

# Local anglers impress in Lake Ontario fishing derbies

BY TERRY DUFFY  
Editor-in-Chief

Lake Ontario fishing is alive and well in 2020 – evidenced by the holding of three highly successful fishing derbies this past spring, summer and early fall.

According to reports by David Figura of [www.nyup.com](http://www.nyup.com), following the spring Lake Ontario Counties opener that saw \$43,350 in cash prizes awarded, tens of thousands more in cash prizes went to anglers who participated in two major contests this summer. That included the 2020 Lake Ontario Counties Trout and Salmon Derby held in late June and early July, and the Fall Lake Ontario Counties fishing derby that ended in early September, which again featured catches of prized Chinook salmon.

Both events also saw impressive catches by northern Niagara anglers.

Leading off with the summer tourney, angler Donald Stacknick, of Dalton, Pennsylvania, was awarded the \$10,000 grand prize for his July 18 Chinook salmon catch (weighing in at 30 pounds, 6 ounces). Stacknick bagged the fish trolling in over 120 feet of water off of Fair Haven in Cayuga County.

Locally, angler Cynthia Culverwell of Ransomville won the

Salmon Division with a 29-pound, 12-ounce, Chinook weighed in at Bootleggers Cove. Culverwell was fishing aboard the All-In and caught it on a Wire/Spin Drive/N&D cut bait combination.

The Salmon Derby began June 27 and included \$32,250 in cash prizes. Prize monies included \$1,000 for the winners of each division (salmon, brown trout, lake trout and walleye). Awards of \$400 and \$300 went to the second- and third-place finishers. In addition, there was \$1,000 in weekly prizes awarded for the largest salmon bagged each week, and \$500 for the largest fish in the other divisions.

Moving onto the fall LOC derby, visiting angler Timothy Anderson of Columbus, Ohio, took home the \$25,000 grand prize with his catch of a 31-pound, 5-ounce Chinook salmon. Anderson bagged the Chinook just west of Olcott, fishing with Capt. Vince Pierleoni of Thrillseeker Sportfishing Charters out of Newfane.

“It was a magnificent specimen (of a salmon),” Pierleoni said, adding it was caught on a wire/Dreamweaver combination and weighed at the Boat Doctors in Olcott.

The fish was caught mid-morning on Aug. 29 in windy condi-

tions, which made landing it challenging, according to Pierleoni.

“There were four long runs. It was a 30-minute battle,” he explained.

All said, the fall derby featured a total of \$67,400 in cash prizes. There were three divisions of fish: salmon, rainbow/steelhead and brown trout. Prizes included \$5,000 for first in the salmon division and \$2,500 for the winners in the rainbow/steelhead and brown trout divisions.

Local winners in the salmon division included Tim Contes of Wilson, who caught a 28.03-pound fish, weighed in at the Wilson Boatyard Marina in Wilson. Contes used an AFW Wire/cut bait combo for his catch. Jeffrey Bognar of Grand Island bagged a 27.14-pound salmon, also weighed in at the Wilson Boatyard Marina. Bognar utilized a wire/meat rig in his catch.

Wrapping up, young angler Shawn Pinkham of Sanborn bagged a 15-pound, 9-ounce, rainbow/steelhead on Aug. 31. It was weighed in at Boat Doctors in Olcott and caught on an Ande/Spin Doctor rig.

Visit the LOC derby website, [www.loc.org/prizes](http://www.loc.org/prizes), for a complete list of winners from this year’s LOC tourneys.



## Lewiston No. 1 community outreach

Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 was recently out at the Lewiston Senior Center for a community outreach presentation. Topics included EMS in the community, home Knox Boxes and file of life cards. LFD1 thanks the seniors for their participation and attention.

Pictured below, from left, are EMS Capt. Matt Grainge and Fire Chief Les Myers.



## Lewiston’s Gather to host ‘Hellmira’ talk

COURTESY OF  
DEREK MAXFIELD

Gather American Eatery will hold a book talk and signing with author Derek Maxfield on Tuesday, Oct. 13, as he talks about his work “HELLMIRA: The Union’s Most Infamous Civil War Prison Camp – Elmira, NY.”

Long called by some the “Andersonville of the North,” the prisoner of war camp in Elmira is remembered as the most notorious of all Union-run POW camps. It existed for only a year – from the summer of 1864 to July 1865 – but in that time, and for long after, it became darkly emblematic of man’s inhumanity to man.

Confederate prisoners called it “Hellmira.”

Hailed by Midwest Book Review as “A seminal work of outstanding and meticulous scholarship,” Hellmira is Maxfield’s first book. An associate professor of history at Genesee Community College in Batavia, Maxfield has been called “an expert storyteller with a knack for mesmerizing an audience.” In 2019, SUNY recognized him with the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Guests are invited to dine while listening to the book talk, which begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a signing opportunity. Books will be available for sale

for \$14 (cash only). Folks are encouraged to make reservations to ensure a table. Call Gather for reservations at 405-7162. The restaurant is located at 453 Center St.

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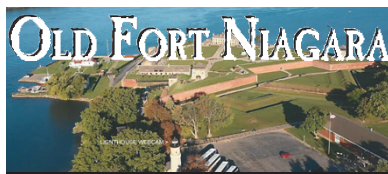
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Old Fort Niagara's complete safety plan is detailed at [www.oldfortniagara.org/visitor-information](http://www.oldfortniagara.org/visitor-information).

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