



NEWSLETTER Winter 2018-19

Yukon Trappers Association
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Hello everyone!

And happy New Year. Wishing you all a prosperous and healthy 2019.

President's December message

Seasons Greetings fellow trappers,

We are fast approaching the new year of 2019, a time to reflect on the events of 2018. From the Yukon Trappers Association to your family Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It's refreshing to see so many people wearing fur again. Many of us wear our furs with pride and now we are seeing regular urban folk supporting our lifestyle by purchasing and wearing fur thereby supporting us trappers. Many in the general population have realized that trapping is more than just harvesting, it's about having purpose on the land, about family time and about overcoming challenges. We in the Yukon are seeing partnerships developing between trappers and crafters that is actively involving many more people in our industry. We have sewers trading with beading crafters to add style to their garments. We are seeing everyone embracing their culture and taking pride in continuing their connection with their ancestors.

We have had testing times recently as well. A fellow bushman lost his wife and daughter to a Grizzly. Gjermund Roesholt lost his wife Valerie Theoret and their beautiful daughter Adele. This incident was hammered by the media. It unfortunately showed the thoughtless mentality of some urban people who made distasteful comments about this tragic event. These ignorant people were somehow so callous that they could completely disregard the basic human fact that a man lost his wife and child. It was a sad comment on our society today that these people could use this episode as a political platform. I did many TV and radio interviews and had to continually steer the reporters back to reality. For our part, the executive board of the YTA got permission from Gjermund to start a GOFUNDME page with all the funds minus the 2.5% Admin fee going to help Gjermund focus on healing and lessen the daily stress of financial expenses which don't stop during troubled times. The celebration of life at Mt. Mac showed how Valerie was woven into the Yukon fabric with her love and spirit. She gave to the community and everywhere I went I was hearing stories of connections. Her art and spirit live on. Adele had a spirited smile in every photograph I saw and she was only on this earth a short time, it's heartbreaking when such a tragedy occurs.

Gjermund and I, as well as the YTA Board want to thank all of those who have helped and donated to his fund. As of December 28th \$33,486.00 was raised. It is very heartening to see the support coming from Canadians. The BC Trappers Association had many trappers donate their furs at NAFA to Gjermund's account, as well the Saskatchewan Trappers Association had the same level of offerings through FHA. Alberta Trappers Association offered what assistance they could. Global news reporters Sarah MacDonald and Simon Little had put the GOFUNDME link on their reports and Twitter accounts that helped bring in support from across the country. This demonstrates how we are all connected through our industry and in times of need, we all stand up for each other. I am very

proud to be associated with all of you.

With the high speed pace of today's world and frequent updates to fur harvesting regulations, I want people to continue to check www.engageyukon.ca Please check this page regularly and fill out the surveys. I have raised concerns that too much of this Social Media relayed surveys and opinion input has overtaken actual valuable input. I also have asked the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to start sending surveys for harvesting surveys to licensed Hunters, Fishermen and Trappers. I was unhappy to discover that in order to participate in many past surveys, you needed to be member of Facebook. I am not on Facebook and neither are many trappers and bush folk. From what I know now, all surveys and such are posted on www.engageyukon.ca and they also have links through Facebook and Twitter. The anti-fur crowd uses their numbers to fill in surveys so the only way we can continue to hold onto what we value is to voice our opinion in these surveys. Our opinions matter because we are the ones with boots on the ground and eyes on the land. Also, check the YFWMB website as they usually have surveys posted on their site. I mention this as we are going to be losing 15 days in March to harvest Wolverine and the study performed didn't imply this was needed. If we don't respond to the surveys the Anti-crowd will respond and over-represent us. It's our land, let's keep it that way. I mention this because the Permit hunt is up for public input, as well the Grizzly Bear survey was done and very very few people submitted responses. 1670 people from a roughly 12,000 licensed hunter territory, doesn't show much input from those who this will affect. I just want people to start to take more control and realize that; YES YOUR INPUT IS VALUABLE. So please, do the surveys and if you feel we are not being protected enough, contact the YTA office or me directly.

With the mild fall and lack of snow and cold to freeze up the waterways, a lot of trappers were landlocked at their camps. All I can say is, do what we always do, work with what you got. I hope some folks were able to get some long overdue camp chores done and build up that wood pile for the cold snap that's yet to come. My advice to everyone is to maintain a harvest data log. Mark the sex of your animals and make sure you're not breaking over harvesting females. Use your previous harvests for a set quantity of harvest and use that as a base for judging your Surplus Stock. It would be too easy to over-harvest with this low snow pack, so please exercise Sustainable Harvesting.

I would like to ask people too, when you're shooting videos or talking with the public or in public: Please start to discontinue the use of the word KILLING. It's just so American and not our style. We are not KILLING our wolves and coyotes. We are out HARVESTING wolves and coyotes. By dropping that word when you're describing your lifestyle, you will not shock and offend people outside our circle. This is something that culturally to outsiders is very offensive. Remember that we show respect to the animals we HARVEST by doing the best FUR HANDLING job we can so that the animal can live on for decades. I have a 60 year old Beaver coat, those were harvested beavers with a purpose to keep a man warm. Not Beavers KILLED for a coat. It's all in our phrasing that will allow more people to be open to accepting our lifestyle and supporting us.

Well I hope to see a lot of you in Dawson for the Fur Show in March. I will be present and attending the unFURled Booth and we will have all our updates for everyone at that time. I am also looking forward to showcasing some of the garments that were crafted at the sewing workshops. As originally planned, unFURled is a biennial event that compliments the Dawson Fur show. How exciting is that - the bonus of unFURled is we can shift locations as there is nothing binding us to only having it in Whitehorse. Perhaps Teslin or Watson Lake might be a good place to gather for a future event. The YTA is in possession of the imfureal.com webpage. We are working at getting the

webpage updated and back online. Some adjusting has to be done. In the near future you will all be able to see and share again. Will have the Legacy portraits online too for all to see. This Local market saw great success with the first show this year. It was a great first and with plans for the second one already in works, all I can say is: it will be as memorable as the first.

Well folks, I wish you luck in the new year on your safe harvesting, and thank you to all those who have taken a new person out on the land. I also want to give a shout out to the Crafters of the Yukon. If it wasn't for you, the trappers would only have the Auction houses to depend on. I am confident the new relationships that are forming in our spin-off industries will continue to grow and prosper. With Yukon First Nations tourism getting a boost, traditional crafts will be in great demand, and for those who dare, you continued to set a new level and bar for crafting. Let your inner spirit guide your hands in the art you do.

Take your time handling fur and focus on quality not quantity.

and as my Gwich'in friends say: Massi Cho, Gwiinzii Edik'anaantii
Thank you very much and take good care of yourself.

Brian P. Melanson, President of Yukon Trappers Association

FHA 2019 Market Report & Marketing Strategy

Our 2019 Auction schedule will see changes with the elimination of our traditional January auction. The past years have shown a decrease in quantities making it difficult to attract numbers of international buyers needed to have a successful auction. As more and more quantities are showing up on our March auction we made this decision and we will re-evaluate this next year.

Our season opening auction will be our HIGHLY regarded March Auction held in Helsinki Finland in partnership with SAGA FURS. This venue has drawn the largest attendance of buyers globally since the partnership was forged 5 years ago. To maximize the number of buyers for March we are selling right between Saga's ranch fox and ranch mink. No other venue comes close to offering the amount of international exposure to a collection of wild fur as we do at this location.

Our May auction will be held May 24th -25th in North Bay. We feel with present difficulties in our industry it is better for our shippers if marten and lynx cats are sold in Finland. We will be sending our late season marten and cat collections to Saga to be included in Sagas spring auction in June. We feel strongly that this is in the best interest of our shippers, as by sending these two luxury items to Finland this will ensure they will be show cased to the largest auction attendance anywhere.

Both May and June auctions will be treated as separate auctions. The articles sold in May will be paid out in the usual time frame after an auction. As June sales will be paid after the June auction.

Our annual convention is being moved to January 18th and 19th. This change will help FHA focus on our core auction part of the business. Having the convention right between our two major auctions was challenging as this caused a major disruption in our ability to ship out March auction lots to our customers. These changes are all being made in an effort to keep FHA out in front of the many challenges that our industry is facing.

The past season was a very close reflection of the previous with gross sales coming in within less than 10% of each other keeping your auction house on the positive side at year end. As everyone is well aware many fur species are selling below acceptable levels many of which are the aquatic species. A few long haired articles such as coyote, sables and bobcats are in demand and this is expected to carry into this coming season.

FHA continues to receive a premium for top quality shearable beaver but skins of commercial and damage quality will likely continue to sell at recent levels. STRONG DEMAND for castoreum will help your overall beaver price. Otters and wild mink remain difficult to move at respectable prices but there is good interest in muskrat at levels we believe are acceptable. All other long haired items are expected to sell at last year's levels at the start of the season. We have strong orders for well handled, quality bears, wolves and wolverine for the taxidermy trade.

In closing we wish you a safe trapping season and thank you all for supporting your auction house.

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

Fur Depot

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.

Greyhound closed their depot this year -- and have made an arrangement with Pacific NorthWest Freight. Greyhound is missed -- those guys knew us and always made a point of phoning when freight arrived, and were excellently reliable when we sent furs out. We negotiated a good rate with Manitoulin Transport and are sure that Manitoulin can provide our depot with our shipping requirements.

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; and free workshops.

Wolf Incentive Program at YTA

The Board and Executive have considered that the YTA Wolf Incentive Program is no longer necessary because the Yukon Outfitters Association and the Renewable Resource Councils also offer incentives. This year, YTA will not be offering Our Store Gift Certificates. Any Gift Certificates that are not redeemed may be redeemed for purchases at Our Store and for your tanning orders. We thank you for your participation and look forward to honoring our certificates.

Wolf Incentive Program at YOA

Once again, the Yukon Outfitters Association has their Wolf Incentive Program running. You'll receive a check for \$200-- for each wolf, while funds are available. You need to provide them with the wolf seal and your Yukon Trappers License. Program closes April 30th, 2018 but allows the extra 30 days for trappers to process and apply. Please note their new address.

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

Last Receiving Dates & Auction Dates

2019 Auction Schedule FUR HARVESTERS

YTA Receiving Dates	Last Receiving Dates	Sale Dates
January 12, 2019	Sunday January 20, 2019	**March 8-15, 2019
April 6, 2019	Sunday April 14, 2019	*May 24-25, 2019
April 6, 2019	Sunday April 14, 2019	**June 10, 2019 (Lynx cats & Marten)
		**Sale will be held in Helsinki, Finland in conjunction with Saga Furs. *Sales will be held in North Bay, Canada.

2019 Auction Schedule NAFA

YTA Receiving Dates	Last Receiving Dates	Sale Dates
December 31 st , 2018	January 7, 2019	Feb 26-March 4, 2019
March 18 th , 2019	March 25, 2019	May 30-June 5, 2019
	*We will not be sorting any fresh wild fur for the August 2019 sale due to insufficient quantities.	Aug 23-27, 2019

Environment Yukon News

The Department of Environment is asking all trappers to submit Wolverine carcasses from the 2018-2019 season. A 50\$ stipend per carcass is available for your contribution to this research. Lynx carcasses are being collected from specific study areas. Concession holders within these areas will be contacted by mail with this request. If you are not contacted, please do not submit any carcasses. For more information about the lynx study and carcass collection, call toll-free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5464.

The Department of Environment's Trapper Education Program is looking for a limited amount of furs in the round (frozen whole) for workshops. Furs must be clean, not shot, not spoiled, not freeze-dried. Contact Trapper Education Coordinator Ryan Sealy at 393-6273 for more details.

We'd like to remind trappers to mark their snares and traps in such a way as to ensure that they will be checked regularly and closed by the end of the season.

The Government of Yukon's trapline administrator Mark Callan is on a Temporary Assignment with YG's Aboriginal Relations Division until the beginning of July 2019. If you have questions or needs related to the administration of your trapline, please contact the District Conservation Officer responsible for the oversight of your area or Caleb Stephen, who will be filling in for Mark. Caleb can be reached at caleb.stephen@gov.yk.ca or at 867-667-8403.

Schedule of upcoming Yukon Trapper Education workshops

These workshops take throughout Yukon. Every year there are around 2 workshops in Whitehorse. We hold a workshop in every Yukon community at least once every 3 years

Watson Lake

February 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. February 15 to 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 2 Mile Hall

Mayo

February 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. March 1 to 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

Whitehorse

March 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. March 9 to 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Yukon Transportation Museum

Sign up to get email notifications on future workshops

Contact coservices@gov.yk.ca or call Client Services at 867-667-5652 or toll free in Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5652 and ask that your name and contact information be added to the notification list. When the workshop schedule is finalized, everyone on the list will be sent workshop and registration details.

Upcoming Events

2018/19 Winter Workshops

Brian Melanson and Mackenzie Mertz are planning a schedule of fur handling workshops. If you want a workshop near you, please let us know. We will need a supply of fur in the round and can either purchase outright or borrow, your choice. Our workshops are determined by the kind of furs we have and we're striving for variety: wolf, marten, beaver, muskrat, coyote, fox.

Skinning workshops, by Mackenzie Mertz

So far this season, we have held three successful skinning workshops. Two beaver and one wolverine. The students have all come with different experiences but all the same enthusiasm to learn. Their experience ranging from experienced trappers to students learning to skin, flesh and stretch for the very first time. I gain much satisfaction knowing that everyone who takes these workshops will improve their fur handling in some way. I look forward to instructing more in the New Year. The workshop schedule will be released as soon as possible, so stay posted.

FHA's Annual Trappers Convention

When: January 18th & 19th, 2019

Where: Fur Harvesters Auction, 1867 Bond Street (Off Gormanville Rd.), North Bay, ON P1B 8K6 The theme for this year's convention is: Trappers and their role as natural resource managers.

Admission: \$10.00 per person - Kids under the age of 16 are free
(Admission covers both days and Friday night's entertainment)

Bring the whole family, and find out what Canada's oldest land based industry is all about.

Dawson City's Annual Fur Show

When: Friday March 15th 6:30pm at Robert Service school gym there will be the Fur Fashion Show. The Fur Show will be Saturday March 16th.

Miscellaneous

Hi my name is Matt Faulknor and I'm a producer working for a television production company called Saloon Media. We produce award-winning shows for broadcasters like CNN, History, and Smithsonian. I'm currently casting for a documentary series re: people living in Yukon. I'm looking for people living off-the-grid, relying on nature for food, trapping, hunting, fishing, etcetera. I'm looking for all types: men, women, singles, families... Talked to a guy at Bushcraft Yukon named Fabian. He spoke highly of you and said you might be interest or you might know someone. Call me back or let me know when I should contact you. Thanks.

Matt Faulknor, Saloon Media, 416 572 5212 x5216, mfaulknor@saloonmedia.com

Sad News

Our thoughts go out to the trappers lost this year: Valerie and Adele Theoret and Robert Lafleur. Rest in peace.

Stay safe out there, and good trapping.

the Board of Directors