



### 2016 Newsletter

Hello to Everyone. I hope you are all enjoying the warm winter conditions.

Finally!!! Gas prices have really come down in Canada. The current price for regular gas in Fort Frances is \$78.9 cents/Can/ per liter (4 liters in a US gallon). Combine the low gas prices with a very high US dollar conversion rate of \$1.27 US dollar per Canadian dollar and finally US residents are really getting a bang for their US money in Canada this summer!!

The past two winters have been very mild and easy on the deer population so we are expecting very good white-tail deer hunting this fall. We still have many hunting dates available but please book your 2016 hunting trip asap. For the 2015 hunting season, the MNR discontinued many of the extra doe tags for Canadian hunters, so our numbers of hunters were cut in half last year. But, the hunters that did return, did very well and most went home early because they were tagged out early. The low number of hunters combined with two easy deer winters should mean some great hunting for 2016. I also did a lot of extra work last summer setting up new hunting stands and

blinds etc in preparation for the 2015 whitetail deer hunt and I will do so again this summer in preparation for 2016. We also had John and Allison Mueller come to hunt grouse last fall. They had great success as we are blessed with an abundance of grouse and small game.



Allison Mueller with grouse

Many of you can remember the flood of 2014 on Lake of the Woods; it lasted over 3 months. This caused erosion problems for many people including us at Meline's Lodge. The retaining wall between the two main docks, just in front of the lodge, was destroyed. We were forced to construct a rock wall along the shoreline to prevent further erosion issues. Many of you will see this when you come to the docks this season. We are also planning to work on the road going up the hill and replace a few new roofs as well.

Looks like it is safe to say that we will experience an early spring this year as much of the snow is already gone.

The ice is less than 20 inches thick now as we approach the end of March. So we should have a good walleye spawn and by opening day (May 21st) many of the walleyes will have spawned, already recouped and should be biting real good.

The Hoelzel brothers and their group ran their 3rd annual musky derby at the end of August. Others have joined in to compliment the group of excellent hard core musky guys. The guys put in money for the biggest fish and most muskies. We also add prizes and trophies. Gerry Hoelzel took the biggest fish in 2013 and 2014, but Tracy Schadrie took biggest fish for 2015 with a 50 incher. The Hoelzel group of 10 anglers landed 67 fish during the 6 day event.

The Steve Sheppard Group returned for their second trip and landed 6 nice muskies over 3 days last summer. After the guys made a well-

deserved intervention tape for long time friend Lance Custer, it looks like he will be able to rejoin the group in 2016.

Rob Searle landed the largest pike of the season with a 45 incher and Ron Wendt had the largest walleye at 31 inches. Crappies are at the top end of their cycle so we saw many large fish in 2015 including 2, 15.5 inchers caught back to back by Dan Keefe. Julie Hill once again out fished her husband Craig and landed the biggest musky of the season with a 51 incher.



Jason Ruegg

Fred Berkshire and Terry Walsh also landed 20 fish on their annual mid-summer musky trip including a 48 incher caught by Terry.



Hoelzel Group



Davidson Family

It was also very nice to meet the Davidson family last spring. Very nice group of people who had some good fishing challenging the lake on their own.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity held their 9th Annual "Ride Around the Lake" cycling charity event during mid September. Thanks to all the riders and staff that work so hard every year to make this event such a successful fundraiser for HFH.

### Our P.O. Box Address for International Falls:

For our guests who want to send up their equipment ahead of their trip or those who want to send in deposits, please use our International Falls address at:

Border Boxes  
304 3rd Street  
International Falls, MN 56649  
Box #494 for Melines Lodge

(218) 283-8666  
borderboxes@hotmail.com  
(218) 283-9703 fax

MagiJack number – (218) 600-0431

John Garrett from Calgary, Alberta, made 5 trips to the lodge in 2015. He fished throughout the year starting in early January with a brutal week of extremely cold ice fishing, and he fished right through to late fall while trolling for muskies in November. John fished with many different family members and friends... as you can see he had a very good year for big muskies. His 5 year nephew Jordan also had a 29 inch walleye. I am looking forward to making more memories in 2016 with John and all his guests.

I want to thank all our loyal guests for helping us through our first ten years at Meline's Lodge. April 1st, 2016 marks our Tenth Year Anniversary. Thank you for all the support, memories and awesome experiences. Hopefully you will notice the new changes we have made around the lodge. We are looking forward to a new season of fishing and hunting and seeing all of you again in 2016.

### Dean Roy



Opening date for walleye season is May 21st, 2016.

Musky season opens on June 18th, 2016

- \$1.00 US dollar = \$1.35 Can dollars
- Gas - \$78.9 cents/Can/ liter (4 liters in a US gallon).

### YouTube Musky Video

Nate Berg from Babe Winkleman Productions, produced a musky video for the lodge which can be seen on YouTube at the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSzoPOAgnqU>

You can also see YouTube links listed on our webpage which will connect you to other videos.

### Eco Tours

- Whitefish Bay Snorkeling Tour
- Hiking tours on Lake of the Woods
- Wildlife Observation Tours

### Visa and Master Card Payments

We able to process Visa and Master Card sales.





Terry Little with a big walleye



Noah Humphrey with a big walleye



Jordan Eckert with huge smallie



Leif Davidson



Bob Knoke with a 30 inch walleye



Jenny Iverson with a 27.5 incher



Steve Meyer with big smallie



Grant Anderson with a trophy walleye



Dale with two big crappies



Alec Erdahl with a 28 inch walleye



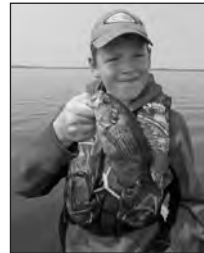
Iroger Meaaken with a big walleye



Leif Davidson



Ken with a nice walleye



Tyler Iverson



Ritchie Group

**Big Fish for open water 2015**

- Walleye: 31 inches – Ron Wendt
- Northern Pike: 45 inches – Rob Searle
- Musky: 51 inches – Julie Hill
- Smallmouth Bass: 20 inches – Carson Cathcart, Leif Davidson, Jordon Eckert and Brian McArthur
- Smallmouth Bass: inches – 21 inches – Ken Peters, Terry Welsh
- Largemouth Bass: 20 inches - Bill Cooper
- Lake Trout: 31 inches - Brian Bottinni
- Crappie: 15.5 inches – Burt Knoke, and Dan Keefe (x2)
- Rock Bass: 11.5 inches - Sherrie Jamison
- Perch: 13.5 inches – Tylor Hanson and Tony Vescio



Julie Hill with 51 inch musky



Allison Mueller with a huge walleye



Paul Ogdahl with 29.5 inch walleye



Rob Searle with a 45 inch pike



Brian McArthur with a smallmouth bass



Ron Wendt 31 inch walleye





Jim Gordon with a man eater

Jim Gordon was attacked by a huge musky last summer. As Jim was pulling his lure out of the water, a huge musky jumped out after it and slammed into Jim sending Jim into the lake. Then the musky attacked him and pulled him under much to his wife's amazement. But she didn't care because they have life insurance! The water turned red as Jim disappeared. After 2.5 minutes Jim made it back to the surface and dragged the fish into the boat, there was blood everywhere. Jim suffered two black eyes and five stitches on his hand!!!



Jim Gordon's stitches



Pete Boudion also had the bottom end of his motor attacked by a huge fish.

As you can see from the picture it must have been very big!!!



Blake Bachand with Dean and a trophy walleye



Blake Bachand with a nice pike



Terry Little



Jeff Little



Jeff Little with a nice pike



Terry Little with a nice muskie caught on walleye gear

Long time guest, Terry Little, brought his son Jeff up to fish with us last summer. We had a blast.

The Valento family came to visit us twice in 2015. They had some excellent walleye fishing.



Kevin Valento



Rick Valento with a nice fall walleye



Kevin Valento with a smallmouth



Rick Valento with walleye



John Valento



John Garrett Family and Friends

John made 5 trips to Meline's Lodge in 2015. John and his friends had an amazing year with muskies and walleyes, and did some awesome exploring. John had a lot of big muskies this year as you can see!!!



John with a nice pike



John with a trolling 48.5 incher



Marc with a nice walleye



45 incher



Byron Hill with a nice walleye



47 incher



John Garrett 48 incher



John with a trophy walleye



44 incher



45 incher

Hoelzel Musky Group

These guys have produced incredible musky fishing results over past three years. For their 2015 derby 10 guys landed 67 muskies in 6 days. The biggest fish was a 50 incher caught by Tracy Schadrie.



Tracy with a 50 incher



Gerry with another big musky



Bill Tuescher with a big bass



Jan Hoelzel with a nice musky



Garrett Schadrie



Derrick Schadrie





Spencer Fick with 26 inch trout



Max with a big walleye



Greg Chmura with one of many big walleye



Anthony Kaplan with a nice crappie



Jessica with two nice fish



Block Family



Travis Schenk with a nice musky



Brendon McCullough with a big pike



Paul Sandofos with a nice walleye



Brad Park



Ben with a nice pike



Tom Danczyk 2015



New guy Paul Safondos teaches the Thomas group how to fish with this nice musky



Dan Keeke with two 15.5 inch crappies



Laura McCullough





Luke Mehling with a nice walleye



Jon Turner with a big crappie



Tony "the walleye man"



big crappie from Anderson group



Jessica Skindzier with a 44 inch musky



Tony



Bob Fick with a 29 inch lake trout



Erica Schenkeveld with a 27 inch



Brian McAurther



Chad Baker



Nate's musky



Brian Palm with a trout



Mr. Anderson with a huge northern pike





Brad Knoke with a big crappie



Rielli 2015



Christopher with a nice pike



Scotty 2016



Mia with a 28 inch walleye



Tom Langholtz with a musky



Mickel Iverson



Bugsy Plamondon with a big buck



the guys



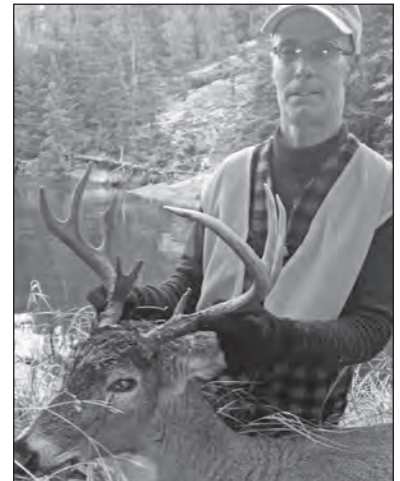
John Mueller grouse hunting



Izzy and Mr. Pain deliver



Bugsy had a good season in 2015



Marc Hutchins with another nice buck



**American Plan Fall 2016  
"Hunting Special"**

This whitetail deer hunting package includes guide service, all meals and accommodations.

- 4 days/ 5 nights - \$1,425.00 US
- 5 days/ 6 nights - \$1,625.00 US
- 6 days/7 nights - \$1,825.00 US

**Fall 2016 "Rod and Rifle" Package**

This package includes **3 days** of fall fishing for musky, walleye, pike or crappie and **3 days** of hunting for whitetail deer or grouse. Also includes all meals, guide service and accommodations.

**\$1,825.00 US**

A reminder for those that are bringing poultry and/or poultry by-products into Canada from the USA. Make sure that the package identifies where the product originated; poultry originating in Indiana, Missouri or North Dakota is NOT allowed to be brought into Canada.

MELINE'S LODGE  
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