

## Fishing Confessions from an Uptown Girl

I admit that while the days leading up to my July, 2007 trip to Plummer's Great Slave Lake with my husband, father-in-law, and brother were filled with my fear of having said yes to going in the first place, my phobia of spiders, and my personal challenge of packing 'light', it turned out to be an unforgettable and amazing adventure – and here's why:

1. Plummer's staff are incredible! Our fishing guides Vid and Todd were charming and wonderful. While my husband scoffed at my idea of drinking Caesar's instead of beer and fishing with 'pretty' lures instead of bait, Vid happily catered to my every urbanite whim. And - like no husband can – Vid patiently provided me with helpful fishing tips and instruction that worked every time. Grant and the lodge staff were equally as charming and accommodating, going out of their way to ensure I was as happy as a 42 lb. Laker in a school of slow-swimming cisco. From the dining room to the fishing boat, the staff turned my trip into a relaxing, pampered holiday!

2. The fishing! While the men in my fishing party used techniques learned from reading books and watching Bob (Izumi, that is), I simply honed into my women's intuition to find the fish (and, of course, Vid might have had a little something to do with it too...), used my innate esthetic sense to pick out the prettiest lure available, and then fished with a finesse that only us females can (ladies, it's all in the wrist!). One 25 lb trophy and over 100 fish later, I'd say this worked during my 4-day stay!

3. The food. Not having to cook for an impatient husband and picky children is worth the Chef at Plummer's weight in gold! Delicious home cooked meals and mouth watering shore lunches (especially great with a side thermos of Caesar's) were the icing on the cake to an already fantastic adventure.

4. The gloating and the memories. From sharing video of the many Lakers I had caught and the many fish my husband failed to get into the boat, my fishing party and I embraced the evening twilight hours as a chance to share fish stories and relive our daily adventures. I admit I returned from this amazing trip a much richer person - not only for having experienced the beauty and wonderment that only the majestic landscape of the Northwest Territories can provide, but also because I am several dollars wealthier for having caught the largest Laker in my fishing party. That I will always be able to hold these bragging rites among my husband and closest male relatives far outweighs the disappointment I initially felt for having to leave my high heels and lipstick behind! And I am ecstatic to report that I am already signed up as the lone female in next year's Plummer's trip, when I will defend my title and prove that Lady Luck in fact had nothing to do with it – it's all in the wrist...

Monique 'Laker Lady' Lloyd

PS. While I did see bald eagles, a black bear, a moose and her calf at Plummer's, I never did see a spider. Not a one!

*Me, my fish, and my new best friend, Vid*