burned their way around our airstrip. A grim forecast calling for north winds were predicted soon, which would push the fires to camp. Our only ray of light was that strong favorable south winds were said to arrive first. The Forestry

Department made the call and advised us that they were planning a controlled burn in an all out effort to help save our camp.

The south winds arrived, as well as almost 30 firefighters. The airstrip was nearly up in flames and thick with smoke. Unsafe and usable, a new helicopter landing pad created directly in front of the main lodge. Fire crews arrived from Alaska, Saskatchewan and the across NWT to help. Three waterbombers, a Buffalo Air spotter plane and several helicopters also appeared simultaneously, almost militaristic in fashion. The fires were also being watched by satellite and thermal imagery in distant command centers, yet in direct communication with the pilots and crews on the ground to coordinate efforts. The bombers began their runs, combining water and flame retardant foam laying a "safety curtain" between camp and the proposed back burn. The fire-barrier and sprinklers were to be our last line of defense. Waterbombing continued for several hours until the perfect winds arrived to ignite the back burn, lit with hand torches along a specific GPS bearing. Once a safe buffer was burnt around camp, helicopters equipped with drip torches intensified the flames along the ridge to build up the fire, creating a vacuum. The controlled burn was massive and to the untrained eye appeared out of control and frightening.

For an hour the skies were apocalyptic. I thought it was all over... As rapidly as the hell fires began however, they began to subside. With the back burn in place, the flames had nowhere else to go, but out. In just a matter of hours the threat of losing the lodge from the fires creeping ever closer had essentially vanished - and with it the surrounding old growth forests. Despite fires still burning in the distance or across the lake and on islands, we were informed that the lodge should now be safe from any mainland fire for at least the next 50 years. The fire marshal announced that the controlled burn

was a complete success. I overheard the word "textbook" used to describe the collaborated efforts and conditions. What a sigh of relief.

Despite the new found safety, a week later conditions remained smoky and unsightly. Nearby fires could still threaten the lodge with flying embers, near zero visibility for freight aircraft or charter flights, and the air quality was an asthmatics worst nightmare. Taking all into consideration, management chose to cancel the remainder of the season at Great Slave and divert the majority of staff & clients to their other lodge at Great Bear, where good numbers of trout over 50 lb, and even one over 70lb were boated this season. Now only a bare bones crew needed to stay on at Plummer's Great Slave.

Unable to say goodbye for yet another year, my dog Wrangel and I stayed on for the remainder of the season to assist Bob, (our head guide) and his partner Selena with day to day maintenance, clean-up and camp winterization duties. The dog was handy seeing as we had record bears in camp this year, what with the whole forest being gone around us. Bob and I also conducted daily walks along the burn line and dealt with any hot spots or flare-ups with backpack water units as best we could. By default we also scored on some great sets of moose antlers during our patrols and did a bit of fishing for dinner.

Things will be back up and running at Plummer's Great Slave for the 2015 however - and just think - a year's worth of unpressured monster trout waiting there for a hug and release!

Fly Fishing for Lakers on Great Bear Lake

When you think of Great Bear Lake and fishing for lake trout, fly fishing probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind. Trolling with spoons, flatfish, or jiggling deep structure is what you would normally expect to target Lakers with. Trolling is so popular because these fish are so curious and love to follow a lure for great distances. It can be a challenge to cast a fly and entice a strike within casting distance. Starting last season I had a week dedicated to just fly fishing and ended up combining trolling technique with fly gear; as well as lining up drifts across points and reefs that you could cast to and pull Lakers off at will. This season I got three whole weeks of fly fishing in on the Bear and wow was it incredible. My setup was a 9ft. 10wt. BVK series from temple fork with a large arbor BVK reel holding a full sink line running a 20lb leader straight from fly line to fly. The reason for only a 20lb leader is that most fly lines aren't much heavier than that typically between 20-30lb breaking strain. The crucial piece of gear here is the rod, it's absolutely necessary to have a stiff enough rod to control these fish as you fight them rather than the other way around. I had a guest this season use an 11wt. Orvis and just the average Laker bent that thing in half when they dive for the bottom. A rod weight ranging from 8-11 however is more than ample. I can't even exaggerate how well these fish fight on the fly; it truly is a treat when they go on a run. A good tip to remember when fighting these fish especially that trophy you are after is to keep them off the surface! Unless you are going in to net the fish if they come up



and are not ready, they go into the dreaded death roll and pop the fly out! Feed them line while keeping tension, allow them to stay down so they don't feel the need to roll and also allows you to keep a good vertical angle on the fly and keep the fish hooked. My fly box for Lakers has an assortment of deceivers in all the colors of the rainbow and articulated streamers tied in the same style for a larger bait profile. Rabbit strip leeches and streamers work wonders as well. The larger bait profile was very successful for targeting larger fish. An interesting note was that the percentage of repeat strikes using flies versus hardware was huge. Quite often if a Laker didn't take the fly the first time they would continue to follow and strike a second and in extreme cases a third time. The largest fish I took in my boat on the fly this year was 36lbs. and on the last day of the season fishing directly on top of a reef in 5ft. of water. We caught it on a chartreuse articulated streamer; the chartreuse was on fire for us all week. The fight took us 22 minutes, and the fish went on numerous runs making that reel sing. We managed the fish by honestly letting him do whatever he wanted all the while keeping constant tension and persuading him out to deeper water away from the reef. All in all an experience I'll never forget when that fish ended up in the net. It truly was very rewarding to target these fish on the fly rod. Fly fishing week at the lodge is something I look forward to every year and lets me enjoy my favorite style of fishing. Hope to see you all out on the Bear next season as I wait patiently all winter tying flies and replenishing the fly box.

Cheers and tight lines, Reid Stoyberg.

Recipe: Lake trout "Tataki"



This is "Chummy's favourite Thursday night delight".

It's a variation of a traditional Japanese dish. Fish is seasoned, slightly cooked, and sliced thinly. Here is my version.

Ingredients

- 1 boneless filet of beautiful great bear lake trout
- Cajun seasoning
- Sour cream
- Lime
- Wasabi
- Sesame oil

Preparation

At the top of your delicious filet will be a "loin". Some times referred to as the "shoulders" of the fish. It will be the broader top section above the rib section. Trim this section off from the rest of the filet (retaining the rest for something amazing - like fish cakes). You should be left with a hearty strip of fish.

Roll your piece of pristine fish in the Cajun spice. Take a good quality pan and add a tablespoon or two of good quality oil (dealers choice). Heat until it just begins to smoke. You need to compress the loin from end to end and then sear it on each outer side until the Cajun blackens a bit. Immediately chill in the fridge, it should be quite raw in the middle. While the Tataki is cooling prepare your wasabi sour cream. Mix sour cream, wasabi, and fresh lime juice to taste. Once the fish is completely cooled take a very sharp knife and slice approximately .5 cm thick. Fan out on a serving plate, drizzle sesame oil, and serve with wasabi sour cream. TAAAAADAAAAAAA!!



Plummer's Great Bear Lake Lodge begins 2015 with a limited availability "pre-season week" starting June 27. There will likely be ice but that's often the easiest time to catch a hog warming up in the sand! Regular season begins July 4 and the last week ends August 22. GBLL is where Plummer's two turbine Otters are stationed and our only lodge that offers daily fly-outs to the otherwise inaccessible hot-spots around the region, including the Tree River.



Plummer's Trophy Lodge will begin with the 22nd Annual Dental Convention July 11-18. Trophy Lodge had only a limited number of guests in 2014 but some extraordinary numbers of giant fish were caught! Trophy only hosts up to 22 anglers at a time so space is limited!



Plummer's Great Slave Lake Lodge is where it all began. This is where Chummy's grandpa started it all. The lodge is located at the fabled Taltheilei Narrows and is well known for being the best spot on all of Great Slave Lake. With the fires of 2014, GSLL is going to have an amazing season in 2015. The action begins July 4th and the anticipation is already growing!



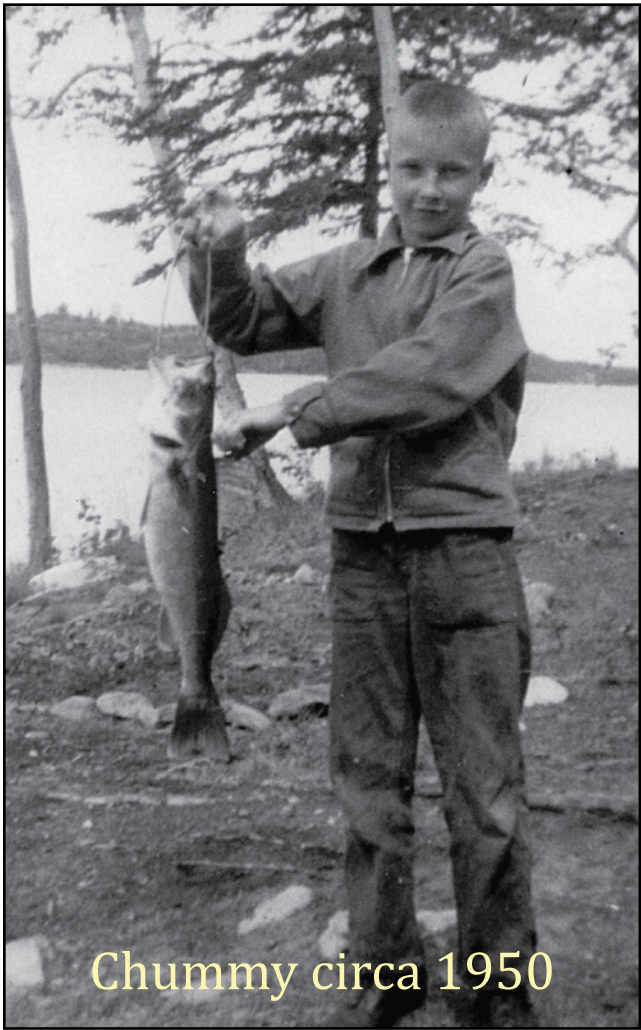
Plummer's Arctic Circle Outpost is entering its third season. It is the only place where we offer unguided fishing trips. It has extremely limited availability as we only take one group of 6-8 guests in per week. The fishing is tremendous, the scenery spectacular and not many groups that fished there have offered up their week for 2015.



Plummer's Tree River Outpost is home to the largest Arctic Char on the planet. On top of that, it has been described as one of the prettiest places in the world. There is no wonder why the term "magical" is often used to describe the Tree River. Overnight trips are available from Great Bear Lake Lodge, but there are also options to fly directly to the lodge from Kugluktuk for anglers who only want to fish this fabled river.

Chummy's Thoughts

Plummer's



Chummy circa 1950

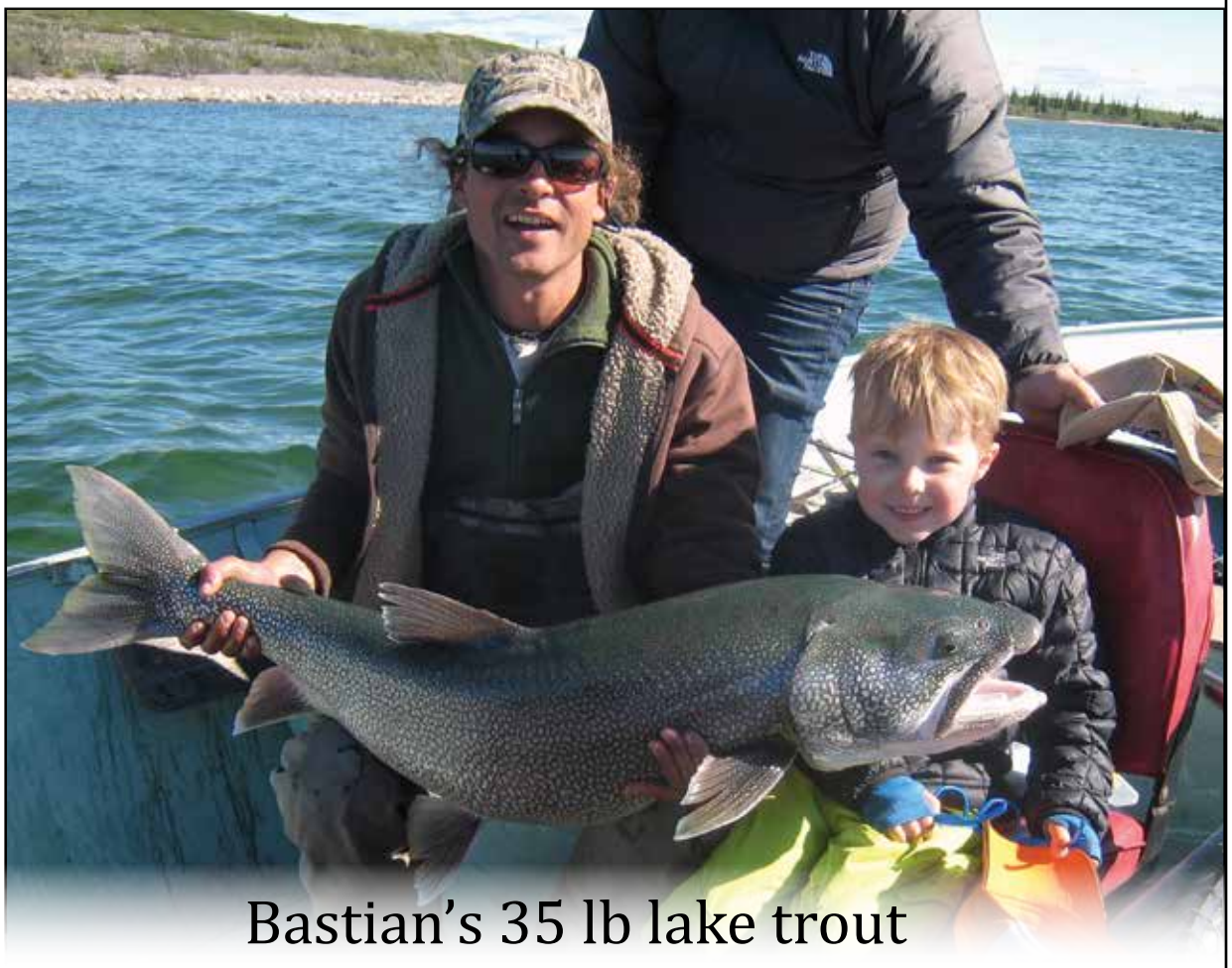


Chummy and Chandler 1989

Over the years I've spent in the Arctic I've watched a lot of people grow up. I've seen kids that were brought up north on a trip with their dad; grow into fathers themselves who bring their kids up to experience the same fishing trip that they did. The world has changed a lot but the fishing remains the same... or even better I've been told. Our guests seem to love the fact that the northern lakes do not change. It is a constant in their lives no matter how long it has been since they last fished with us. Sure, their guide will have gotten a little older, or even been replaced by a young buck, but the scenery and the fishing trip remain the same. I love seeing the young ones come up for their first Arctic fishing trip, because I know they will remember it for the rest of their lives and hopefully one day be bringing children of their own up to continue the long standing fishing tradition. Get a rod in their hands as soon as you can... there are a lot worse ways a kid can grow up!



Chummy with Chandler's son and his first fish ever!



Bastian's 35 lb lake trout



Family Week at Plummer's Lodges



Great Bear Lake Lodge
August 1- Aug 8, 2015

Great Slave Lake Lodge
July 25 - Aug 1, 2015

This is the ninth year we are offering Family Week and it continues to be a hit. We still fish two anglers to a boat, but one family member gets a 25% discount. Husbands and

wives, fathers and daughters, grandparents and their grandkids all creating lasting memories.

Fly Fishing Week

Great Bear Lake Lodge Aug 15 - Aug 22, 2015



Spend two nights at the Tree River and receive a remote grayling flyout for the package price of \$6245 per person. It's a perfect time to fly fish in the Arctic as the lakera are moving onto the shoals, and the Arctic Char are in their full spawning colors.

Musk Ox Hunt

Great Bear Lake Lodge August 22 - Aug 29, 2015



Our Annual Musk Ox hunt is fast gaining a reputation as one of the top big game hunts the Arctic has to offer. With the limited number of hunts we offer, combined with the remarkable size these animals in the Sahtu region grow to, our happy hunters couldn't be more pleased. Any meat that the hunters do not take, is

distributed to the local community of Deline where there is always a crowd waiting for the airplane's arrival. Call for details and availability.

CHUMMY'S CLOSE-UP

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INTERVIEWS

ON THE HISTORY OF
PLUMMER'S LODGES



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Packages for the 2015 Season

The first trip for 2015 begins as early as June 27 and runs until the end of August. Trips into lodges on Great Bear Lake are seven days and run from Saturday to Saturday. Great Slave Lake Lodge offers three, four and seven day trips. Of course, we will make every effort to customize trips to fit your schedule. Our rates for 2015 are:

Great Bear Lake Lodge - Seven Days	\$5245
Trophy Lodge - Seven Days	\$5245
Arctic Circle Lodge - Seven Days	\$3795
Great Slave Lake Lodge - Seven Days	\$4495
Great Slave Lake Lodge - Four Days	\$3395
Great Slave Lake Lodge - Three Days	\$2595

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

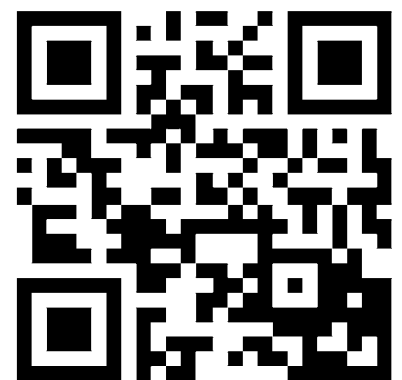
22nd Annual Dental Seminar



Trophy Lodge July 11 -18, 2015

Join host Dr. Terry Donovan and Dr. David Hall as they head the annual dental convention. Old and new friends unite over a week of amazing fishing for lake trout, pike and Arctic Grayling. Participants earn up to 22 continuing education credits while enjoying a fishing trip of a lifetime. Priced at only \$4895 for a full week of guided fishing, the 22 spots fill up fast.

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