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And a-weigh we go



The Rossport Fish Derby had many activities, but the weigh-in stations were the hot spots as enthusiastic fishermen brought in their hopeful winners throughout the weekend. Photo by Frank Rupnik

Record entries
Rossport Fish Derby hooks 'em!

By Frank Rupnik
 Special to the News

The weather definitely co-operated and so did the fish for that matter as the 51st Rossport Fish Derby was one of the most successful yet, according to tournament organizer Doug Stefurak.

Along with Stefurak, Derby Chairman Cyril Brassard, William Collinson, Charles (Chuck) Hutterli, Cathy Gerow, Robert Beaugregard, Alex Krystia, Doug Stefurak and Les Legault began meeting early this year to prepare for the popular derby.

The pre-derby planning included local and international promotion. Chuck Hutterli went to Minneapolis and distributed 200 flyers announcing the derby.

Other considerations included improving the derby grounds and getting sponsors for the numerous prizes presented.

This year a record 675 fish passed through the weigh station, beating last year's count of 500.

There were over 35 prizes offered at the derby, which included a salmon category for the first time.

The largest fish of the derby was caught by Thunder Bay native Ries Beerthuisen. His Lake Trout weighed in at 15 1/2 pounds and was hauled in at the south end of Moffat Strait.

"We came down just for fun and didn't even know there was a fish derby on," said Beerthuisen.

The happy angler was awarded a 14-foot boat for his efforts. The boat was presented by Walker's Marina and derby officials.

"You got an ardent supporter here," said a pleased Beerthuisen. "I'll tell everybody about the fish derby when I get back to Thunder Bay," he added.

Ministry of the Environment officials were also at the Rossport Fish Derby examining fish.

"It is an inexpensive way for us to get samples," said Gord Johnson

of the ministry. Johnson says that the temperature and bottom structure are the most important things to consider when catching fish. He adds, however, that there is no way to force them to bite.

Those fortunate enough to get a bite and haul in winners were:

- Trout Division**
- 1st - Ries Beerthuisen, 15 lb., 7 oz. won a 14 boat
 - 2nd - Ryan Leblanc of Schreiber, 12 lb., 2 oz. won a four hp motor
 - 3rd - Lorne Sholter of Thunder Bay 11 lb., 8 oz., won a 2.2 hp motor
 - 4th - Cass Littleford of Thunder Bay, 10 lb., 7 oz trout, won a Slate Islands Cruise offered by Slate Island Charter Service.
 - 5th place to 10th place winners:
 Ray Kurylo, Terrace Bay, 10 lb., 1 oz won a three-day fishing trip from Boon Air and Come by Chance Resort; Glen McGee, Terrace Bay, 9 lb., 6 oz., won an inflatable boat from Walker's Marina; Suzanne Black, Terrace Bay, 9 lb., 4 oz., won a charter cruise fishing trip from Elfish Charters; Peter Schritt, Terrace Bay, 8 lb., 5 oz., two chairs from Spadoni Brothers; Bill Roen, Schreiber, 8 lb., 2 oz., a rod and reel from the derby association; and Mary Vanderkam, 8 lb., 1 oz., won a food and lodging package donated by Rossport Inn.

- Salmon Division**
- Top prize was tied by Merce Romanec of Rossport and Joe Paukstys of Terrace Bay. Each was awarded a downrigger from Belluz Realty and Chuckie's Charter for their chinook salmon, which each weighed in at 15 lb., 3 oz.

By early Sunday evening, the prizes were handed out, the people were on their way home, and the grounds were being cleaned up.

The only thing that remained was that really big one that got away.... Well, maybe next year.



Winner of the largest fish category, Ries Beerthuisen proudly displays his trophies. Photo by Frank Rupnik

Centre provides help and shelter for abused women

NFRC Staff—What is wife assault? Wife assault is a crime that is punishable by law. It is done in the home behind closed doors. It is a silent crime that people never discuss.

Wife assault involves the intent by the partner to intimidate, either by a threat or by the use of physical force on the woman's person or property. The purpose of the assault is to control her behaviour by the inducement of fear.

It is estimated that one in ten women in Canada is abused. The women come from all classes, races, age groups, and cultures. The traditional female role conditioning prepares the women at an early age to fulfil their role as wife and care giver.

In some homes the female is taught to be submissive, passive

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