

September 22, 2007

Dear Shane, Chummy and Crew,

Thank you again for the 13th time of visiting your “day care for adults in the arctic” – I’ve enjoyed every one. Every year gets better. That’s a fact.

Your lodge is better “run” every year and I am always impressed how you can take every day – rain or shine – and turn them into a once in a life time experience. (I’ve told Chummy he should offer one way trips because it’s not easy to leave Great Bear.

I don’t believe I’ll send many photos (too many) this year for the newsletter – but would like to share that at least 500 grayling humiliated me at the “grayling rocks” day 2 after feasting on 4 of their brethren the day before – flies – puddle jumpers, nothing could save me from embarrassment in front of Larry my guide trying to steer the boat through a half a mile of rising – splunking – slurping – noisy but beautiful grayling – a joy and a challenge that I must face again next year.

The exploring for cabins, dreamed of (and read) in history books – the deep green water of the break of the reef and perhaps the next bite could be “one of those fish those lucky bastards are holding up in the newsletter could be mine” feelings are what brings me back to Plummer’s.

I’ve been to a lot of lodges fishing, but believe me, Plummer’s has the best clientele. The nicest people you’d ever meet go fishing with you. And every year I get to meet them and eat with them and share the most beautiful days of our lives together.

Every year I meet people I’ve met before – old friends – a grand reunion or meet new friends like Clarke and Gary this year when we wept at leaving Bear – saying it was too bad we didn’t live closer or as neighbours so we could enjoy the friendship we had developed in one short week forever. Enginio Restrepo from Columbia I sent to the “grayling rocks”, my cabin mate. He came back a changed man! I am sure he did better than me, those damn grayling.

From returning fishing and enjoying the day to see Shane – working – figuring out outboard motor problems and solving them and getting us all hot showers (from parts scavenged from the bone yard) in 13 seasons I know I am in good hands and am a bit ashamed to enjoy a week so much without a worry. In such a worrisome place – where if you didn’t bring it with you, you won’t find it there – place, it is a treat to know it is already there! Wow!

I will be there for year 14 and am glad you are offering the refuge and fishing opportunity. Many have tried, failed and are not heard from again, trying to do what you do so well every year.

Plummer's has an unparalleled history of safety, service and satisfaction in fishing the North and I am grateful to be your guest. Amen.

Respectfully Yours,
Gene Johnson