

Moose Lake News

(Part 1 of a 2-part story) It is always good to go on vacation but is always good to come back home. As I mentioned in my article two weeks ago, I was leaving on Saturday morning August 14th for Canada. I was going to visit a good friend of mine, Mike Henry who owns Pipestone Fly-In Outposts. As of Aug. 7th, the border is now open for US citizens to enter Canada for personal reasons. To cross the border today, it is not as easy as it previously was. The Canadian government wants each traveler to have a COVID vaccination with proof of documentation showing the date and time that you were vaccinated and the type of vaccination you had. They also want you to have a COVID test within 72 hours of crossing the border. All travelers, regardless of vaccination status, will need to show proof of a coronavirus molecular test— such as a PCR test – to enter. You also must document the border crossing that you are going to use, the date and the time that you are going to cross.

To be considered fully vaccinated, travelers must have received the full series of a Covid-19 vaccine -- or combination of vaccines -- accepted by the government of Canada at least 14 days before entering Canada. Fully vaccinated travelers must also submit Covid-19 information electronically into ArriveCAN, app. This is the official Canadian government app you use to provide mandatory travel information when entering Canada. It must be entered within 72 hours before arrival. Travelers without a smartphone can submit the information at Canada.ca/ArriveCAN and print the receipt. After doing all this, I said to myself do I really want to go to Canada? I said -- yes and went ahead with filling out all my paperwork. The border crossing that I chose must be documented along with the date and the times that I will be crossing. I reported to the Canadian Government that I was going to cross at the Rainy River crossing which is at Baudette MN. I reported that I would be crossing on the afternoon of the 14th at 5 PM. When I arrived at the border crossing there was only one car in front of me. I waited 5 minutes and then it was my turn. Questions were asked, like where are you going? What is the purpose of your travel, do you have any firearms mace, or pepper spray? Do you have any live fishing bait? Live bait is not allowed to be brought across the border anymore. They checked my passport my vaccination records my COVID test and compared my paperwork with what I put into their system a few days earlier. Another Border Patrol Agent came up to the window. He said, you are going to visit Mike Henry are you? With that Canadian accent. I said yes he is a friend of mine that I have not seen in 2 years. He said have a good trip drive safely. That was it. I drove on. Last Saturday Jack Brown and Mike Williams from Moose Lake entered Canada for a fishing trip that they had planned. I spoke with Jack the night before they left, and he was sweating it out waiting for his COVID test results to come back within the 72 hours that you are allowed. Jack said, the regulations have changed a lot. I think they did make it across the border with no problems. I spoke with Marilyn who was working the bar at Louie's last Saturday evening. She said she talked to Jack just before they crossed the border. They were crossing at International Falls MN.

On the evening of the 14th around 7 PM I arrived at my friend Mikes home/Airbase which is on Clearwater Lake. This is part of the Pipestone Clearwater chain of lakes. Pipestone Clearwater chain is a huge body of water of 70 miles which includes 11 other lakes. A good location for an airbase. Rainy Lake to the east and Lake of the Woods to the west. Mike told me when I arrived that we were going to fly out on Sunday morning or the next day at 5:30 AM which is sunrise. Our goal was to fly into his 6 lakes that he has a camp on over the next 2 days to look for bear damage on the cabins. When these cabins are left empty for the winter not to say it now has been over 2 years, the bears have their own way. I will say that the forest is their home. We have invaded their space. Mike said we were going to fish at

least two of his lakes along with one virgin lake that does not get fished by anyone except him. This lake is 8 miles long and in full of huge, beautiful walleye and northern pike. Mike has the rights to have a boat slip on this lake which was granted to him by the Ministry of National Resources. At 8:45 AM we landed on Oliver Lake, our first lake. Mike checked the batteries for his solar system, and I looked for bear damage. Everything seemed to be the same way we left the cabins in the fall of 2019. We launched a 14-foot boat with a 9.9 HP Mercury motor. We grabbed our fishing rods and some twister tails. These are a rubber type tail that goes on a 1/8 or ¼ oz jig to imitate something swimming in the water. We motored to the outlet of Oliver Lake where it flows into another one of Mikes Lake called Kenoji. In the native language this means Big Pike. Speaking of big pike, we filmed a TV show several years ago on this lake and caught a world record Northern on a flyrod during the filming. This fish is listed in the Fishing Hall of Fame.

We fished in about 6 feet of water for about 2.5 hours,. We had over 100 walleyes from 12 inches to 26 inches in length. It was a blast. Nonstop action. All fish were caught on a jig and a twister tail. All fish were released unharmed. When we got back to the cabin 15 minutes later we turned the boat over got into Mikes plane and flew 15 minutes to Smoothrock Lake. **To be continued.**

Mel Vanway owner of Mel's Outdoor Power called me to inform me that because of the strong request from his customers Mel is going to reopen his business for shrink wrapping this fall. He will be shrink-wrapping pontoons and boats very soon. Please call him at 715-462-3124 for more information. Please leave a message. He will return your call. We will have more on this next week in more detail.

Birthday greetings this week are extended to Jane Bidwell & Amanda Brug both on the 3rd of September, Tom Rudolph on the 4th, Eric Tamm & Lynn Egge both on the 6th, & Bob Zaborsky & Ethel Richter on the 8th of September. Anniversaries this week, we have one. Wishes are extended to Doug & Brianne Sanders on Sept. 8th. Happy Anniversary and Happy Birthday to all.