

Northwestern Ontario

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Outdoors



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE



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**Jenn Pearson with a
nice golden
Walleye**

Golden Years

By Jennifer Pearson

On an early summer evening, where the days seem to last forever, as I packed up the truck to drive the dirt road to the lake, I went through in my head one last time my list of what to bring... phone, wallet, keys, rods, tackle, snacks, life-jackets... BAIT! Can't forget the bait like last time. That is one of those things that you only forget once before learning a hard life lesson. "The first step in a successful fish is the preparation and packing" I heard my dad's exact words repeat for the hundredth time in my mind. That tough old guy doesn't have time for mushy gushy love songs, but he always shows us kids his love in his own way by making sure we're safe and well-fed. Coming out of my little day dream, I make sure the canoe has been strapped on to the box, the ratchet straps tested for security and grab my little coffee can survival kit (including a lighter, duct tape, flashlight, knife and a whistle) just in case. Feeling confident and eager to get my fish on, I called my dog to hop in and headed out on the road.

I parked by the creek, unloaded and was off, portaging over two beaver dams while being mauled by vicious black flies, to get to our special spot. My dad can't come anymore because his back won't allow him to sit in the canoe for long periods of time anymore due to years working as a mechanic at the steel plant so it is up to me to stock his freezer. In the golden evening sun, using yellow, green and orange jig heads tipped with a little minnow from the pond behind the house, casting over structure towards shore bouncing off of bottom from the treeline to the boat... WHAM! The first fish of the night hit right by the gunnels. After throwing back the first borderline keeper for good luck, it wasn't two seconds before casting back out that another slammed right away. Fish after fish came out ready to fight, getting my blood pumping and giving me that natural high all avid anglers search for as they reel in a nice fish. I had one of those days that go down in history as the best walleye fishing you have ever experienced. So hands down great that you boast to your friends years later. So good that you have double headers with chunky bass coming up to chase the walleye that you are already reeling up. So incredible that you run out of minnows so you resort to using a white piece of walleye belly as fresh bait just to continue to slay gold bricks into the sunset. So fantastic of a day that you can fill your dad's freezer with your limit, trade fish for baking with your neighbours when you get home or make mouth-watering lake-to-plate mango and avocado fish tacos to share with your social circle.

Paddling back at dusk with a canoe full of "good eaters" as my dad calls them that I cleaned on my paddle making sure to leave the skin on for identification of species (my limit of under 18 inches), waving goodbye to the beaver with a slap of his tail, I headed for the truck.

After packing everything up, to my horror, my truck would not start! I must have left the door open on accident as I left in a whirl of excitement and it drained the battery! Feeling sorry for myself I walked down the now-dark road 2km to get service and call... you guessed it, my dad. He picked up on the fourth ring, just long enough to make me sweat a little. After a 30 second phone call starting by him laughing at me asking if I learned my lesson, I sat on a log waiting for him to arrive to give me a boost. As tough as he raised me, as much knowledge that he has passed down to me. I have to admit that a daughter is never too old to still need her dad!



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Justin Reid with a chunky topwater bass

Topwater Smallmouth Bass

By Justin Reid, NOSA Member

With the inland lake temperatures reaching anywhere from 70-80 degrees in the Northwest region, my mind switches to topwater smallmouth bass. Water temperatures this warm have the fish moving into their summer hide-outs and entices them to bite various kinds of lures. Exploring isolated rock piles, weed filled shores or rocky shorelines in lakes that host smallmouth bass is a good place to start throwing topwater lures in hopes of getting a strike on the surface.

Generally, if I am accompanied by someone in my boat while fishing bass, one person will throw a topwater bait and the other will not. The reason behind this is that a lot of times bass will go after a topwater bait but completely miss the lure and not strike again. This is where it gets fun. I always have a rod tied up with a wacky worm on the end. When I see that a bass has struck a topwater lure and missed, I grab my rod tied with a wacky worm and cast that into the area where the topwater strike occurred. It is safe to say about 80% of the time you'll catch the same fish that was hunting down that top water. Having a finessed presentation to throw after results in more fish in the boat. There are a couple favourite lures that I keep in my tackle box and bring with me on every bass fishing trip. The Storm Chug Bug in the Madflash series is my absolute favourite. The lure has a slender 3 inch long body with a feather tail tied on the rear hook and the bass can't resist. With this bait you can work it just like any other regular top water bait, or you can use the walk the dog method. Other baits such as the Heddon Super Spook and the Rapala Skitter Pop have been my other go-to topwater lures.

When it comes to setting up my rods and reels for top water, I use a similar setup to most other applications while out fishing. Whether I'm drop-shotting, using a wacky rig or even a jerk bait, braided line is spooled up on all my reels. Since braided line is more visible compared to a clear monofilament or fluorocarbon line, I try to have fluorocarbon tied to the end of my braided line as a leader. However, with topwater lures, it is best to use a monofilament line as a leader or even a main line since it floats. Having a floating line attached to your top water lure is crucial as it keeps your bait from diving under water, giving it the best presentation possible to lure in the bass. One more simple thing that I like to add to most of my top water baits is a feathered tail. I use my fly-tying vise to tie a piece of white marabou to the trailing hook along with a piece of pearl, gold or hareline krystal flash in silver. Having that added colour in the water has been successful for me when fishing for bass using either topwater lures or even Rapalas.

Smallmouth bass in general is my all-time favourite species to fish for. The most memorable moments while fishing for bass usually come from a hot topwater bite which is truly addicting. Whether it's your first-time fishing, or you're an experienced angler, everybody that has had success while top water fishing says it's a blast. Unless you're catching those clingy Northern Pike.



By Rich Brochu,
NOSA Member

Smoked Fish

Smoked fish is cured by the process of heating fillets slowly over many hours with intermittent periods of wood smoke. Humans have smoked food throughout history, as a method to preserve it, but today's modern world has

the luxury of refrigeration to preserve foods. Now, the art of smoking fish is perfected for experiencing a unique taste and flavour to suit one's pallet and for the simple enjoyment of a great tasting treat. I have always enjoyed smoked fish but have always wondered if I could re-create some of the great tasting smoked fish I have tried throughout the years.

A few years ago, my family and I went to British Columbia and fished for ocean salmon. We spent a week in Toffino and enjoyed whale watching, sight seeing and ocean fishing. The local grocery store we frequented sold smoke fish and we purchased a few pieces. It was by far the best smoked fish I have ever eaten in my life. My first thought was how I could recreate this great tasting fish once I returned home. To be honest, I still have not mastered the art of recreating that exact replica but with diligence and experimentation I continue to get closer.

The first thing needed is a smoker. Fortunately, they sell many different types of smokers on the market. A family friend of ours gave me an electric smoker many years ago that I continue to use for my mastering of the art. It is small in comparison to some new models on the market today but does the trick. One thing to keep in mind is that if you use a smoker to smoke fish it is probably best to keep it as that. Once the smell of fish is embedded in a smoker it will remain.

The second item is the fish you may want to cure for smoking. I prefer salmon, lake trout, splake, white fish and northern pike. My favourite is splake and lake trout. I find these fish have natural oils that make the fish tastier and not as dry.

The process in smoking the fish also includes a good brine to cure the fish in. You can find many recipes on the internet to try your hand at creating your own flavours. Most brines include curing salts, brown sugar, soya sauce and spices. Some may vary with other ingredients. The fish needs to be cured in this brine for at least 8 hours or more. Once cured you remove the fish from brine and let stand for an hour before putting fillets in smoker.

Wood chips added to create the smoke come in many different varieties. This again can create different tastes depending on the wood chips being used. Some varieties include hickory, apple, maple and cherry to name a few.

Smoking of the fish can take 5 to 8 hours depending on the type of smoker you use. Some can also be done quicker. The idea is low heat plus time to cook the fish to perfection. Knowing when the fish is done is important. If it is cooked too long, you may get a dry tasting fish. Cooked just right, you will get a tasty, moist, mouth watering treat that you just can't seem to get enough of.

Try your hand at smoking some fish this summer. Whether on the BBQ or in a smoker, it can be a great way to enjoy your hard-earned catch.



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MOOSE HUNTERS

**IMPROVEMENTS ARE
COMING!**

We heard from hunters across Ontario who wanted a fairer and more consistent system for moose hunting. We listened and are improving how tags are allocated and are making other changes to support sustainable moose populations. You should be aware of important changes for 2020 and 2021. Learn more at ontario.ca/moose.

Plan Ahead:

- ▶ Starting in 2021 moose tags will be distributed using a points-based process.
- ▶ Your points are based on your draw history. You can view your draw history later this year by logging into your account at www.huntandfishontario.com.
- ▶ Starting in 2021 all hunters will apply individually – there will be no group applications. Discuss with your hunting party how you will apply in 2020 and 2021 to have the best chance to get a tag.

What is changing in 2020?

Additional areas with calf tag quotas

- ▶ Calf tag quotas will be added in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 37, 40, 41, 42, and 47. This is in addition to WMUs 48, 55A, 55B and 57 that currently have calf tag quotas.
- ▶ All calf tags for these 9 WMUs will be issued through the draw and will be valid for the full length of both the bow and gun seasons.

New bow hunting seasons and quotas for moose

- ▶ There will be a new 7-day bow hunting season for adult and calf moose in southern Ontario WMUs 46-50 and 53-63 beginning the first Saturday in October.
- ▶ All WMUs with separate bow and gun seasons will now have separate bow and gun quotas.

What is changing in 2021?

Points-based process will replace the draw

- ▶ Starting in 2021 moose tags will be distributed using a points-based process.
- ▶ In general, hunters with the most points will receive the available tags for each WMU, season and moose type.
- ▶ Hunters will start with one point for each year they have applied for the draw since they last received an adult tag.
- ▶ When you claim a tag awarded based on points, your points will reset to zero.

Changes to tag types and harvest management

- ▶ Hunters can apply for a bull tag, a cow/calf tag, or a calf tag. Calf tags will no longer be issued with a moose licence.
- ▶ Calf tag quotas will be implemented in all WMUs with a moose season.

Licensing changes

- ▶ The fees related to moose hunting are becoming fairer in 2021. Hunters will only pay for the products they need, depending on their success in the allocation process.
- ▶ There will be a small fee to apply for a tag.
- ▶ If you are successful you can then choose to purchase the tag and a licence.
- ▶ You can also buy a licence to party hunt with a tag holder.

Learn more at ontario.ca/moose.



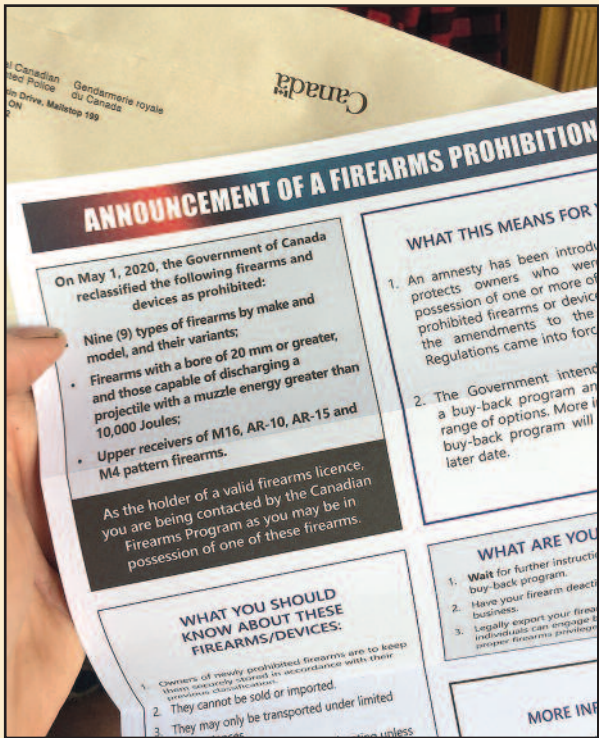
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Trudeau & Liberals Target Law Abiding Firearms Owners...Again!



THIS MONTH'S NEWS



On May 1, 2020 during the height of the global shutdown due to COVID19, the Trudeau Government issued an Order In Council (OIC) without any parliamentary debate, to usher in a sweeping firearms ban in Canada. Some 1500 plus firearm types and/or their variants were immediately declared “prohibited” under the order. The ban on these firearms has been deemed necessary by the Liberals as they repeat their age-old mantra; that firearms violence in Canada can only be stopped by creating laws to regulate firearms ownership. However the law abiding firearms owners of Canada do not agree with this

stance.

Meanwhile in the largest urban centers of Canada such as Toronto and Ottawa, violent firearms crimes are on a continuous increase, and this is unequivocally a direct result of gang/drug related activity, illegal gun smuggling from the U.S. and a general lack of meaningful punishment for criminals convicted of committing firearms violence in Canada. And this sort of gang/drug related criminal activity which is being largely left unaddressed in these large urban centers is now coming to our quiet northern home towns. Mainstream media may be more interested in what is happening in the U.S. right now but just ask a local police officer about the violent/drug related crime happening in our own communities. They will gladly explain where the problem is originating from. Canada’s large urban centers are a hotbed for this activity and our otherwise vulnerable northern home towns are becoming satellites for the extension of violent/drug related crime.

While the Federal Government under Trudeau, does nothing to address real firearms violence in Canada, they are beginning the costly and ineffective targeting of law-abiding firearms owners. Recently, the Federal Government began a letter writing campaign directed at legal gun owners. Some 2.2 million Canadian gun owners received notice that the prohibition order was in effect and that they could be affected. Additionally, letters have also specifically been sent to those firearms owners who have legally registered “non-restricted” firearms that will be reclassified as “prohibited” under the new law. The total cost of these mailings to law abiding firearms owners is approaching \$4 million dollars, of tax-payers dol-

lars.

Meanwhile, firearms advocacy groups across Canada are digging in for a legal battle and they will need your help and your support. These draconian laws do nothing to reduce crime. Remember, only law-abiding gun owners will be held accountable. Criminals, drug gangs and thugs are obviously not being targeted by any of this – how can they be?! You can’t regulate crime by creating more laws that will inevitably be broken by the same elements committing the crimes in the first place.

The Liberal Government under Justin Trudeau has been embroiled in scandal and ethics violations with investigations too numerous to list here. The latest being the “WE” funding diversion scandal that includes Canada’s finance Minister embroiled in the mix. During the previous federal election, the Liberal Government promised they would not go after law abiding hunters and firearms owners. They lied.

We will continue to follow this issue and provide updates. If you are a gun owner, please consider joining one of the groups listed below by visiting these websites:

National Firearms Association(NFA)
<https://nfa.ca>

Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights(CCFR)
<https://firearmrights.ca>

Canadian Shooting Sports Association(CSSA)
<https://cssa-cila.org>



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Redd's Gear Guide

Bass On The Fly!

By Rebekka Redd

Of all the freshwater species I catch on the fly rod, small and large mouth bass are amongst my top favourites!

I've been fishing for "smallies" from a young age of 7 to the present day, and relish the moments I get to target the large mouth bass here in NWO. I never get tired of catching either on the fly.

To get started in bass fishing, you don't need special gear. You don't really need anything different than your regular trout gear (except some of the flies)!

Here are the essentials you need for smallmouth bass :

ROD: 6 or 7 wt fast action 9 foot/ 4 pc rods will do great. I often use the same six-weight I use for trout.

REEL: Smooth drag with large arbour – even the small bass can "bulldog" down to the lower water columns and manage to wrap the line on something – it's best you have excellent stopping power in your reel.

LINE: During the spring and summer you will use a floating line most of the early season and into the hot times of summer to fall you will want to switch up to a sub-surface 200 + grain full sink "lake line" with 7 ft tapered fluoro leader in 12–20 lb test, I use Cortland fly line, leader and wire leader.

Bass share the same water with pike, so both will take the same fly – be sure to put on wire bite tippet (about 2 ft) connecting to your leader. Total length being 7 1/2 ft (give or take). The wire bite typically sells in 15 – 20lb test. Connect your wire bite tippet section to your leader with a desired knot. A popular knot used is the double or triple surgeons knot – a very easy knot to use!

Flies: Streamers are my top choice and hands down the popular "Clouser Minnow" is a go-to-fly for bass.

There are endless flies to use but here are some of my top choices: "Tequeely fly", Sneaky Pete Popper, Flash Monkey, Dahlberg Diver, Leftys Red and White, Clouser Minnow, Shiner Minnow, and the Cone Headed Black Crystal Buggar.

Most bass, no matter the size, can be cast to from 20 to 50 feet as long as you are being very quiet on the water. Let the bug make all the noise, not you.

It's hard to beat the fun of catching bass on the fly!

Use barb-less hooks and keep your hands out of the gills if you intend to release your catch! Happy fly fishing!

Walleye Tacos and Salsa
By Jennifer Pearson

I am sharing a sweet and tangy recipe to serve up walleye or perch! This meal is easy, healthy and it only takes about 25 minutes from fridge to table. You can mix in locally grown seasonal vegetables and fruit as you please.

Ingredients:

Salsa:

- 1 mango , peeled, pitted, and cubed (can use frozen and thawed)
- 1 avocado, peeled, pitted and cubed
- 1/2 cup red onion, finely chopped
- Fresh cilantro chopped (to taste)
- 2 TBS lime juice
- Dash of salt

Fish spices:

*use your own go-to pan fry dry seasoning or 1 tsp of each of the following spices:

Garlic powder

Cumin

Cayenne pepper

+Pinch of salt

Extras:

- 2 TBS oil
- Gently heated tortillas (flour, corn, or whole wheat)
- Plain greek yogourt instead of sour cream as a garnish

Instructions:

1. In a medium bowl, toss together the salsa ingredients. Cover and refrigerate.
2. Rinse then pat fish dry with paper towels. Combine spice mixture. Rub mixture on fish.
3. Heat oil in a pan over medium heat. Cook fish for approximately 5 minutes a side until brown turning once.
4. Fill tortillas with fish and salsa.
5. Devour after a day's hard work.

Members In The Field



Erik Ulvang age 7 with a big northern



Johnny Tattre 6yrs old and hauling in a big one



Mark St. Cyr with a big walleye



Kirsti Harris and a beautiful brookie



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