



South Shore Lodge Newsletter

John Procyshyn
www.southshorelodge.net
December 2007



Finally sat down to write my summer of 2007 newsletter. Now I can combine it with the fall one as well.

2007 started off with very high water levels in the spring. Many low areas were totally flooded. This was great for the fish spawn and meant the bears had all the fish they wanted as well. The high water was also good for duck and goose hatches. I have never seen so many ducklings and goslings before. The spring bear hunt was very successful with many bears seen as well as taken. This year I saw two different sows, each with four cubs and I have only seen this once before. Spring fishing was great. The bear hunters would catch as many walleye and pike as they wanted in the morning and hunt their bears in the evening.

During the summer, fishing was best in our local rivers. In the late spring we saw many new hatches of ducklings. I think this may have been caused by the flooding of some of the earlier nests. The deer seemed to have a good winter but I think the spring was hard on them because of the crusty top layer of snow. This made digging for food under the snow difficult for the deer and easy for the wolves and coyotes to stay on top and catch their prey. Our summer was a typical Manitoban summer; good moisture and fairly warm. The lake levels seemed to drop and we managed to avoid most of the predicted flooding.

Fall time was quite nice with most of the harvest completed by September. The areas with lots of fall rain stayed wet and prevented some of the farmers from harvesting their crops. This meant the land was overrun with ducks and geese. The mallard hunting in the fields and lakes was unbelievable. The snows, Canadas and ducks liked the conditions and stayed until early November. I have never seen snow geese stay that long. The fall bear hunting turned out quite good as well. Some of my clients would hunt geese and ducks in the mornings, then go to the stands after that for bear hunting. This turned out to be a great combo hunt. The bear left the baits quite early this year; however a few were seen right up until deer season in the middle of November. Our lakes didn't really start to freeze until the third week of November as well. It has been a long time since I have seen as many muskrat houses as I have this year. This will be great for duck and goose nests in the upcoming spring. The fall deer population seemed to be a bit down. It is possible that the hard snow in the spring took more of a toll on them than people realized. The wolf population seems to be growing every year and this probably cuts the deer numbers down a bit as well. We bagged some really nice bucks this fall throughout all three weeks of hunting. The number of US hunters seemed to be down in the province with the economy in a bit of a decline. The local hunters seemed to be fewer this season as well. Hopefully this means plenty of bucks survived and will have even bigger racks for next year. I am still trying to get my moose this winter, but so far they have out-foxed me.

There are only two days left and these moose seem to keep getting smarter!
Hope everyone has a great Holiday, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John Procyshyn & Sons
South Shore Lodge