

THE OUTDOORS REPORT

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• SPECIAL FEATURE •

Great fishing in the city

Hot weather really has them biting

ALL of a sudden the fishing has become as hot as the weather! It seems heat was all that was required to get almost every fish species in Manitoba on the bite. Lake of the Prairies has been showing signs of a comeback from the last two years of mediocre fishing. Anglers are reporting tremendous catches of fish under the forty-five-centimetre slot size.



DON LAMONT

COMPLETE ANGLER

All lakes in the Parkland region, including Lake Dauphin, have been producing excellent action for walleye. Stocked trout action has slowed down somewhat with the extremely warm weather but there is still a very good evening bite. Lodge owners in the north are extremely happy to see the change in conditions. This has allowed almost all to open except those in the extreme northern part of the province.

As Fish Winnipeg's volunteer guides proved, there is some incredible fishing right now in Winnipeg. Guide Steven



Students from Centennial School in Lac du Bonnet show off their prizes after taking part in a Reel Solutions to Youth event last week.

Wintemute, the publisher/owner of Hooked Magazine (www.hookedmagazine.com), put on an absolute clinic this past Tuesday afternoon with his corporate team from Static Electric. Wintemute anchored the boat on a shoreline just a kilometre from The Forks. It was shoreline rockpile that extended out into the main river channel and by casting to the spot with catfish rigs tipped with jumbo prawns, Steven's team was able to land 37 fish, all channel catfish. These were not small catfish either; they measured an average of 60 centimetres and the big fish of the tournament was a whopping 95 centimetres. Wintemute was in a battle with guide Dan Thibeault, who fished the Assiniboine River near the Maryland Bridge. Dan's team from the Winnipeg Free Press won the media event in the morning by catching six different species of fish including walleye, silver bass, carp, catfish and suckers.

Entering its 12th year in 2009, this one

day fishing event in Winnipeg has already generated enough funds to take more than 6,000 youth at risk fishing within city limits. Partners include Fish Futures, Kississing Lake Lodge and the City of Winnipeg. The media part of the event takes place in the morning with the corporate partners blasting off in the afternoon. For those anglers interested in signing up for a day of fishing this summer as part of the Fish Winnipeg program, visit us online at www.youthangler.ca

I had a chance to fish the Winnipeg River Lac du Bonnet section last week with realtor and tournament angler Bob Goodfellow. While we caught a fair number of fish, most were of the small variety. Bob is a tremendous angler and it was great to finally get out in a boat together again. We first met in 1982 at the then Payless Pro-Am held out of Lac du Bonnet. It was my first year fishing in a tournament and rubbing shoulders with the likes of Al Lindner, Bob

Izumi, Gary Roach and a host of other top U.S. and Canadian pro anglers was a thrill. It was this event that motivated me to make my livelihood from the sport of fishing.

Earlier that same Thursday I had flown up to Berens River as part of the Provincial Rod and Reel initiative. Two Natural Resource officers on their day off, Todd Hughes and Brett Wlock, along with regional fisheries manager Doug Leroux, joined me on the trip.

Doug and I gave a presentation on sport fishing to the two hundred students at the school. Every student then received a rod and reel, thanks to the support of the Manitoba Lodge and Outfitters and the Fisheries Enhancement Fund. That wasn't the end of my journey however. The next day was spent with twenty five students from Centennial School in Lac du Bonnet who were treated to a four-hour fishing event with proceeds from the Lac Du Bonnet Walleye Classic. Bob Goodfellow brought his boat

down on the town dock to demonstrate the mechanics of boat control along with boating safety. Previous to that Doug Leroux and I had gone through some basic fish biology. Tackle boxes and terminal tackle along with baseball caps were provided as well through Cabela's Outfitters in Winnipeg. After learning how to tie a proper knot the kids were baited up and allowed to fish from the dock in a mini fishing event. Three fish were caught during the time allowed, the largest a pike that weighed in at close to five pounds. All the students then went home with a variety of prizes all made possible by Bob and his organizing committee of Brian Jack and Vic Hallows. See www.lacdubonnetwalleyeclassic.com for more information.

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