



## NEWSLETTER Fall 2020

Yukon Trappers Association  
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### President's message

#### Greetings fellow Fur Harvesters and friends:

The winter is upon us, the snow is starting down the mountains and with the cranes and other migratory birds headed south. Our ungulates have shed their velvet and leaves are turning color. If those are not enough indicators, the ice in the dog's water bowl every morning is a sure sign. Trapping season is upon us.

We have been busy at the Fur Depot this year. Grant Redfern, our Vice-President, has completely sanded and re-stained our home. The whole building looks brand new. Jackie Yaklin has been steadfast on her feet receiving furs and supplying all our needs at the shop. Plus our other board members and I working behind the scenes.

Our last auction house North Bay Fur Harvesters Auction in Ontario is having difficulties navigating through this time with online auctions and has a lot of adapting to do. We all know you have to have hands-on to judge the fur, or put all your trust into the grading system and hope what you get and what you want equate. I wish Mark Downey and his team the best of luck. FHA has no mortgage on their building and have lower operating costs than most businesses. I remember the Mortgage Burning Party: the bank manager showed up and Mark lit the contract on fire off his truck's tailgate. That's going to be their saving grace.

We have all seen the lower than hoped-for returns from the auction houses. It's the market place, and world perspective values of those furs. Yet here in the Yukon, trappers are able to get up to \$250 for their tanned beavers. We are seeing guys getting \$1000 on their wolves. The Yukon Trappers Association has been helping trappers get a higher value for their furs in many ways over the years. We have secured a premium tannery and work with them to give you the highest value return on your furs. We have hosted events and education courses in the past. We will continue to deliver Current Fur handling and trapping-related workshops and presentations.

I have to give everyone a compliment. I have seen in the last 4 years the over-all quality of the fur handling in the Yukon greatly improve. The pride in your work shows and everyone benefits from this. We all continue to take our time and handle our catches properly. This will improve over-all our dollar values on our furs. With little low quality furs available, this will continue to raise our values. We are not looking to be the Big Box fur supplier of the world. We are delivering the primest and most sought after pelts in the world and therefore we require a greater monetary value. We should be receiving the top 5% rates for our pelts.

In a personal reflection on time and from stories of my grandfather growing up during the depression in the 30's..... I am reminded through keystone indicators of a financial crash that is shaping up today to reflect the 1930's. We had the stock market collapse in September 1929. Similar

reports reflect February 20, 2020, almost mirror each other. Which kicked the dirty 30's off. Then there was mass-unemployment of 26.7%, and bread line-ups and soup kitchens. We see the CERB and other financial assistance programs rolled out today. We see this in the food programs starting in the schools with many families now feeling the down-turn in economy. But this is not all doom and gloom. During these times those with money or who wanted to flaunt money, bought furs. Fur values went through the roof in these times. Not saying that it's going to happen. But as new Yukoners learn, the leather and fur gear we wear in the winter is to stay warm, not to brag wealth. It's environmentally friendly as it comes from the land and biodegrades back to the land. There are no micro plastics shed from the washing and almost no carbon foot print from miles it has traveled through trade. I see the next few years being good years for us in the fur industry, supplying locals and others in the north.

I want you all to stay safe, take a slower pace this season. Take time to enjoy all the land has to offer.

Thank you.

Brian Melanson, President of The Yukon Trappers Association

### **Fur Harvesters live and online sale results letter**

SALE RESULTS –AUGUST 30 & 31 / SEPTEMBER 4 -11

The Covid19 pandemic has made it impossible to conduct a normal fur auction. Our slogan is “Fur Harvesters Auction, where the WORLD comes to buy Wild Fur”. Our Federal Government’s position on international travel to Canada made it impossible for the world to attend. As we stated months ago, the worst case scenario would have us only entertaining Canadian Brokers. This was still better than what we had to work with in March, where no one was allowed to come and inspect the goods and everything was offered online. Last week Kopenhagen Fur of Denmark had an auction. International Brokers on business from almost any country were allowed to attend without quarantine. This is the world’s largest fur auction house dealing mainly in ranch mink. They had over 40 buyers attend and we managed to get close to 30, which was quite incredible considering that only Canadians could attend our auction. Articles such as wolves, wolverine, bears and other sundry goods received active bidding on the first day and prices on these were very acceptable. The second day opened with western coyotes and we had great interest and very active bidding from at least a dozen brokers, all of which had phones in their ears for the entire coyote auction, taking instructions from foreign customers unable to attend in person. We advised our buyers that Private Treaty sales would only be conducted during our two sale days and these sales would end at the final hammer on the 31st. At the conclusion of the auction we informed everyone that all unsold goods were being transferred over to our online auction platform. This online auction began on September 4th and concluded at 4:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time on September 11th.

Respectfully

Mark Downey, Chief Executive Officer, Fur Harvesters Auction Inc

## **Fur Depot**

by Jackie Yaklin

Come on by the Depot and get your lures and snare items etc. We have restocked and carry a good inventory.

## **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; advances from the auction house when available; and operating hours include Saturday and evenings until 7pm. If you require the Fur Depot at any other time, please phone 668-5648 to make an arrangement.

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, Fur Depot Services 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 & Auction Dates**

**2020/21 Auction Schedule FUR HARVESTERS**

TO BE ANNOUNCED. We will keep you posted.

## **Wolf Incentive Program at YOA**

We have been informed that the YOA will have to adjust/change/cancel their wolf incentive program. We will keep you posted as to what their decision will be.

Contact:

Yukon Outfitters Association  
Suite 302 #110, 303 Alexander St  
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2L5  
867.668.4118 office  
867.668.4120 fax  
info@yukonoutfitters.net

## **News from Environment Yukon**

by Ryan Sealy

Hello trappers,

Well I hope your snowshoes, harnesses, sleds and toboggans are all mended and ready to go for another season. If not, come back when it's done and read this note later. I just have a couple things but I don't want to distract you from important work...

Regulation changes: The [2020-2021 Yukon Trapping Regulations](#) summary booklets have been printed. Important changes this year include:

The trapping season for wolverine is November 1 to February 28. This earlier end date also affects the fur sealing deadline for wolverine (now March 15). There are no changes to fur sealing lynx and wolf. *"If you plan to remain on the trapline for the extended wolf snaring season (March 11-31) and believe that you will miss the deadline for lynx (March 25) and wolverine sealing (March 15), you will require prior written approval from YOUR district conservation officer to seek an extension to April 15 (or other)."*

Starting this season, certified restraining traps are required for beaver and wolf. These traps are listed on pages 13 (beaver) and 17 (wolf) of the summary booklet. There is no change to killing traps and snares for these species.

- a. In short, if you plan to take a wolf in a leg-hold, be sure the trap is on the certified list.
- b. For beaver, this change has little to no effect on fur trapping since we tend to use kill traps or snares for beaver rather than mess with bulky cage-type traps. If we do use a leg-hold for beaver, it

will be in a drowning (underwater) set which turns it into a killing trap system and so it doesn't need to be certified. If that's not as clear as mud on a busy beaver's lodge then feel free to give me a call. J

See page 2 of the booklet for other highlights (wolf, lynx and wolverine studies).

### Contacts

A list of office numbers are on pages 36-37 of the summary booklet. I encourage you to call your district office if you have questions or anything to report. I also enjoy talking with trappers whether it is to rant, rave or just shoot the breeze and bounce ideas. Best to call my cell: 867-634-5390.

### Trapper Education

Trapper training workshops are being offered in person but with COVID protocols. Courses this fall are currently full. Dates for workshops in Whitehorse and Watson Lake later this winter will be advertised in early November. For more info contact me: [ryan.sealy@gov.yk.ca](mailto:ryan.sealy@gov.yk.ca) , call 867-634-5390, or visit <https://yukon.ca/en/trapper-education>.

### Trapping photos

If you have or take any nice pics from the trapline that you wouldn't mind sharing to promote trapping, feel free to send my way. It might not be the cover of the Rolling Stone, but it would be nice to see a smiling face or two on the cover of the Trapping Regs or other publication. Catch ya later!

Ryan Sealy, Trapper Education Coordinator / Instructor, Environment | Conservation Officer Services,  
T 867-393-6273 | C 867-634-5390 | F 867-393-6206 | Yukon.ca

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Fur Sale, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

We have organized a Fur Sale. It will happen on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in the Grey Mtn. Room of the Mt. MacIntyre Centre in Whitehorse, 1 Sumanik Drive. Doors to the public will open at 11am (vendors can set up at 10am) and doors will close at 4pm (vendors have time to clear out until 5pm). The phone line to register for a table opens up on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and closes on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm. Call Jackie at 1 867 667 7091 to register and to get important Covid-19 information that has to be followed. \$ 40.-- per table, payable on the day of the event. Thank you and may you all have a safe and exciting sale day!



## **2020/21 Winter fur handling and lure making workshops**

to be determined. We will keep everyone posted.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Tips and tricks**

by Paul and Sonja

Hello all: if you decide to spend more than 3 months out on the line and like eggs (boiled, scrambled, sunny-side up, etc.), then you might be interested in learning more about pickling eggs. Here goes.

#### **Pickled eggs**

You will need: 18 to 20 extra-large eggs for a 2 litre glass jar.

Hard-boil the eggs. Roll them on the table so that the shell crushes but don't break the egg itself. Put into jar.

Take 1 litre of water, 150ml red wine vinegar, 30-50 g salt, 1 small onion, quartered, with skin, skin from another onion, 1 tsp crushed peppercorns, 2 whole cloves, 1 tsp caraway seed, 3 bay leaves, thyme. (you can omit or try other spices or herbs). Boil in pot with lid closed for 5 minutes.

Put hot liquid in jar so that all the eggs are covered. Close lid and let stand for 1 week. Ready to eat. Try just so or make deviled eggs or eat them with mustard. ENJOY.



### **Wolf urine uses**

by Melaine Fillion

If your camp is visited by critters like foxes (stealing your chickens' eggs) or porcupines (trying to camp under your veranda or up the tree), try wolf urine. Use it also when you got wild rabbits checking out your greenhouse. Save your small livestock from predators and save your dog from wanting to sniff that porcupine. This is a non-confrontational solution, a biodegradable deterrent.

May you be safe and sound this upcoming trapping season.

Sincerely,

the Board of Directors