

MINIPI RIVER TRIP REPORT - EARLY AUGUST, 2004

Summary: We got a total of 11 fish between 5 and 7 pounds, all on dry flies, our smallest number of five+ pound fish of our four trips. After the green drake hatch fell off mid-week, the surface fishing slowed even though caddis and small may flies continued to hatch.

The pike option is one that should receive more attention. Jim and Andrew Hine took several fish on poppers near grass and lilies with explosive takes. Each had one over eight pounds. Good sport and exciting. Viable fly fishing option when the hatches are off and the brookies hard to find on the surface. Anne Marie has pike to 15 pounds and Minipi to 30+ pounds.

Weather: overall good, rivaled our first and second trips for “best weather” trips to Minipi.

Minipi Lodge (on Minipi Lake* has pike to 30 pounds and good access to large numbers of 1-2# brookies close to the lodge in the river outlet and just downstream. This would be the best option of the three lodges for someone looking for numbers of brookies. Big brookies are also available, but I would favor Anne Marie or Minonipi Lodges for the big boys.

What the Minipi River experience is:

- first and foremost, the world’s best destination for stalking and sight-casting to giant brook trout of 5 to 8 pounds on the surface.
- A wilderness experience in a beautiful, unspoiled area.
- Provides a feeling of exclusiveness – only anglers we’ve seen were the 8 or less anglers staying with us at the lodge.
- Guides who will work an angler’s dream day – start at 9:00am and fish through dark at 10:30 with a two hour break for dinner (very few operations still provide long days on the water).
- Has a pike option that can provide explosive surface takes and meaningful numbers of good fish.

What the Minipi River experience ISN’T:

- Luxury – rather, seasoned, clean, and well maintained wilderness lodges with good food at Anne Marie and Minonipi. The newest and larger lodge at Minipi Lake provides a few more amenities.
- No weather guaranties – like most of the world’s great trophy fisheries, weather can be an issue.
- Tough to find space during the best hatch weeks because of the large number of repeat clients, some who’ve been making annual trips for 10, 20 and 30+ years during the same week each year.
- Bugs – mosquitoes and black flies in shore areas.
- Difficult to get to Goose Bay, Labrador. You must overnight in Toronto, Halifax, or Boston to get there from California, but are able to make the return in the same day due to the time zone difference.

Philosophy of fly fishing for trophy fish: Fishing for trophy fish seems to be similar, whether it’s New Zealand for big browns and rainbows, the Dean for large steelhead, Belize for tarpon and permit, or the Minipi for giant brookies. A great fly fishing destination will have the “fish of a lifetime” available and the fishing is done in environments of stunning beauty. While the fish may be there, having a great day of “catching” is dependent primarily on weather conditions and the skill of the angler. The “fantasy” days do happen in the “right” destinations, but those days are to be treasured.

Click on the following links for additional information and/or client comments about this destination:

Trips You Plan Far in Advance:

[Giant Brookies of the Minipi River](#)

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