



NEWSLETTER Spring 2019

Yukon Trappers Association
175A Titanium Way
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 0E9
t: 867 667 7091
www.yukonfur.ca
yukonfur@yknet.ca

President's message

Hello Trappers,

well, Spring is here, and has been for a month or so now. But the calendar and Mother Nature have finally met up. It's that time of the year when we are all out, reflecting on the season that just wrapped up. It was a winter of challenges, fluctuating temperatures and tragedy. With Auction markets low last season and the slow start to our winter this season, a lot of families got out on the line later than usual.

This winter saw the YTA host and deliver a great many workshops throughout the Yukon. Many were well attended, and everyone learnt something from attending these. A big thanks to Mackenzie Mertz for hosting taxidermy workshops in many species. We were able, with a big thanks to Jackie Yaklin, for procuring animals in the round, which we have frozen and therefore will be able to host more workshops in October and on to get everyone in the Pre-Season mood. If your school, community group or council wishes to learn Value-added Fur handling, make sure to book with us so we can schedule you in. The Harvesting/Marketing/Taxidermy workshop will bring your Trappers up to market standards and increase their financial returns.

We had a major violation this year with our (All Members of YTA) Fur Depot being broken into. No arrests have been made and a great financial expense was inherited by our Board. We not only lost furs, we also had to invest into a monitored alarm system.

A brother lost his wife and daughter this fall in an incident at their camp. He has gone through pain none of us want to imagine. We were able to as a community come together and raise money to help him with his Financial Stresses of life for a while till he has his feet back on the ground. All of our hearts go out to him and her family and their friends.

On a brighter note, another production company has planted a stake in the ground in the Yukon and has filmed a Pilot for a show they wish to develop about Trapping in the Yukon. No title that I know of, but will be another surge of interest in the Yukon and Bush and future tourism dollars. Hint hint hint.

Be safe this summer at work and about, if you're interested in joining our growing board, please come to our AGM this year. Voice your opinion.

Yours truly
Brian Melanson
President of YTA

Fur Harvesters SALE RESULTS –MARCH 10th, 2019

Having just returned from Helsinki Finland we are very pleased overall with the price increases on some species and the strong clearances we achieved. It is felt by the vast majority of the trade that the attendance at the FHA/SAGA auction will be the bench mark for the year. We had stated with subtle optimism that beaver prices were going to strengthen particularly on the better end. Since May of last year this has been the case with FHA's beaver collection achieving a premium for ALL SIZES. This was achieved this auction as Russia and Italy were the takers of the better goods right down to the SMALL SIZES. Long haired articles like wild foxes and raccoon were pushed upwards as well by Russia and Turkey. Both countries finding it convenient to remain on their home continent and buy direct from the source, and filling their orders with us. Lynx sold at increased levels with competition coming from all over the globe and very high clearances. Our lynx cat collection is unquestionably considered the world's finest and we have led in highest price returns to our shippers for years now. This sale proved no different with our western cat assortment selling very strongly with tremendously high clearances. As SAGA being the only auction to draw the major fashion houses this has helped us tremendously in increased exposure on our luxury goods. Sables sold acceptably well with the largest sizes meeting some resistance on the darkest colors. Once into the secondary sizes competition was strong and good demand for all colors in particular the light brown and pale sections. Muskrats sold at rising levels from recent sales and again we experienced strong clearances. Coyotes were no surprise as the top lot in Westerns brought \$330.00 and not having a top lot in the Easterns the starting lot of 293 skins sold at \$184.80, setting the basis for a strong sale throughout. Ranch mink remains terminally depressed as price levels remain far below production costs and as predicted in our May2018 report the fallout is dramatic as ranchers are pelting out in large numbers mostly across North America. It is questionable if 2 million mink will remain in North America next season. Wild fur has fared better in comparison and our results show many species witnessing improved interest and slight price increases but more importantly STRONG clearances. The wild fur business has been and continues to be a struggle but we are optimistic. As we did in predicting our beaver price would improve so are signs that many other wild fur articles are improving. As trappers some may have hung their traps in their camps looking for better times before taking them down. We have experienced a large spike in new shippers this season despite the current atmosphere. The pattern being more bags from new shippers however most bags lacking the heft when prices are bullish. Our success has always been based on respect and service and a deep understanding that trappers like everyone wish a fair return for their efforts. However more importantly you believe in who you are and what you do and to all of you who did not hang up your traps and continued trapping and supporting your auction house thank you.

Respectfully, Mark Downey, Chief Executive Officer, Fur Harvesters Auction Inc.

Fur Depot

by Jackie Yaklin

As of April 9th, the Fur Depot is still going strong.

First, this: NAFA is still accepting wild furs, but they won't be selling them until 2020. FHA is still accepting wild furs and will be selling them in May and June.

November and December were really slow months for receiving furs. Most trappers were unable to bring furs in because of the warm temperatures and scanty snow.

January we started seeing more; then even more in February; and more in March. Now it's April and I'm shipping out more again.

This year, unusually, we completely depleted our supply of the big fur bags -- none for NAFA, none for FHA. I am reduced to thinking of other means of packaging: each trapper's fur is bagged within the big paper yard bags first; then several bags are bundled together within light tarps and the entire thing is secured with ropes and tape. Gorilla tape -- duct tape is for sissies. It takes a little more time, we have to spend a little more money, but in the end it works.

Many thanks to the trappers -- you know who you are -- who gave me bags, and more thanks to the trappers who helped with all the bundling and tying. It's a challenge and is satisfying work when it's all done and you know you did a good job.

I went to the Dawson Fur Show and received several large bags of furs for shipping. Thanks.

The number of pelts being sent for tanning is much larger than the number being sent to auction. Given the auction results, compared to the private sales of tanned pelts, there is no wondering -- the numbers speak for themselves. Like my new bundling -- it takes a little longer, costs a little more, but in the end it works. Turnaround time is still three to six months, depending on what species the tannery is doing. The tannery receives pelts from all over Canada, and generally they wait until they have enough of one specie to do an entire batch. I don't know anything about tanning, but suspect that the tanning process for one specie might be different from the process for another. I know our tannery provides consistently excellent results and the price is still reasonable.

As you know, Greyhound closed in 2018. I negotiated with Manitoulin Transport, and our rates for shipping are less expensive and I wish I'd done it a long time ago. I liked Greyhound: those guys knew who I was and didn't hesitate to search for me when our freight came in; and they were familiar with our fur depot and helped occasionally. But they closed and now we use Manitoulin.

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 of your choice; export permits; sealing for lynx, wolverine and wolves; advances from the auction house; 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

2018-2019 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.

Upcoming Events

Fashion Art Toronto

Yukon Fur is going to the big city! This is FUR real! In Burwash Landing lives an artistic lady who got chosen to be representing the Yukon and her products in Toronto. If you can help her out going there, there's a gofundme page set up. Here's Louisette's letter.

Hi,

My name is Louisette Boudreau and i am a hunter, trapper and sewer from Burwash Landing and am co owner/ operator of Yukon Tough with my business partner Luke Johnson who you may know. I have been accepted to Fashion art Toronto to bring a runway show of 16 outfits sewn with all Yukon furs and skins on April 27th and i would like at this time to kindly ask if your organization would be able to sponsor us with money donations to help offset the huge cost to myself in bringing this line and my team to the big stage. I have an amazing team of wonderful Yukon artists, trappers and sewer taking part in this project and my hopes are to enable the Yukon fur industry as well as the art and fashion industry be recognized world wide. I am also making these Yukon scrap fur teddy bears which will walk the runway for exposure and I will then auction them off to raise funds to start a non profit for chronic illness in the north.

Any donations would be so greatly appreciated and I would be able to add your organization logos on my runway slideshow and in my marketing material... I believe we can all rise together as consciousness stewards of the land with this opportunity and hope you will share my thoughts on this.

I thank you kindly for your time and consideration. Louisette

Check out:

<https://www.facebook.com/lacollisionparlouisette/videos/296644981235823/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r236tAOBm2k&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2zslD7FF0iZqNfqPu2PhEuslCdMxfeiYfn-VZT1GVMq-1uTPkrmLr28>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnaNdl9be4Q&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1Mw8zqmzXU-XGaAsn7bE2Om-fKVwb__xzRFp9DDarkFBD8mcBdcIP1iGM

<http://fashionarttoronto.ca/designers-artists-2019/louissette-boudreau/>

<https://www.gofundme.com/la-collision-a-fashion-line-for-change>

AGM

Set the date for Friday, May 10th, 2019, 11am sharp. We will all meet at the Yukon Trappers Association, 175A Titanium Way, in Whitehorse. We have a lot of interesting stuff to discuss. We'd love to see you all. If you can attend, give us a quick buzz at 867 667 7091.

GUN SHOW

This year's gun show will be held again at the Gold Rush Inn in Whitehorse. Come see our table, feel the fur and check out those guns. Date: Saturday, July 27th, 2019, 10am to 4pm.

Past Events

2018/19 Winter Workshops

Brian Melanson and Mackenzie Mertz have been organizing different skinning workshops in different communities. We were present in the following communities: Whitehorse and Watson Lake.



The wolf workshop was at Marlon Anderson's shop in Watson Lake. Thanks Marlon and thanks Cal Smith for getting the word out.

Dawson City's Annual Fur Show

by Robert Stitt, past president

On March 15-16 Jackie, and I attended the Dawson Fur Show. Jackie had a busy day sealing, and receiving fur for shipment to auction, or to be sent for tanning.

I presented a marten handling workshop which was very well attended by an enthusiastic crowd.

Other activities included a trap setting contest, a fashion show, and a variety of games for children. The fur competition is open to all licenced Yukon trappers, and over \$10,000.00 worth of prizes awarded for the best entries in each category.

Fur Show co-ordinators Gemma Pearce, and Rosaly Guimond did an excellent job of organizing this event. I would like to thank Shannon Moffatt, and Cal Smith for their assistance in set up and take down of the YTA booth.



Robert Stitt presented marten skinning workshops, while Dan Reynolds from the Dawson City RRC volunteered as the MC. Photo by Charles Nadeau.

UnFURled update

I'm Fur real is owned by YTA, we have our yukonfur.ca website up and running and will have a link shortly to imfureal.com. This is a site that will get our professional Trappers and Crafters under one roof. As a link for people outside who wish to purchase furs or manufactured goods from the source. So a link to your website or online store.

This will be where we showcase our Legacy spotlight as well as future Trapper or Crafters that join the ranks.

I have met with some prospective partners to bring forward UnFURled 2020, and look forward to sharing their names and other information at our AGM. What I can say is that plans are in motion, location for the event is yet to be secured.

The date is shaping up to be March 20-21-22, 2020. There is interest from outside the territory to attend our function. From a few Fur buyers to Fashion industry, plus the auction houses would like to

come and be included. UnFURled is a trapper orientated convention that supports our local economy and allows us a platform to welcome outside commerce while engaging locally. With this being said, Trappers tan what you can and be ready for March 2020 for another groundbreaking event. Crafters, you're already making a name for Yukon furs worldwide and we support you by providing the furs. Thank you for keeping us warm and making us look good. We are moving forward together, we're all in this together, this event is to support the Fur Industry of the Yukon. Be part of the strength, So keep your best Carhartts set aside for the dance, and see you there.

Do you want to be part of UnFURled 2020? If so, contact me at tasinrange@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you all.

Sincerely
Brian Melanson
President of the YTA

Miscellaneous

We are looking to get a stash of your empties – resealable bags (ones you get buying salted nuts, raisins etc.), that is. We'd like to have some to put smelly lure in, so that when you come by to get some and go shopping later, you won't be looked at funny!

We're also looking for your TIPS AND TRICKS in the trade. What's your trick catching 15 wolves in a season? What's your tip for an ultimate lure? Let us know and we'll post it in the next newsletter.

Message from Jason Basnett who can be reached on Facebook:

Hello, I am looking for someone to teach me and some friends how to fully prepare and home tan a Bear hide. Do you know anyone who would be able and interested in teaching us this?

I have one hide frozen in my freezer from last year and will probably get another one in the next couple weeks.

Sarah McHugh, who's also on Facebook, is looking for tanned wolves, tanned grey wolf preferably, excellent quality, really big with heavy fur.

Sad News

Bob Lafleur was killed in a head-on collision by Lake Laberge in January of this year. He was a trapper near Faro. Our thoughts go out to his family and all who knew him. RIP.

Our thoughts go out to the trapper Erik Hegsted and his family. Erik past on while out doing what he loved: trapping.

Stay safe out there, smell the Spring air and start planning for another trapping season soon.

Sincerely, the Board of Directors