

Announcing Manitoba Seniors Fishing Challenge for 2016

The Active Coalition for Older Adults (ALCOA) in Manitoba recently challenged older adults, ages 55 and over, to "...engage in activities that promote health and wellness." In September the ALCOA invited all older adults "...to get out there and try something new, or something they haven't tried in years." As a sponsor, Rural Outdoors is excited to announce the upcoming 2016 Golden Walleye Fishing Challenge for Seniors. This challenge is a 3 day program featured at Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge for groups of seniors and will run all summer from June 15th till September 15th. The challenge has each team scoring points rather than compete with best for them and in order to secure those dates, teams are asked to register by June 30th. The lodge is making a special discounted group rate available for all seniors who register and will sponsor the guides for each team. This challenge is open to groups or teams of 5 to 10 people. Teams are encouraged to register their team to represent their communities (example "Team Virden"). No previous fishing experience is required and the guides at the lodge will help every step of the way. Those who do not own fishing tackle need not purchase any. Rods and reels, bait, and all tackle and equipment will be provided by the lodge.

Groups can look forward to enjoying the comfort of 3 days of being fully guided aboard one of the pontoon boats...Caribou One or the Caribou Two. Everyone can anticipate a few surprises and, best of all, a lot of laughter.

The Challenge

Although some big fish will most certainly be landed, the 2016 Senior Fishing Challenge is not about catching the biggest fish. The objective of each team over the course of their 3 days is to register three walleye (pickerel)

with a total length that comes closest to 65 inches. Once the group decides to register a fish, they must stand by their decision. During the 3 days, each group will work as a team to strategize, set goals and make a number of group decisions.

The personal guide and pilot of each fishing boat will help net, measure and release those fish which are chosen to be released. Scores which exceed the 65 other teams on the same day. Groups are invited to select any three days that work

as well as group. All of the winners will be announced and their stories will be featured in the next issue of *Rural Outdoors*.

The Adventure

While at the lodge, groups will also be treated to guided tours on Quesnel and Manigotagan Lakes. Guests will experience the rumble at the base of Happy Falls and witness the beauty of Long Rapids. The lodge will include wildlife observation as well as historical and archeological site exploration tours. We must not forget one of the main events... Mmmm, fresh pickerel fillets for dinner. Your guide will be more than delighted to process your daily catch. In the evening, the bon fire and wood-fired sauna may well be in the plan. And then, after a day of fresh air and laughter in the outdoors, the best sleep that one could ever imagine.

Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge is nestled in the northern tip of the Nopiming Provincial Park. A drive-to location, it's a short three hour drive NE of Winnipeg.