



# 2017 Esnagami Times Annual Newsletter

Volume 29

January 2017

The summer of Esnagami 2017... What a fantastic season it was! Awesome guests, great fishing and excellent staff .. and yes the weather was pretty good as well. Our 29th year running the lodge will go down as one of the most enjoyable ever. Didn't we say that about the 2016 summer? We definitely feel that we are very fortunate to work at such a great place year after year. It's the people after all that make the difference. Thanks go out to both long time guests and new guests whose enjoyment of Esnagami Lodge only increase ours.

## 2017 CATCH & RELEASE CONTEST

We are excited to announce the 4 names drawn for the 2017 Catch & Release Contest. Winners will enjoy a full expense paid week back to the lodge for entering a qualifying fish into our 29 year standing conservation program.

### THE WINNERS ARE:

1. Mark Goacher 27" Walleye
2. Paul Inwood 18" Brook Trout
3. Heather Foster 37" Pike
4. Marvin Betz 37" Pike

*Congratulations!*

## 2017 CATCH & RELEASE LEADER

the spring of 2016 (ice went out by May 10th), we never know what the next year will bring - 2017 spring ice out became a guessing game of sorts, with those betting on a late ice out winning. We were able to get the first supply flights in Friday, May 19th ... plenty of time for opening day on the May 20th ... Well maybe not quite, but with a seasoned staff, we had warm cabins, cedar strip boats and great meals ready for all.

**Late ice out plus high water levels = Great Brook Trout Fishing!!!** 2017 Catch and Release tallies in the Brook Trout category set new records with over **43 Brookies in the 18" to 21 ½" range (4 - 6lbs)**. Opening weeks guests running the river, got the trend going in an impressive fashion. Of the twelve 18" + Trout caught that week, **Todd Hartson, Dave Zamos, and Jeff Nohel** all landed personal bests at **20 inches**. Jeff also added 2 more impressive fish measuring **19 ¼** and **19 ½** inches. Brook Trout fishing stayed hot right through June, with each weeks producing **"fish of a life time"** for several lodge guests. Six weeks into the season, the river was still giving up nice fish ... In fact the **largest Trout of the season was caught and released by by Brycen George: 21 ½" 6 lb + monster Brookie!** Very close behind, **Peter Hobbs had 2 nice 20 inch Brookies and Dave Handson's 20 ½"** rounding off an impressive week of Esnagami Brook Trout fishing. It's always nice to know that all of these fish were safely released.

TOP TEN CATCH & RELEASE LEADERBOARD 2017				
	BROOK TROUT	WALLEYE	PIKE	
1	Todd Hartson	20"	4.5	10/20/17
2	Dave Zamos	20"	5.0	10/20/17
3	Jeff Nohel	20"	5.5	10/20/17
4	Brycen George	21 ½"	6.0	10/20/17
5	Peter Hobbs	20"	5.0	10/20/17
6	Dave Handson	20 ½"	5.5	10/20/17
7	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	...
9	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...

## ESNAGAMI ON TV

This spring and fall, we welcomed back our old friends Kyle and Tina Randall, hosts of the Wilderness Journal, to film some Pike, Walleye, and Brook Trout Shows. Check out [www.wildernessjournal.com](http://www.wildernessjournal.com) to see when these episodes can be viewed in your area.

New Fly Fisher Show host, Colin McKewon, also returned to the lodge this summer. Colin and film crew were joined by budding fly anglers Peter and Mary to film a show on "learning to fly fish" for Pike and Brook Trout.

Go to [www.thenewflyfisher.com](http://www.thenewflyfisher.com) to find this interesting show ... coming February 2018 ... as well as previous episodes done at Esnagami.

## 2018 SPORT SHOW SCHEDULE

- Jan 11th to 14th  
**Ultimate Fishing Show**, Novi, MI at the Suburban Collection Showplace  
<https://www.showspan.com/UFD/>
- Jan 19th to 21st  
**Wilderness Journal Outdoor Expo**, Cadillac, MI at the Wexford Civic Center  
<http://www.elmandp.com/page13/page18/index.html>



### Brycen George (left)

As much as a cooler spring is beneficial to Trout fishing, it takes a little warming up to kick start the great Walleye and Pike fishing Esnagami Lake has to offer. Although there were plenty of numbers and some nice fish caught the first couple of weeks, ***it was into week # 3 when Esnagami really started to shine. 100 fish entered into the Catch and Release program*** with impressive numbers in both Pike and Walleye categories. 12 Walleye over 26" and 15 Pike over 35" were the top end of the 100 fish tally. At weeks end, it looked like both the biggest Walleye and Pike may have been caught that week. ***Caley Pepe's 30" Walleye*** set the bar high, only to be surpassed later in the season. More on that later! ***Paul Giardulli's HUGE 45 3/4" Pike*** did in fact hold up to be the largest Pike of the season ... which gets Paul an automatic FREE TRIP back to Esnagami in 2018.

International Centre  
<http://springfishingandboatshow.com/>

4. Mar 10th and 11th

**Mid West Fly Fishing Expo**, Warren, MI. at the Macomb Community College Center  
<http://midwestflyfishingexpo.com/>

***Hope to see you at one of the shows!***

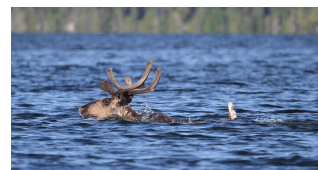
## WILDLIFE TRENDS



### WOLVES:

We were thrilled to see a new generation of very healthy looking Timber Wolf Cubs show up at the wolf rock this summer. Esnagami Timber Wolves are actually known as the "gray wolf," one of 3 main species of wolves. Gray's are the largest, with alpha males reaching 4 to 6.5 feet long, and weighing up to 170 lbs. As the name indicates, the gray wolf typically has thick gray fur, although pure white or all black is not uncommon. Wolves average life span is 5 to 6 years in the wild, with an upper range of 13 years with prime habitat and food supply.

### WOOLDLAND CARIBOU:



Esnagami Woodland Caribou population continues to grow. With over 200 islands, and some that are very large, the lake offers optimal habitat and food supply to facilitate this. This summer, lodge guests and staff reported close to 40 sightings .. up nearly 10 from 2016. Woodland



**Paul Giardulli**

As the season went on there were many more great fish and fishing stories that guests experienced. Early July anglers Alex Thompson and Lee Lighthouse both caught BIG Walleye ... Alex at 29" and Lee at 29 ½ inches long!!!

Perhaps the best big Pike fishing story of the season comes from Phil Peir. Esnagami guide Ben was preparing a shore lunch at Brian's Bay for Phil and his group of 4. Just as Ben got the fire going, there was quite a commotion and plenty of yelling coming from Phil and his buddies. Casting from shore, Phil hooked a really, really BIG Pike. ***Without missing a beat, Ben switched from "shore lunch cook" back to "fishing guide" and helped Phil land an impressive 43 ½" Pike.*** A couple of quick pictures later, the fish was safely released and Ben continued what was no doubt an extra enjoyable lunch... especially for Phil.

Predictably, the longer days of summer and maturing weed beds welcome some of the lodge's most ardent Pike fishers. Although some impressive 40" + Pike were entered

a North American sub species of "Rangifer tarandus caribou." In a higher classification, they are known as "Reindeer."

## VISIT OUR FLY FISHING WEBSITE



## ESNAGAMI LAKE DEPTH CHARTS



Thank you to all of the guests that joined us for the 2017 season. All the best for the New Year and we hope to see you all in 2018.

*Eric and Sue Lund & Family*

out. ***Doug Reid, Matt Harrison, and Ben Jolkovsky all managed to tally 40" or better Pike*** ... Especially note worthy was Ben's 40 ½" and 41 ½" fish on back to back days ... and maybe just to prove this was not pure luck, Ben also added a 37 inch Pike as well. Not too shabby for a teenage fisherman!!

While many were preoccupied chasing BIG Pike that week, a few other anglers were enjoying fishing off of the big reefs for summer Trophy Walleye. One such angler, ***Phyllis Zantger***, with Esnagami guide Matt helping and husband Jeff as a witness, ***battled in what became the biggest Walleye of the season .. a humongous 31" trophy solidifying her spot as top Walleye angler of the season ... and a free trip back to Esnagami in 2018.***



**Phyllis Zantger (left)**

Check out our web site [www.esnagami.com/trophy](http://www.esnagami.com/trophy) gallery for lists of all qualifying Catch & Release entries as well as the 2017 Top Ten Leader board



Ready to book your adventure or need more information?  
Contact your host: Eric and Sue Lund.

Winter Telephone: **519-474-6988**, Summer Telephone: **807-329-5209**



Facebook



Twitter



Website



Email

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
Esnagami Wilderness Lodge · 955 Apricot Place · London, On N6K 5A5 · Canada

