



Newsletter

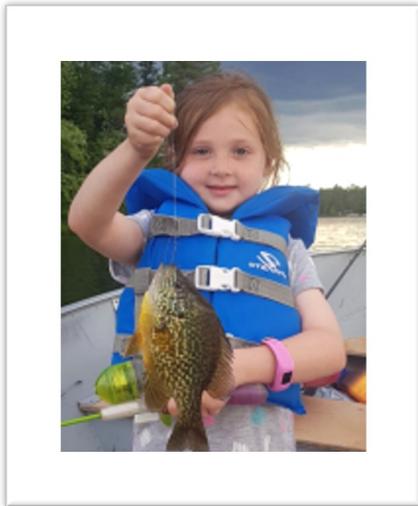
Celebrating our Junior Anglers from 2021

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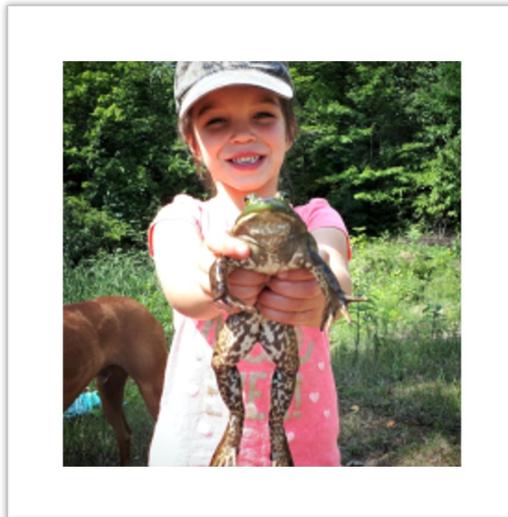
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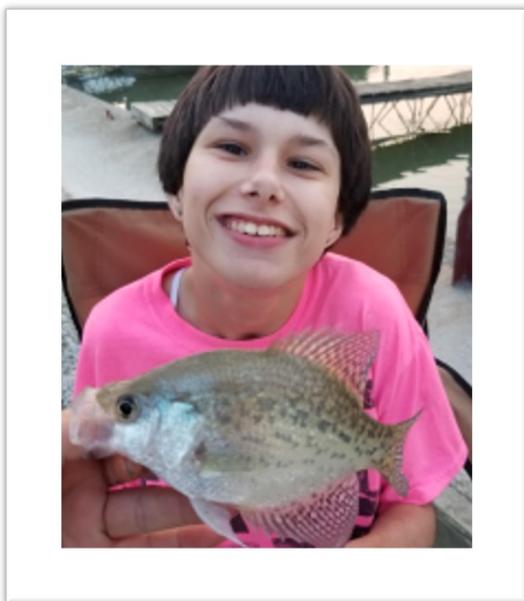
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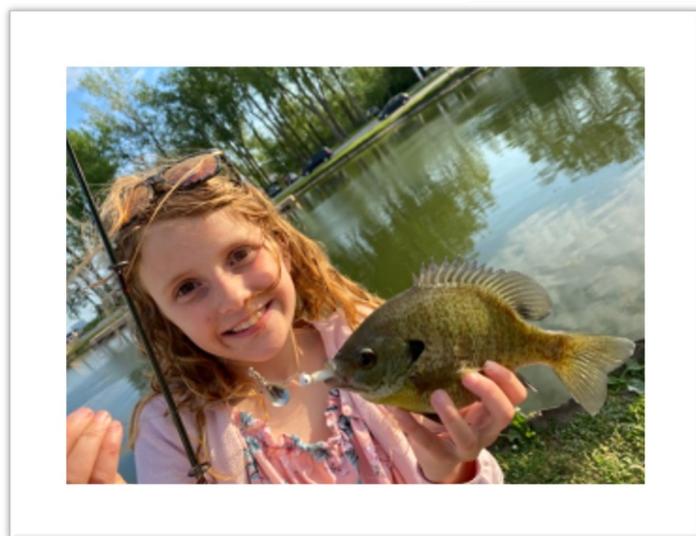
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Do you know a Junior Angler?

With each newsletter, we share a story about a young lady in the fishing community. Our previous stories include girls from all over Ontario and from all different angling backgrounds. If you know a young female angler, age 17 and under, that would be interested in sharing her story, please contact Ontario Women Anglers at: jrclub.owa101@gmail.com

Ice Fishing Safety

- Before heading out onto the ice, be sure to check the weather conditions for the day as well as the ice conditions. Your local ice hut operators and bait shops are a good source for current ice conditions. Continue to watch weather conditions throughout the day as they can change rapidly. (Generally, blue and black ice is the safest and grey and white is the weakest). No ice is 100% safe.
- Avoid fishing near culverts, rivers, open water etc. as the ice is generally very weak in those areas.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions and temperature. Wool and fleece are generally the warmest. Dress in layers so you can remove one or two if you start getting to warm. See Page 11 for more information about how to dress for ice fishing!
- Learn the signs of hypothermia. Hypothermia can set in without you realizing and is a very serious condition that requires immediate medical attention. Learn more about hypothermia at: <https://buythermopro.com/knowledge/hypothermia-body-temperature/>
- Be aware of your surroundings. There can be ice in different stages within the same area. Ice rarely freezes at the same thickness. Also watch for holes left from other fishermen.
- Wear a personal flotation device or suit just in case you go through the ice. This will prevent you from getting stuck under the ice or sinking.
- Have a pair of ice safety picks in case you go through the ice. These are worn around your neck, so you have quick access to them, and will allow you to hold on to the ice or pull yourself out of the hole.
- Wear boots rated for the temperature you are going to be in and attach a pair of ice cleats to keep your traction on the ice. These will save you from slipping and falling.
- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses. You can still get a sunburn even in the winter and the glare from the ice can make it hard to see.



<https://shop.clamoutdoors.com/floating-ice-picks.html>



<https://www.costadelmar.com/en-us/sunglasses/6S9009-97963497756>

(Continued on page 3)

- Bring food and water with you. Physical exertion and cold weather can rob you of energy very quickly. Also, if the weather changes and you get stuck out on the ice, you will have something to drink and eat until help arrives.
- Make sure to check the fishing regulations for the body of water you are going to be on before you hit the ice. This will allow you to know about what fish are in season, how many lines you are allowed in the water, slot size, limits, etc. A printed copy can come in handy in case you do not get service on your phone.
- Always take a cell phone or satellite phone so you can get help if needed. Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back. If you are not back in time, that person can call the police and guide them to where you should be. The SPOT phone is an excellent and reliable device if you plan on going to areas where you may not get cell phone service.
- Always take safety equipment with you. Examples: safety kit, rope, flashlight/headlamp, survival blanket and the items mentioned above. Do not fish alone! Make sure you are within eyesight of your family or friends just in case something happens.



<https://www.findmespot.com/en-ca/products-services/supported-products>

Happy fishing and be safe!



https://www.amazon.ca/-/fr/SYOURSELF-Crampons-crampons-antid%C3%A9rapants-randonn%C3%A9e/dp/B09MCK5FWL/ref=sr_1_6?__mk_fr_CA=%C3%85M%C3%

Game Changer: The CLAM Drill Plate



The countdown is on to another hardwater season, and, like most ice anglers, I've started preparing my equipment for another fun season. I began ice fishing about 10 years ago and, over a period of several years, purchased various pieces of equipment to make my trips out more accessible, more comfortable and more time efficient. Of course, an auger is an absolute must and one of the first upgrades I made, after a couple of ice fishing seasons, was to go from a hand auger to a gas-powered one.

A Weighty Mistake

At the time, I thought buying a powered auger with a 51cc engine was a good investment and it did serve its purpose but, as I normally walk out on the ice, it wasn't too long before I found this 36 lb set up quite heavy and cumbersome to use. As well, there were times when I didn't have the muscle power to pull the start cord or shoulder problems prevented me from using the machine altogether and I had to resort back to a hand auger.

The CLAM Drill Plate

I needed an auger that would be both reliable and manageable, so I began to research the various options available. In 2013, CLAM Outdoors launched their new conversion kit that, coupled with a cordless electric drill and auger bit, provided a great lightweight, inexpensive and portable solution. Assembled, my new set up (with a 6" auger bit) is only 12 lbs and has made a huge difference in transporting my gear out on the ice. Using an electric drill that I already had and the bit from my hand auger, it was also an inexpensive transition. <https://shop.clamoutdoors.com/clam-drill-plate.html>



Another reason I like using this set up is that it's more environmentally friendly than gas-powered augers. It's quieter to run, you don't need fossil fuels to run it and there are no fumes to deal with. In testing, CLAM prostaff were able to drill 700 inches of ice with one battery charge and improvements to the drill plate were made in 2014 after receiving consumer feedback: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkJz5Qo2HY>

This will be my 5th or 6th season using the CLAM drill plate and I don't think I would ever go back to a gas auger. On outings and at Ontario Women Angler events, other ice anglers always seem curi-

(Continued from page 4) **Game Changer: The CLAM Drill Plate**

ous when they see the drill set up in use, so I offer to let them try it out and drill a few holes. I must admit, I've made more than a few converts!

Choosing the Right Drill

When I first started using the CLAM drill plate, I was primarily targeting panfish through the ice and the DeWalt cordless hand drill I had worked fine for drilling 5" holes but I ran into trouble when switched to an 8" auger bit for larger species. My drill was underpowered and not brushless, so it wasn't long before I had smoke coming out of the motor.

CLAM recommends using an 18-volt, brushless drill so, after scouring the ice fishing forum pages, I invested in a Milwaukee M18 FUEL 18V Lithium-Ion Brushless Cordless 1/2-inch drill and upgraded the 2Ah (amp hours) battery to a 5Ah. So far, I have never run out of power, even on the coldest days, but still carry an extra battery with me just in case.

After-market Modification



Photo: Kim Drana

To reduce play in the drill plate trigger, several ice anglers add a return spring to the trigger shaft. Kim Drana (aka [BadgerFarmGirl](#)) from [Wisconsin Women Fish](#) created the following video to, not only show all the steps in assembling the CLAM drill plate but also to include instructions for adding the return spring: <https://youtu.be/jgDfZTQ3HPo>

The CLAM Power Drive Gear Box

For those wanting to use the drill plate with 8 – 10" auger bits, CLAM recommends adding the power drive gear box: <https://shop.clamoutdoors.com/power-drive-gear-box.html> This accessory is designed to increase auger power and to reduce torque on the drill, increasing its life. The gear box costs approximately \$110 - \$130 CDN and increases the weight of your set up by nearly two pounds. You can also purchase the drill plate with the gear box already installed for a cost of around \$200. I have read mixed reviews on the gear box and I will be trying it for the first time for pike and lake trout fishing in 2022.



(Continued on page 6)



Photo: Erin Wilson

(Continued from page 5) **Game Changer: The CLAM Drill Plate**

If you're planning on investing in a powered auger this season, be sure to consider these factors:

- Transportation ease
- Weight
- Power source
- Drill quality
- Cost
- Availability
- Auger bit size

Auger Type with 8" bit	Average Weight	Average Cost (CDN)
Gas Powered - 33cc engine	28 – 34 lbs	\$375 - \$600
Gas Powered - 51cc engine	35 – 40 lbs	\$600 - \$800
Lithium Powered (40v)	17 – 24 lbs	\$600 - \$1,100
CLAM Drill Plate with electric drill	12 – 14 lbs	\$120 drill plate \$80 - \$150 hand auger bit Drill extra

Winter Tracks Challenge

Many animals are still active in the winter in Ontario. The frozen bodies of water give them an opportunity to travel in areas that would normally be inaccessible to them. Next time you're out ice fishing and waiting for a bite, try spotting the tracks of these creatures in the snow!



Deer tracks in snow. Photo from iStock.



Rabbit tracks in snow.

Photo from Ontario Parks.



Squirrel tracks in snow.

Photo from Seashore to forest floor.



Coyote tracks in the snow. They are often in a straight line, whereas dog tracks are often more random.

Photo from Conservancy for CVNP.



An imprint from an owl capturing a rabbit. Note that huge wingspan! Photo from Earthly Mission

Tackle to Try: The Jig

With the water beginning to freeze, we are introducing you to the jig as a new type of tackle and technique to catch fish through the ice. Ice fishing is a great way to get out and enjoy the winter and can be exciting when you land a catch!

Jigs

Jigs are a standard item to have in your ice fishing tackle box. They usually have a weighted head and a hook attached. They can be baited with a minnow or minnow head, or other legal live bait or a soft plastic bait. They can be dropped down into the water and kept still, when using a fishing rod and line or tip up line (this is known as “dead sticking”) or you can “jig” your line if using a fishing rod. The term “jigging” means giving some vertical movement. This can be done gently, or with a bit of force. Jigs can vary in size depending on the weight needed and size of the hook. Your choice will depend on the type of fish you are going for, as well as the water you are fishing. For example, you may choose different jigs depending on the depth and current. They also come in a variety of colours and the colours you choose should be selected based on the clarity of the water and sometimes the fish you are after. For example, sometimes pike like a red colour. Some jigs even have hair attached, which makes it mimic live bait.

There are three main styles of jigs noted below (see “Three Kinds of Ice Fishing Jigs” by Tim Allard <http://ontariofishing.net/news2008/mar2008-2.html>).

1. Horizontal Jigs

These jigs, the body and head, sit in the water in a horizontal position and have the eye where the line is attached on their weighted head. They do not flutter when they drop and have a fast sink rate. They get the bait down to the fish fast, especially in deeper water. This type of jig is also good for purposefully hitting bottom to create a silt cloud, which can sometimes bring in fish. With horizontal jigs, you can also try something called “pounding” which is the slight quiver movement that causes them to rock up and down, which can also attract fish. They can also be used still with both live and artificial baits.



(Continued on page 8)

2. Vertical Jigs

These jigs hang vertically in the water and the eye that attaches to the line is at the top of the lure with the hook at the bottom. When they are jigged, they present a flashy, fluttering action that can bring in fish. Move these jigs with a slight lift and gentle fall action or a harder, faster jigging action. When using a live minnow, the motion of the bait can also create movement of the jig.



3. 45 Degree Jigs

This style is somewhere in between the two described above. They sit at a 45-degree angle in the water with the hook pointed slightly downward and with the hook eye elevated. Again, you can tip these jigs with live bait. You can get 45 Degree Jigs to move in either a swimming or rocking motion.



(Continued on page 9)

Bait

Along with minnows, you can tip your jig with other live bait such as various insect larvae available at your local bait shop, including wax worms and maggots. A variety of these can be found both live and in plastic form at your local tackle and bait shop.

For larger fish such as walleye, pike or perch, you will likely want to use a minnow. For lake trout, tipping with a white tube jig is popular however, other fish will also go for these as well. For panfish such as bluegill or crappie, there are even smaller plastics that can be used that replicate insect larvae/nymphs such as grubs, wax worms or tiny minnows.

In choosing colours to use, think about the body of water you are fishing. In dirty stained waters, choose brighter colours such as white and chartreuse and you can use more movement to jig your line to attract fish. In clearer water, you may want to choose a more natural colours as fish can see your jig and bait more easily. Sometimes even lures with a touch of silver, gold or white, or a small flashy colourful spoon can attract.

Remember, when using a live minnow, you want to attach it to the hook so as to keep the minnow alive. This will entice the fish and give some movement to your jig. There are a couple of ways to do this: hook the minnow through it's back just behind the dorsal fin but be careful not to pierce the minnow's spine. You can also hook the minnow through its lips. See [How to Hook a Minnow \(wikiHow\)](#) or [4 Ways to Rig Up a Minnow \(Outdoor Canada\)](#).

Explore the internet to find the variety of jigs available. The images in this article show only a few examples of the types and colours available.

Don't be afraid to try new baits or presenting them in different ways to try to attract your catch.

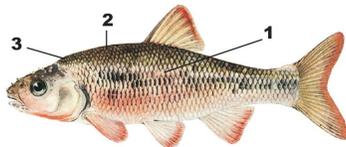


Baitfish in Ontario

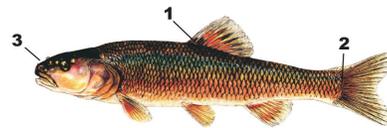
Baitfish are small fish caught for use as bait to attract large predatory fish, particularly game fish. There are over 40 species of baitfish that people in Ontario can legally use. If you plan on using live bait for fishing, it is critical that you know how to identify baitfish species. There are an increasing number of baitfish in Ontario that are illegal to use because they may be considered species-at-risk or non-native/introduced species. Some common baitfish species include (pictured left to right below) the common shiner, and the creek chub. To learn more about identifying baitfish in Ontario, check out the [Baitfish Primer](#).

The Baitfish Primer is a guide for identifying and protecting Ontario's baitfish. It includes fish families, species accounts, describes baitfish habitat, a summary of the regulations and legislation, the potential impacts of harvesting, and using baitfish for fishing. To read the Baitfish Primer, visit:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/publications/baitfish-poissons-appats/index-eng.html>



LEGAL



LEGAL

Photos from the Baitfish Primer <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/publications/baitfish-poissons-appats/page01-eng.html>

New Baitfish Management Zones (BMZ)

To restrict the movement of baitfish and leeches, Ontario is now divided into four bait management zones (BMZ). You can find the BMZ map here: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/bait#section-0>. Effective January 1, 2022, live and dead baitfish (and leeches) cannot be moved between these bait management zones (with only some limited exceptions in the regulations). If you possess baitfish from a BMZ where you do not live, you must purchase them from a licensed commercial harvester and be able to produce a legible receipt for a Conservation Officer. The receipt also needs the location, date, the business name, commercial license number and quantity of baitfish or leeches obtained.

Disposing of Baitfish

Always properly dispose of your bait on land and away from water. It is illegal to dispose of your bait within 30 m of any body of water. This includes both live and dead fish, any part of them, including eggs and whatever they were transported in (i.e. the water in the bucket).

More Information

For specific information about baitfish regulations and baitfish management zones, check out the Ontario Fishing Regulations: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>

What to wear on the ice...and what if I have to pee??

What a fun time can be had while out on the ice waiting for the tip to go down on my ice rod or for the flag to go up on my pop up!

I always take the time to sit and reflect on what exactly I am going to need before I load up the back of my van to head out fishing with my great fishing buddies. During this reflection time, there were two topics that came to mind: What to wear and what do you have to go pee? PLEASE DON'T LAUGH WE ALL HAVE TO GO PEE!!!

What do I wear?

Of course, the goal is for you to keep warm and dry but the weight of what you are wearing is important too.

- Base Layer
- Socks
- Sweats/mid layer
- Jacket/bibs (floating suit)
- Boots
- Buffs
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Gloves
- Hand/foot warmers
- Ice picks



One important thing to remember is that it's important to buy either a two piece or one-piece float suit that is large enough to fit all the layers underneath and still provide space to move. Ladies, you can find suits that zip open in a way that will allow you to use the washroom without having to take off all your layers. For more about how to dress, watch [Complete Guide To Ice Fishing - #4 - How To Dress \(Clothing\)](#) by [Jay Siemens](#).

There are snowsuits that are made specifically for females where they have considered our need to pee during the design process! Yahoo!! Remember to ask questions when you are shopping for a suit and read online reviews as well. If they do not have what you are looking for at a store, ask staff if they have suggestions on where to find it or for alternatives. Some suggestions include:

- Ice Armor by Clam: <https://clamoutdoors.com/pages/ice-armor-by-clam>
- Striker Brands <https://strikerbrands.com/collections/ice-fishing-suits>
- DSG Outerwear: <https://dsgouterwear.com/ice-fishing-gear/>

There are also different styles of washrooms or assist tools that are available for us to use while out on the ice. Check out [Amazon](#) to see the different ([Shewee](#)) styles available.

- Two options for ice fishing outhouses:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZRi3stNANE> by [Dubbya's DIY](#)

- Check out a review of female urination products:

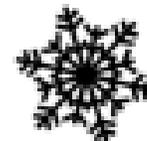
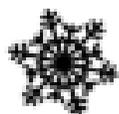
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3SCfSSkaiw> by [Jill Heinerth](#)



Colour me!



Ice Fishing Word Find



E I C V K G V L W H Z H R L Q
C G E R P O L J A S O A S Z W
A D N O A I R G L U G B K T M
C R H U G P P F L L N V Z Y O
E H E E L O P L E S I D P O X
X Q U G O L B I Y Q R U L Y D
U L Y C U O E F E N A Q V I V
B T S M B A Q K J G E D U Z F
Y K D B G T L T S F P N J T H
J A E Y T N A H S U S N C U F
S R T I P U P L E P M G L W H
X N U N N Z S X I D U T N G I
N J Q P W G M Y L X U D L Z N
G B G N C F Y J G E Z T T Z B
G G N J I G G I N G I W E U P

Anger

Bluegill

Bobber

Crappie

Jigging

Muskellunge

Scoop

Shanty

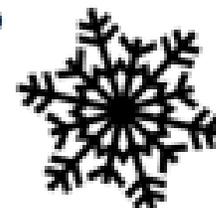
Slush

Spearing

Spud

Tip-up

Walleye



Word Find from Michigan Government

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IceFishingWordSearch_549136_7.pdf

I is for ice fishing

