



D'Alton Lake Report-Ready

Field Study Ends Early...due to great success.

We could have told them.

Who?

Rick Gollat, the Ministry of Natural Resource Fish Biologist and his crew who last week spent four days on [D'Alton Lake](#) to get scientific data on the fishery's overall health.

Guests keep telling us, the little lake produces unusually large numbers of unusually large walleye.

So we always wondered, is the fishery or the angler?

You'll recall from last week's newsletter, that we actually asked Rick and his team to conduct the study, so that we have an objective benchmark for future studies.

Our goal is to work hand in hand with the MNR, in protecting the wilderness from logging, or other intrusions from man, including our own use the lake for recreation.

This week's [podcast](#) includes a conversation with Rick, who reports catching 178 walleye, and an assortment of other fish both northern pike and bait-fish like perch, sucker minnows, and lake herring. Twenty-two fish, all over 20 inches were taken to the lab, and the largest was 8.6 pounds. What is a lake herring? See the column on the right.



What the heck are Lake Herring?

The MNR's Fish Biologist, Rick Gollat calls them herring. He means lake herring. He says they are actually white fish.

Many of our guests from the states call them ciscoes...or ciscoe minnows. And the darn things get pretty big.



In one retrieval of the gill nets the study used, over 65 of these lake herring showed up out at D'Alton Lake.

They ranged in size from a couple of inches to nearly a foot...and can weigh up to 3 or 4 pounds.

Well, it would sure take some hungry walleye to chase one of these rascals down.

And the "stomach content" field study conducted last week, indicates that is just what these big D'Alton walleye are doing.

Yes, there are perch, and plentiful sucker minnows in the lake, but when the lake herring are present, they are the preferred breakfast, lunch and dinner.

So if you want to find big walleye, fish where their preferred dining spots are, with lures that look like this.





It's Thanksgiving...Already? by Alan Cheeseman, President Wilderness North

Yes, already!

We know and respect the great tradition of Thanksgiving on both sides of the border.



We, too, learn the stories of the how the early American Colonialists shared a table with native persons. We have seen the paintings of the feast and the Pilgrims in their buckled hats and shoes.

But did you know our Thanksgiving, that is next Monday (always the second Monday of October)...has nothing to do with feasts, food, or for that matter native people?

The history of Thanksgiving in Canada goes back to an English explorer, Martin Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Orient. He did not succeed but he did establish a settlement in Northern America.

In the year 1578, he held a formal ceremony, in what is now called Newfoundland, to give thanks for surviving the long journey. This is considered the first Canadian Thanksgiving.

Other settlers arrived and continued these ceremonies. He was later knighted and had an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean in northern Canada named after him - Frobisher Bay.

Oh, one more thing. Krista, the girls, Megan and Sierra and I are all thankful for you continued friendship and visits to Canada. So when we sit down to our modern day feast...we'll be thinking of you and be grateful for your support.

Keep in touch,

Alan

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Last Fishing Report

This is our last official fishing report of the 2007 Season.

However, our monthly newsletter- **Words From The Wilderness**-will be one way we'll keep in touch with you until next spring.

And from time to time, we will be sending you a note to listen in on a fresh [podcast](#). **Voices from the Wilderness**.

In fact, on this week's podcast, Dave Clement tells about completing his film project, for which Wilderness North provided float plane service Joy Asham, teaches us a bit about First Nation feasts and celebrations - similar to Thanksgiving.

Rick Gollat talks a bit more about the D'Alton study specifically, and walleye spawning in general.

And Chris Clemmons checks in with a new article at the download file, called **Ten Items To Tame The Wilderness**.

Chris also recalls his first trip to [D'Alton Lake](#) about eight years ago on the [podcast](#).

The [downloads](#) page at the website has the 2007 Master Angler Report...and if you have caught and released a Northern Pike 40 inches or longer, or a Walleye 26 inches or longer and your name is not on the list, drop us an E-mail by [clicking here](#)...and we'll get you listed.

All Master Anglers are registered with the Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers by the end of year.

Who knows...one of our guests could be the 2007 Angler of The Year. Just ask Tulsa Oklahoma's Bob Doolittle (2005) or Shelby Township, Michigan's Jim Butcher (2006).