

# Lopushinsky guides anglers to the big ones

Mike Lopushinsky couldn't be happier if someone wetting a line in his boat were to reel in a fish.

For the 34-year-old Bradford resident, it's a scene he's witnessed often over the last two years.

And it's a sight he wants to see as often as possible whenever he takes aspiring anglers out for a day's fishing through his Outdoor Fishing Adventures inland water guide service.

Targeting the waters of Lake Simcoe, Kahshe Lake and Sparrow Lake during the open water season, Lopushinsky takes anglers out in his fully insured and equipped 18-foot Stratos bass boat that's powered by a 150-horsepower



Mike Hayakawa

Evinrude outboard motor. They search for a variety of species including black crappies and yellow perch in the early spring.

During the summer months, he pursues largemouth and smallmouth bass and northern pike.

Excursions can take place for a half or full day with one or two-man charters.

"It could be a father and son, husband and wife, two friends or maybe just one person," he said of his clientel.

If clients don't possess any tackle there's no worry as Lopushinsky has the necessary equipment.

The only items clients are required to bring are personal belongings like clothing to battle the elements, snacks and beverages, a baseball cap, sunglasses and sunblock and a valid provincial fishing licence.

"My business is for people who don't have a boat or the gear (tackle) and it's for people who want to go out and have fun. I want to get people hooked on fishing so when they go out they're not disappointed," Lopushinsky said. "It's not for guys who know what they are doing."

While watching his clients catch fish is the ultimate goal, Lopushinsky takes equal delight in showing them why they are successful by divulging the latest tricks of the trade. This philosophy was passed down to him through his father, who first took him angling when he was 10 years old.

"My dad taught me the basics. But things have changed since that time, like equipment and techniques," Lopushinsky said.

"I want people to experience the thrill of catching fish, and I want to promote my service for those who want to learn more about fishing. I want to teach people where fish are

located or things like tying knots or rigging up artificial baits. "Even if someone doesn't know how to use a baitcasting reel and by the end of the day they do know how, I get satisfaction in that. It's a learning process and in the meantime they're actually catching fish," he said.

Beginning his business through the urging of some individuals that he took out on an informal outing, Lopushinsky says he's not pressured by the fear of failing to produce fish each time out.

And pressure is something he's accustomed to through competing in bass tournaments when he's not guiding clients.

"It has a lot to do with confidence," said Lopushinsky, who is a member of the Pure Fishing Ambassador team. "For example, I spend a lot of time on Kahshe Lake and I know where I can catch fish."

Lopushinsky takes pride in his angling knowledge to the point where he offers clients a 10-per-cent discount if they end the day without a catch.

Entering his third year of operation, Lopushinsky is still in the process of attracting new clients and intends to continue his service for as long as he can.

"For this year I have a couple of bookings, but I'd like to get it up to around 20 to 30 a year. It's just a matter of getting my name out there."

"I just try to do the best that I can with what I can." For further information on Lopushinsky's service, check out the Ontario Fishing Adventures website at: [www.outdoor-fishingadventures.com](http://www.outdoor-fishingadventures.com) or call (905) 775-1640.

## Walleye season opens Saturday

Anglers in pursuit of walleyes can legally wet a line in the neighbouring Kawartha Lakes and Lake Simcoe this Saturday.

However, they should consult the 2001 regulations in reference to places that still have an extra week's closure. These include fast-water areas near dams.

Places that anglers might concentrate their efforts on are rivermouth areas with deep dropoffs and weed growth.

Slow presentations of your bait generates plenty of success during early season angling for these delectable delights. While first-and-last-light hours are the key to success, don't neglect the overnight shift as well for these nocturnal feeders.

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