

Close to Home

Summertime Local Angling opportunities

It seems like such a simple time; years ago when friends and I would pack our fishing rod and gear in a backpack, hop on our bikes, and ride down to the river for a day of fishing. Whether it was trying to catch a rainbow in one of our urban streams in Thunder Bay, or chasing a multitude of species on the Kam River, there was always something to do with minimal resources; a bike, fishing rod and a couple lures.

Here in Thunder Bay we are incredibly lucky to be surrounded by endless angling opportunities, and easily accessible opportunities at that. One doesn't necessarily need a truck, fancy boat and expensive gear to get out and enjoy themselves on the water. If you have a small car, a bicycle or even a bus pass, you can get out and have good odds of catching a fish.

To shed some light on a few ideas...

Thunder Bay Marina

With all the development and work done recently at the waterfront in Thunder Bay it's a great place to go spend some time, and can also be somewhere worth a bit of effort for anglers. The waters right around the marina can be a good place to catch fish, and right from shore at that. There are several weedy areas off of the rock wall surrounding the marina that can be seen from shore, and can offer anglers good opportunities for catching pike, maybe even the occasional big one. Casting spoons, rapalas or even minnows under a float around these weedbeds from shore can be a good way to target pike.

Current River

The Current offers several different opportunities for anglers in several locations. Starting right at the lake, fittingly at Fisherman's Park. This is a beautiful green space along the Current River that has been developed into a great place to explore and relax, and also another good angling location. You will often see people fishing in the river just up from the lake around Fisherman's Park, or simply off the Pier at the Boat Launch into Lake Superior. It's not uncommon to see fish caught right from the dock at the mouth of the Current River. Anglers can catch walleye and pike here, but being in Lake Superior itself, and at the mouth of the Current River, there is always the possibility of catching other fish as well.

Once you move upstream in the Current River, above Boulevard Lake, it can be a good spot to catch resident brook trout. This river can produce fish from up above Boulevard and all the way upstream. I spent many days as a child with my dad fishing different locations of the Current River along Hwy 527, where it crosses or runs near the highway, another easily accessible spot from shore, just a short drive from town.

Urban Streams

Now spring is typically when our urban streams see the most activity, but anglers can catch fish in these rivers

throughout the year; there may not be the same numbers of spring run steelhead in the rivers, but you still have a chance at landing the odd rainbow or brook trout in many of these creeks, like McVicar and the McIntyre River. Another place to look on the McIntyre is Lake Tamblyn, the reservoir on the Lakehead University property just upstream from the fish ladder. Throughout the spring this can hold migrating rainbows, and drop back steelhead, feeding on their slow route back to the lake. It can also hold fish throughout the year, and is an easily accessible spot, and a nice and easy place to spend your day fishing.

Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area

Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area is just a short drive North of town, off Dawson Rd, and can offer angling opportunities from shore, near the visitor centre, and from a variety of shoreline locations that can be found with a bit of exploring. You can catch walleye, perch and whitefish in here and have decent odds of getting fish right from shore. There is a small fee associated with using Conservation Areas, which assists in maintaining and operating these areas for us.

Kaministiquia River

The Kam River is one place I spent a great deal of time fishing as a young angler, and one of my common bike to fishing destinations. There are several places to fish, some of my favorites being at the boat launch off Montreal St or below or near the Hwy 61 bridge. Both these locations can offer the chance at a variety of fish; walleye, bass, pike, rock bass, and I've even heard of people catching the odd crappie along these locations. Here, just about anything can work, from spoons and rapalas, to a jig and a worm, as it's likely to tempt one of the multitude of fish swimming around.

Lake Superior

There are several locations you can fish from the shore of Lake Superior and try your luck casting along the shoreline. Several easily accessible spots would be Silver Harbour Conservation area and McKenzie Point Conservation Area, both again part of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. Here you could cast spoons along the shoreline in hopes of finding a cruising trout nearby.

Charter

One last option, and one that doesn't require any gear, but has a cost associated with it is hiring a chartered fishing trip on Lake Superior. There are several charter operators in Thunder Bay, that can offer anglers a care free, and often hugely successful day on the water fishing for Salmon and



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Lake Trout. It can be a great way to get out with friends or family, as they can often host numerous people,

and be a great way to spend a day exploring Superior in hopes of catching a fighter trout or salmon. These are nice for someone that wants to get out on Superior and may not have the equipment to do so, as they offer everything; the boat, rods and tackle. They are reasonably priced, especially when split between a group. The two operators worth checking out are Archies Charters, run out of the Marina in Thunder Bay, and Superior Fishing Charters (807-683-8101), just down Lakeshore Drive, both of which offer great fishing trips, and another excellent opportunity for a simple day on the water.

Whether you're a dedicated anglers looking for somewhere close and simple after work, or someone looking for somewhere to go a test your luck, take advantage of some of the incredible opportunities we're so lucky to have at our fingertips here in Thunder Bay.