



# lauriemustard's faces & places

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## GOOD MORNING!!

I have good news and bad news. First the good news: Sitting in a boat fishing at 6 a.m. on the Red and Assiniboine rivers is an absolutely wonderful way to start the day. Peaceful ... serene ... beauty everywhere.

Now the bad news: The fish don't get up that early.

This past Wednesday morning, our Winnipeg Sun Team of Lyn Cockburn, me, and fill-in fisherguy/guide Frank Jansen of Sydney I. Robinson Sports Store, took part in the Fish Winnipeg Media Challenge (the winners of which you'll find elsewhere on this page), and spent two and a half hours waiting to haul in the big one. We had a couple of nibbles, but that was it. Zip. And it's not like the fish weren't there. A guy went by with a fish finder and said "Wow ... you're sittin' on a pile of 'em ... they're all over the place." That made it even worse. Just knowing schools of them were polishing the bottom of our boat, with nary a one willing to bite, was almost too much to bear. Why us, when other teams close by were hauling them in on a commercial scale??? Why? WHY???

I am definitely not cut out to be a fisherman. No patience. If you think waiting in line is hard to take, try staring at a line waiting for something you can't see, to nibble your shrimp. Not what you'd call an adrenaline rush. Two and a half hours we did this. Nevertheless, despite our failure to connect with the fishes — I'm hooked — I'll be back next year. Our guide — Frank Jansen — was terrific, even though Lyn and I have placed the blame for our last place finish squarely on his shoulders (always blame the guide) and it was truly, an extremely pleasant experience. Besides, being a competitive sort, I want to WIN this thing. Yes sports fans ... THE WINNIPEG SUN shall rise and shine in the Number One spot at next year's Fish Winnipeg Media Challenge, or ... or ... whatever.

By the way — the answer to the most commonly asked question about fish in our rivers is a resounding "YES" — you certainly can eat them. HAVE AT IT!



## Catch a fish ...

Prepresenting ... the 1999 FISH WINNIPEG MEDIA CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS ... the CKVN Radio team (from left) of Ron O'Donovan, Jerry Hrnjeld and Lee Major, who managed to reel in a combined length of 526 centimetres of fish this past Wednesday morning, while our Winnipeg Sun team hauled in zero — again — all the fault of our guide, Frank Jansen. G'morning Frank.

Each fish that's caught is measured before being thrown back, so needless to say, this team caught a mess of fish, and I for one would like to know how. What did they have that we on the Sun team didn't have? We even used the same kind of bait. Certainly look pleased with themselves, don't they. Smug even ... just as we on The Sun team had been looking forward to.

Never did like these three. Anyway, it was a super event, and I must admit, I really enjoyed being out there. Would have been better with fish though, which would have happened ... if we'd had a guide. Yes, always blame the guide, but never credit same when you do catch fish. That, of course, is a matter of personal skill. Am I getting this fishing thing down or what. And just in case you were wondering, the Fish Winnipeg Media Challenge is an initiative of Fish Futures Inc., in support of the Urban Angling Partnership.