

## SPORT AND TRAVEL SHOWS WE WILL BE ATTENDING IN 2026

**ALL CANADA SHOW - MILWAUKEE**  
Brookfield, Wisconsin - Brookfield Conference Center  
January 16<sup>th</sup> - January 18<sup>th</sup>

**ALL CANADA SHOW - GREEN BAY**  
Green Bay, Wisconsin - Oneida Hotel (Oneida Casino)  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> - January 25<sup>th</sup>

**INDIANAPOLIS BOAT,  
SPORT & TRAVEL SHOW**  
Indianapolis, Indiana - Indiana State Fair Grounds  
February 20<sup>th</sup> - February 22<sup>nd</sup>

February 25<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup>  
(Show closed Monday & Tuesday)

Raleigh with his 40" muskie. The color on this beauty is amazing.



Bryan Carlson got up early and was rewarded with a nice stringer of dock caught crappie.



Coeltan found out on his first trip to camp, Ord never disappoints!



Pretty nice small mouth Miles Way to go!



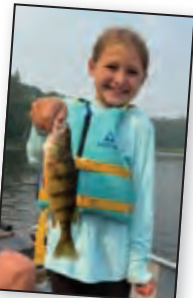
Taylor landed a beautiful perch during opening week.



With over 30 years of experience, Tim has mastered the art of walleye fishing.



Adam had a fun day of small mouth fishing!



Not only is Izzy super cute, she can fish too! Great catch girl!



Kitchel with his first ever muskie. Measuring 41", it might be a while before he catches a bigger one.

# Smoke Signals from GOLD ARROW CAMP 2025 – A Year In Review

Volume 13



**NOTE:** This paper is not intended at anytime to represent the proper use of grammar, spelling or editorial etiquette. It will vow, however, to report the news as we see it and stretch the truth as far as possible and from spending so much time in the woods takes no responsibility for its content.

**WARNING:** FROM THE "STURGEON GENERAL", the truth of any news event reported in this paper may be stretched so far as to be hazardous to any honest fisherman's integrity. But will be okay for most of our guests to read.

**ATTENTION:** No names have been changed in these articles to protect the innocent. There weren't any.

## EDITORIAL

Hard to believe but next summer Gold Arrow Camp will celebrate our 75th year of being in operation and our 17th year as owners. It has been an honor to be the fifth owner of such an amazing camp, and we look forward each year to the new adventures, experiences, guests, and fun times we have along the way. Though we knew it would be a great lifestyle, we had no idea the memories and lifelong friends we would make during this journey. Each year, we look back and realize how blessed we are to be able to give so many people an experience that will hopefully last forever in their memories too.

As the holidays approach, we want to take a moment to wish each of you a very blessed

Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. Here's to making new memories, and may they be filled with fantastic experiences with good friends and family.

God Bless; Todd & Angie



Anthony Purdy - Crappie



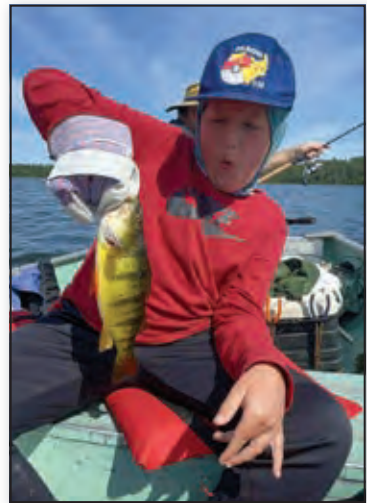
Howard Loker - Northern Pike



Aaron Anderson - Small Mouth Bass



Mike Ostertag - Muskie



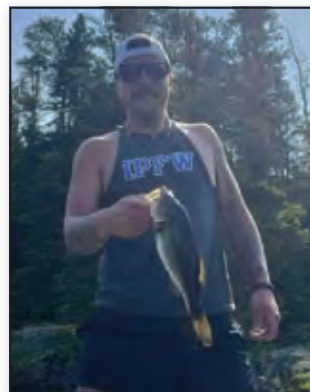
Chase Cook - Perch



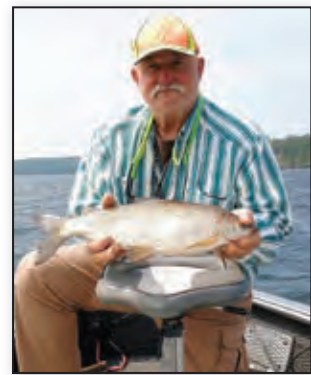
## 2025 LARGEST FISH AWARDS

Species	Length	Caught By
Walleye	28"	Roger Robenhorst
Northern	42"	Howard Loker
Small Mouth	20 1/2"	Aaron Anderson
Perch	13 5/8"	Chase Cook
Muskie	47 1/2"	Mike Ostertag
Lake Trout	30"	Rob Hamm
Crappie	15"	Anthony Purdy & TJ Steffek
Large Mouth	16"	Garrett Duhnovsky & Isaac Purcell
Whitefish	26"	Tom Baugh

Nice to see so many big fish caught and released again this year. Congratulations to everyone that made the board throughout the season! Your persistence and excitement for simple bragging rights are always appreciated.



Isaac Purcell - Large Mouth



Tom Baugh - Whitefish



Roger Robenhorst - Walleye



Rob Hamm - Lake Trout



Garrett Duhnovsky - Large Mouth



TJ Steffek - Crappie



## BEST HOOKED AWARDS - BRUCE AND JEREME GET PIERCED

This year was a close race for the Best Hooked Award. We had two contestants vying for the award. Bruce Harder was first to enter the contest. In June, mid-week, he made a trip to Dryden for his hook removal. The treble hook was deep in his index finger, but the doctors removed it easily with no issue. Bruce definitely made a valiant effort to win the competition. No additional guests wanted to enter the competition until the end of September, when

Jereme Wiederin came to camp. First day, and after only a few hours on the water, he also took a treble hook to his finger. The hook was equally as deep, but he added a little flair by getting his ring finger. Trip to Dryden and again a successful removal with no side effects...or so we thought. Mid-week, Jereme's group heads to the north dock for some night fishing. Lights on and fish in the water, Jereme reaches down and, with his bare hands, pulls

a crappie out of the water! Hearing this, I double checked to make sure the doctor really did remove the hook, and sure enough, it was gone. Like Spiderman, I think his hand absorbed something off the hook and gave him superpowers to catch fish bare-handed. Because of this, Jereme, you win the award for Best Hooked in 2025! Congratulations to both contestants, but keep in mind, there are better ways to get your picture in the newsletter.



## RESERVATION REQUEST • GOLD ARROW CAMP

Perrault Falls, Ontario POV 2KO • Phone: (807) 529-3137 • Website: [www.fishandhuntontario.com](http://www.fishandhuntontario.com) • Email: [Goldarrow@embargmail.com](mailto:Goldarrow@embargmail.com)  
Winter Address: Todd & Angie Heath, 2104 North Binkley Road, Larwill, IN 46764 • Phone: (260) 327-3406 (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Housekeeping Cabin ☐ Travel Lite Package ☐ Summer Special Package ☐ Extra Boat ☐ Motor ☐

No. in Party: Men \_\_\_\_\_ Women \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ Total No. \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

• Personal checks accepted for deposit only. Balance must be paid in cash or traveler's checks. Sorry, no credit cards.

• Deposit of \$300.00 required per person. • All Rates in U.S. Funds.

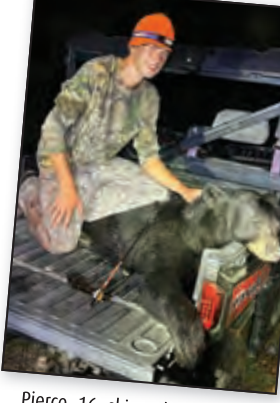




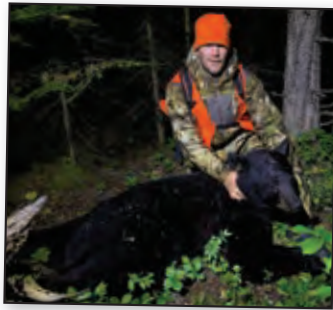
Carole Schramm with her personal best walleye measuring in at 27"



The Knepp family of bear hunters. 6 hunters, 5 bear harvested. Great shooting guys!



Pierce, 16, skipped school to harvest his first bear. Definitely a good trade off in his eyes!



Matt Raber cut it close, but got the job done on night #5.



Brody Swartzentruber didn't give up and finally got his bear on the last night of his hunt.



Mike VanRenterghem with his limit of 5 birds. Shot all 5 in about 20 minutes and only used 4 shells.



Vanna White, aka Sydney, showing off her dad's catch. I think she was proud of you, Bryan.



Jerry Pipp introduced his grandson, Jackson, to Canadian fishing. He was definitely a fan!



Bob Lomont held the record for several weeks with this 13 1/2" perch. Great catch, Bob!



Jim Johnson and his daughters, Jenna & Justine. One of the few father/daughter groups we have.



Several from our family came up for a week of relaxation and laughs. Great memories made!

## WHAT ELSE COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN?

Dave and Lisa have been coming to Gold Arrow with their family for quite a few years now. Each year is entertaining and full of laughs, but this year topped all the past years combined.

Coming up from Illinois, two trucks pulling two boats, 5 family members strong. The trip was going well until they entered Minnesota, and that is when the crazy week from hell began.

Dave decides to hand off the driving to Lisa so he can rest, and, of course, that's when a suicidal bear decides to run across the road. Lisa did everything right and held her line as not to cause an accident, but the bear ran right into the boat trailer. It did cause some damage, but nothing too bad that they can't continue on with their trip, so onward to Gold Arrow.

A couple of days after arriving, they venture to Cliff Lake. Fishing wasn't the best, so they load the boats on the trailers, put everything in the bed of the truck, but forgot to shut the tailgate.

Now, getting out of Cliff Lake public landing

to head north requires a pretty sharp turn, and upon turning sharply, you guessed it, the tailgate and trailer come together, and now there is a dent in the truck's tailgate to match the damaged boat trailer from the bear.

Just when you think nothing else could possibly go wrong, Dave decides to throw his Father's Day present fishing pole into Nancy Lake. Miraculously, after quite a few casts, they are able to bring it up. Good news, right?

Well, it was until the following morning when they were loading the boat and Dave turned his fishing seat only to realize that his pole tip was in the seat and he snapped off the tip of the pole he just recued from the bottom of the lake. Later that day, Lisa also broke her pole while fishing. Now things usually happen in 3's, right? Well not for them, they are just getting warmed up!

Now, out on Mystery Lake, Dave's cruising along with his trolling motor, and they are having a good time catching smallmouth. Only problem is that the trolling motor locks up, and they can't shut it off or change

speed. It is frozen in the "ON" position and won't adjust.

I guess they will fish with the 150HP he has instead.

Now, leaving Mystery is quite an incline and very rutted out, so you have to really pick your line and go. Well, Devon, their son, is pulling his bass boat with a new GMC truck and doesn't want to damage it either so, you guessed it, it gets stuck. With no tow strap, they call camp, and Todd takes one down so



that Dave can hook on and give Devon a little help getting his GMC up the hill (I'm telling you, Ford is the way to go, lol).

So now it is Friday, and all should be good, right?

NOT! With lots of chickens, ducks, and 4 dogs at home, they hired a pet sitter for the week. Now I can't go into detail, but trust me when I say the security cameras that they had at the house showed images of the sitter that gave me nightmares for weeks. The lady went off her medication and trashed their house, and did some other crazy stuff that was unimaginable, and ended up with her getting arrested. Thankfully, though, all the animals were fine.

I admire this family's resilience. Not sure that I would have been smiling and laughing through the week they had...well, at least up until the dog sitter incident...or ever rebooked another vacation in my life, but they are an amazing and fun family who enjoy life and time together and took it all in stride with a smile on their face the whole week. Till next year, Dave and Lisa, and we pray for a year of no incidents!

## LOCKSMITH TO THE RESCUE

Based on a typical Saturday turnover, we have learned that not everyone respects our 3:00 p.m. check-in time, but all things considered, the majority of you are very good by not arriving too early.

After getting up early and cleaning nine cabins, the check-in time gives Angie & I a chance to shower and grab a bite to eat prior to your arrival.

Often, folks running a little bit ahead of schedule will make a side diversion, such as stopping to pick berries, hitting up the Beer Store in Dryden, eating lunch at the Whiskey Jack, or maybe fishing the falls at the Wabaskang River.

Don Blasing was heading to camp and noticed that he was running a little bit ahead of schedule, so he decided to stop at the falls and see if he could catch a Walleye or two. After fishing for a bit, he glanced at his watch and decided it was time to move on and head to camp.

Reaching into his pocket for his keys, he was somewhat surprised to feel that they weren't there. Thinking he might have dropped them, he looked all around the truck to no avail. They could have fallen out on the bank where he was fishing, but they weren't there either, so now what?

Don did have a spare key in the truck, so if he could just get inside, he could continue

to camp. He thought about breaking a side window, but maturity made him realize that probably wasn't a good idea!

Looking at his phone, he was surprised to see he had service, so he called a local Locksmith. The closest was in Dryden, which is nearly 45 minutes away, but still better than breaking a window. Figuring he would get an answering machine, he was pleasantly surprised when somebody actually answered. An hour later, the Locksmith showed up and got his truck unlocked.

Reaching for his billfold in his back pocket to pay, Don felt something strangely familiar: his truck key!

As Don later said, he never puts keys in his back pocket, but in his excitement to go fishing, he must have done it subconsciously. The bright side in all this is we now have a name for a good Locksmith, Don still has all his truck windows intact, and it was only a \$200 "Canadian currency" lesson.



## DRY CONDITIONS

On August 9th the City of Milwaukee received 9.18 inches of rain, with some areas receiving as much as 14 inches. Bryan & Sue Blanke from the Milwaukee area happened to be in camp that week, and watching them attempt to get someone to pump their basement out was sad to see.

What does this weather report have to do with Gold Arrow, you might ask? Well in direct comparison, we received a TOTAL of 10 inches of rain from the end of April through the first week of October.

Milwaukee got in one day what we got over the entire five-month season! As you can imagine, a lack of rain never helps with lake levels, especially the remote bush lakes.

Fortunately, Mr. Beaver was helpful building some dams in just the right places, which kept the streams to Gerrard, Caribou, and Schultz high enough for most of the season.

Pickereel was the only lake lost for part of the season due to low water. Another negative with the lack of rain was the very minimal berries to be found. The blueberries were small and sporadic. There were basically no raspberries, pin cherries, or mountain ash in the area.

One positive was that, with the lack of berries, the fall bear baits were quite active. We were happy to see the bears harvested were still sporting a lot of body fat. This means the bears were able to find other food sources to help prepare them for winter hibernation.

Forest fires were also prevalent in Northwestern Ontario this past summer, fortunately with no serious ones close by. There were times when the air had a slight smokiness, but never so bad that you couldn't go out and fish. Hopefully, next year we can bounce back to normal rainfall amounts.

## BREEZEWAY BOYS ARRIVE

If you Google the distance from the United States to Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia, it seems a straight line is roughly 7,500 miles. Pretty safe to say not too many of us have been there or, for that matter, ever been that far from home.



This fall Gold Arrow was honored to have Ben, Hunter, Jerome, Jacob, and Daniel, aka the "Breezeway Boys" who had been stationed at Prince Sultan Air Base. These guys represent the finest that the US Military has to offer and were a joy to be around.

I was curious, however, just how did they get their nickname, and how in the world did they end up at Gold Arrow? When

asked about it they said that while stationed at the Air Base they would meet in the evenings in the breezeway where it was cooler and discuss what to do once they got back home, thus the Breezeway Boys were formed. The breezeway sounds like a cool place to meet until you hear that it is routinely 110 degrees in Saudi Arabia. So, does that mean the breezeway was a comfortable 90 degrees?

Anyways over the course of two years of planning, notes and ideas shared back and forth on Microsoft Teams, discussing what to do once they got home, they finally decided on a fishing trip. The goal being someplace that was not hot, somewhere they could catch fish, and somewhere they could use their weapons training while shooting a few grouse.

Being away from home, these nightly breezeway sessions gave them something to look forward to. I can just picture this group of young men sitting in a foreign land 7,500 miles away planning a trip to Canada.

It is humbling to think of guys that far away planning a trip to come to your place. Men, thank you for choosing Gold Arrow and more importantly thank you for all that you do!

## 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year we didn't have any big projects to complete, but we did have several small, sometimes unnoticed changes. One of our top priority items was to replace the broken, rusted-out steel frame holding up the fish cleaning table. Hard to believe with all the water that goes onto it, the original frame lasted over 20 years. Rust had finally eaten its way through, so now we have an industrial-strength frame that will long outlast our tenure.

During covid we replaced all the cabin decks and built a few new ones. In order to make these last longer and keep the wood siding behind them from rotting, we decided it was time to put gutters on the problem areas. So, 5 cabins now have new gutters.

Over the years, we have lost a lot of big trees in the yard, leaving lots of stumps and exposed roots to mow around. This summer, with the dry ground, we decided it was a good time to remove all 11 of them. Planting

## CANCELLATIONS AND DEPOSITS

Coming into the 2025 season, we were looking at a record-setting year of guests. Typically, we are blessed with about 350 - 375 people each year. In 2024, we had a fantastic year, reaching a little over 430 people. Thinking we would never see a better year, we were surprised when we hit 440 guests for 2025.

Knowing that things happen throughout the year, we always expect to have a few cancellations. Little did we know, this would not be a year of record-setting guests but instead, record-setting cancellations!

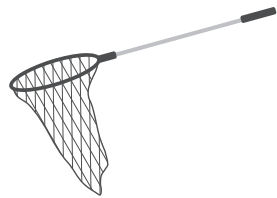
In total, 55 people cancelled this year. Some with good reason, others with no reason at all. Was it fear of the border with tariff threats or passport issues? We don't know, but we had to make changes to our policy to protect ourselves.

We decided to split the risk 50/50. The deposit has been bumped to \$300 per person. The rest of our policy has not changed. If you need to move your date to a different time in the year, we will do our best to fit you in and move your deposit.

Of course, we can't guarantee that we will have an opening, so please make arrangements with work, family, hotels, etc, before locking in your week. If you need to cancel, we will try our best to fill your vacancy. If we are able to refill your cabin, we will refund your deposit. We know that things happen, but please realize this is our livelihood, and we have a very short window to do so. Thank You

growing trees and shrubs, and also clearing out all the bear trails.

All are somewhat minor details and mostly unnoticed improvements to guests, but maintenance never ends, and the little things are what keep the camp looking and running smoothly, and bush roads and trails accessible.



Ben Schmidt and Hunter Sanderson had a good day of grouse hunting!



Tim Boyce's smile is almost as big as his catch



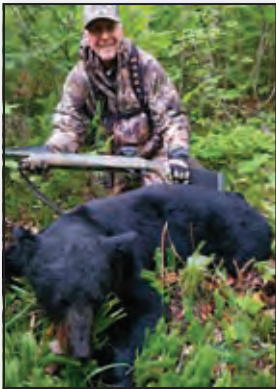
Smoker's bar, also known as the fire pit



Gary Carlson held the pike record for quite a while with this 40" beauty



Steve Koehler harvested this bear on night one of his hunt



Barry Lomont is showing off his group's table full of fish. Looks like a lot of work to me.



In 2011, the Anderson siblings were at Gold Arrow with their parents. Now, 14 years later, they made a return trip for more memories.



David Weaver harvested our biggest bear of the year. Hard to believe, but it was a huge sow!



Shawn Eisch with Ginger and Barney. These dogs are hunting machines.



Another marriage proposal at Gold Arrow. Congratulations to Jordan & Mariah. Wishing you many years of happiness!



Sad year at Gold Arrow when we were told that the Derdzinski's were calling it quits. Thank you for many great years and lots of memories with your family



Michaela Hudson with a monster musky. Not quite as big as her dad's record setter, but very respectable!

