

# Fishing challenge works in Winnipeg; will anyone in GF also take the bait?

WINNIPEG — Programs such as the Fish Winnipeg Media/Corporate Challenge, which raises money for youth fishing programs in the city, also would work in Grand Forks, according to one of the event's organizers.

"I think something like that would fit real nice in Grand Forks," said Carl Wall, sport fishing program manager for Manitoba Natural Resources' Fisheries Branch. "You have a lot of avid outdoors people and a lot of support from businesses, I'm sure. It would be tailored for your community."

Running the Winnipeg challenge is the Urban Angling Program. The partnership teams government and nongovernment organizations including Manitoba DNR Fisheries Branch; Manitoba Industry, Trade and Tourism; the departments of Parks and Recreation and Water and Waste of the City of Winnipeg; the Manitoba Wildlife Federation; Fish Futures; Manitoba Environment; the Mid-Canada Marine Dealers Association; and Don Lamont, host of the "Complete Angler" Canadian fishing show.

The key, Wall says, is finding someone to take charge of the project.

"You need three or four people, an energy core," Wall said. "It could be a mix of corporate or city people. It's not that difficult to set up. There are a lot of little details, but it's pretty simple."

Media and corporate sponsors fishing this year's challenge saw for themselves the Red River's quality fishery. In the morning segment, media caught 57 fish, Wall said, while the 18 corporate sponsors who paid \$600 to fish with volunteer guides in the afternoon caught 102 fish.

But the big winner, Wall says, was the city's youth fishing program. That's because the challenge generated \$9,000. The challenge has made big strides in its two years, Wall says. And as interest in the Red continues to build, everybody wins.

"It's a really good fishery and you have it in Grand Forks, too," he said. "If people down there are interested in how we do this, I'm available. We can always go down if they think it's worthwhile."

For more information on Winnipeg's urban fishing programs, contact Wall at (204) 945-7811.

— Brad Dokken