

Baby it's cold outside – but the fishing is heating up

BY CAPT. FRANK CAMPBELL
 Director, Outdoor Promotions
 Destination Niagara USA

Sport fishing is available all year here in the Niagara River Region, but the upcoming months are what really set us apart from the rest of the fishing world and the Great Lakes, in particular.

The power that Niagara Falls affords the Lower Niagara River prevents it from freezing up like the other waterways here in the northern half of the U.S. The flow of the navigable white waters of the mighty river can reach up to about 12 miles per hour, and even the calmer areas down river from Lewiston often move at 2 mph. Never freezing enables boating and, to a lesser degree, shoreline access, to some world-class fishing opportunities throughout the winter months.

What possesses a sane person to leave the comforts of a warm, cozy house in the winter? Steelhead, brown trout, lake trout and walleye draw anglers from near and far to pursue these game fish, even on the coldest days of January and February. The opportunity to open water fish during the winter is very unusual – and catching trophy size species of these sportfish is surely the allure. But could it also be a badge of honor scenario or a bragging opportunity as people look at these individuals, as they are some the bravest anglers on the planet to challenge the mighty Niagara during the winter months?

I often get the look of “are you off your rocker?” – pulling a boat through snow-filled streets head-



ing toward the dock. Oftentimes, I have the same thoughts, but on a calm day there is something addictive about wrestling in a double-digit-sized trout. Additionally, it does not hurt that the scenery is unmatched when a fresh layer of white snow complements the blue clear waters of the Niagara as a bald eagle circles overhead. It truly is a bucket list opportunity we can offer only here in Niagara County.

On a side note, the opportunity to access the Lower Niagara would not be possible if not for the efforts of the Village of Lewiston DPW to keep the launch open

and ice-free all winter. So, on behalf of all the anglers that use the river all throughout the winter, thank you!

Stocking Stuffers

Christmas is less than a month away, so I am going to offer some gift ideas for that fisherman or fisherwoman on your list. As I mentioned prior, there is no better year-round sport fishing in the country, so why not purchase a gift certificate for a fishing trip with one of the great charter captains we have in the area? Captains supply all the needed equipment as well as the expertise to make the outing a successful and



The Lower Niagara offers world-class sport fishing, and experiencing it in winter really sets this region apart from others.

safe experience on the river. A full listing of captains can be found on at www.niagarafallsusa.com. Hit the “Things To Do” tab, which will access the outdoors and fishing portion of the website.

Another great option is to purchase a ticket to the walleye or salmon schools offered at the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo, which runs Feb. 15-18, 2024, at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. The schools offer in-depth instruction, which will help one become a better angler. Experts at both schools will offer tricks and tactics to help you catch more fish on your next outing. More information can be found on the show website, www.niagarafishingexpo.com.

If there is a young angler on the

list, take a look at getting them a lifetime fishing license. This enables them to fish New York's waters for their lifetime even if they move out of state. It truly is the gift that keeps on giving. For additional information, the NYS DEC website is www.dec.ny.gov. I hope these ideas are some help – and I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

I hope to see you enjoying the local outdoors. Every week, I produce a fishing report (Niagara County Fishing Hotline). You can access it online at www.niagarafallsusa.com, or by simply calling 716-282-8992, ext. 4, to hear what's up in the world of fishing. It is updated every Wednesday.

Artpark awarded \$30,000 by the New York State Council on the Arts

Artpark & Company announced a grant award totaling \$30,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support the nonprofit arts and culture sector.

It stated, “Through New York state's continued investment in arts and culture, NYSCA has awarded over \$80 million since spring 2023 to over 1,500 artists and organizations across the state.”

Gov. Kathy Hochul said, “Research confirms what we've always known here in New York: Arts and culture are a powerhouse, with a staggering return on investment for our economy and our communities. Nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity nationwide in 2022, and New York's unparalleled arts and culture sector is leading the way to

benefit our residents, our students and our visitors every day. I commend these grantees on their achievements and look forward to their contributions in the coming year.”

NYSCA Chair Katherine Nicholls added, “Thanks to the unwavering support of Gov. Hochul and our Legislature, NYSCA is so proud to support the work of organizations and artists from all across New York. Spanning the entire breadth of the arts and culture sector – from world-renowned performers to after-school programs, from long-established museums to community arts collectives – these organizations and artists together are a powerful driver of health, tourism, economy and education for our residents and visitors. On behalf of the council and staff, congratulations to Artpark & Company and thank you for your

perseverance, your creativity and your tireless service to New York state.”

A press release noted NYSCA's mission is “to foster and advance the full breadth of New York state's arts, culture and creativity for all. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York state, the Council on the Arts will award \$127 million in FY 2024. The Council on the Arts further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources.

“Created by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Gov. Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the council is an agency that is part of the executive branch. For more information on NYSCA, visit www.arts.ny.gov.”

It added, “Established in 1974 as a collaboration between New York State Parks and the nonprofit Artpark & Company, Artpark welcomes artists to enjoy and be inspired by the dramatic scenery and rich history of the Niagara River Gorge, and welcomes visitors and locals to enjoy the art and experiences created on its 150 acres.

“Over the decades, Artpark has hosted tens of thousands of avant-garde visual artists, cutting-edge performers, beloved bands and

musicians, poets and writers, and more, earning a worldwide reputation as a special place to make and experience art.

“This living cultural legacy weaves into the area's history and present-day significance to Western New York's Indigenous population, the more recent history of investment in sustainable hydroelectric power that both shaped and funded the site, and the Niagara River and Gorge's extraordinary natural beauty.”

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~ WEEKLY SPECIALS ~
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WED 6AM-2PM - Hot Turkey Sandwich or Fish - Battered, Breaded, Baked
THURS 6AM-2PM - Breaded Pork Chop with Parsley Potatoes, Sauerkraut and Applesauce
FRI 6AM-2PM - Haddock, Fish Sandwiches, Tuna Melts & New England Clam Chowder
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