

# Tracks™

Gerri Wisniewski (OC – FL) holds her Manitoba trophy she caught while taking a break from bear hunting. ■ MBH5

See story inside!



June 2007

## Outdoor Connection

### Expands to Europe

Outdoor Connection is proud to announce that we have begun our franchise expansion into Europe. Freddy Marks (OC-BC) has brought our first European franchise office to us and his name is Graham Clark. Graham lives in the city of Cheshire in the United Kingdom.

Outdoor Connection now has offices located all across the United States, several provinces in Canada and Europe! We look forward to the new endeavor and creating an Outdoor Connection presence in Europe!

Congratulations and good luck Graham!

## Setting Big Goals – Chris Lemke (OC – MN)

My friend and client Bill started our car ride by saying to me, “So, what’s your goal?” We had just spent two fishing days on Nipigon Bay (Lake Superior) and were now on our way to the famed Lake Nipigon.

Lake Nipigon is the largest lake entirely within the boundaries of Ontario and is sometimes described as the sixth Great Lake. The lake drains into the Nipigon River and then into Nipigon Bay of Lake Superior. The lake and river are the largest tributaries of Lake Superior. It lies about 120 km (75mi) northeast of the city of Thunder Bay, Ontario.

We had two days ahead of us and Bill absolutely needed to know my goal. You see, we would be fishing partners and he wanted to be sure that his goal (5 lb + brook trout) didn’t totally consume him. “A man has got to have a goal!” Well, I have never really approached fishing like this. My goal is normally to get the chance to go fishing. Finally to quiet Bill and to give him a secondary goal, I said I would like to catch a 25 lb lake trout. “So you would be happy and we could spend the rest of our time going after my spec if we got you a 25 pounder?” “Yes, Bill,” I said.

We were staying at one of Outdoor Connection’s approved lodges on the river. This is the only resort with access to Lake Nipigon. They offer charter fishing, or customers can bring their own boat if desired, and stay in one of the cabins or park at the RV site. It had rained steady for two or three days before our arrival. The boat launch is usually very uneventful, but we were launching my boat in what appeared to be class five rapids. After our nail biting launch and our 15 minute scenic boat ride down the Onaman River to the mouth of Lake Nipigon at Hum-



(Continued on page 3)

## Inside

Page 2  
Air Travel Tips  
Manitoba Hunt/Fish Combo

Page 3  
Newfoundland  
Black Bear Report

Page 4  
Lodge of the Month



## Manitoba Black Bear and Fishing Combo

Should you be looking for a combination fishing and bear hunt in the sub-arctic we have just the place. Two of our franchise owners and several clients just returned from Northern Manitoba (525 miles north of Winnipeg) in early June. This outfitter has just opened this area to bear hunting for the first time in 8 years and 6 of the 9 hunters in camp took bears. One of the hunters took a color phase bear that came right into camp and almost got the hunter! Look for this story in an upcoming issue of Big Game Adventures Magazine. The fishing, while not hunting, was outstanding; these fish have not seen many lures! Accommodations will be in outpost cabins and all hunts include all meals, guides, boats, motors, gas, floatplane transportation to out camps and hide processing. Contact your Outdoor Connection agent today for more on this great destination.

Prices starting at \$3,495 per person. ■ MBH5



*"This area is just opening for the first time in 8 years and 6 of 9 hunters took bears.."*

## New Alberta Hunting Outfitter

Outdoor Connection has just finished negotiating all of the details to bring a new Alberta hunting outfitter on board! This outfitter offers whitetail, moose and black bear hunts in north central Alberta (whitetail 100 miles NE of Edmonton and moose 250 miles north of Edmonton). They are a small outfit, keeping quality above quantity. They take six whitetail hunters and four moose hunters per year (twelve spring black bear). For whitetail and bear hunters, the outfitter will pick up and drop off at the Edmonton airport and for moose hunters, you will arrive at the Edmonton airport and rent a car.



The main camp is a comfortable, well equipped wall tent camp. The relaxing atmosphere, accommodating staff and the delicious home cooked meals are something you can look forward to. All tents have hardwood floors as well as wood burning stoves.

With home cooked meals, comfortable accommodations and a high success rate, you will see why hunters return to hunt with this outfitter for an unforgettable adventure. ■ ABH7

## Air Travel Tips

When traveling by air with firearms, you must be aware of travel regulations for each air carrier and destination. Become familiar with your airline's rules for handling firearms. Each one differs and some impose additional limitations or fees. A good idea is to check the TSA information website for updates on air travel regulations. Here are a few tips.

Firearms carried as checked baggage must be unloaded, packed in a locked hard sided container and declared to the airline at check in.

Check with your airline or Outdoor Connection agent to see if ammunition is permitted in checked baggage on the airline you are flying.

You must securely pack any ammunition in fiber, wood or metal boxes.

Also, note that many countries have different laws if you are traveling internationally. Please check with authorities at your destination about their requirements.

**ALBERTA MOOSE SPECIAL**  
October 1-6, 2007  
\$4,500 (\$500 savings) ■ ABH4

**TEXAS FISHING LODGE**  
Packages starting at \$1,080 per person.  
■ TXF2

## Setting Big Goals – Chris Lemke (OC-MN)

*(Continued from page 1)*

boldt Bay we thought we were ready to catch some lakers. Unfortunately, the river had pushed an enormous amount of sand down to the bay and the channel out was nowhere to be found. Since I was the smart one who brought hip waders, I was allowed to jump out and push my 18.5 foot Lund for an hour until we reached deep water. The waders didn't quite do the job and my socks and pants (luckily I had some rain pants along) hung next to us the entire day as a reminder of what may still happen...



After one half of an hour of trolling a spoon at about 35 feet in 150 feet of water, the rod bent over like we were snagged on the bottom. I grabbed the rod and the fight was on. First, there was no way to move the fish without tightening the drag to a dangerous level. Then, without warning the fish was gone. I began reeling up the line with a pouty face when I felt tension again. The fish was running towards us! The lake trout tried this game several times but in the end, it was in my boat. We quickly measured the fish at 42.5 inches, snapped some pictures and sent him back into the depths of Lake Nipigon. We estimated the fish at 30 lbs. This fish story was not groundbreaking news to anyone who has fished this great lake. The lodge owner said that last year four fish over 50 lbs were landed by patrons. But it was my biggest laker. This lake normally spits out 20-25 lb fish (I have never seen one under 20 lbs) on average, but 30 pounders are less common – so this was a trophy to my eyes. Bill, who has been fishing the lake for about 15 years has a fish on his wall of similar size, and has some good stories about much bigger fish that never met the bottom of the boat.



So – goal accomplished! Maybe I should start setting fishing goals more often. Oh – and Bill did exceed his goat as well. He caught a 24 inch, 6 lb brook trout on a cast on the last one half hour of our fishing trip. It will look very nice mounted next to his 5 lb brooky from last year. The lodge owners said that Nipigon already holds the record for brook trout and they are convinced that the lake will soon hold the record lake trout. Legend has it that an 88 lb trout was caught in a commercial fishing net years ago. If someone sets a goal of the next record trout on their next trip to Nipigon – it just might

## Newfoundland Black Bear Client Report

Brian and Doris Maloney (OC-IA) just had a client return from a spring black bear hunt with one of Outdoor Connection's outfitters in Newfoundland. Here are some comments from the hunter.

*Brian,*

*I just got in late last night. The trip was outstanding. Dean really puts top effort into trying to get everything right. Continental lost all of my bags and rifle coming in. I went to WalMart to get sleeping bag, boots, clothing and raingear, and hunted that way for the first half of the hunt. The bags were delivered Tuesday to the cabin, but my rifle was kept in Canadian Customs, as we were unable to make the five hour trip back to sign them out. He allowed me to hunt with his rifle, after clearing permissibility with the regional fish and game office. One hunter with us was checked twice by Fish and Game Officer during the trip for both license and gun permit, and was okay. I guess I was nervous about that, not having a borrowing permit. I saw one bear during my stay and took it. It was a boar, maybe 250-300 pounds, with a huge skull. The green measurement was at 18 inches, so Dean is keeping it to measure and record SCI for his brochure. There were four hunters, and the only other bear was 468 pounds and will make all time record book. The other hunters saw huge bear but didn't get the opportunity.*  
*Bill*

For information on how you can hunt with this outfitter in Newfoundland contact your local Outdoor Connection agent. NFH2 ■

**IDAHO FISHING LODGE**  
Fly fishing packages starting at  
\$2,000 per person ■ IDF1

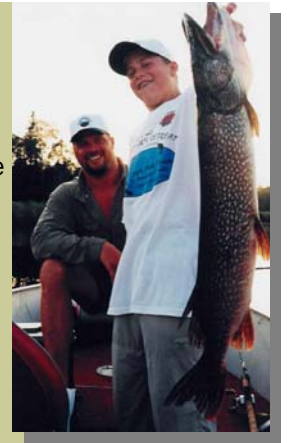
**NAMIBIA LEOPARD SPECIAL**  
10 Day Package – \$11,000  
Save \$5,000 ■ AFH4

## Lodge of the Month

This Manitoba wilderness vacation starts with a 27 mile (about 43km) boat trip where you will encounter an *unending panorama* of islands, channels, weeded bays and unforgettable scenery, enhanced by wild game including moose, deer, black bear and bald eagles. You will be tracking along the same route that the voyagers used to first access central Canada.

Upon arrival at the lodge, you'll enjoy deluxe fine accommodations, helpful, professional staff and our licensed dining room. But most of all, *revel* in the enjoyment of not wasting a moment to land your trophy pike, walleye or smallmouth bass *right outside your doorstep*. The packages are complete and they specialize in service. All you have to do is *fish!* They take care of the rest. Any date throughout the season offers excellent fishing, assuring your trip will be a success.

This is a small camp with only five cabins accommodating up to 36 people. You are "**The Guest**", not just another guest. You will leave already anxious to set up your next trip. Packages include transportation from Pointe du Bois to and from the lodge (by boat), 16 foot deluxe boat, 30/40 HP 4 stroke motor (maximum 3 per boat), fish processing and freezing, accommodations, daily maid service, 3 meals daily, 2 days guide service (1 to 4 guests), bait, license and motor insurance. Taxes are extra. ■ MBF1



3 Day/4 Night Package – \$1,195 US per person  
4 Day/5 Night Package – \$1,495 US per person  
Youth Rates: 20% off July 1– Aug 15th  
Crowduck Flyouts – \$300 US per person



# Tracks™

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## Outdoor Connection®

**The Worldwide Hunting and Fishing Authority™**

This issue of Tracks is provided to you free of charge by your local Outdoor Connection agent. For more information on any of the adventures in this issue or other expeditions worldwide, contact the agent below:

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