

Friends & Guests

From Don & Annette Elliot of Mattice Lake Outfitters

It's that time of year again; time to start planning your remote wilderness vacation for 2010

Thanks to our gracious guests we had another great season even though the economy put a bit of a damper on many peoples plans.

To start off the season, we experienced a late ice out with many of our northern lakes still frozen for the opening week of fishing, however those booked into these camps were still able to fish at our camps on Whitewater Lake and the Ogoki Reservoir which typically open a week before the others. This was the second year in a row that we experienced a late thaw. Fearing that it is likely to happen again next Spring, for 2010 we do not plan to open our camps until the second week of the season which starts May 22nd.

Weather through the season was unlike anything we have seen in the past. July and August were much colder than normal with many mornings in July starting out with temperatures barely above freezing. After 2 months of breaking records for below normal temperatures, September was the nicest we can remember with most days in the 70's or 80's, under clear skies. October was near normal (cold & windy) followed by a warmer than normal November.

What do we expect for weather next year? Your guess is as good as ours.

Passports Required to enter the USA

Starting in June, 2009 passports were required by anyone, including US citizens entering the United States. Passports are not mandatory for US citizens visiting Canada, however they are required by them to return home. Information is available online at www.dhs.gov

New Boating Regulations in Canada

As of September 15th, anyone operating a boat in Canada was required to possess a Pleasure Craft Operator Card from Canada or a similar card/accreditation from their home state or country. In our opinion this regulation was unwarranted for small watercraft operating in remote areas, however it may have some merit on populated waterways where unqualified people are operating high performance boats and jet skis. Those who do not possess such proof of competency, which will be the vast majority of our US guests and some resident guests need not worry as we can issue temporary authorization which meets all of the requirements while using any of our equipment. What will they dream up next?

Jason, Yolanda & Grandsons Move To Thunder Bay

Most that visited this past season already know that Jason, Yolanda, Lucas and Isaac have moved to Thunder Bay and are no longer working with us. Yolanda was brought up in this business and had been running the office and talking to all of you for the past 15 years. Jason who joined us 10 years ago took care of much of the work around the base and camps. This Spring they decided to move to Thunder Bay for better schooling and more opportunities than Armstrong or the local school had to offer their sons Lucas and Isaac. They will all be missed by us and our guests. We miss seeing our grandsons who spent much of their time with us. Yolanda is now working for Delico (a children's aid organization) and Jason got on with the Thunder Bay Fire Department this past April.



Isaac, Yolanda, Jason & Lucas

What's New For 2010

High fuel costs in 2008 and fewer guests than normal in 2009 resulting from our slower economy did not allow us to carry out any grandiose projects this past summer, however we did complete a number of smaller projects. At Troutfly Lake and Pringle Lake we built new docks, at Troutfly Lake we also installed new sky lights, at the Ogoki Reservoir we replaced 2 roofs with new metal roofing and at a number of other camps we replaced the existing small propane freezers with larger models. Next summer, we are planning a number of other smaller projects including new screened in fish cleaning houses at both Troutfly Lake and Weese Lake, large freezers at a couple of the camps that still have the smaller variety and we plan to replace many of our 9.9 hp. Mercury motors with new Yamaha 4 stroke motors.

The Air Service News—(Wabakimi Air)

Throughout the fishing and hunting season, all three airplanes were used to fly guests to and from our camps as well as guests to camps operated by other tourist operators. By mid October after all of our camps were closed for the season, the two Beavers were flown to Thunder Bay for storage and winter inspections.

The Otter flew until the end of October from a seaplane base in Nakina, flying mineral exploration equipment and drummed diesel & helicopter fuel to an exploration camp located in the Hudson's Bay lowlands, 220 miles north east of Armstrong. Once the northern lakes froze over for the season the Otter was flown to Thunder Bay. Helicopters are now being used to fly supplies and fuel into these camps until there is sufficient ice on the lakes for wheel and ski equipped aircraft to operate. These exploration companies are currently scattered over much of Canada's north searching for base metals and diamonds.

2010 Fishing & Hunting Rates

As has been the case for the two years, our rates are again published in Canadian funds. Our US guests paying for their trips with US currency can take advantage of an exchange rate in their favor. Throughout November the US dollar was worth anywhere from \$1.05 to \$1.10 Canadian. Predictions are for the US dollar to continue to maintain a positive exchange rate over the Canadian dollar. You can follow the daily exchange rate on the "rates" page of our website.

2010 Sport Show Schedule

This winter we plan to attend some of the same shows we have attended over the past 24 years, however we are finding that fewer guests are attending these shows each winter. By next year we plan to reduce the number of shows we attend and will most likely stop attending all of them in the future.

1. All-Canada Fishing & Vacationing Show at The Fountains, **Carmel, IN.**—January 11 to 13
2. All-Canada Fishing & Vacationing Show at the Pheasant Run Resort, **St. Charles, IL.** — January 14 to 17
3. All-Canada Fishing & Vacationing Show at the Milwaukee County Sports Complex, **Milwaukee, WI.** — January 21 to 24
4. All-Canada Fishing & Vacationing Show at the Marriott Madison West Convention Center, **Madison, WI.** — January 25 to 27
5. All-Canada Fishing & Vacationing Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center, **Minneapolis, MN.**—February 5 to 7
6. Northwest Sports Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center, **Minneapolis, MN.** — March 24 to 28

Enclosed is a copy of our 2010 rates and brochure with a brief description of each camp. Please let us know if you would like maps of any lakes that are unfamiliar to you. Information is also available on our web sites: www.walleye.ca which has information pertinent to all camps or www.whitewaterlake.ca for Whitewater Lake and www.ogokireservoir.ca for the Ogoki Reservoir. The [walleye site](http://www.walleye.ca) also includes links to local weather forecasts, hunting/fishing regulations, Canada Customs regulations, limo services, etc. All sites include printable maps of each lake.

Contact us anytime by phone: **1-807-583-2483**, toll free **1-800- 411-0334** or by email: mattice@walleye.ca

We wish to thank all those who visited us this past season and hope to see you again next season. We also hope to see those that were unable to make the trip this year.

“Best wishes to you and your family for the Holiday Season”
