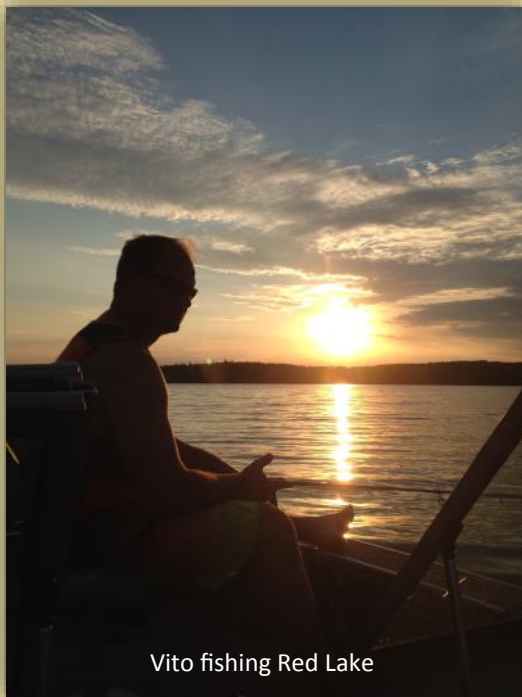




# VIKING ISLAND

NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2015



Vito fishing Red Lake



Hugh, Enid and Vito

Hello Everyone,

I was born and raised here in Red Lake. My parents came over from Italy in the 1950s. My father was an entrepreneur as well, having a logging business and sawmill in the Red Lake area. For the last ten years, I have owned and operated a welding, mechanical and fabricating shop. I plan to continue with this while visiting Viking Island weekly. Mel Durie will be the man helping you day to day on the island. He is from the Rainy River area and is looking forward to this new challenge.

I have admired the fishing lodges in Red Lake for a long time, and it has been one of my goals to own one. I am very grateful for the opportunity to own Viking Island as it has the atmosphere one should expect from a fishing lodge, as well as being far enough off the beaten path to attract unique people.

I have known Enid and Hugh since I was a young boy and look forward to working with them over the next year and carrying on their family tradition.

There will be some changes when you visit Viking Island this year. Of course, the most obvious will be Enid missing, although luckily she has agreed to come out and help a couple days a week until we can get the feel of things. Another big one will be all new docks. We will be doing construction starting this winter, making sure not to interrupt anyone's fishing trip.

I look forward to meeting everyone this year.

Happy fishing

*Vito Tarantino*



Rhian and Arthur found a dead wolf



The lodge sits waiting for spring on April 18, 2014.



Vito checking the ice on his 1st trip to Viking Island this winter (Nov. 29)

## Winter at Viking Island

Winter is the time to take a few items into camp, do some maintenance and enjoy our winter up here. In April of 2014, Hugh took new dock pieces and the metal roofing for the lodge into camp. Our granddaughter Rhian and Arthur found a dead wolf on Douglas. It appeared to have just died of exhaustion.

Vito has already been to camp by skidoo and has plans to freight materials for a new dock, and kitchen in the Eagle's



That rock is usually 4 feet above the water.



On May 18, the ice had retreated enough for us to get to camp and start the chores.



Aaron Denomme came to work. A young cheerful enthusiastic guy.

## SPRING AT VIKING ISLAND

The ice took it's time melting and we didn't get to camp until May 20!! Everything went well and we were ready for Pat Perkins and Jake Vidas and their group when they arrived on Saturday.



Mike Yutzy and one other guy put that roof on in 2 days.



Finally it doesn't rain inside the lodge.

## A NEW ROOF FOR THE LODGE

Mike Yutzy worked for us 20 years ago. As a teenager, he was wild but a hard worker. Now he is the owner of a successful construction company.

## Fishing this Past Summer

Fishing in 2014 was great. It seemed to be the year of big trout. The small walleye were plentiful and the big ones easy to find. People found northern while fishing for walleye and trout. They were at different depths. Many times Enid caught a northern that grabbed a walleye on the line. Many guests had that same experience this summer.



Agnes and Tom Robertson found the lake trout. Not sure who caught this. one.



Mike Martin and Tom Robertson found this 36 inch trout.



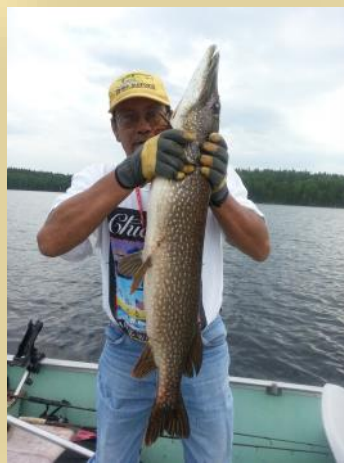
Scott Horwath somehow caught 2 at once.



Jugging in the evening is just pure fun. Watching the sunset is the bonus.



The walleye on the left is a blue walleye with neon blue slime instead of yellow. Enid saw about 6 of these this past summer.



Jim's Northern  
Caught in late June



Ben's Northern was caught in the weeds in July  
with Terry Desmond guiding.



Joe's Northern Pike  
Caught in July



Art, Florence, Hugh, Arthur, Gwyneth and Enid in 1984



Florence turned 100 on Sept 23, 2014 and enjoyed a big party



Hugh and Enid enjoying a week-

## Dear Friends,

December 2014

Well another summer has passed and as the tradition has been, I am writing our annual newsletter. It is with mixed emotions I am letting you know that Enid and I have sold Viking Island. It is said that time marches on and nothing lasts forever. My parents operated Viking Island for 33 years. I was at VI since the year I was born (1947). I was raised there with my two brothers and our children grew up there too. It's our granddaughter's favourite place. Viking Island is my father's final resting place as well as several of our long time guests.

Many of our good friends are VI guests and visiting with you every year will be the thing we miss the most.

However we are excited to introduce you to the new owner, Vito Tarantino. Vito was born in the Red Lake hospital and, in his early teens, was the grocery packer at the West End store where all our groceries came from.

Vito intends to run VI exactly the same as we did but will have the energy and enthusiasm of youth.

He plans to have new docks and has already been hauling in lumber by snowmobile early this winter.

We had other people interested in the purchase of the island but we were concerned they were not prepared for the challenge. Enid and I are excited that a local boy is going to carry on our tradition.

During the winter, Enid is doing the bookings for VI along with Vito. If you are planning a trip give her a call.

Thank you very much for so many many enjoyable years. We could not have had a better lifestyle than this.

Yours truly,

## Hugh

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