

ESNAGAMI TIMES

2019 Esnagami Times Annual Newsletter

Volume 31

January 2020

Happy New Year to Guests and Fellow Anglers!

It's hard to believe another decade is over, and the 2020 season is just around the corner. It seems like just a few years ago, we were holding our breaths awaiting the stroke of midnight at the turn of the century. Thankfully as the clock struck 12:01 am. in the year 2000, the world did not stop turning, our computers did not crash and the great fishing at Esnagami Lodge did not slow down.

THE FACTS OF FISHING

In each of the last 10 years, we have seen an annual tally of over 500 catch and release Pike, Walleye and Brook Trout. This adds up to at least 5000+ trophy fish. Walleye 24" – 31", Pike 30" – 48", and Brook Trout 18" – 22" returned to Esnagami Lake in the last 10 years.

Mature Pike, Walleye and Brook Trout each lay in excess of 100,000 eggs annually. So if you do the math 500 fish per season x 100,000 eggs each = 50 million eggs per season x 10 years = well ... this is a total sounding more like the countries' financial deficit rather than an incredible volume of fish.

To put it plainly, we will enjoy excellent fishing on Esnagami Lake into the



ESNAGAMI TROPHY CATCH AND RELEASE CONTEST FOR 2019:

Each year we draw 4 names from all of the Pike, Walleye and Brook Trout Catch and Release Entries.

This year we would like to congratulate:

foreseeable future. This amazing accomplishment would not have happened without the participation of Esnagami's "conservation minded" guests!

THANK YOU ALL!

DECADE TRENDS

Each season, we continually strive to maintain high quality fishing at Esnagami, along with great customer service, boat/motor equipment, and comfortable accommodations. In addition to these, below are four other areas that hopefully stand out over the last 10 years.

1. OUTPOST CAMPS – We were excited to get back into the outpost camp business, especially with locations on the Esnagami River system. Five years ago, we purchased the camp on Merkley Lake and then two years ago we bought the camp on Trident Lake. We are now able to provide a unique rustic experience on one of the most productive Brook Trout fisheries in Ontario.

2. FLY FISHING – Around ten years ago we had a fly fishing guide, Mike Verhoff, visit us for a trip at the lodge. Mike, who runs a fly-guiding business (Troutfitters) in Southern Ontario, suggested we had the ideal lake/river system along with plenty of Pike and Brook Trout to offer a great fly fishing experience. A few years later, after some extensive "research and development" (really a fancy term for get out and go fly fishing!), we were ready to offer the Esnagami experience to the fly fishing enthusiast. Fly fishing has now become a main component for developing new clientele for the lodge. We definitely have

Helen Halvorsen
24 1/2" Walleye

Tim Boyer
24" Walleye

Steve Wrubel
30 1/2" Pike

Ron Neil
24 1/2" Walleye

2019 CATCH & RELEASE LEADER BOARD



The image shows a poster titled "TOP TEN CATCH & RELEASE LEADERBOARD 2019". It features three columns of names and fish photos, categorized by species: BROOK TROUT, WALLEYE, and PIKE. Each column lists the top ten anglers with their names, dates, and the size of the fish caught. There are also photos of anglers holding their catches.

SPECIES	NAME	DATE	WEIGHT
BROOK TROUT	1. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	2. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	3. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	4. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	5. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	6. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	7. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	8. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	9. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	10. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
WALLEYE	1. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	2. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	3. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	4. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	5. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	6. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	7. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	8. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	9. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	10. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
PIKE	1. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	2. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	3. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	4. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	5. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	6. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	7. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	8. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	9. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]
	10. [Name]	[Date]	[Weight]

2020 SPORTSHOW SCHEDULE



Esnagami Lodge booth at 2019 Spring Fishing & Boat Show

1. [Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit](#)

January: 9-12, 2020
Suburban Collection

to give a shout out to "The Wilderness Journal Outdoor Show", "The New Fly Fisher Show" and "Algoma Country Travel" for helping to advertise the excellent fly fishing opportunities available at Esnagami.

3. Camp Improvements & Upgrades

– Every season at Esnagami, we have a routine list of maintenance projects to keep up with. Deck repairs, cabin roof repairs, painting decks, cabins and docks just to name a few. This schedule alone keeps the staff very busy. Think about owning one cottage and the yearly upkeep it requires, then multiply it by 10!! In addition to those seasonal upkeep's we have been able to fit in some larger projects as well. Rebuilding Cabin # 2 and Cabin # 5, as well as building a new Outpost Cabin on Merkley Lake to name a few.

Also we have started to tackle the daunting task of "leveling" out the rocky and uneven paths around camp. The primary areas being the boat dock frontage and grounds by the main lodge. This should make for a much easier navigation of the terrain around camp – especially at night.

4. Lodge Dining – As lodge owners, we continually look to find that right person who can put out a daily meal "fit for a king" and who can also survive the challenges of working in a remote location. With recent major upgrades to the lodge kitchen and the culinary talents of Chef Troy Klungel we hopefully have achieved this goal. Thankfully guests are not required to step on a scale when departing the lodge ... as we have heard that the "Esnagami 10" is some additional weight to consider for the flight back to Nakina.

Showplace, Novi, Michigan

2. [Wilderness Journal Outdoor Expo](#)

Saturday January 18th,
Sunday January 19th, 2020
The Wexford Civic Arena,
Cadillac, MICHIGAN

3. [Spring Fishing & Boat Show](#)

Friday, February 14 through
Monday, February 17, 2017
The International Centre -
6900 Airport Road,
Mississauga, ONTARIO

See you at one of the shows!

2019 FISHING REPORT

One trend that seems to be recurring in the past few springs is a later ice out. Although this can cause a slower start to the Pike and Walleye fishing, it is a blessing in disguise for those anglers fishing for Brook Trout. Trout fishing is excellent as soon as we can navigate through ice flows on Esnagami Lake and access the river. We have seen the generous number of Brook Trout landed remain consistent over the last 10 years. Numbers of top end fish in the 19" - 23" range(4 - 6 lbs), have been steadily increasing. In fact, catch and release Brookies 19" or better made up over half of the top 10 entries for 2019.

Here are a few groups that had multiple entries into the top 10 for Brook Trout.

Dan Devine's Group 8 @ 18" - 21"

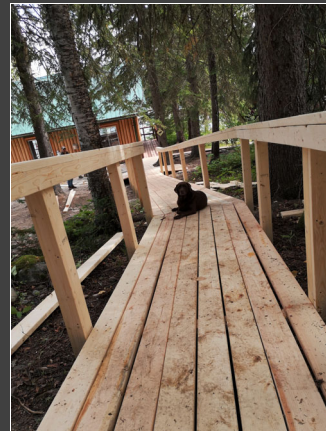
Mike Garbowsky's Group 7 @ 18" - 20"

Paul & Geoff Inwood 9 @ 18" - 20"

These are gorgeous Brookies that are all still swimming!

The 2019 season also produced some good numbers for trophy Walleye and Pike. This summer there was a noticeable increase in the amount of Pike entries 37" to 39" range (15 - 20 lbs) that were caught and released..This bodes well for future anglers that are on a quest for the distinctive 40" mark. Two groups of guests in particular that seem to lead the Pike Trophy tallies each year... long time guests Pat Tighe and family as well as Kurt Jackson and his group... had 10 entries and 18 entries respectively. Kurt who is a 40 + year Esnagami Veteran, matched that with another nice 40" Pike in 2019.

Camp Improvements & Upgrades



**VISIT OUR FLY
FISHING WEBSITE**

Also special mention goes to Jeff Vanderford, who in addition to a share of the biggest Brook Trout at 21 inches, added 2 Pike over 40" as well. Our favorite overseas guest, all the way from Ireland "Jimmy Flannigan" managed the Esnagami "triple crown". Jimmy entered qualifying catch and release trophies in all 3 categories. Walleye, Pike and Brook Trout!



Jason Vanderford 21" trout tied for 1st

It was definitely a numbers game with the Walleye fishing last summer. There were several weeks where collectively, over 2,500 Walleye were caught by Esnagami guests. If this sounds like a lot of fish ... it is!! Breaking it down 2,500 fish divided by 30 guests = 80 + fish/guest in a week ... Not an inconceivable number as many guests have experienced catching that many just after dinner.

Some of the bigger Walleye catches were again represented by long time guests. The Willis Family – Bob Sr, Betsy and Bob Jr collectively had 6 entries. Bob Jr. caught and released 2 of the bigger walleye of the summer.. 29" and 29 1/2" Walleye, the latter taking 1st place! That 29 1/2 in walleye wins him a free trip back to Esnagami in 2020.

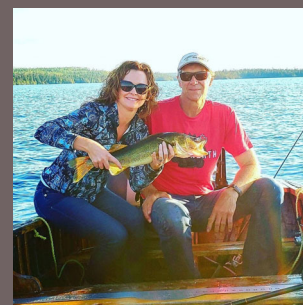


ESNAGAMI LAKE DEPTH CHARTS



Thank you to everyone that visited us at the lodge last summer! Best wishes to all of you for a healthy and happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2020.

Eric & Sue Lund and family





Bob Willis 29 1/2", 1st place

In the Pike category, Chris Conzelmann took top honors with a nice 43" Trophy. Although it was his first time staying with us, his fishing partner and former Esnagami guide Kevin Collins, may take some of the credit for guiding Chris to that one!! We will look forward to having Chris join us in 2020 for his free trip.



Chris Conzelmann 43" pike, 1st place



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

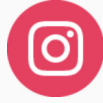
Winter Telephone: **519-474-6988**, Summer Telephone: **807-329-5209**



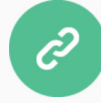
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