



NEWSLETTER January 2021

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

President's message

Greetings fellow Fur Harvesters and friends:

Happy New Years fellow Trappers, family and friends. We are seeing some very interesting times unfold in front of us. We have had a somewhat mild winter which has made it easy and comfortable to spend prolonged periods of time performing outdoors activities.

The unfortunate news for many trappers in North America as well as fur buyers from around the globe about North Bay's cancellation of the January auction has many trappers waiting even longer to collect the revenue for their hard work. We all know that a pelt's presentation on a flat screen is not comparable to being able to hold the fur in your hands. With the Covid-19 restrictions in place, limiting people to travel, has stopped purchasers from coming to Canada to participate in person at the auction house on our sought-after wild furs.

This with the delay, some trappers not having received payment for their furs from NAFA. Combined with lower the sustainable revenue from the auction houses has put great stress on many of us. Over the last few months I have heard more trappers say they are not trapping this year because of the returns.

The Yukon Trappers Association Executive Board is working to deliver another successful Fur Industry event this spring. This Fur Sale event that we are holding is an event to support our trappers and supply a local market place. This takes a lot of effort and volunteer time to deliver. Each event has seen many trappers clear their tables and make new friends. The events are meant to get the crafters and the trappers connected; by local trappers being able to directly supply the local crafters. We are ensuring that real Yukon Made products are being manufactured and sold right here. This greatly helps create genuine products that represent the sustainable industry that we belong to.

I want to thank our members for their continued support. We value your contributions and membership purchases.

As always, quality over quantity and safety first. It's not just about getting out there, but also about getting back and sharing the stories and harvest.

Respectfully,

Brian Melanson, President of The Yukon Trappers Association

Fur Depot

by Jackie Yaklin

Do you bypass the Association and deal directly with the tannery or the auction house. When you do this, you not only lose our bulk discount, you also create more work for yourself. You'll have to get

your furs sealed, get an export permit and pay the shipping cost. When you work with the Association, you only bring your furs to us, and we do all the rest. The Association has worked diligently and with purpose: we negotiated a good tanning rate; we ship regularly; we're organized. When your tanning returns, you are notified. Yes, sometimes the notification is not received, but we do leave messages.

For those who do not bypass the Association, thank you. We appreciate your support.

It should be noted that the Association does not earn a large income from the tanning fees.

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. So please sign up and support us and yourself! THANKS.

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

Attention Western Canadian Trappers. FHA has been receiving strong interest for Western Coyotes from several markets. This gives us great confidence in the success of our upcoming April Auction. In an effort to help trappers maximize their shipments FHA is pleased to announce the extension of our Last Receiving Date to Saturday January 30th, 2021.

The January auction has been cancelled, so that leaves us with the following:

YTA last rec. date	FHA rec. date	Auction date
Jan 22, 2021	Jan 30, 2021	April 9-13, 2021
April 9, 2021	April 17, 2021	June/July TBA

Wolf Pelt Handling Incentive Program at YOA

The YOA is pleased to announce that it will continue to support Yukon Trappers with this program. The YOA will offer Yukon Trappers \$200 per wolf pelt. \$100 will come from the YOA and \$100 will come from the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board Enhancement Trust Fund donation. Note that there may be limited funds available this 20/21 trapping season. You need to supply to the YOA a valid Yukon Trappers license and the wolf sealing certificate. Deadline for applications is April 30, 2021.

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

Upcoming Events

Fur and Craft Sale, April 24th, 2021

We have organized another Fur and Craft Sale. It will happen on Saturday, April 24th, 2021, 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 April 16th at 2pm and closes on April 23rd 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. No entrance fee for the public. We are in need of volunteers – if you have a few hours to spare that day, contact Sonja at yukonfur@yknet.ca. Thank you and may you all have a safe and exciting sale day!



Spring 2021 fur handling and lure making workshops

Yukon Trappers Association Lure-Making Workshop Saturday, January 30, 2021 10am to 2pm 175A Titanium Way

Brian Melanson provides demonstration, guidance and information to make two different lures from raw materials.
Target species: wolf, wolverine, otter, beaver.

**Participation fee \$40 each.
You leave with one
1/2-cup bottle of each
kind of lure.**

Covid-19 protocols will be observed



To reserve a spot, call Jackie at 1867 667 7091.

Miscellaneous

Artist and Crafter profile: Pat Bragg and Wearable Art

Pat Bragg has been creating Wearable Art by spinning yarn with a hand spindle for about 8 years. The spinning started when she took an afternoon course in Winnipeg. She has been collecting beautiful rovings and batts of yarn, occasionally carding some rare qiviut from Herschel Island, and knitting the yarn into practical clothing, mainly for friends and family. She learned to knit as a child, to crochet as a teenager, and to work with fur and beads as a senior citizen. She started working with fur when she met Jackie Yaklin and together they designed the first beaver fur collar in 2016. Pat has never stopped working with fur and fibre since and has sold many dozens of pieces throughout Canada through the fur shows in Dawson and Whitehorse and through the Cranberry Fair and through Facebook and word of mouth. People wearing her furs, especially herself and her daughter, get approached by complete strangers who call up for custom-designed pieces of their own.



Display of some of the hands-on,
knitted and trimmed with fur creations.



Seal skin 5-pointed star and blue fox collar

Pat always wants to combine the textures, colours and images of her life:

the almost unbearable softness of some of the yarns and furs

colours and images that reflect the natural world - and sometimes the created world

the meditative quality of home-spinning and sewing, and the expression of love in creating beautiful pieces of art to be worn for warmth and beauty.

feeling love and connection with the land and its animals with every stitch

Pat has mostly taught herself all manner of art forms because she loves art - homely art and fine art. She credits her many teachers with her joy in creating, and has enhanced her artistic practice through many hours of workshops in various art forms - watercolour, acrylic, and oil painting, knitting, bookbinding, cyanotype, lino-printing, beading, needle felting, soapstone carving, and studying with Francesco Fontana, fine-artist of Milan, Italy. She brings an original and multi-media perspective to her wearable art.

Often living in isolated places of the north, Pat's art has evolved to include wearable art for our northern climate. She waits each year for new wool from her shepherd friends on the Canadian Prairies and furs to come from local Yukon Trappers. She joined the Yukon Trappers Association, not because she is a trapper or wants to be, but because she appreciates and supports the lifestyle and the commitment of trappers to bring beautiful furs into our lives. When the raw materials appear, they call to her about what they want to become. She brings her humble sewing and knitting skills and expresses the beauty, the femininity, the strength to survive the Northern climate and practicality. She begins to explore the masculine application as well.



Pat's email address is patbragg2014@gmail.com, phone is 867-332-0251 and she attends the Fur Shows that YTA sets up and in Dawson, Cranberry Fair, other craft fairs from time to time and by personal appointment. Purchasers can pay by VISA, MasterCard, cash, E-transfer, cash or cheque. Payment plans are also available for more expensive items.

If you want to be featured in our next newsletter, please send text and pictures to Sonja at yukonfur@yknet.ca.

Alpaca headband/neck warmer with dyed pink fox

Trapper and Outdoors people Tips and Tricks

by Trapper Paul

There is a way to replace your expensive plastic runners on your toboggan! Get cross country skis.

They might not be as long lasting as the plastic runners but you sometimes find them at the Free stores. The disadvantage is they're getting damaged a little bit faster on the edges of the toboggan because that's where they're getting worn most.



If you'd like to share your tips and tricks, be it what you have learned about snowmobiling, storing items, cooking or trap setting, let us know! We'd love to hear from you. Send text and photos to Sonja at yukonfur@yknet.ca.

Attention Trapline Tourism Businesses. We are compiling a list of trapline tourism businesses' information for our webpage. So, if you'd like to get more traffic to your webpage, please send all your info you want on our webpage to Sonja at yukonfur@yknet.ca

Looking for Survey Participants

Climate Change Impacts on Yukon Trappers



Does Climate Change Impact You?

- Increase or Decrease in Harvest Species
- Overall Health of Species
- Passing on Traditional Knowledge
- Infrastructure Damage
- Limited Access due to Weather
- Unpredictable Weather
- Difficult Travel Conditions
- Forest Fire Impacts

Take a Survey to Help Understand Possible Impacts Across Yukon

- Short interview-based survey
- Over phone, zoom, or socially distant visit
- Ability to review answers to ensure accurate description
- Receive a copy of final report
- Add a collective voice for Trappers around possible impacts of Climate Change

Share your Voice

Please Contact

Shannon Powell
Consultants

(867)-333-4045
spc.yukon@gmail.com



Looking for Survey Participants

Sophie Preckler-Quisquater (squisquater@ucdavis.edu) is an Ecology Ph.D. student at the University of California at Davis working with Dr. Ben Sacks in the Mammalian Ecology and Conservation Unit. She studies the ecology and phylogeographic history of red foxes in North America. she is reaching out in hopes that you, or some of your colleagues within the Yukon Trappers Community, may be interested in contributing to my research efforts by providing red fox tissue samples for a genetic study focusing on populations across North America.

If this is something that you think you may be interested in, she would be able to send you all the necessary supplies, sampling protocols, shipping information, etc. and would of course cover the costs associated with shipping as well.

Kind Regards,

SOPHIE PRECKLER-QUISQUATER, Ph.D. Candidate | Ecology Graduate Group, Mammalian Ecology & Conservation Unit, University of California, Davis, <https://mecu.ucdavis.edu>

Have a great finish to your trapping season and hope to see you all at the Fur and Craft Sale!

Sincerely,

the Board of Directors