

*Plummer's*  
LODGES

Phone: (204) 774-5775  
Toll Free: 1-800-665-0240  
Fax: (204) 783-2320  
www.plummerslodges.com  
email: fish@plummerslodges.com  
950 Bradford Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0N5

# THE ARCTIC LURE



**GREAT SLAVE LAKE • TREE RIVER • GREAT BEAR**

Winter 2017 - 2018



## Inside...

What Our Guests are  
Saying in 2017

2017 Bragging Rights!  
Photos From The 2017 Season

Plummer's is for the birders

Guides Corner  
To Sea or Not to Sea?

Chummy's Thoughts

*Another great Northern summer is officially under our belts. As usual, there were countless stories, adventures, giant fish and "Big-Ones-That-Got-Away!" We met up with friends from seasons past and had many first time guests become new "lifers"! One of the special things about life at the Lodges is seeing returning guests become reacquainted with other guests, and seeing the friendships that have developed over the years. There are many types of people that come up to Plummer's, but they all share a common trait, a yearning to experience the North and its pristine beauty and experience fishing at its unparalleled finest!*

*Thank you to all our guests who were able to join us in 2017 and we are already looking forward to seeing you all again next summer!*

For our 10th Wedding Anniversary, last autumn when asking my wife Brenda where she would like to vacation, she immediately replied, "Plummer's!" No prompting, no persuasion, nor was there ever even mention of fish, Bren eagerly picked this. And so over the following months, considering all costs, dates, availability and such, the guess is she grew tired of my humming and hawing and decided upon herself to just leap forward and book with Plummers at their Arctic Circle Lodge... Hmmm, I thought, Arctic Circle eh? Interesting!



As always, the Great Bear's grace, wonder and its humbling nature filled every moment. From beginning to end, the mysteries of Arctic Circle's past and cracking those big fish codes stirred my thoughts. Caribou, falcons, fox, moose and the howling of distant wolves over timeless and rugged lands evoked the senses, until full bellies, whiskey, and fish stories alongside our happy company laid each perfect day to rest. My Brenda surely picked the right place, and with the loves of my life, it was our Happiest Anniversary without question.

My understanding was that Circle is a rarely visited, well protected, beautifully scenic area of Great Bear, which has a potential for incredible numbers of fish. Rumored to be more difficult to find there are the bigger sized lake trout which Trophy and the main lodge are better known for. In addition at this lodge, personal risks are higher because you are going there to fish and explore it all on your own. That's right! Arctic Circle is self-guided, but for us and myself especially, that would only and always be considered a benefit.

Thank you again Chummy & Plummer's Arctic Lodges.

Andrew B

Bernie, the camp manager, would greet us on the dock when arriving. Hard-working and kind, he would fuel our boat, provide Brenda and I with delicious meals and host with warm hospitality the entire week. The rest was up to us.



Our first morning we came off the plane into a glassy back bay and were quietly readying the rods when a duck touched down on the water. Instantly a ruckus of quacks and flapping wings broke silence, when suddenly that fowl disappeared below the surface to never return. Any doubts of big fish at Circle vanished right then too. An hour later, Brenda caught her first ever lake trout exceeding thirty pounds.

End of the week we would go on to catch more big fish over twenty, thirty and forty pounds than all of our three other Plummer's trips combined. Not only that, Brenda's little fish counter stopped at nearly 300. Some days we skipped out on visiting hot spots or quit early simply because we'd had enough numbers and wanted to hunt giants instead. Forty to seventy fish days are a reality, and hundred fish days totally possible to anglers with the energy, notion and desire for it. Arctic Circle well surpassed any prior expectations of its fishing.



# What Our Guests have to say

*Plummer's*

*If you ask me, I truly believe I have the greatest job on earth. I mean think about it. I get to travel all around the world chasing freaky sized fish for a living! I have fished all over the world in a quest to capture amazing footage of awesome fish in even more awesome locations. Okay, I admit it. I'm spoiled and not just a little spoiled, I'm spoiled rotten! That's what amazed me even more about my incredible Plummer's experience this past August. After traveling all over the world and fishing in breathtaking exotic locations like the deep jungles of the Amazon River for Peacock Bass you start to think you have seen it all. But that's the amazing thing about this incredible planet -you can never see it all!*

*However, there are some places you HAVE to see. Plummer's Arctic Lodges on Great Bear Lake is honestly that place. In a trip to this amazing, untapped and hardly discovered part of the world, you will*



*be totally surrounded by the true beauty of untapped and untouched nature that so few EVER get to experience. You can't explain the feeling of peace that comes over you when you cast your bait and you realize that as far as you can see, you are most likely the only human being. The feeling of freedom and accomplishment you feel when you stop and think that you are fishing an area that only a few hundred people are lucky enough to experience a year.*

*I found myself often stopping, looking and thinking, "Wow! This is how the whole world used to be". I found myself drifting off in day dreams about this amazing place...then boom - a fish hits and you remember why you came to this amazing place.*

*Thanks again Chummy!*

*Dave Mercer*

*Host of Facts of Fishing & Bassmaster Emcee*



*Try to find someone, anywhere in North America's wilds, who doesn't like shore lunch. You can't. Because if they don't like shore lunch, they don't like food, or pleasure, and in that case they're probably dead, either from starvation, or boredom.*

*Next to catching fish, shore lunch is a wilderness fishing trip's great tradition. It's primal. It's a place where you can light a fire and not be ticketed by the police or charged with arson. It's always scenic. And it is always delicious.*

*It is also a lot of calories. And when you're headed back to the Lodge in a few hours for a five-star dinner, those can add up. Is this the place or time to worry about putting on a few pounds?*

*No. But you also don't want to go home with an Arctic Angler certificate dangling from your record-size gut.*

*Here is a system that has worked personally over the 30-plus years since I first tasted honest-to-goodness fresh fish, and was forever spoiled for the God-graced delicacy embodied in those shoreline-prepared Lake Trout, Walleye or Northern Pike – yes, Pike are in fact my favorite – filets.*

*On the first of the week's shore lunches, I go for the whole shooting match: fish, fried potatoes and onions, baked beans and corn. You must savor everything in the fashion of Christmas or Thanksgiving dinner. It's a moral command.*

*Thereafter, I ease up. No potatoes. Probably no corn, not that corn is terribly fattening, but I grew up on a big Michigan farm and I've had enough corn for one lifetime.*

*I just eat fish filets alongside some high-protein baked beans. In fact, on some past trips with my son, the guide, after getting to know us and our desire not to morph into dirigibles, has been prone to simply fry a pan full of exquisite filets. With the help of some white vinegar, it has been the perfect lunch: succulent, healthy, without any threat that it will diminish my appetite for the six million calories I'll consume that night at the Lodge.*

*Beverages, of course, must be considered. Allow yourself full freedom there. You want a couple of beers? Have a couple of cold ales and raise a can to the slice of heaven you're experiencing alongside a glorious lake shore at one of the most pristine places on Earth.*

*Or, again, with a mind on what's coming your way later that night – the Lodge has a great bar – you might want to simply opt, as I tend to do, for a couple of Diet Cokes, or better yet, pure, cold, water.*

*An hour later, you're back on the lake, still tasting the bliss of those filets, your thirst quenched, your rod-tip bouncing from a fish whose belly might be bigger than yours, all because you played it smart at lunch.*

*Now, that's called perfection. Something in which Plummer's Great Slave Lodge specializes.*

*Detroit's Lynn Henning made his first visit to Plummer's Great Slave lodge in August 2017. It won't be his last.*



Check us out on Facebook @ [www.facebook.com/Plummerslodges](http://www.facebook.com/Plummerslodges)

Dear Chummy,



You hear and dream about these kinds of weeks happening on Great Bear Lake. This year, it was my turn for the stars to align, if you will. I teamed up with Ron Hopper, whom I met last year at your Lodge. We carefully followed the instructions of our amazing guide, Josh "Jelly" Gelinas, and it paid huge dividends. We landed 53, 52, 48, 48, 45, 44, 43, 41, 39, 39, 37, & 36 pound Lake Trout during our week of fishing.



Jelly put us both on new personal best lakers, and the most incredible double header story you will ever hear. Had I not been in the boat, I probably wouldn't have believed it actually happened. Ron was reeling in a large fish that initially looked to be about 70 pounds or bigger when coming up from the depths. As the fish got to the surface, things came into focus. We saw that a 48 pounder was aggressively trying to pull the T-60 flatfish out of a 43 pounder's mouth. I quickly grabbed my rod and cast another T-60 next to the hooked fish. The 48 pounder charged my lure like a torpedo and sucked the flatfish off the surface like a stream trout taking in a dry fly. Jelly somehow miraculously got both fish into his oversized net. A 91 pound double header!



This indeed was the trip of a lifetime. The only disappointment was being too busy catching giant fish to take full advantage of Jelly's culinary skills. The honey lime curried Lake Trout he made for us at shore lunch was an incredible dish.

Thanks again to your amazing staff for their tireless dedication. See you next year.

Seth

## MERCURY LOUNGE



The Mercury Lounge we created last summer caught the attention of the top brass at Mercury Head Quarters in both US and Canada.

# Plummer's is for the birders

*Plummer's*



Yellow-billed Loon

*I, like almost everyone else, came to Plummer's to catch big Lake Trout and Arctic Char. However, I found something else to do – watch birds. Every night after dinner, I walked the road to the airstrip. I also looked for birds on two islands during shore lunch. Lastly, I checked out the birds at the Tree River while we were fishing for Char. Even with this relatively small amount of time, I saw 52 species, including several “good” birds. Among several species at the Tree River, I saw a Glaucous Gull, Rough-legged Hawk and, best of all, a Yellow-billed Loon, a bird that is rare throughout its limited range. On the Great Bear Lake islands with low tundra vegetation, I found American Golden Plover, Lapland Longspur, American Pipit, and a Willow Ptarmigan with six chicks.*

*one or two wolves along this route each evening. Given that most of my birding was incidental to fishing, I expect a more focused birder could find 70-80 species. If you came to Plummer's with your wife or significant other, this is something you could do together.*

*Some of the species I saw are uncommon or even rare throughout most of Canada and the lower 48, and many only appear for a brief period, mainly in the winter, making Plummer's a great destination for such species. In addition, bird behavior seldom seen down south can be observed, such as shore birds displaying and sitting on top of spruce trees. Also, most birders have never seen some of these species in full breeding plumage nor in juvenile plumage. Plummer's offers all of this, so next time you go, pack your binoculars along with your rods and don't be afraid to bring someone who is not a hard-core angler to come along, because there is lots to do besides just fish.*

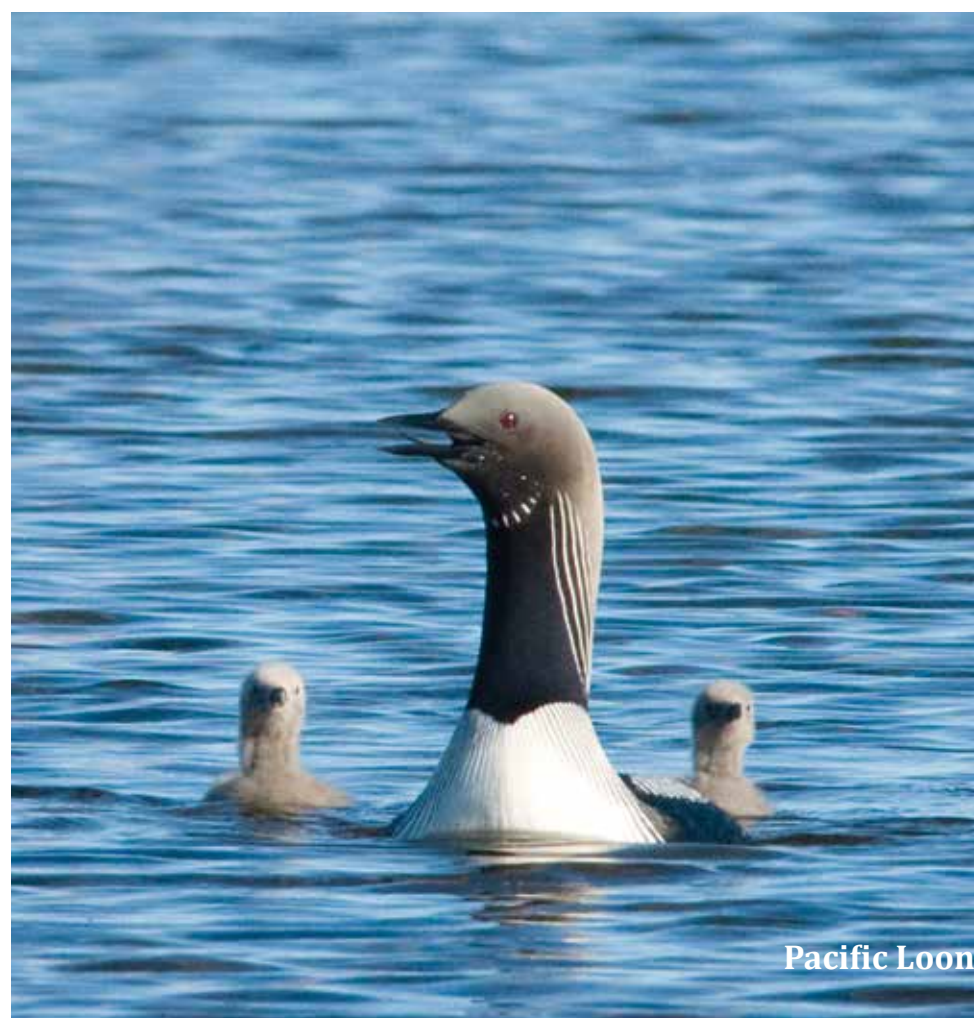
Greg



Jaeger

*At the various beaches and ponds across the lake, I saw eight species of shorebirds with the best being Hudsonian Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope. On the lake itself, I saw three species of Loons (Common, Red-throated, and Pacific), numerous Arctic Terns, both Surf and White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks and Parasitic Jaeger.*

*Along the road to the airstrip I saw about 20 species with some of the better ones being Northern Shrike, Say's Phoebe, Gray Jay, Blackpoll Warbler, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, Harris's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll. I also saw*



Pacific Loon

Check us out on Facebook @ [www.facebook.com/Plummerslodges](http://www.facebook.com/Plummerslodges)

*Flummer's*

# Bragging R



# ights 2017

*Hummer's*





*I started flying when I was 15 years old at our Great Slave Lake Lodge. I got my license in Flin Flon, Manitoba on an Aeronca Champ 65 hp on skis. I soloed at seven and half hours and then got my license at 16 with a total of 36 hours. One of the memorable flights as a 15 year old learning how to fly was leaving our lodge on Great Slave one evening. I wasn't the pilot on the airplane but I was co-pilot and one of the loaders.*

*We were going from Great Slave to Great Bear Lake in a twin engine Grumman Goose with Pooch Lesenfeld who was one of our pilots. He took the airplane off, then he got out of the pilot's seat and I took over. He said "take me to Great Bear Lake."*

*There were half a dozen other guys in the back, a work crew going up there. So, we are just going over the hills at Slave, I am trying to figure what direction to go, get the map organized, and trying to get both a compass and a DG heading. There was no GPS or anything in those days. I am busy and I am trying to climb the airplane and trying to do all these things at once. I would just get set up, think the airplane was in "trim" and then the thing would start going down.*

*I was having a heck of a time. About a half hour of this, I was going in the general direction of Bear Lake and I knew reasonably well what was going on, but the airplane was still acting terrible. I turned around and looked to the back of the airplane. It turns out, as soon as I'd get the airplane trimmed, Pooch would tell a couple guys from the back to come forward. If you move 400 lbs in the airplane to the front, well then down the airplane wants to go. Then, when I got her trimmed up, he would then send them to the back again. So that's why I was fighting the airplane so much to keep it in a straight line and a normal altitude. That was a trick he played on me. I never forgot that.*



*Grumman Goose  
Sioux Narrows 1961  
Pilot "Rock" & B. Gray*

## CURED ARCTIC CHAR CAVIAR

### Ingredients

2 roe sacs from an Arctic Char or other fish (recipe can also be applied to Lake Trout or Salmon roe)

Initial cure ingredients

1/2cup White sugar

1/2cup Kosher salt

2 cups of cold water

Final cure

2 Tablespoons of soya sauce

1 Tablespoon sugar

1 Teaspoon kosher salt



### Preparation

1. Mix all the ingredients of the initial cure together until dissolved.
2. Submerge the roe so that it is completely under the brine and leave to cure for 24 -36 hours.
3. Rinse of the roe in cold water, then pour hot water over the roe and stir with a wooden spoon until the roe skeins start to dissolve. Also the roe will then separate.
4. Drain the roe from the hot water and add to a bowl with cold water immediately to prevent the roe from cooking.
5. Stir the roe in the bowl to bring up all the impurities to the the surface and gently pour off. Do this atleast 3 times.
6. Strain roe and add all the final cure ingredients to a smalll bowl until dissolved. Toss the roe until fully coated in the cure.
7. Wait atleast 12 hours then it is ready.

**GREAT AS A TOPPING FOR HOR D'OURVES OR SUSHI.**

**IF THE THING YOU MAKE BEST IS RESERVATIONS, JUST BOOK A TRIP TO PLUMMER'S AND ONE OF OUR WORLD CLASS CHEFS WILL MAKE THIS FOR YOU!**



## How Old Is That Fish? By Chance Prestie

As someone who works both as a fisheries biologist and a guide, one question I get asked a lot is “How old is that fish?” Although it is impossible to tell how old a fish is solely by looking at it, sometimes fish just look old.

When talking about lake trout in Great Bear Lake, I have often heard “an inch per year” or “a pound per year” said by some people, but neither are quite accurate estimates of a fish’s age. Great Bear Lake has some of the longest lived lake trout found anywhere in the world, largely due to its location and the short growing season. Fish there grow slower, mature later (at around 17 – 20 years old) and spawn less often (once every 2 – 4 years) than their counterparts further south. As a result, they also have a longer lifespan, with some lake trout over 60 years old being recorded from Great Bear Lake.



Old looking lake trout



Old looking female char



Old looking male char



Young looking large lake trout

In general, the fish in arctic ecosystems are much older than similar sized fish in locations further south. The harsh conditions and short growing seasons in the arctic cause for slow growth, but the same conditions allow the fish to live to a much older age. The trophy fish we are all hoping to catch are the fish with the best genetics for growth that have survived a long time. That being said, size alone is not a direct indicator of age, as some of the oldest fish are not that large, such as the “Redfin” lake trout found in Great Bear Lake. In general, length gives a better estimate of a fish’s age than weight does, but there is no way to tell exactly how old a fish is solely by looking at it or measuring it.

A 40 inch lake trout in Great Bear Lake will almost always be older than a fish of the same length in a lake further south. However, the size of a fish is not always an indicator of its age. In Great Bear Lake, there are a few distinct morphotypes (or morphs) of lake trout which look different from one another. The best examples of two different morphs are the smaller “Redfins” and the big “Silvers” or “Greys” which are the largest of the lake trout found in Great Bear Lake. The smaller “Redfins” actually live longer and grow much slower than the “Greys”, with some of the “Redfins” being aged at over 60 years, while the oldest “Greys” are generally only a little over 50 years old. On average, a 10 year old lake trout in Great Bear Lake is about 16 – 18 inches and a 20 year old fish is generally 24 – 28 inches long. After this point, most fish are sexually mature, and growth slows down, especially in the “Redfins”, which have very slow growth after this point in their lives. The big piscivorous (fish eating) “Greys” have the fastest growth after they reach maturity and continue to grow at a fast pace, relative to the other morphs found in the lake. The average 30 year old “Grey” is usually around 32 inches, while a 40 year old is roughly 36 inches. However, these are the average values for the population, and those trophy fish in the 40”+ range are the ones with exceptional growth which have grown faster than the average fish.

The arctic charr in the Tree River are not as long lived as the lake trout in Great Bear Lake, even though they are found further north. Maximum age for arctic charr across their range is believed to be about 40 years, but most fish live less than 25 years with only a few fish living to be 30 years old. Similar to the lake trout in Great Bear Lake, they also do not spawn every year, with most fish spawning every 2 to 4 years after they reach maturity at 10 to 15 years of age.

The Tree River is a unique charr fishery with some of the largest charr in the world. Although these fish are larger than their counterparts in other rivers, they live to be about the same age as fish in other river systems, but simply have better genetics and more favourable conditions for growth. The really big 20+ lb charr caught in the Tree River can be anywhere from 15 to 30 years old and some may be even older.



Young looking male char



Young looking female char

Chance Prestie



**Plummer's Great Bear Lake Lodge** is on the Northeast Arm of Great Bear Lake and begins the 2018 season June 30 with the last week ending August 18. This is the Lodge where our two Turbine Otters are stationed and therefore the only lodge that offers daily fly-outs to some otherwise inaccessible hot-spots around the region, including the Tree River. Seven day packages weekly and four day packages during select weeks.



**Plummer's Great Slave Lake Lodge** is the original Plummer's Lodge. Located in Taltheilei Narrows in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, it is well known for consistently having some of the most amazing fishing in the NWT, often within sight of the lodge! GSSL begins the 2018 season in late June 30 and ends early September. Three, four, and seven day packages available weekly.

# PLUMMER'S LODGES - 2018 *Plummer's*



**Plummer's Trophy Lodge** is located on the Smith Arm of Great Bear Lake. One of the smaller of our lodges, Trophy Lodge only holds up to 24 anglers. The season begins at Trophy with the Dental Seminar July 7 to 14 and is open for regular guests July 14. Seven day package.

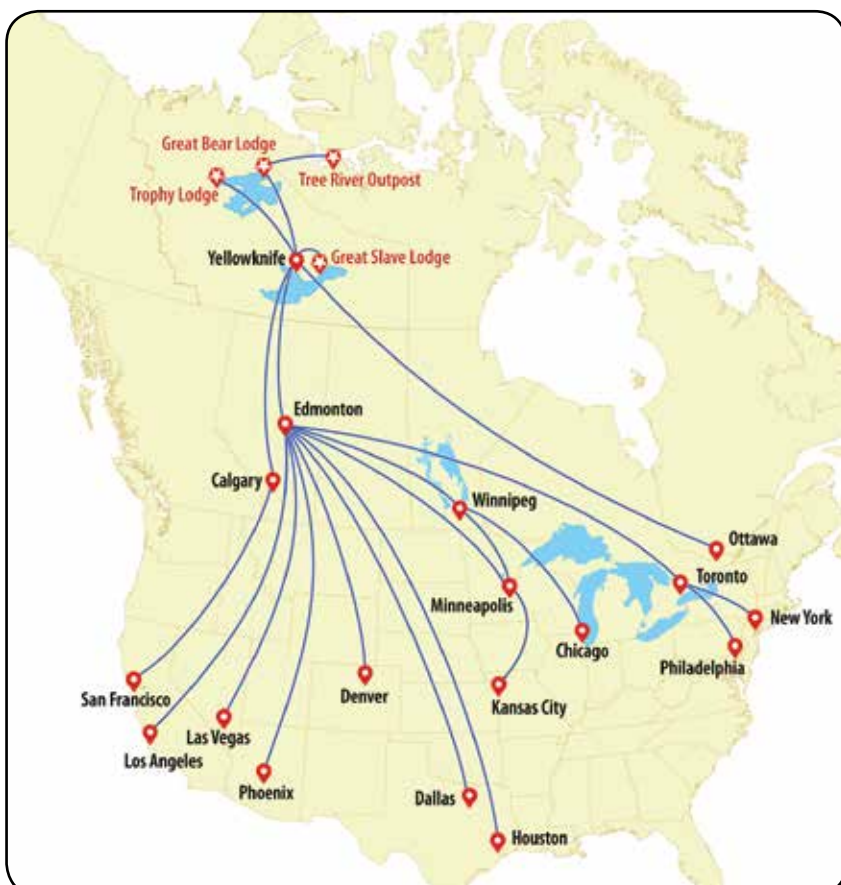


**Plummer's Arctic Circle Outpost** is on the Southeast Arm of Great Bear Lake. This is the only lodge that is self-guided. Guests are provided with boats equipped with 20 hp motors, and there is a camp manager on site to ensure everything runs smoothly. Space is very limited, as many groups do not give their week up. It is only available to groups of 6 - 12 anglers. Seven day package.



**Plummer's Tree River Outpost** is located in Nunavut and runs into the Arctic Ocean. It is home to the largest Arctic Char on the planet and has been featured in media worldwide. It is offered as an overnight trip from Great Bear Lake Lodge or as a seven day package from Great Bear with five days at the Tree River. The seven day trip is only at the very end of the season. Aug 18-25, 2018.

## HOW DO I GET THERE?



Getting to Plummer's can seem like a daunting task but it is far easier than many people think. Once you have called our office to book your trip, or staff will help you through the setting up and planning of your trip. All of our trips begin in Yellowknife, the capital city of the Northwest Territories. Our guests need to arrive in Yellowknife the night before their trip starts, to ensure they are ready for the private charter to the lodges in the morning. Getting to Yellowknife is relatively easy, with daily flights arriving in Yellowknife from West Jet, Air Canada, Canadian North and First Air. Flights connect through either Edmonton or Calgary, Alberta, and are direct from either of those two cities. Regardless of the airline you choose, there will be a Plummer's representative waiting at the airport upon your arrival to ensure that your trip begins as smoothly as possible.

**AS ALWAYS, WE ARE HAPPY TO ASSIST OUR GUESTS IN COORDINATING THEIR UPCOMING TRAVEL PLANS FOR THEIR ARCTIC ADVENTURE.**

Check us out on Facebook @ [www.facebook.com/Plummerslodges](http://www.facebook.com/Plummerslodges)

## Family Week at Plummer's Lodges



Great Bear Lake Lodge & Great Slave Lake Lodge

July 28-Aug 4, 2018

This is the 12th year offering Family Week where one family member gets 25% off the price of their trip. Fathers and daughters, husbands and wives and Grandpas and their Grandkids continue to make this a trip worth remembering.

## Fly Fishing Week

Great Bear Lake Lodge Aug 11-18, 2018  
Second week added. August 4-11, 2018



This package includes TWO nights at the Tree River as well as a remote Arctic Grayling flyout included in the price. The trip is scheduled to coincide with the Lake Trout moving up onto the shoals and the Arctic Char displaying their glorious spawning colors. \$6245 per person.

## Musk Ox Hunt

Great Bear Lake Lodge partnered with Grey Goose Outfitters  
August 18-25, 2018



Our annual Musk Ox hunt is fast gaining a reputation as one of the premier big game hunts offered in North America. With the limited number of hunts we offer and the remarkable size of the animals in the Sahtu region, discerning hunters from across the continent are leaving thrilled every year. Nothing is

wasted on this sustainable hunt, as any meat that is not taken by the hunters is distributed in the local community of Deline. Call for details and availability.

## Prices for the 2017 Season

Great Bear Lake Lodge - Seven Day .....\$5245  
Great Bear Lake Lodge .....  
(Select weeks) - Four Day .....\$3995  
Trophy Lodge - Seven Day .....\$5245  
Arctic Circle Lodge - Seven Day .....\$3795  
Great Slave Lake Lodge - Seven Day .....\$4295  
Great Slave Lake Lodge - Four Day .....\$2995  
Great Slave Lake Lodge - Three Day .....\$2495  
Tree River Exclusive - Seven Day .....\$6245

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

Please call 1-800-665-0240 for up to date information.

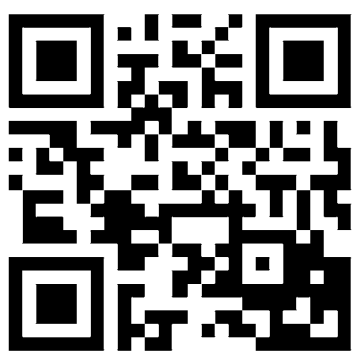
## 25TH ANNUAL DENTAL SEMINAR Trophy Lodge July 7-14, 2018



Join hosts Dr. Terry Donovan and Dr. David Hall as they head the annual dental convention. Earn up to 22 continuing education credits while fishing for Lake Trout, pike, and Arctic Grayling at one of the best fisheries on the planet. Only 24 spots are available for the best Dental Seminar offered anywhere and they fill up quickly. \$4895 per person for the full week of guided fishing and the daily lectures.

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

[www.plummerslodges.com](http://www.plummerslodges.com)



Check us out on Facebook @  
[www.facebook.com/Plummerslodges](https://www.facebook.com/Plummerslodges)



THE HISTORY OF PLUMMER'S  
[www.plummerslodgeshistory.com](http://www.plummerslodgeshistory.com)

