



## NEWSLETTER Fall/Winter 21/22

Yukon Trappers Association  
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### President's message

Hello Fellow Members,

The Yukon Trappers Association Fur Sale happens on October 16th. I will be on site and if you have anything you want to talk about, come see me. We have been buying furs from trappers. Robert Stitt, Mackenzie Mertz and myself have been using animals purchased for our workshops and the YTA has these furs tanned and we sell them.

Giveaway hat donated by The Melanson Family; made by my wife Megan Melanson - her similar style hats sell for \$1200. So this is a substantial donation and gift to one lucky purchaser at our event. It is a never before seen style Yukon themed trapper hat that is going to leave you breathless made from beavers caught at our trapline. Beaver that our daughter Tasin helped trap and skin with me.

I trust that most trappers have seen the sale prices improve at the FHA July event. I predict a future uptick in this trend with the decreased available Ranch furs in the world market. This is going to create a few good returns for the trappers at the future auctions. I know that most of the furs did not sell, but that was due to less demand with not as many buyers being able to attend. Now that we seem to be getting over this Covid hump and people who are vaccinated are able to travel to Canada, therefore will be able to attend the next auctions. We had our European guests arrive in early September and of course our American hunters arrived safe and sound as well. This means that the next FHA auction should be full of international buyers with a need for our furs. Please take your time and prepare your furs the best you can to get your optimum financial return.

I hope to see Crafters and Trappers at the Fur Sale. It is a touch early for the Christmas season. However at the same time, it may be the perfect time for someone to approach you about creating a garment or purchase a fur for them to make into a garment. We all have our set prices, but don't be afraid to barter or trade if you're in the position too. This has helped us get ahead and I truly feel it's a connection to the past before there was a Dollar bill. Connect to our roots and heritage.

Have a safe season, and see you at the Fur Sale or in the Fur Depot over the winter.

Respectfully,

Brian P Melanson, President of The Yukon Trappers Association

## **Fur Depot**

by Jackie Yaklin

### **Tanning Services**

The Association provides an excellent tanning service for our members. We negotiated a bulk tanning rate, an exceptional shipping rate; we ship regularly; we're organized; we provide the seals, get the export permit, and pay expenses to our suppliers.

When your tanning order returns, you are notified. Yes, sometimes the notification is not received, but we do leave messages.

The Association does not earn a large income from the tanning fees.

### **Fur in the Round**

The Association is looking for fur in the round of species foxes, coyotes, wolves, marten, beaver. We intend to use them for our workshops. At the end, we'll send the fur for tanning and sell it at a Fur Sale or at Our Store.

These particular furs are difficult to keep in stock, in part because of the limited quantity. And in part, because they are Yukon furs. There is high demand for Yukon furs. When we sell these furs, we can provide information about the furs – where they came from, when they were harvested.

### **Fur Depot**

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday from 2pm to 5pm; Saturdays from 11am to 4pm. Closed Sundays and holidays. Phone 1-867-668-5648 for additional hours.

Fur depot services include: shipping to the auction house; export permits; sealing for lynx, wolverine and wolves.

## **Memberships**

All memberships expire on June 30th. Members receive the following benefits: 10% discount on purchases from Our Store; tanning services; fur depot services. The Association advocates on behalf of its members for specific issues as they arise and for general issues that apply to all trappers.

The Association relies on memberships as the number of members makes us a more representative Association. Please join us. Thank you.

## **Harvest Reporting -- we need your input**

### **Background:**

Recommendation to Minister of Environment.  
From Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board; 2017-December 15

The goal is to manage furbearers and administer trap lines effectively, across the entire Yukon Territory.

In 2017, Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board put forward two recommendations: one, to require a sealing certificate for marten pelts; and 2, to develop a fur harvest reporting system in collaboration with trappers, the Yukon Trappers Association, the Renewable Resource Councils and First Nations Governments.

Recommendation ONE did not go forward because there was not enough support. Yukon Trappers Association did not support this recommendation.

11.2 The YFWMB Board recommends undertaking the development of a comprehensive, mandatory fur harvest reporting system, in direct collaboration with trappers and the Yukon Trappers Association, as well as all Renewable Resource Councils and First Nation Governments.

The department is asking the Trappers Assoc. as to what form this mandatory reporting would be. The YFWMB Board suggests that this reporting, completed each year as required, could be in lieu of the five-year concession renewal harvest portion of the report now required. In addition, the board also suggests that the Department provide trappers with the results of these annual surveys of harvest in a timely basis as to assist with the trapper's planning for the following year. (i.e. trends, population declines, etc.) This reporting should be required of all trappers in all category lines, both concession holders and assistant trappers. There are bits and pieces of data now collected in different forms, fur sealing, local conservation offices, some RRCs, tanneries and taxidermist, but no one location. The idea of this mandatory annual reporting is to capture the entire trapping harvest in one document.

The Board further suggests that there be a five-year period of implementation, at the end of which a review will be undertaken by all parties.

Yukon Trappers Association needs to know your thoughts on the above recommendation.

Thank you, Brian Melanson

Please provide your feedback by **November 1st**, so we can go forward to the YFWMB.

## **Fur Harvesters' Last Receiving & Auction Dates**

### **2021/22 Auction Schedule**

YTA last rec. date	FHA rec. date	Auction date
Jan 7, 2022	Jan 16, 2022	March 24-28, 2022
April 8, 2022	April 17, 2022	June 23-27, 2022

All sales are being held in North Bay, Ontario.

If you have Facebook, Fur Harvesters Auction is on it too and they also post videos.

### **Fur Harvesters last auction report**

This was our 2nd and final auction of the 2021 season. What was hoped to be a year of getting back to normal live auctions had us selling online for the second season in a row. Results of this auction saw very low interest and clearance on raccoon and beaver. Our April sale seemed to be the auction that buyers interested in beaver took a position as we sold at acceptable levels considering the environment we are in and clearance was very good. We intend to hold to respectable price levels on the quality shearing grades and will try to clear as much low end and small sizes in the weeks to come privately.

All coyotes suitable for the trim trade sold very well with strong prices and clearances. The middle grades of Eastern coyotes and Centrals were difficult to move. Italy and China were the main takers in the better coyotes. Muskrats advanced over the good levels we achieved in April with the exception of the first few lots of the top 3x/2x Selects being held back. Marten sold over 90% at levels just shy of April 2021 and this item is not at the levels we want, it is however felt to be heading in the right direction. The otter sale went well, increasing over our last auction but not as strong a clearance. Paler colors are more desirable at this time. Fisher sold at over 95% at increased levels as well. The better grades of lynx we held back as prices were not satisfactory while the smaller sizes and commercial grades we sold at market. Wild mink remains very low however we sold out and hope those purchasing the item do well, sparking interest in this once sought after article.

Our very large offering of WESTERN lynx cats sold better than expected with good interest and competition for the very top goods as well selling numbers of B colored bellies. Eastern Canadian lynx cats did very well once again also. Demand is strong for this item but a live auction would definitely increase clearances.

The last day of the sale saw timber wolves and wolverine selling very strongly as was the case for many more of the Sundry items.

We look forward to the time when we can return to traditional auctions but until then we must all work with what we have and be creative. Our team spent a great deal of time and energy taking pictures and videos of the thousands of sample lots which without question helped in selling what we did.

Despite these very strange and trying times Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. has concluded the year surprisingly well thanks to all of you.

### **Wolf 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. Note that there may be limited funds available this 21/22 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, 2022.

#### **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](mailto:info@yukonoutfitters.net)

### **News from Environment Yukon**

by Ryan Sealy

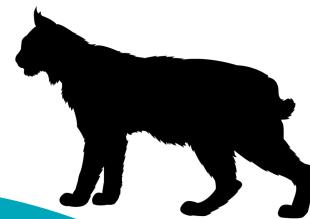
**Wanted:** Frozen fur bearing animals for trapper training.  
Contact Ryan Sealy, Trapper Education Coordinator, 867-393-6273 or 867-634-5390. [Ryan.Sealy@yukon.ca](mailto:Ryan.Sealy@yukon.ca)

Whatever the trapper wants returned, we will do our best to accommodate.

A standard “wildlife purchased or received” form will be filled out upon contributing. It’s the same form trappers receive when furs are brought to YTA for shipping. Details of what is to be returned to them can be written in the comments section.

The [2021-2022 Yukon Trapping Regulations Summary](#) booklets are now available in print as well as on line. Remember to pick up a copy when you get your trapping license this season.

### **Wanted:** **Frozen fur bearing animals.**



Credit: Natasha Sinegina, CC BY 4.0

Seeking fox, coyote, lynx, beaver, wolverine and more!

Your donations will be used for trapper training across the Yukon.

Contact Ryan Sealy  
Trapper education coordinator and instructor  
867-393-6273 or [Ryan.Sealy@Yukon.ca](mailto:Ryan.Sealy@Yukon.ca)



## Upcoming Events

### Fur and Craft Sale, October 16th, 2021

We have organized another Fur and Craft Sale. It will happen on Saturday, October 16th, 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). Call Jackie at 1 867 667 7091 to register. \$ 40.-- per table, payable on the day of the event.

No entrance fee for the public.

**Gift price** for purchasers, donated by the Melanson family! Come and see for yourself!



### **Yukon Trappers Association Fall Fur and Craft Sale**

**Mt. McIntyre Recreation Centre  
Saturday, October 16th  
Doors open at 11 am and close at 4 pm**

COVID PROTOCOLS  
WILL BE IN EFFECT

### **Trappers and Crafters:**

\$40 per table,  
only 18 tables  
available.



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## Past events

### Gun Show, September 25th, 2021

This year's Gun Show was held again at the Gold Rush Inn in Whitehorse. We had a table, and the fabulous Jackie and Vic manning it. We did a good job representing the Association, handed out some public information materials, and sold some tanned fur. All interactions were positive, informative. It was a good event, and we'll be doing it again.

## Miscellaneous

### Trapper and Outdoors people Tips and Tricks

Check out the following link if you'd want to know a few wolf trapping tips from Gordy Klassen:

<https://www.outdoorhub.com/how-to/2014/12/11/wolf-trapping-tips-canadas-premier-trapper/>

**Trapline for sale.** Includes homestead on deeded land. R.T.C. 102. 1-867-333-5955. Pete Beattie. Price Negotiable.

### **Webpage**

Anyone who has trapper-related items at home (e.g. tanned furs, crafts made from the animals you caught) and would like to sell them, we would be glad to put your name and whatever else information you'd like to put out there on our webpage. Send email to [yukonfur@yknet.ca](mailto:yukonfur@yknet.ca).

### **Obituary**

We also want to say RIP Joe Louchan, fiddler extraordinaire, who passed on this last winter at the age of 82. We were lucky to secure Joe Louchan and Nicole Morgan for our Open House, Silent Auction and 40 year anniversary in July 2013. This event happened at the Old Fire Hall in Whitehorse. Alex van Bibber was an honorary guest. Everyone enjoyed Joe and Nicole, who played the fiddle and guitar throughout the evening. Guests were happy to hear local music.

So long, Joe, and THANK YOU!



All the best for a successful trapping season,

the Board of Directors