

## Fishing the mud line or windy side

# Makoop Lake Fly-in Trip, Part II

BY JIM MCDONNELL  
THE FISHING PROFESSOR

Last week, we took a look at the first part of our trip to Makoop Lake, located roughly 150 miles from Hudson Bay in the province of Ontario, Canada. The four cabins and lodge are located on a long peninsula with access from the lake on both sides of the narrow strip of land.

Much of MaKoop's 28,000 acres is shallow, but there are enough 30 to 60-foot depths to provide habitat for whitefish, perch and a variety of baitfish and bug life. There was little doubt that the walleye and northern pike had plenty to eat, as they were very fat.

Work on the cabins and lodge continued throughout our stay as sixteen Band members and five outsiders, which is a term given to the white carpenters leading the construction project, who were from Winnipeg and Quebec. By the time everything is finished it will be like an oasis in the middle of a wilderness. Two large generators provide the electricity and they run exceptionally quiet. A water tower, and state of the art sewage treatment equipment, provides indoor toilet and shower facilities in the lodge and each cabin.

As with many fishing trips, it is hard to get any sleep the night before the big event. This is especially true when it's a fly-in adventure.

Our alarm went off at 7 a.m. but some of our group had already made their way to the Café and were having coffee when we arrived for breakfast. The flight would take about 90-minutes in the Caravan floatplane, bucking a head wind.

By 9 a.m. we were loaded with all our gear plus several couches that were tied to the floats, that would go into the lodge. Quite a sight to see heading out onto the runway. I can only imagine what it must have looked like as the plane landed on the water.

The flight was picture perfect, sunny with an air temperature of 60-degrees. The group of workers helped us unload when we reached the dock and after carrying our gear into the cabin, we wasted no time setting up our tackle and our 16-foot boats.

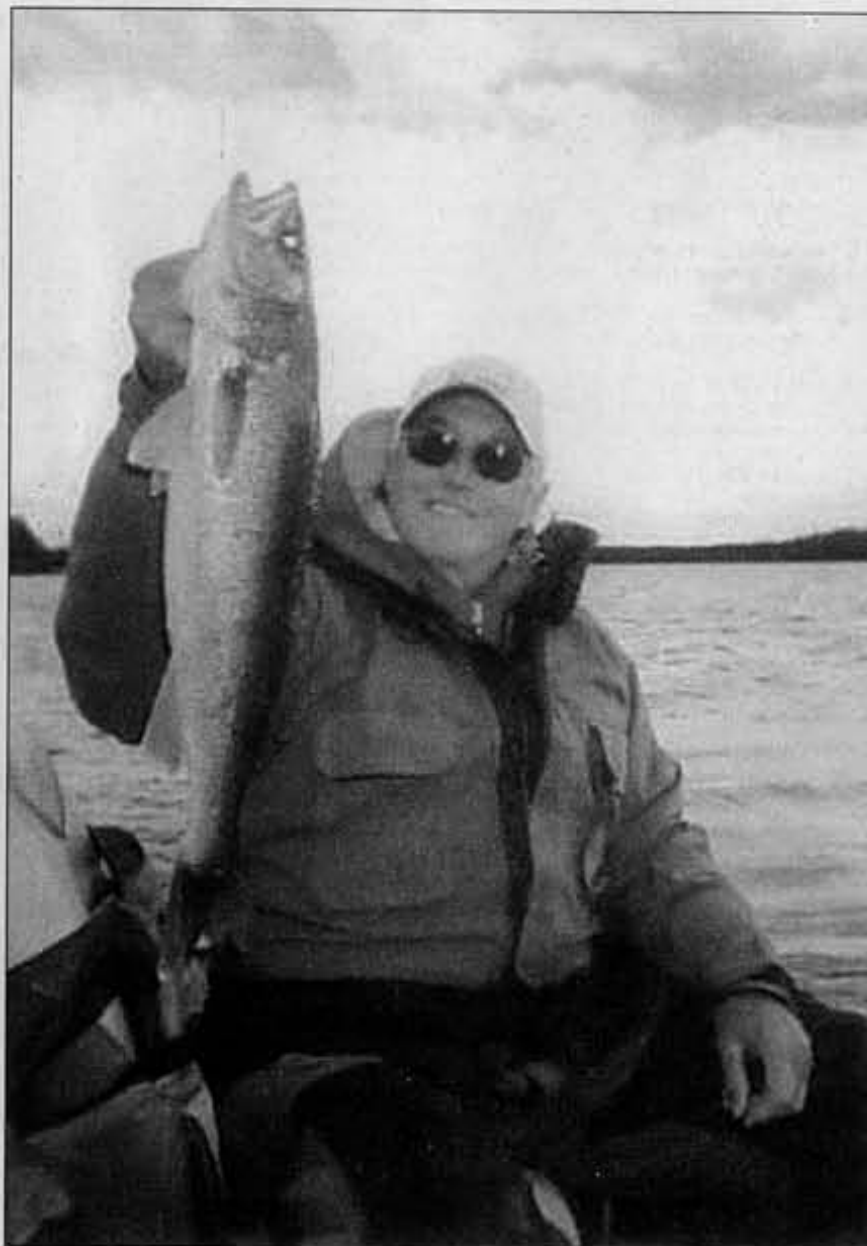
Once the gear was in, I attached a Humminbird 535 portable depth finder to the back of the boat and we were off to explore MaKoop Lake and its treasures. Each of our boats used Motorola handheld radios to keep in touch. Even with all the islands, we had good reception for several miles.

Fishing the first afternoon was fantastic with walleyes and northern pike eager to eat the Gulp Grubs and Powerbait minnows. Pick a classic rock point and you were catching walleyes.

The average size would run 16 to 23-inches and several hit the 27-inch mark. Northern pike came in all sizes up to 40-inches and would bite Gulp Grubs just like the walleyes did. No livebait or salted minnows are allowed or needed in these waters.

In fact, we pinched the barbs down on our jigs just to help with the unhooking. Most of the walleyes were in 4 to 8-foot of water so we used 1/8 or 1/4 oz. Fireball jigs and Mimic Minnow jig heads. We'd attach a 3 or 4-inch Gulp Grub in pink, orange or white and we were in business.

Another little tip that I have written about before is the use of a leader product called Tyger leaders. This is a unique stainless steel coated wire that you can tie directly to your jig.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**The Fishing Professor holds a Makoop Lake walleye before releasing it. Fish this size were the norm on this Fly-In adventure.**

Just use a plain 2 or 3 wrap clinch knot, wet it, and pull the knot tight slowly. A small #10 brass swivel is tied to the other end of the leader, then your main line is tied to the swivel.

You will have no more lost jigs to northern pike. Our fishing lines were 8 or 10# pink or flame colored Fireline for walleyes and 40# Stealth Spiderwire for casting large spoons for northern.

Surprisingly we caught many nice walleyes on the Forage spoons fishing for northern pike and also caught large northern pike on jigs fishing for walleyes. You just never knew.

Our day would begin with coffee about 7:00 a.m. followed by a logger-style breakfast. By 9 a.m. we had a lunch packed and were off catching walleyes. About 4 p.m. we would start returning, someone would start frying walleyes and potatoes, and by 7 p.m. we were heading back out on the lake for the evening bite.

It didn't get dark until 10:30 p.m. so why not fish? Just for fun Dick Turpin and I kept track of walleyes caught during several 20-minute time periods.

We averaged 41 fish. Now that is what is called fast fishing. I don't have any idea how many fish you can catch in a day's time.

MaKoop Lake with all its points and islands is well sheltered from strong winds. There are plenty of fish catching spots available regardless of what direction the wind blows. Our daytime temperatures would range from the 80s to the 90s on most days.

It would cool off into the 30s and 40s at night making for good sleeping conditions. A wood fire was most welcome each morning. The lodge always had a fire going when we arrived for coffee and breakfast.

North Caribou Outfitters will work with any time frame you

might want. Most groups choose a 7-day, Saturday to Saturday menu. Ours was for 10-days. Time in the wilderness goes so fast.

The Brodhagens who own the Fly-In Camps, also have 4 cabins available on North Caribou, which is an 82,000 acre lake and a single cabin on Trout Fly Lake that is roughly 8,000 acres. This lake is deep and clear and has a lake trout population.

If you're a bow hunter or muzzle-loader enthusiast the Brodhagens also operate a bear and moose camp at Armstrong, Ontario. You can e-mail them at [robs@drytel.net](mailto:robs@drytel.net) or call them toll free at 766 233-2717.

In one's haste to get ready for a fishing trip, and especially if you fly-in, always have some sort of a checklist. That way you won't forget some very important things such as your prescription medication.

Other items on your list would be sunscreen and mosquito repellent. If you're like me and hate biting bugs, log on to [www.bugshirt.com](http://www.bugshirt.com).

They make products that will save you from mosquitoes, ticks, black flies, etc. The material is a special weave that mosquitoes cannot poke their proboscis between the strands to bite you.

The jacket and pants are extremely lightweight. I found the jacket at the Pickle Lake airport as we were waiting to fly in. It really saved me on a couple of nights when we fished late and the mosquitoes came to feast.

In last week's Part I, I forgot to mention Dick Turpin's website in case you are interested in his homemade turkey calls. [www.turpin-calls.com](http://www.turpin-calls.com).

Lots of things to do in the outdoors and so little time. Remember to always enjoy each sunrise, keep your line tight and may your aim be straight.

## Red-shouldered Hawk shows nesting success

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