

Canada 2005

The Crew:

Dave “Hugh” Christensen

Dick “Juice” Adamson

Mike “Stains” Adamson

Mike “Bigg” Christensen

David “Darrell” Adamson

Joe Adamson

Matt “Captain” Christensen

It was a cold and rainy week. Never in the history of the Canada Trip has the group endured 5 straight days of cold and rainy weather. To make matters worse there were new fishing regulations this year. We were only allowed to take 2 walleyes each between 13.8 inches and 17.7 inches but one of the two could be over 27.6 inches. The limit for northern pike was 4 each with none in the 27.6 inches to 35.4 inches protected slot but one of the four could be over 35.4 inches. We caught a lot of fish, but had to throw a lot back because of the new slot limit. Luckily we caught a lot of northerns to eat for shore lunch.

Friday

On Friday, Hugh and Matt left Ellston and picked up Bigg at the Des Moines Airport. Bigg was able to catch an earlier flight and get into Des Moines at 10 a.m., but his luggage was still on his original flight and arrived at noon. They arrived at Dick’s house in Fargo around 9 p.m. Mike and Joe had arrived at the Fargo Airport earlier that evening. Darrell was back from Hawaii and was happy to say he did not get any more tattoos since last year.....he just added onto the one he already had on his leg. Joining the crew for the evening festivities were Christina, who returned home for the summer after her first year at college, and Darrell’s, friend Roger. While the guys got the boat and the vehicles packed, Christina ordered pizza. Mike A. brought a large container of Grey Poupon Bistro Sauce which we soon discovered was good on just about anything. Later that evening after a few beers were consumed, Hugh and Darrell went on a mission to see how much of Dick’s food they could cook and serve with the bistro sauce. The total amount of beer and food consumed that evening was: 4 cases of beer, 1 bottle of tequila in margaritas, ½ bottle of Captain Morgan’s Spiced Rum, 3 pizzas, 2 boxes of frozen chicken wings, 1 box of frozen chicken strips, and ½ of a large container of bistro sauce.

Saturday

The crew got up early to head to Camp. There were a few headaches and stomach cramps, but everyone survived. Darrell and Joe seemed to be having a contest to see who could smell the worst in Dick’s Escalade. We arrived at camp around 2:00 pm and unloaded the gear and got the boat in the water. The walk from the cabin to the dock had changed some this year. Duane built a retaining wall at the shore and brought in fill dirt to level the yard. The new landscaping buried our rock that we took our annual picture on, but at least now Duane’s outlet would not get submerged when the water went up. Now the outlet was attached to one of the floating docks. The problem was, he still had an extension cord running to it through the water.

While we were unpacking we found Jim and Connie. They were doing well and had arrived earlier that day. It turns out that Jim....ah....I mean.....Dick forgot to bring Jim's battery charger and Connie's camera. That night Mike A., Bigg, Hugh and Dick went out fishing while Joe, Matt, and Darrell cooked the lasagna for dinner. After dinner everyone played Euchre and watched the basketball game on T.V. Mike A. brought hazelnut and cinnamon cooking oil again this year, so the gang sampled it.

Sunday

Everyone got up early to a rainy morning. Hugh was happy that Darrell ran to the store the night before to get him some milk for his breakfast cereal. You see, Dick forgot to buy milk when we stopped to get our licenses. The boats left the docks at 7:00 a.m. and Matt had his line caught in the trolling motor by 9:30 a.m. It was a miserable morning with constant rain, but we still caught 5 walleyes and 4 northerns. We went in at noon because of the weather and had shore lunch at the cabin. That afternoon everyone relaxed watching movies and taking naps.

That evening we made brats and fries in the oven. We would have had sauerkraut too, but Dick forgot to bring it. After dinner we enjoyed some of the cheesecake that Mike A. brought. At night we played poker, but since Dick forgot the poker chips, we used Hugh's candy in place of chips. When Darrell wasn't eating his "chips" they kept being "accidentally" pushed off the table on to the floor. After playing poker for awhile the game was switched over to Euchre. Joey learned how to play traditional Euchre and Hugh taught everyone how to play "Judge's Rules Euchre". In "Judge's Rules Euchre", the judge can just discard whenever he wants. Jim also came over that night and he and Hugh talked about going over to Halley's Camp in the morning if it was rainy. They wanted to see about the possibility of going back to Halley's in future trips.

Monday

Monday morning Dick, Bigg, Mike, Hugh and Jim went over to Halley's and decided against switching camps. They decided that the cost was more for a less desirable camp. Joey, Matt and Darrell were happy to sleep in and when everyone got back from Halley's they loaded up and hit the water around 10:00. The weather was overcast and wet, but it never really rained. We fished Funk's Boathouse, The Brush Pile and Lost Watch Bay. Matt managed to get his line stuck in the trolling motor three times before noon. In Lost Watch Bay, Hugh saw two 4 ft long muskies in shallow water swimming past the boat. Hugh thought that they were 2 logs floating because they were so big. Later Matt caught a 12 inch walleye and as he was bringing it in he saw he was also bringing in a huge Northern that had the back half of the Walleye in its mouth. He didn't get the northern, but he did catch the walleye. At shore lunch in Lost Watch Bay, Mike A. was going "number 2" in the trees while Darrell kept taking pictures of him. I guess it's better than a whole roll of minnow pictures. That afternoon Bigg, Matt and Darrell bragged that their boat had a triple. The only problem was they caught their fish at different times. That night was awards night. Hugh made beef nuts, salad, and baked potatoes for dinner. While we were eating Darrell was asked if he wanted another beer. He replied "Does Mike shit in the woods?" The awards this year were Hugh's 25th year award, Darrell's

10th year award, and Mike A.'s 20th year award. Mike's 20th year was actually the year before, but Dick forgot to tell anyone. We forgave him when we saw the awards he got for the honorees. Dick had a graphic artist make posters with pictures of everyone from their first year up until last year. After the awards everyone went to the bar to watch the NBA finals and have a few beers.

Tuesday

Tuesday morning we all got up early. We went north to Funk's Boathouse, The Brushpile and Lost Watch Bay. It was an overcast day but it did not rain until the afternoon. It was a pretty normal day except Hugh got his line caught in the trolling motor instead of Matt. We had lunch in Lost Watch Bay, but on the east side of the bay rather than the west side where we normally have shore lunch. It was a windy morning and the east side of the bay gave us more protection. After lunch it started to rain, so we went in at about 2:30 pm.

That night we had Jim and Connie over for dinner. We had pork loin, corn, dressing, lettuce salad, and garlic bread.

Wednesday

On Wednesday we went south to the high lines to start the day. It was a very cold, overcast day and rained a little in the morning. We worked our way south stopping in Throat Narrows and ending in Adamson Bay. We had lunch in Adamson Bay and took our time for some pictures and to say "Hi" to Grandpa Gene.

That afternoon we fished our way back to camp. We caught a lot of fish, but most were not in the slot. Darrell had a huge day and caught more than anyone else. He decided that he had caught his quota for the next 10 years in that one day. Dick and Darrell also saw a beaver that day. No, it wasn't in a magazine; it was a real live one in the water. For dinner we went to Jim and Connie's cabin for a feast. We had duck, sauerkraut, dumplings, gravy, Spanish rice and strawberry shortcake for dessert. While we were having dinner the sun came out for the first and only time that week. It only lasted about an hour, but we took advantage of the nice weather and sat at the picnic table for dinner. After dinner we took our annual panoramic pictures and even added a new tattoo picture for this year's album.

That evening Hugh, Dick and Jim went out fishing at the railroad bridge for a while. A thunderstorm rolled in so they had to come back with only a few saugers. Jim caught all the fish, but gave them to us.

Thursday

It was another cold, rainy, windy day. We started at the railroad bridge and caught 3 saugers to limit out. Right before we left the bridge Mike A. caught a 32" Northern. We all thought it was a whale the way he was fighting it. He had hooked the Northern in the back and that along with the current it made for quite a fight. Next we went to Funk's Boathouse. While at Funk's we saw that the floating dock had barrels all along it. We weren't really sure why they were there, but Darrell said he just figured they had a lot of

rookies. We fished at Funk's for a while and then went up to Lost Watch Bay to have shore lunch. It was a good lunch, but it would have been better if Dick hadn't forgotten the beans and spaghetti.

That afternoon we came back to camp, loaded up and headed back home. It was the worst weather we have ever had on the trip, but one of the best years yet. We caught a lot of walleye even though we had to throw a lot back because of the slot limit. We had plenty to eat and most days we even brought some fillets out with us for lunch just to keep us under our limits. We even caught a lot of northern pike without even casting for them. This year just showed us that rain or shine we will have a good time.

And Hugh yelled, "Darrell, did you shit your pants."