SASKATCHEWAN'S NORTHERN UTOPIA FOR WOMEN

By Jenn Smith Nelson

*Fancy a little slice of paradise? Although Pine Island Resort Ltd., hosts a wide variety of groups who flock to the remote Black Bear Island Lake in beautiful northern Saskatchewan; the second weekend of August is all about the fisher***WOMEN***.*

Women in the Wilderness, a four-day annual getaway which hosts up to 20 women, took place this past August during the 8th-11th. A testament to the appeal of this top notch trip -- only **five** spots remain for next year's adventure.

And it's no surprise why. Beyond the amazing locale of Black Bear Island Lake, (a spot found at a widening of the famous Churchill River system where, hundreds of years ago fur traders canoed its routes) the weekend it is the ultimate fishing getaway for women. The term 'roughing it' was pretty much as far away from this experience as you can get.

Vickie and Bart Bricksaw who run Pine Island Resort Ltd., did their best to ensure everyone's time spent on the getaway was amazing from the moment they stepped off of the float plane to the moment they got back on it. From the thoughtful gift bags found on each bed inside deluxe lake front cabins to the generous feasts that took place up at the cabin lodge. All women were also treated to individual massages and the supply of good company was never short.

The fishing occurred over a two-day period, on the Friday and Saturday. Expert guides escorted the groups of women and the day (from 8 a.m. -5 p.m.) was spent fishing the magnificent lakes and channels. Guides took the groups from fishing hole to fishing hole ensuring everyone had the chance to reel one in. The largest catch of the trip was a northern pike measuring in at 37". As is the case most times in northern Saskatchewan, fish were a plenty and the

The stories of the day were shared as soon as everyone returned to the island. Time spent on shore was equally delightful as the time spent on the water. Women were found chit chattering all over the island. Some up at the lodge nibbling on the pre-dinners apps and drinking wine; some sat on their decks and admired the amazing sunsets, while others took in campfires and swapped stories. With laughter everywhere, friendships were quickly formed and 'fun' became an understated word.

The weekend attracted all types: women young and old, those traveling alone or with a family member or friend(s); introverts and extroverts and novice to experienced fishing folk. But there was definitely one thing in common amongst this year's group of women – generosity. In addition to hosting a group of 20 women, Vickie also organized a collection from the women to support the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Pledges for fish caught and straight up donations tallied over $5,000 of donations for this worthy cause. Simply amazing.

Leaving the island was the hardest part of the weekend and it took some major convincing for most women to get back on the plane and return to reality. Some women found a way to sneak in another night on the island and extend their paradise for one more night. Nearly all the guests though, left eager for next year's adventure.

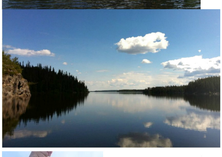
– About the writer –

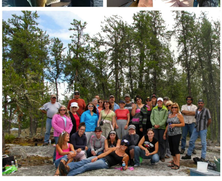
Jenn Smith Nelson is a travel writer/photographer and blogger who this year has been bitten by the fishing bug. Catch up with her online at ***www.travellinlady.com****.*

landscape, incredible. And, as far as fishing backdrops go, it's safe to say that the landscape is unrivaled within the province.

The guides made the whole experience fun and easy by managing the tackle and bringing the fish into the boats. During the lunch hour all the boats reconvened for a delicious shore lunch where guides brought in the mornings' bounty of fish and prepared them for cooking.

While out on the glassy lakes groups also took in other unique experiences in addition to the fishing including a stop to see rock paintings hundreds of years old; leaving an offering at the Swimming Stone and boating through Birch Rapids.





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