



Elisha Coleman with a fish she caught on the left, in 2001 when she was 20. Coleman tries to catch more fish with her three-year-old daughter Alexis in 2013.

From top, clockwise:

Coleman prepares her hook before casting it out into the bay. Coleman reminisces about the time she wagered with her father about who would catch the first fish.

The sun sets on the Bay of Quinte.

Coleman arrives with her daughter Alexis at the Bay of Quinte to go fishing.



# Fishing for Family

PULLING into the parking lot by the Bay of Quinte, it's empty except for one or two cars that look almost abandoned in the cold. The wind isn't strong enough to blow your hair around, but the air is crisp and the bite of winter is evident. The clouds are thin but cover the sky make it so there are almost no shadows.

In the marina, rhythmically the boats creak and bump against the docks. The docks are nowhere near full capacity and just like the cars in the parking lot, the boats almost look lonely and forgotten bobbing up and down. Their flags flap gently in the small amount of wind coming straight along the shore line. The docks are nowhere near full capacity and just like the cars in the parking lot, the boats almost look lonely and forgotten.

Elisha Coleman prepares her rod and walks to her spot by the lake carefully picking a safe spot on the grassy shore because, unlike the other fisherman, she has her three-year-old daughter in tow.

Coleman baits her hook with a rubber worm as her daughter Alexis stares curiously at the tackle box, full of lures, hooks and fishing line. Coleman as every parent who takes their children fishing does, she warns her that the hooks are dangerous and that she must not touch them. As she casts out her first line Coleman reminisces about the days when she would wager with her father, Ron Coleman, over who would catch the first fish. She said that when she caught the first one, she earned herself a dollar. Her father promptly offered double or nothing.

To the Coleman's, fishing isn't necessarily about catching fish, it's about casting your line into the water and waiting, chatting and making memories. Sometimes a big fish will bite and you will be able to jump and yell and get excited about it, and other times you will catch lots of little fish. The important thing about recreational fishing is to have fun doing it and make some memories. Coleman remembers betting her father five dollars she would catch the most fish and winning after she caught a staggering twelve fish when her father only caught three.

Parents teaching their children anything is always memorable and as Coleman sat down on the grass and showed her three year old how to fish a smile spread over both their faces.

Coleman reels in her line carefully as to not let it get snagged on the rocks. She disassembles her rod, organizes her tackle box and makes her way back to the warmth of the car.

Stretching her numb fingers, Coleman decided that for now, the fish have won. She goes home with a smile and the satisfaction that she got to dangle that line into the water again and continue to make memories with her daughter, like her father before.

Story and photos by Anna Brown



Coleman remembers fishing at the Bay of Quinte with her parents. She recalls taking bets with her father over who could catch the most fish. She says she won five dollars after catching a staggering nine fish more than her father.



Coleman and her daughter walk back to the car with big smiles, but with numb fingers and no spoils from their fishing adventure.