



## NEWSLETTER Winter/Spring 2020

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visit us on Facebook!

### President's message

Here we are, after the -40's cold snap - weeks. This season has already seen many incidents and has had incredible challenges facing our Yukon Trappers as well as other harvesters in North America. For instance the issuance of NSF cheques from NAFA and the closure of their auction house. We have been left standing with our furs over our shoulders with really only a few venues to sell our furs to now. We can not depend on a Cooperation to sustain us. The business model of a Corporation is completely opposite to anything that resembles a Renewable Resource. There is no such thing as Sustainable growth in Renewable Resources. Not when a Forest fire can wipe out half your trapline and forces a trapper to limit their harvest for a few years. But we need them as a venue to offload our surplus furs. We have North bay Fur Harvesters Auction house left as our main Wild Fur Auction house. We have our local market which devours beautifully tanned pelts which our local crafters manufacture into products that represent our heritages and keep us warm on these cold days. Then we have the online market, which we are working at getting up and running again. Our Imfureal.com site had a lack of funding and we were unable to maintain it. We are working to correct this and re-establish this site and have an online Market Place for our Yukon Fur Industry. Etsy.com has been a great site for many of our crafters, and feedback from consumers is that they want to see a Yukon only site. People want our products, they want to connect with us and be part of our Dream. I hear this from my European and American clients. Many of these clients take work breaks and will look through our crafters' pictures as a place to escape too while in the hustle and bustle of the big cities that they live in.

So how can you support the Yukon Trappers Association?

One way is memberships; renew your membership.

2. Tell a friend or crafter about our Fur Depot. We sell Yukon Furs that have been brought from you the Yukon trapper and have been commercially tanned.
3. Ship through us when you ship to North Bay FHA or want your pelts tanned. Call us.
4. Contact your local Renewable Resource Council or First Nations Government and have us come deliver a Fur Handling or workshop.
5. Feedback - what can we do to help you or what did we do that really helped you that we may not be doing anymore? How would you be able and willing to assist? Is anyone out there of a legal mind and would be willing to give guidance as to how we can assist our fellow trappers who got stranded by not receiving their cheques from NAFA?

You can help trapping successfully continue into the future by investing a little time and effort into the Yukon Trappers Association. We have grown a lot in the last few years, we have become a bigger, better and stronger organization. Listening to the trappers and Fur Industry crafters has helped us stay on top of issues and delivered events that enhance our heritage lifestyle.

That's all for now, be safe, stay warm

Brian Melanson, president of YTA

## **Yukon Trappers Association 2020 Convention**

by Brian Melanson

WE ARE SORRY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CONVENTION IS BEING POSTPONED TO NEXT YEAR.

Instead of it we will have a one-day YUKON FUR FAIR.

Location: Westmark Hotel, Ball Room, Whitehorse

Date: Saturday, March 7th, 2020

Time: 11 am - 6 pm

This is to service trappers to sell their furs. Tables are \$40 for members of the YTA, \$80 for non-members who will receive a 1-year membership with their table. To reserve, contact Brian at 867 334 1864 and leave a message as he will be in and out of service. His email is [tasinrange@gmail.com](mailto:tasinrange@gmail.com). If trappers do not wish to stand behind a table, Brian can arrange a broker for them. That would have to be arranged prior to the event and please contact Brian asap to inventory and price the furs.

The YTA will have a table and advertise commercial tanning services to receive furs from trappers or buyers that need tanning done. Crafters are welcome, but the event is to supply the crafters in town for the Bead Hide and Fur event at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural centre.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the event.

## **Fur Depot**

by Jackie Yaklin

We can send furs to Fur Harvesters Auction and to the tannery. Many trappers are choosing the tannery. We do not have an advance schedule because Fur Harvesters Auction is not giving advances this year.

NAFA -- the auction house is closing and they didn't finish paying everyone, including the Yukon Trappers Association. NAFA has creditor protection. There has been no news to us since October but you can find articles on CBC North's webpage.

As many of you must have noticed, we do have an alarm system in place. It got triggered once and that's how it unfolded: within a few minutes of it going off our drive by security guy was here at the building, a few minutes after that the RCMP were here, and within ten minutes we knew that our building and the contents were secure. Something triggered it, banging on the window or something. It could be as easy as a bird, or squirrel, but it's important for our members to know that since that break-in, we've taken measures and that our measures work.

We're working on getting a visual system as well, one with a camera that connects to someone's phone so they can monitor at any time.

### **Opening hours**

Tuesday to Friday from 2pm to 5pm  
Saturday from 11am to 4pm.  
Closed Sundays and holidays.

If you arrive at other hours, check next door at the Match Girl Knitting Shop. If Jackie is there she can assist you with YTA business.

Our Fur Depot services include: free shipping to the auction house; export permits; sealing for lynx, wolverine and wolves; and operating hours include Saturday and most evenings until 7pm.

YTA buys good quality un-tanned furs directly. We pay the tanning fee and then sell the dressed furs at Our Store. Foxes and beavers are in high demand.

YTA continues to advocate on behalf of the trapping industry.

### **Memberships**

If you haven't done it yet, please renew your membership for this year. With a membership, you receive a 10% discount from Our Store, bulk tanning rates, paid shipping for furs, and you will be part of an advocacy group interested in trapping. The Association relies on memberships as the number of members makes us a more representative Association.

**When you join the YTA, you enjoy a 10% discount on products from Our Store – new lures, more traps, more snare materials, a cost-effective tanning service.**

### **Last Receiving Dates & Auction Dates**

#### **2020 Auction Schedule FUR HARVESTERS**

YTA Receiving Dates	Auction House Last Receiving Dates	Sale Dates
April 11, 2020	April 19, 2020	May 30 - June 2, 2020
Sale will be held in North Bay, Canada.		

## **Upcoming Events**

### **2020 Winter skinning workshops**

Past president Robert Stitt will give one marten workshop in **Whitehorse**. We will focus on Marten-biology, management, pelt prep., and more. BYOM. Bring your own marten if you want! Date and time to be announced.

Mackenzie Mertz will give various pelt handling workshops.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Animal</b>
Sat February 22	1pm	Watson Lake at Marlon Andersons	Lynx
Sat February 29	10am	YTA Whitehorse	Lynx
Sun March 1	10am	YTA Whitehorse	Coyote
Sun March 8	10am	YTA Whitehorse	Coyote
Mon March 9	530pm	YTA Whitehorse	Fox

May you be safe and sound this trapping season.

Sincerely, the Board of Directors