



The Klotz Lake Kronicle

News From Klotz Lake Camp, Longlac, Ontario Ninth Edition – January, 2008

Hello and Happy New Year! We hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. We wish each and every one of you a healthy, happy and very prosperous 2008! Many of you commented positively about the changes to our newsletter content, so we thought we'd keep it up by giving you the most up to date information we have concerning the things that affect your trip up north. We aren't doing our mass mailing of the newsletter, and we're mailing it only to those of you with reservations. I am sending emails out with a link to the newsletter on the website, and for all those people like Michael who doesn't use a computer; we'll have plenty of printed copies of the newsletter in the store when you arrive.

We got through our 50th Anniversary year without too many hitches! Unfortunately it wasn't the banner year for business we thought it would be, but it certainly was a great year for fishing and hunting! **Bob Strach** from New York (one of our snowmobiling guests) sent us some beautiful stickers with the Klotz Lake Camp logo. Many of you were able to pick some up in the store this year. For those who didn't see them, please make sure you stop in and pick up one. We just ask that you place them somewhere that might create conversation (we'll leave exactly where that is up to you). Our thanks to Bob for these wonderful mementos – they are a big hit! Many of you gave us nice gifts for our anniversary year, but most of all, you continued your vacation tradition and visited with us, and for that we're truly grateful.

Overall things have been going well. Business is still down, but there's a lot going on in the world. The race for the President of the US has plagued our news and will continue to until November. Hopefully after a new administration is in place, things will settle down a bit and the economy will get back to normal. Yes folks, the Canadian dollar actually passed the good ole US buck this year in value. What a switch!

We didn't have the funds to build anything substantial in 2007, but we did manage to replace all the toilets in the shower building and spruce it up a bit in there. Rick also built two new outhouses at the campground. They are a much-needed improvement. Thanks to **Brian Woodworth** and **Lee Johnson** for helping with the ground/backhoe. Lee Johnson also gave Toni some instruction/tips and an education on running the hoe part of the backhoe, so now she should be able to grate that road down there, no problem (ha ha ha).



As most of you saw first hand, we had an exceptionally wet year in 07. It started out with opening day (May 18th) being snowed on (see picture to the left). In July we had over 10 inches of rain. July also saw 10 feet of water in the lake at the end of our dock! Can you image that? We had many groups that had really difficult trips going up/down the rapids to Flint. The water was so high at one point you couldn't see any of the rocks. But, as the water receded in August, things got easy and everyone agreed it was the easiest trip to Flint in a very long time.

September came along and with it came more rain. Many of the bear brought into camp last year were shot and/or handled in the rain. When the lake froze over on November 23rd the water was as high as it usually is in the spring, so it will be interesting to see what the water levels look like when the lake opens this year.

This and That Around Camp: We ended up having only 108 snowmobiles (total) in the yard during the 06/07 sledding season. The first time the groomer was in the yard was Feb. 13th, so that didn't leave much time for snowmobiling. We only had about 2 feet of snow total, all year, and most of that came Easter weekend.



Hopefully the 07/08 season will be better. It's already started off pretty good, as we have over 2 feet of snow so far and the groomer has been here twice already.

We had a few customer mishaps this year, which at the time were pretty serious, in retrospect they are kind of funny, so we thought at the risk of embarrassing a few people, we'd let you know **Phil Smith** sat in his boat and watched his motor burn; **Roger Anspaugh** sat in his boat and watched his motor fall into Klotz Lake. With the fire department and the deep divers dispatched, everything turned out all right. Roger did get his motor out and then lost his boat a couple days later (another story)! Phil is yet to tell us the condition of his,

but it was their last day here, so they didn't use it afterwards. By the way, there is a diver in Longlac who will make the treacherous trip to the bottom of Klotz Lake to find your motor.

It was another bad year for blueberries (which is good for bear hunting). We had a lot of bears in camp before opening and still quite a few all the way into July. Michael made "friends" with two bears at the dump and named them Waylon and Willy. The bears would hear him coming in his truck, playing Fred Eaglesmith up loud, and rush out to get the goodies. Many of our guests went to the dump of an evening to see the Waylon and Willy show. They weren't disappointed most of the time – those two put on quite a show. Our granddaughters, **Alissa and Skylar**, really enjoyed going to the dump with their Papa that year!

We have enjoyed an increase in the amount of bald eagles we're seeing on Klotz, Flint, Kassagaminee and even at the dump. There are several younger eagles on Klotz that haven't matured so their heads are not white yet. We also had a young bull moose down at the end of our driveway that hung around for a while. The grouse hatchlings, unfortunately, were nearly all drowned in July with the rain, so we didn't see as many grouse, but snowshoe rabbits are definitely on the upswing.

On a very sad note, we lost a very dear friend and fellow bear hunter/outdoorsman this year. **Steve Anderson**, from Arlington Heights, Illinois, passed away November, 2007. Many of you knew Steve, or at least have seen his work around camp. He was an accomplished taxidermist and did quite a few of Michael's bears. Steve took over 10 bears from here over the many years coming to Klotz Lake. He enjoyed fishing as well as grouse and rabbit hunting. Steve also came up in the winter months to enjoy the fantastic snowmobiling. We are going to miss our friend terribly.

Passports: As many of you may be aware, the US has moved the date for requiring passports to enter the US. The date is **June, 2009** – passports are not required until that time. In the meantime, you must provide a picture identification card (driver's license) and birth certificate. Ontario and Michigan are now offering a new style of driver's license which meets all the US requirements for entry, so getting a passport will likely not be necessary – especially after the US has a new administration in place.

Community: The little community of Greenstone (the amalgamation of Longlac, Geraldton, Caramat, Beardmore, Nakina and Jellico) has been hard hit with the troubles of the forestry industry. The mill in Longlac

is closed and has been for quite a long time. Buchanan Forest Products (bought out Kimberley Clarke) has taken over cutting/hauling/silviculture operations in this area. On a more positive note, gold mining operations have been re-started in Geraldton and seem to be booming. You can check out what's happening in and around Greenstone by visiting the community portal at: www.greenstone.ca It's a very interesting website and is used extensively by locals.

Rates: We are not raising our cabin rental rates this year, but we have made some changes. We have removed the "over the minimum" pricing. The minimum occupancy for each cabin will not change, but everyone will pay the \$210, \$220 or \$250/week instead of the \$100 over the occupancy minimum. In checking with the other outfitters in the area, we were the only ones with this type of pricing in place. We hope this small change won't affect how you decide to spend those hard-earned hunting and fishing dollars!

New Fishing Regulations, Effective January 1, 2008:

As we've mentioned before, the fishing regulations have definitely changed for 2008. Firstly, we are all now in one fishing zone (#7). All the lakes and rivers in this area fall into this zone so there's no more confusion with two different sets of rules. The new regulations for most fish species are as follows:

<u>Fish</u>	<u>Sport License</u>	<u>Conservation License</u>
Walleye	4, only one can be over 18", 3 under	2, only one can be over 18", 1 under
Pike	6, only two over 24", one of which can be over 34"	2, only one can be over 24" none over 34"
Perch	50	25
Whitefish	25	12

There have been some other changes in the regulations – especially as it has to do with "selective" fishing and folks with aerators, etc., so please make sure you stop in the store and pick up a book, or check out this MNR website below for more information. <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing/gen.html>

We have the new rates for **licenses in 2008**. For non-residents, they are as follows:

Seasonal Sport:	\$65.77	Seasonal Conservation:	\$40.26
8-Day Sport:	\$42.22	8-Day Conservation:	\$24.55
Small Game:	\$93.27	Black Bear:	\$186.54
Moose:	\$373.09	Crown Land Camping:	\$ 9.82

We carry all of these non-resident licenses in the store (see Toni) as well as many various resident licenses.

Now That's Fishing!

Once again there were some awesome fish caught (and released) in 2007. The largest walleye goes to **Trey Greenleaf** of Iowa (part of **Wayne Johnson's Flint Floaters**) for an incredible 33.5 inches, 18 inch girth and 12 pounds from Flint Lake! This one went on the wall. Congratulations, Trey.

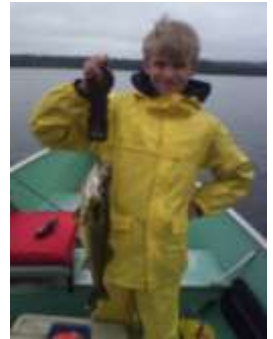


The largest pike contest was exciting. It started off with **Don Demaet** on opening week, then the **Seguin boys (Gabe and Andy)** got a couple of lunkers, so did **Bob Long** and **Jason Kowalski**.



But, after a great fishing season, the largest pike was caught by **Mike Stout** of Indiana. Mike reeled in a whopping 44 inches, 22 pounder from Flint Lake. His monster went right back in the water for another day (as did a lot of the others). Congrats to all these guys for their great fish

Here's one of the nice smaller walleye on Klotz for 2007. **Taylor Nicholson** proves he knows how to catch 'em.



Check out all these guys and their catches!

We have to give a special award for the most fish caught off our dock! This goes to **Katie Schumann** (9 yrs. old) from Michigan, who managed to catch a 30 inch pike off the end of the dock. Imagine that! She also caught 9 perch there too, but quickly made a trade with **Keith Gould** (camping at the lake) for some walleye. Seems that Keith's wife **Gail** had placed an order for some perch at home and Keith was having more success with walleye on Klotz, so he made the trade and everyone was happy. Most of Katie's perch were over 10 inches. Speaking of perch, check out the last picture above – that's a stringer of perch caught by **Tony Forney's crew** at Kassagaminee Lake!

Congratulations also go to **Marcello Martella** from Toronto who got the 2006 Largest Walleye. As you may recall, we didn't have any official submissions and had to ask for them. March's 27 inches, 11 lbs. did the trick. Check it out below. We also wanted to tell you about **John Zywicki, Jr.** John turned 5 years old while he was here camping with his family at the lake. The Zywicki family is 4 generations strong and on his 5th birthday he caught a beautiful walleye on Klotz. Here's a picture of John with his Dad, **John** and his special fish. This one will be on the wall in the Zywicki house. His great-grandmother, **Helen**, and grandpa **Don** and grandma **Carol** were very proud of their newest fisherman!



The Bear Hunt 2007: Check out our website for more bear pictures. We put the ones not on the website here in the newsletter. <http://www.klotzlakecamp.on.ca/BearHunt2007.html>

Opening week was August 18th and we had two hunters; **John Elzer**, his fourth bear hunt at Klotz Lake Camp and **Jan Engstrom** from Sweden. Both hunters got their bears before Monday. Both hunters arrived on Saturday, but since Jan arrived early, Michael got him out on his bait that day, after spending some time reviewing videos of some hunts and getting all the licenses and paperwork out of the way.

Second week of the season brought us another two hunters – **Lonnie Smith** from Ohio and **Herbert Ratz** from Michigan. Lonnie shot his bear after two days and enjoyed the rest of the week fishing with his grandson. Herbert was using a ground blind. He saw a beautiful cinnamon (colour phase) bear but because he couldn't get a perfect shot, he chose not to shoot. We're very proud of Herbert for his decision as we know how very much he wanted to take a nice bear home. He also was able to spend some time with his son fishing. We'll see them both in the spring for their annual fishing trip. It becomes apparent the coats of these bruins are absolutely beautiful – so full, thick and shiny. There was very little fat on both bears so far.

The week of September 1st was quite the week for bear. **Kristy Neeme** from Michigan came with her family/friends for her first hunt. She ended up bagging a 375 pounder! **Kirt Doan** and **Jeff Price** from Michigan took one bear home, but shot video of them all week. They told us they'd be back for sure. It was really nice to

have Kirt back in camp as we haven't seen him in a while. **Doug Miller**, **Todd Taylor** and **Bill Preble** from Ohio all took home bear, but Todd's 550 pounder got camp record for the year!



September 8th brought us Bluto's crew of 6 hunters, all from central Ohio, except for **Johnny Whitaker** from Tennessee. Wow! What a week. Bluto (**Ryan Cremeans**) will be taking home his second bear – this year's not as big as the first. **Rich Hickman** and



Mike Sandusky both got really great bears. **Pickle** and **Stumpy** didn't shoot a bear, but between them they saw over 35 of them during the week.

Mason Montgomery's group from Virginia had a great time the week of September 22nd. With 5 hunters, Mason shot his second bear from Klotz Lake and **Don Branscome** shot his beauty on the same day, which was, by the way, their first day hunting. Next up was **Jeff Bowman** with a beautiful white crested/blaze



bear and then came **Greg Goad** (after seeing bear all week he finally decided to shoot one).



Geryl Beamer was the last one left, but even though presented with a couple of opportunities, had some rifle issues and was not able to get a shot off in time. They all had a great time the rest of the week grouse/partridge hunting



and fishing. Also that week we hosted **Scott Horn** from Kentucky. On his first hunting day, he shot his big bruin (350 pounds). 3 bears came in the first day of hunting so Michael was quite busy the next day!



Typically by now we would be done with the bear hunt, but Toni booked in one last hunter **Rich Stergulz** from Florida, who was going to be in Illinois the week before and wanted to come up for a bear. It was his first hunt with us, but had been on two unsuccessful hunts in previous years. Rich brought his beautiful 300+ pounder in his very first day out! They didn't actually stay the entire week since the weather was miserable, but promised to come back next year to enjoy some of the great fishing too. **Overall counts were 22 hunters, 17 bears down - 100% happy hunters.**

The Moose Hunt – 2007:

The archery season was quite exciting if not as productive as the hunters would have liked. **Mike Renaud** brought up the whole family to enjoy fishing and grouse hunting, while he went for moose. He saw several moose but they were the wrong sex, too early, too late or too far – he's looking forward to next year when he plans to hook-up with **Vince Tiberi's** crew who saw "Arnold Schwarzenbull" during their week, but never had the opportunity for a good shot.

Trent and Ralph Sonsalla (from the Dakotas) had a nice bull about two seconds away from an arrow, but he moved off into thick bush. The feelings you get when you are close to a moose are never to be forgotten – hit or miss. Mr. "X" who was a first-time hunter and caller talked a big bull in right under his tree stand, but never got to close the deal as he missed the first shot and dropped his quiver. The bull actually stood over the quiver for a few minutes, looking for the cow he thought he heard before - disappearing into the bush. Mr. "X" sure got a lot of ribbing from his hunting partners!

Our veteran archery hunter, **Mike Sawyer** from Hayward, Wis. and his partners, arrowed a big bull on the second week of the hunt.



The Kingston Crew got back into the business in 2007 by getting a big bull and really nice calf on opening day of the rifle season. In total we took 5 moose with many more seen (not counting the one at the end of our driveway a few times). Congratulations to all the hunters who hunted with us and had experiences to remember for a lifetime! See you next fall!

The Grouse Hunt 2007: It was still a good year for our bird hunters, despite the fact that many hatchlings didn't make it due to the high waters in the summer. The sharptails didn't migrate in until late, so they were kind of hard to find, but the spruce grouse and ruffed grouse were plentiful. We are still on the upward cycle for birds, so we're anticipating a great year in 2008. Here's **Don Branscome** with a nice morning count. Below is Michael with **Duane Duffer** from West Virginia and some nice ruffies. By the way, Toni shot her first grouse in '07



– two nice ruffed grouse. We won't discuss the ones she missed first (lucky birds), now on to bigger targets...



Playing In The Snow – We had the good fortune to have some great people stay with us over the snowmobiling season. The ***Neeme Family (Jim, Jerilyn, Kristy, John and Patrick)*** come up every year for a week of fun in the snow and ice.

In late February we got the chance to host ***Bob Strach and the guys from New York*** who choose to spend their limited snowmobiling



time up north in Ontario. We really appreciate having them come all this way. Greenstone has put together a new snowmobiling loop that takes you from Longlac to Nakina and back through Geraldton. It's about 200 kms of beautiful scenery and makes for a great day's trip. Check out The Greenstone Loop at www.snowmobiling.greenstone.ca



It looks like 2008 will be another great year for fishing, hunting and snowmobiling. We hope you all get the opportunity to come up and visit us sometime during the year. We're looking forward to seeing you again. We do check our email regularly and update the website as often as we can, so stay in touch with us.

Klotz Lake Camp

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