

Terrace Bay - Schreiber

NEWS

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Good fishing at Rosspport Derby



John Zechner can't help but grin with his first place salmon that weighed-in at 15.2 lbs. The winning salmon was brought to the weigh-in tables with less than half-an-hour to go before they closed. For his efforts, Zechner, from Nipigon, won a Cannon Magnum 10A electric down rigger and his name on the history trophy.

Photo by Dave Chmara

By Dave Chmara

"The fish are bigger this year than they ever were," said Bill Collinson, one of the seven organizers of this year's Rosspport Fish Derby.

Although Sunday's rain and lightning forced some of the boats in early, others stayed out up to the last minute - and it paid off.

With only 20 minutes left before the weigh-in tables closed, John Zechner of Nipigon brought in the winning Salmon which weighed in at 15.2 lbs.

For his efforts, Zechner won a Cannon Magnum 10A electric down rigger.

Until that point in time, Mary Deschatelets Salmon of 14.15 lbs had been holding the top spot. She wound up with the second largest Salmon and won a fishing expedition with Chucky's Charters. Coincidentally, it was on Chuck Hutterli's boat that Deschatelets caught her Salmon.

Just before Zechner's prize winning fish was weighed in, Pat Maley of Thunder Bay brought in the second place Lake Trout tipping the scales at 18.8 lbs. For second place, Maley won a Minnkota electric trolling motor.

The first place Lake Trout was caught by Allan Meronyk of Thunder Bay. His fish weighed 19.5 lbs and for first place he won a 17 foot fibreglass Scott canoe and paddle from the Rosspport Fish Derby Association, and a free fish mount from Marathon Wildlife Taxidermy.

The third place Lake Trout was caught by P. French of Thunder Bay that weighed in at 17.3 lbs. His prize was a Si-Tex HE-357 graph fish finder.

The third place Salmon weighed 12 lbs and was caught by Marcus Moeliner of Longlac. He took home a Fiesta propane barbecue with tank for his efforts.

The first place cash door prize of \$1,000 was won by John Joiner of Rosspport. The second prize of \$300 was won by Mike Godin of Schreiber and Shane Riley of Schreiber won the third place door prize of \$200.

Dozens of other prizes were also awarded by holding a draw from those fish that were entered in the derby. A total of \$10,000 of

prizes was handed out to lucky fishermen.

During the awards ceremony, Doug Stefurak, one of the organizers of the derby, thanked the over 100 volunteers for their time and efforts.

Chuck Hutterli, one of the derby organizers, said attendance of this year's derby was estimated at 1,500 to 1,800 people.

"That's down a little from last year's total of about 3,000 but the weather has something to do with it," said Hutterli.

Collinson said the seven organizers began preparing for this year's derby last fall in mid-September.

He said the organizers are always open to suggestions as to how to improve the derby. For instance, they listened to some suggestions last year and as a result, this year all the prizes that were handed out were related to fishing.

One group that really helps the organizers is the Terrace Bay District Ministry of Natural Resources. Collinson said they provide the use of tables and also take gill and other samples of the fish that are caught. They also weigh all the fish and measure their length. Every year, the MNR publishes statistics about the fish caught during the Rosspport Fish Derby (see story on page 2).

In return, the Rosspport Derby Association promotes the use of parks in the area.

Collinson said with all the out of town people coming into Rosspport for the derby, they find accommodations wherever they can.

Local campgrounds and parks, the Rosspport Inn, motor homes and "generally any spot in Rosspport where there is nobody is where people stay," said Collinson.

"There are more people camping on the islands than before," he added.

This was the ninth year for the Rosspport Fish Derby since it was started up following a 15 year period during which it wasn't held because of the lamprey problem.

About 200 to 300 people attended that first derby in 1981.

The first ever Rosspport Fish Derby was held in 1937.



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