

# Manitoba Parkland Update!

By Bob Morenski



**Dave LaFrance poses with a rainbow caught on a chironomid off the dock at Tokaryk Lake.**

Pictures by Ron Granneman

I am really starting to get hyped up by what is happening in the Manitoba Parkland. One of the best stories of the year was the **Tokaryk Lake**. As I reported in our last newsletter, Tokaryk is back! For a lake that supposedly winterkilled, the fishing was sure hot. The growth of these fish since spring has been phenomenal. The fishing was great there this fall with rainbows to 23 inches caught consistently and I had one report of a 25 inch bow. Brown trout were not as numerous but browns up to 23 inches were present, as well. The only bad news that I have about Tokaryk Lake is that the aerator will not be going in until June 2010. This may not be a problem this winter. Ice did not form until the end of November and if we have a warm winter with light snow, the lake should make it through the winter just fine. The rainbow/steelhead cross that are in this lake are just wild. They are really spectacular around the end of June. I already bought some stripping guards to protect my fingers from line burn when fishing Tokaryk at that time of year.



**The rainbow/steelhead cross on Tokaryk are some very healthy fish. These fish have some shoulders to them like this chunky 23 inch specimen that smashed an olive Zoo Cougar.**

Fish and picture are courtesy of Ron Granneman

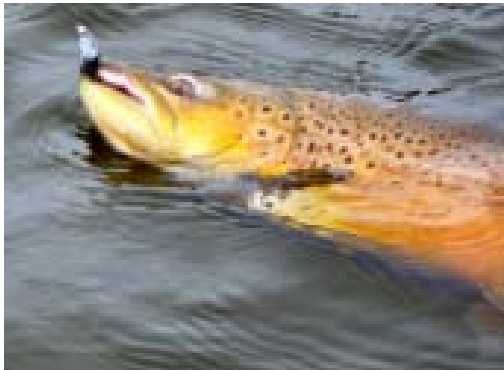
While I suspect that the ice fishermen will crop off some of this excellent year class of rainbows, I think it will be good for the fish and the fishery. With the number of big fish in the system, they

would eat themselves out of house and home. We should see a lot of 25 plus inch rainbows here next season with some up to 28 or 29 inches.



Here are a few more pictures of Tokaryk rainbows for you to enjoy supplied by Ron Granneman.

**Patterson Lake** was once again my home away from home this year. If you are a camper, there is no better place to camp. Here you have two high quality trout lakes (Patterson and Tokaryk) less than 2 miles apart. With the way each of them lay in respect to each other, you can get into some good fishing no matter which way the wind blows. I would not worry about going up there and not knowing anyone. Four of our club members have seasonal camping permits for Patterson and there is almost always someone around in the spring and fall.



**This is a nice Patterson Lake brownie that crushed a silver & black Ice Minnow.**

**A Bob Morenski Photo**

Patterson fished a little slower this fall due to the heat wave that we had in September and the subsequent algae bloom. Despite this, I caught fish every session that I fished. I am expecting it to fish great again next spring. I am really looking to fishing the north end of the lake after ice out. There are a lot of spots on this side of the lake that offer some great fishing opportunities that are not available during the rest of the year.

One very important development on Patterson Lake was the fencing off of cattle along the north end. This has been one of the main sources of nutrients entering the lake. In general, Patterson Lake has been getting clearer every year since the aeration system has been turned on. Fencing the cattle back from the north end, will greatly reduce the excess nutrients getting into the lake. In a couple more years, the water clarity should be greatly improved.

**Pybus Lake** is starting to produce some very good fish. I had 2 reports of 25 inch rainbows being caught there. The water clarity is still off but I think that has a lot to do with the aeration system. During the first few years of operation, aeration pumps up a lot of nutrients from the bottom. This increases algae blooms and reduces water clarity. Now I fished it on a cloudy day at the end of September right after that bright hot weather that persisted during that month. We had heavy algae blooms during this period and I suspect that added to the problem. I hooked 3 fish and landed none. The people who have fished it on sunny days have reported better success. I am going to hit this again next spring. This lake also has tiger trout. I saw one feeding that was at least 21 inches.

**Corstorphine Lake** had its aeration lines repaired this summer. It winter killed last year and it was stocked with 15,000 rainbows this spring. It should start producing some nice trout next season.

The reports that I had from **Twin Lakes** indicated that the lake fished slower this season but the average size and girth of the fish has improved. I heard rumors that Manitoba was going to scrap its tiger trout program but I talked to **Grant McBain** who is their Fish Culture Manager. Grant told me that the rumor is false. In fact they are planning to start heat shocking the eggs to make these fish triploids. This should increase both the longevity and girth of these fish.

All the hurdles are now cleared for **Persse Lake**. The aeration system is set to be installed next June. I am looking forward to this lake coming on line. Persse Lake used to be the best trout lake in this part of Manitoba. It is deeper than the other FLIPPR lakes and has a tremendous forage base. With its proximity to Twin Lakes, it will offer a great one two punch. There is a plan to put a campground in on Persse which will make it an awesome location. It looks like I may have to spring for 2 seasonal campground permits.

Did you know that **Beautiful Lake** in **Duck Mountain Provincial Park** has rainbows in it? Rainbows were stocked here a few years ago and are now 23.5 inches. This lake is a scud factory and it is also loaded with walleye. So, if you are in the Ducks and you are seeking trout, this is one you may want to try.

Last but not least, **Grant McBain** also told me that Manitoba is going to be stocking triploid rainbows starting in 2010/2011. These are going to be stocked in some of the trophy trout lakes. If this comes to fruition, we may start encountering 30 plus inch trout in a few more years. Triploids tend to live longer and grow heavier because they do not have to put any energy into reproduction.

In conclusion, the fishing in the Manitoba Parkland is great and getting better. It is fast becoming one of the top drive to, trophy trout destinations on the North American continent. It has all things you want from a fishery. Big fish, special regulations, trophy trout, affordability and variety are just some of its attributes. If you have not been there yet, get up there. It is a great fishery which keeps getting better every year.



**Just for something different, I thought I would show the picture of a black bear that I took while fishing the "B" hole Patterson Lake this past fall. When I first saw the bear, I was within 50 feet. About the same time**

**that I decided to take a picture, I hooked a rainbow which was dragging me in the opposite direction. This particular bear is one that lives on the island on Patterson Lake. Despite the large numbers of black bear in the area, we have had no problems with bear coming into the campground at Patterson Lake.**

**Photo by Author**