

The Cree Hunter And Trapper



VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 2 • JUNE 2007
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY BOARD



IN THIS ISSUE

3 MESSAGE OF THE MINISTER

7 EDITORIAL

10 ISP USEFUL

12 INTERVIEW WITH... PIERRE CANAC-MARQUIS

26 SPECKLED TROUT

28 MEETINGS OF INTEREST

30 READER PHOTOS

32 MAKE THAT SET! SCENT-MOUND SET FOR BEAVER

34 ISP USEFUL

37 STAFF PROFILE JACOB GULL

39 ISP IMPORTANT DATES

The Cree Hunter and Trapper Mission and purpose

To help promote, maintain, and facilitate the participation of Cree people in the traditional lifestyle and harvesting activities as a way of life.

Request for stories

The Cree Hunter and Trapper is interested in receiving stories and articles from the beneficiaries of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program. It will also consider stories about any activities related to the traditional lifestyle of the Cree. All submissions are welcome. The Cree Hunter and Trapper will pay, upon publication, up to \$300 per story based on quality of text and accompanying photos.

Editorial comments, submissions, and inquiries should be submitted to:

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Acknowledgements

The Cree Hunter and Trapper is the official magazine of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board.

The publication of this magazine is in accordance with Paragraph 30.2.1 of Complementary Agreement No. 15 relating to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The Board wishes to thank Pierre Canac-Marquis of the ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec for his special collaboration. S. Larivière, Director-general of the Board, acted as editor-in-chief, and M. Latouche, Executive Secretary, assisted with the production and page-proofing. George Snowboy and Sam Kitty of Chisasibi provided photographs.

Cover page: Lloyd Herodier of Chisasibi, is a beneficiary of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program. Speckled trout are one of his favorite fish!



As the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, I am proud to be talking to you, the members of the Cree communities, through this magazine to promote your traditional way of life centred on hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering.

To support these traditions, the Cree have the Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers, introduced to secure the sustainability of the traditional way of life by offering guaranteed income to families who opt for forestry as their primary occupation.

I am happy to say that since adoption of the program, many Cree have reconnected with their traditional practices. I feel it is important that these practices, grounded in history and culture, be passed on to future generations because they are a unique legacy of inestimable value.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful summer.

SAM HAMAD
Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity



Editorial

I love trout. Their beautiful colors, their tasty flesh, their stamina, and the fact that they inhabit only clear and pure waters make trout a special fish. Growing up, some of my fondest memories are of wading down small creeks in sneakers with fishing rod in hand and a box of worms trying to lure some trout to the frying pan. I was to learn later that the largest trout in Quebec occur up north, and many of the waters of Cree territory hold the largest speckled trout in Canada.

But catching big trout is only half the fun: reaching and visiting the places that these trout inhabit is all part of the experience, and whether it is along the shores of Lake Mistissini, or in a small creek flowing into the James Bay near Chisasibi, trout fishing is addictive. And whether you fry it, cook it over an open fire, bake it, smoke it, trout is not only good to the taste – it is good for you! Filled with omega-3, those fatty acids that help not only your physical and mental health, everything about trout is a winner. And if you are lucky enough to catch a great big trout, well, take a picture and send it to me. I just might be able to fit it in a next issue of *The Cree Trapper and Hunter*. In the meantime, have fun fishing!

At your service,

Serge Larivière, PhD, MBA
Director-general
Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board



ISP USEFUL

EXAMPLES OF PAYMENTS FROM ISP

By Tanya Lynn Strong, Program Assistant-Administration

Editor's introduction

The staff of the Income Security Program often gets asked about the benefits received by those who enroll on the Program. Often, the answer is not simple, mainly because it depends on the status of the person (living alone or not), the number of dependants (children), the number of days spent in the bush on an annual basis, and sources and amount of income received by adults in the family.

To determine how much money you would receive if you were on the Income Security Program, the best way is to meet with your Local Administrator. Together, you will decide, in advance, the number of days that you expect to spend in the bush, from July to June, based on your previous harvesting activities. You will also have to decide the number of days in the bush for your consort. Then, you must also report your other sources of income, for both yourself and your consort. This will include temporary work, seasonal employment, contracts, honoraria for all adults in the family. With this information, your Local Administrator will evaluate your situation and give you an estimation of the benefits you can receive from the Program.

Here are a few examples

(Approximate amounts from 2006-2007)
All these examples assume there are no other income.



1 Adult

If you spend...	120 days in the bush	▶ You will receive	\$ 8 180	(4 payments of \$ 2 045)
	180	▶	\$ 10 188	(4 payments of \$ 2 547)
	240 (max)	▶	\$ 12 192	(4 payments of \$ 3 048)



2 Adults

If you and your consort spend...	120 days (each) in the bush	▶ Together, you will receive	\$ 18 028	(4 payments of \$ 4 507)
	180 days (each)	▶	\$ 22 040	(4 payments of \$ 5 510)
	240 days (each)	▶	\$ 26 056	(4 payments of \$ 6 514)



2 Adults, 2 Children

If you and your consort spend...	120 days (each) in the bush	▶ Together, you will receive	\$ 21 364	(4 payments of \$ 5 341)
	180 days (each)	▶	\$ 25 376	(4 payments of \$ 6 344)
	240 days (each)	▶	\$ 29 392	(4 payments of \$ 7 348)

These examples highlight 2 important points affecting benefits:

- The greater the number of days in the bush, the larger the benefits;
- The larger the family, the larger the benefits.

Please remember that in addition to number of days in the bush and family situation, the benefits are also influenced by your financial situation (other income). Again, the best way to determine your benefits is to meet the Local Administrator of the Income Security Program in your community.

You can refer to the January Edition of *The Cree Hunter and Trapper* for more details on entitlement, eligibility and how the benefits are calculated.



Interview With

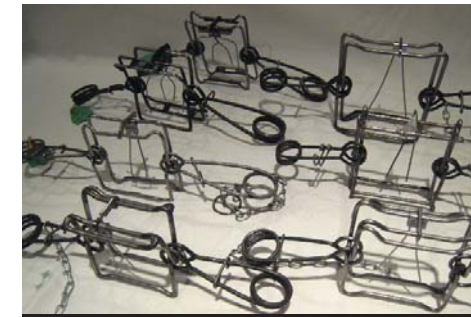
Pierre Canac-Marquis



THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CREE TRAPPERS?

A lot of things have changed in the fur industry in the last 100 years or so. Among the changes that many would rank as most influential is the development of the square, body-gripping trap known to many by the name of its inventor, Frank Conibear. Body-gripping traps have facilitated the work of trappers across Canada but also in many other places around the globe. Russian trappers use body-grippers to catch Russian sable, American use them to catch raccoon and muskrats, and each year, more and more trappers are finding ways to harvest fur animals with bodygrippers. In Eeyou Itschee, Cree trappers have grown accustomed to using body-grippers to catch beaver, otter, and marten.



THERE ARE EIGHT TRAPS CURRENTLY CERTIFIED FOR TRAPPING MARTEN: THE SAUVAGEAU C-120 MAGNUM, SAUVAGEAU 2001-5, BELISLE SUPERX 120, RUDY 120 MAGNUM, RUDY 160 PLUS, LDL C-120 MAGNUM, BMI 126 MAGNUM, AND THE SAUVAGEAU 2001-6 (NOT PICTURED).

But even within the world of bodygrippers, technologies have been evolving. Years ago, trappers were happy just to get body-grippers, and flaws in design were compensated by the optimism and the ingenuity of the trappers using them. However, during the same period, the activities of trappers became the scrutiny of the public from all around the world, and pressure, mostly from the European and American, intensified the need for better and more humane traps.

Years later, an agreement was signed among several countries, Canada included. This agreement is called "International Agreement on Humane Trapping standards". This agreement was signed with support from all 10 provinces and also included representatives of the Cree. During the negotiations, Mr. Thomas Coon, Vice-president of the Cree Trappers' Association, and Native representative of the Fur Institute of Canada, pointed out the viewpoint of Cree hunters and trappers. Developed in 1999, the Agreement was set to take effect 8 years later, in 2007.

The fall hunting season of 2007 will be the first year of the implementation of the Agreement in Canada. According to the rules and regulations of the agreement, trappers across Canada will be required to use certified traps for the capture of certain fur bearing animals. Among those animals is the American marten, the core of many fur traplines in Cree territory.

To better understand the impacts of this legislation on Cree hunters, we decided to interview the person responsible for the implementation of this agreement for the province of Quebec, Mr. Pierre Canac-Marquis. Mr. Canac-Marquis currently works for the Québec government as Provincial Trapping Coordinator, but worked with the Crees previously on Trapper Education Programs. Mr. Canac-Marquis also is an active trapper and the Trap Research Technical Coordinator for the Fur Institute of Canada for the last 8 years. The Director-general of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board, Mr. Serge Larivière, interviewed Mr. Canac-Marquis during the Provincial Trappers meeting in Sherbrooke, in March 2007.

SL
Mr. Canac-Marquis, First let me thank you for your willingness to help clarify the impacts of this agreement for Cree hunters and trappers. Can you please start by telling us how this agreement came about.

PCM
Well, it is fairly simple. Fur users and the public in general from around the world started examining practices related to traps and trapping years ago, and the growing pressure led to the realization that some of the ways needed to be updated, modernized if you will, to recognize the needs and desires of the market. Simply put, without this agreement, Canada would have lost its market for wild fur. This basically means that the trapping activity as we have known it for centuries would have probably disappeared. No market, no incentive for trapping. ►

THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY BOARD HELPS SUPPORT THE CREE THAT WISH TO PURSUE TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES AS A WAY OF LIFE. FOR THOSE PEOPLE, TRAPPING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND ALSO CAN BE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME

TRAPPING PRACTICES AND TOOLS HAVE BEEN EVOLVING, JUST LIKE OTHER TRADES AND ACTIVITIES. THIS FALL, AN IMPORTANT AGREEMENT ON HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS WILL TAKE EFFECT. THIS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY CANADA, AND THE CREES OF QUEBEC WERE STRONG ADVOCATES AND NEGOTIATORS IN THIS AGREEMENT. TO BETTER EXPLAIN WHAT THIS AGREEMENT IS, AND HOW IT CAME ABOUT, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE BOARD INTERVIEWED QUEBEC'S OWN SPECIALIST ON TRAP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, MR. PIERRE CANAC-MARQUIS.

PCM SL The goal of this agreement was thus to first and foremost keep the wild fur market alive. A second goal, just as important, was an animal welfare goal. From a general public perspective even for the ones who buy garments made of your furs, trapping methods needed to evolve to better treat captured animals. All natural resources field evolve: forestry methods have changed, mining techniques have changed, oil exploration has changed, even transportation in the bush has changed. Today, we would not think of going in the bush without modern rifles, snowmobiles, or outboard motors. We adapted to the new technology. This agreement aimed to do the same thing with trapping: improve what we do. Every trade in our actual world, even the most traditional ones, have to adapt and evolve quickly otherwise it is condemned to disappear.

SL PCM **Interesting. Keeping the market open and improving animal welfare are the two primary goals. But how will this impact the activities of trappers?**
The Agreement will have little impact on individual trappers. Most trappers already use traps that have been certified through the agreement. Maybe for Cree hunters, the biggest impact will be for marten.

PCM SL **Why marten?**
Tests done on live martens have proven that leghold traps (like #0, 1, 1 1/2 and larger sizes set on land) and that the most commonly used killing marten traps, the Victor Oneida Woodstream Conibear 120 does not kill marten quickly enough to meet the timeframes required by the Agreement Standards. The good news is, there are a wide variety of traps that kill marten much faster. The new traps, many referred to as "magnum" traps because of their greater strength or clamping force, are also built to last longer. So the trapper that adopts the new tools also ends up with better equipment.

PCM SL **New traps are better?**
Much better! They are built with better steel, are more durable, are stronger, will last longer, with less manufacturing flaws, and most importantly for trappers, they are more effective at catching marten!

PCM SL **But do they affect fur price and value?**
Yes, they improve fur price and value! Old traps often allowed trapped marten to wiggle and twist within the jaws, whereas new traps clamp tighter and kill faster, thus reducing pelt damage. Many trappers believe that this element alone will pay for the new, magnum traps! These trap models are also, when properly set, much more marten specific and selective than the traditional ones.

SL PCM **So new traps will be required for marten trapping. What about for other species?**
There are no significant changes in the use of traps actually used for beaver, muskrat, mink, fox or otter.

PCM SL **Were the Crees consulted during the development of the Agreement?**
Yes, the Crees were very active during the negotiations. The Cree Trappers' Association did its part, and Mr. Thomas Coon along with others Cree and Canadian Aboriginal representatives went in Europe to explain the importance of trapping and maintaining an healthy fur market for Cree people. The Crees of Québec are recognized in the Agreement as a "Competent Authority", which means they have their own authority with regards to this agreement. The Crees of Québec were a very powerful and convincing player in this agreement.

PCM SL **Where can trappers find or purchase the new traps?**
Most trap supply dealers carry the new traps. Should you wish to consult the list of certified traps, you can visit the Website of the Department of Natural resources and Wildlife (<http://www.mrnfp.gouv.qc.ca>), the Website of the Fur Institute of Canada (<http://www.fur.ca>) or the Website of the Québec Trappers Federation (<http://www.ftgq.qc.ca/>).

PCM SL **Any closing comments?**
Canada has always been a leader in the humane treatment of furbearers caught in trapping conditions. In Canada, we were doing trap testing and trap improvements long before the Agreement was signed.

We have been leaders in this field all along. The 2007 International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards simply says to the whole world that Canada continues to be one of the top producers of wild fur, and that we harvest fur animals in modern ways. If you want a fur coat, buy one from Canada – the fur, the traps, the trappers and the trades are all top quality! •

For more information visit <http://www.fur.ca>

«They are built with better steel, are more durable, are stronger...»



January 2007 **Eastmain**

The traveling DIRECTOR

HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL DURING HIS RECENT TRIPS TO CREE COMMUNITIES.



The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

January 2007 Chisasibi

Feb. 2007

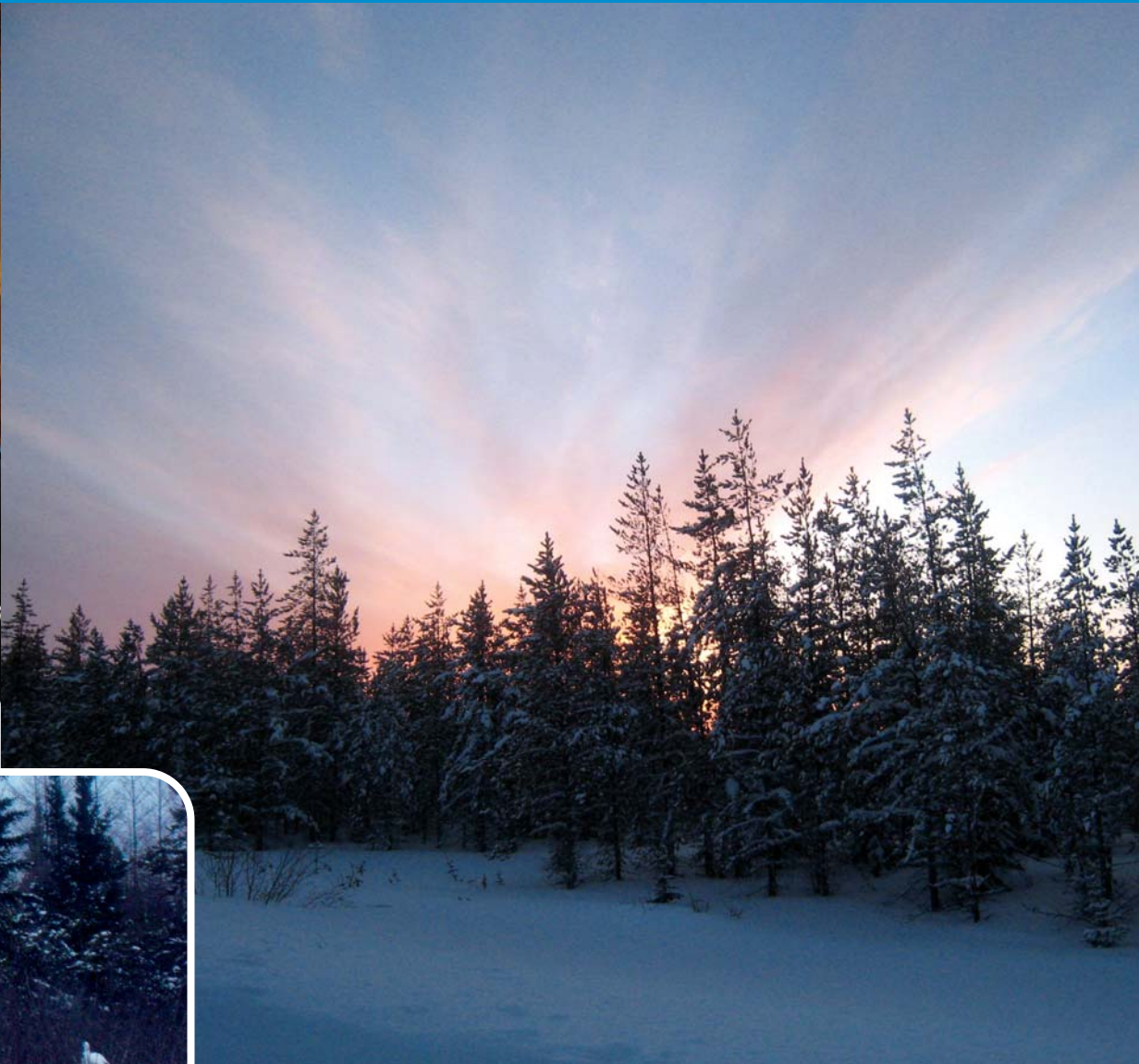


Visiting the **Transtaiga Highway**

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

February 2007 Visiting the **Transtaiga Highway**



March 2007

Oujé-Bougoumou



Speckled Trout

ANIMAL PROFILE

English Name: Speckled trout, Brook trout, Sea trout
French Name: Omble de fontaine, Truite mouchetée
Scientific (Latin) Name: *Salvelinus fontinalis*
Cree Name: *māsimākw*
Cree syllabics: ᓄᓴᓄᓄᓄᓄ

«For the Cree, speckled trout is an important bush food consumed and available not only during summer and fall, but also during winter as it is easily captured through the ice.»

The speckled trout is a common fish of the north. It is distributed throughout most of Quebec and Labrador, but also occurs in northeastern United States and west into Ontario and eastern Manitoba, some lakes of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Because it is highly valued for its tasty flesh and fighting abilities, speckled trout have been introduced overseas in New Zealand, Asia and many countries of Europe.

Speckled trout love clear, fresh and cold water with lots of oxygen. Similarly to the Atlantic salmon, sea trout are simply speckled trout that live in the sea water and comes into freshwater streams and river to reproduce. ▶

Speckled trout spawn in late August or September: at this time, they move upstream to suitable spawning beds in shallow, rocky waters.

Speckled trout are carnivorous fish, eating a variety of insects, invertebrates and other fish. They grow fast, but live short lives, usually less than 5 years. For the Cree, speckled trout is an important bush food consumed and available not only during summer and fall, but also during winter as it is easily captured through the ice.

Did you catch a HUGE speckled TROUT? Measure it, weight it, and take a picture!

The largest brook trout ever captured on record was caught in 1916 by Dr. J. W. Cook at the McDonal Rapids (Rabbit Rapids), down from Virgin Falls, on the Nipigon River. The amazing fish weighed 14.5 pounds (6.6 kg) and measured 34.5 inches (87.6 cm). Details of this fish can be found on <http://www.brooktrout.ca>. Another huge speckled trout was captured recently in Manitoba, this one even bigger than the 1915 world record, but it was released without official measurements. The angler, Tim Matheson of Manitoba, caught a brook trout (speckled trout) that measured 29 inches long with a 21-inch girth. Based on an accepted brook trout weight calculation formula, the fish was estimated at 16 pounds, which is 1.5 pounds bigger than Dr. JW Cook's world record brook trout. The fish was released so it is not eligible to become a world record. However, Manitoba did recognize the fish as the new Manitoba record brook trout. •



Meetings of interest National and International

AUGUST

AUGUST
2-5
2007

- **EVENT:** 48TH ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
- **LOCATION:** ELKHART COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS, 17746-D CR 34, GOSHEN, INDIANA, USA

DESCRIPTION: ONE OF THE LARGEST TRAPPER'S CONVENTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, THIS GATHERING INCLUDES TRAPPERS, TRAP SUPPLY DEALERS, OUTDOOR FLEA MARKETS, TRAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS, VARIOUS CONTESTS, SKINNING DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.NATIONALTRAPPERS.COM](http://www.nationaltrappers.com)

AUGUST
11-12
2007

- **EVENT:** WOODSTOCK DU TRAPPEUR (TRAPPER'S WOODSTOCK)
- **LOCATION:** QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC

DESCRIPTION: THIS ANNUAL EVENT IS A SUMMER GATHERING OF TRAPPERS FROM ALL REGIONS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC. DURING THIS TWO-DAY EVENT, YOU CAN ATTEND TRAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS AND CONFERENCES, AND VISIT NUMEROUS DEALERS OF TRAPPING SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT. VISITORS CAN CAMP ON SITE FOR MINIMAL FEE, OR STAY IN NEARBY HOTELS AND MOTELS. BANQUET AND DANCE ARE HELD ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
VISIT [HTTP://WWW.FTGQ.QC.CA/](http://www.ftgq.qc.ca/)
OR CONTACT:
QUEBEC TRAPPERS' FEDERATION
AT 418-872-7644.

AUGUST
11-12
2007

- **EVENT:** 11TH ANNUAL MISTISSINI POLICE FISHING DERBY
- **LOCATION:** MISTISSINI LAKE, QUEBEC

DESCRIPTION: THIS 2-DAY FISHING DERBY IS HELD EACH YEAR. CONTESTANTS CAN REGISTER THEIR BEST FISH IN EACH OF THE FOUR SPECIES: PIKE, WALLEYE, SPECKLED TROUT AND LAKE TROUT. WINNER CATCHES THE HIGHEST COMBINED WEIGHT OF ALL FOUR FISH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT MISTISSINI POLICE
DEPARTMENT

AUGUST

AUGUST
28-30
2007

- **EVENT:** CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- **LOCATION:** WASKAGANISH, QUEBEC

DESCRIPTION: ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
PAUL COON-COME, GENERAL
MANAGER, 418-923-3276

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER
8-11
2007

- **EVENT:** 37TH ANNUAL WATERFOWL FESTIVAL
- **LOCATION:** EASTON, MARYLAND

DESCRIPTION: THE WATERFOWL FESTIVAL IS ALL ABOUT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, THE PROMOTION OF WILDLIFE ART, AND THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE ON MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE. IT IS ALSO THE LOCATION WHERE THE WORLD GOOSE CALLING CHAMPIONSHIP IS HELD. DUCK CALLING CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE ALSO HELD, AND CASH PRIZES RANGE FROM \$250 TO \$10,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT RAE COPPER 410-822-4567 OR EMAIL
RCOPPER@WATERFOWLFESTIVAL.ORG, OR SIMPLY VISIT
[HTTP://WATERFOWLFESTIVAL.ORG/SCHEDULE.HTML](http://waterfowlfestival.org/schedule.html)



Fire is an essential tool for Cree hunters and Trappers. In the north, the types of wood available for burning are limited, and most often, hunters burn what is available. Usually, jack pine is used because it is most abundant. But have you ever wondered how jack pine compares to other woods for heat?

HERE IS THE HEAT VALUE OF VARIOUS WOODS, BASED ON THE UNITS OF HEAT BTU (BRITISH THERMAL UNITS) - MILLION BTUS PER CORD

SUGAR MAPLE	24
BEECH	24
YELLOW BIRCH	23.6
TAMARACK	20.8
PAPER BIRCH	20.3
JACK PINE	17.1
HEMLOCK	15.9
BLACK SPRUCE	15.9
ASPEN	14.7
WHITE PINE	14.3
BALSAM FIR	14.3
COTTONWOOD	13.5

Picture from the past: A successful hunt by Sam Kitty (left), the late Jackie Bullfrog (center) and the late Paul Napash (right) in the 1960's.



George Snowboy, a beneficiary of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program in Chisasibi, sent us these pictures of his wife (Elizabeth) and some of their fox pelts.



Make that set!

Scent-mound Set for Beaver

Beavers are an important source of food for traveling hunters and trappers. Even in strange or new territory, one can always find comfort in locating active beaver colonies. Beaver colonies attract a lot of wild animals, from otters to ducks, geese and often, large, speckled trout. But beaver meat itself is a staple food that is both energy rich and delicious.

By
Serge Larivière

Trapping methods for beaver vary with season. In the January issue of *The Cree Hunter and Trapper*, we presented a set that uses snares to capture beavers under ice. In this issue, we present one of the fastest, simplest and most efficient method of harvesting beaver in open water: **the scent-mound set.**

The reasoning behind the set is simple. Beavers, wherever they live, rely on markings to advertise their occupancy of a territory. Among the most important markers are scent mounds. Scent mounds consists of piles of muddy leaves, mud, or debris that are pushed ashore by the beaver. Once on land, beavers deposit the scent from their castor glands on top of this mound. Every time a beaver visits one of these mounds, it brings mud to cover the scent of the previous beaver, and then deposit fresh scent, its own scent, on top of the mound. These mounds grow over time and resemble "mud-pies", another common name for this type of set.

Scent mounds get the most action in the spring, right after ice out. At this time, the young beaver leave their maternal lodge to try and find a territory of their own.



«Every time a beaver visits one of these mounds...»

During their travel, they will visit and investigate scent mounds already in place, but they will also make new scent mounds. For this reason, any beaver is likely to investigate a scent mound, real or man-made.

The set is simple. Find a U-shaped indentation in the bank, maybe an old beaver channel. Gather a handful or two of mud and debris from the bottom, pile it on shore. Deposit a little piece of beaver castor on it, and maybe oil from beaver oil sacs. The simply cover the approach with a large, bodygripping trap such as Conibear or other brand.

The best way is to have the trap half in and half out of the water, with the trigger on the bottom and underwater. This way, the approaching beaver does not see the trigger and sees instead an inviting opening to enter. Tie your trap securely. If you are set up near an active lodge, this set can produce fast results. But the real beauty of this set, is that it will catch traveling beaver even away from active lodges. Find a nice river, set a trap lured with castor scent, and you will catch beaver when they travel by!



ISP USEFUL

By Tanya Lynn Strong, Program Assistant-Administration

In September of each year, some beneficiaries receive a Retro Cheque from their local administrators, whereas other beneficiaries do not. The retro cheque (retro for retroactive, meaning it refers to a payment due for the past year) is probably one of the most misunderstood aspect of the Income Security Program. To help clarify what is the Retro Cheque, let us present and answer some of the Frequently Asked Questions...

What Is a Retro Cheque?

The Retro Cheque is a payment you receive at the end of the Program-year, when all the information relative to your file has been compiled by your Local Administrator. Upon its final review, usually in July and August, the staff of the Income Security Board will evaluate the exact amount to which you were entitled for the past year. Then, they will deduct the amounts you have already received. The difference is money that is owed to you by the Board, and this is what we call the Retro Cheque. But before they can determine if you are entitled to a Retro Cheque, the staff will ask the following questions:

- **Did you meet your goal?** If yes, you will receive a Retro Cheque as benefits will be indexed (increased according to rising cost of living).
- **Did you spend more days than your goal?** If yes, you will receive a Retro Cheque. When you reach your goal, all the days you spend after that will be paid in the Retro Cheque. The more days you spend over your initial goal, the higher your Retro Cheque could be.
- **Did you harvest in a far region?** If so, then the allowance for far harvesting will be part of your Retro Cheque. The more days in the far regions, the higher the Retro Cheque.
- **Did you spend fewer days than your goal?** If yes, you are unlikely to receive a Retro Cheque and instead, there may be an overpayment in your file (the amount will be automatically deducted from your benefits the following year).

Also, the far harvesting daily allowance and the sick days are only paid at the end of the year. If you qualified to receive those benefits, they will be included in the Retro Cheque. Finally any change in your family situation (new children, marriage, divorce, separation) or your financial situation (any other sources of income) will affect the amount of a Retro Cheque.



Why Do Some Beneficiaries Get a Bigger Retro Cheque Than Others?

It all depends on the number of days you and your Local Administrator decide you can spend in the bush at the beginning of the program-year. For example, if you initially expected to spend 150 days in the bush, but finally were able to spend 180 days (difference of 30 days), your Retro Cheque will be bigger than if you started the year at 170 and end up spending 180 days (difference of only 10 days).

Does a Bigger Retro Cheque Mean More Benefits?

No! The benefits are divided into four payments during the year. Someone may have smaller payments during the year but get a big Retro Cheque to compensate for the days they spent over their initial number.

TRAPPER WHO ALWAYS SPENDS 200 DAYS (AND SPENT 200 DAYS)		TRAPPER WHO ALWAYS SPENDS 200 DAYS (BUT STARTS OUT AT 180 DAYS)	
	PAYMENTS		PAYMENTS
SEPTEMBER	\$ 2 714	SEPTEMBER	\$ 2 547
JANUARY	\$ 2 714	JANUARY	\$ 2 547
APRIL	\$ 2 714	APRIL	\$ 2 547
JUNE	\$ 2 714	JUNE	\$ 2 547
RETRO *(ESTIMATION)	\$ 44	RETRO *(ESTIMATION)	\$ 712
TOTAL FOR THE YEAR	\$ 10 900	TOTAL FOR THE YEAR	\$ 10 900

I Know Another Family on the Income Security Program. They Spent Less Days in the Bush than us but Received a Bigger Retro Cheque. Why is that?

It all depends on your own individual goal or expectations (the number of days that was decided at the beginning of the year in your own file). The more you exceed your individual goal, the bigger your Retro Cheque can be. If you started at 120 days and ended up spending 150 days in the bush, your Retro Cheque will be bigger than if you started at 200 days and spent 210 days in the bush.

How Can I Get a Bigger Retro Cheque?

If you would like to get a bigger Retro Cheque in September, you can lower your estimated number of days for the year at the start of the program-year in July. Your Local Administrator can examine your file and the average number of days you usually spend and help you decide on a lower number of days. At the end of the year, even if you spend around the same number of days you usually spend, you will receive a bigger Retro Cheque.

Their File Is Cancelled.

Why Did They Get a Retro Cheque?

When a beneficiary cancels his/her file, any payment that is due is issued as soon as possible. Every year, the amounts paid by the Program are indexed (increased according to the cost of living) at the end of the year and even beneficiaries who had their files cancelled are entitled to the difference between the amount that was paid during the year and the new amount at the end of the year.

Staff profile

IN THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE CREE HUNTER AND TRAPPER (JANUARY 2007), STAFF PROFILE PORTRAYED ONE OF THE FIRST EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD, MR. PETER SHECAPIO FROM MISTISSINI. IN THIS ISSUE, WE ARE PROUD TO PORTRAY ANOTHER LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE OF THE BOARD AND WELL-KNOWN FIGURE AMONG THE CREE: MR. JACOB GULL.

Jacob Gull

Employed by the Board since:
June 6, 1976
Current position:
Local Administrator
Work Location:
Waswanipi

Jacob Gull, son of William Gull and Hannah Gull, was born in the bush at the location of the current community of Waswanipi.

In his family, there were seven brothers and three sisters. Jacob lived by the Waswanipi River until he was 10 years old. At that time, Jacob left Waswanipi to attend Residential School in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario until he was 18 years of age.

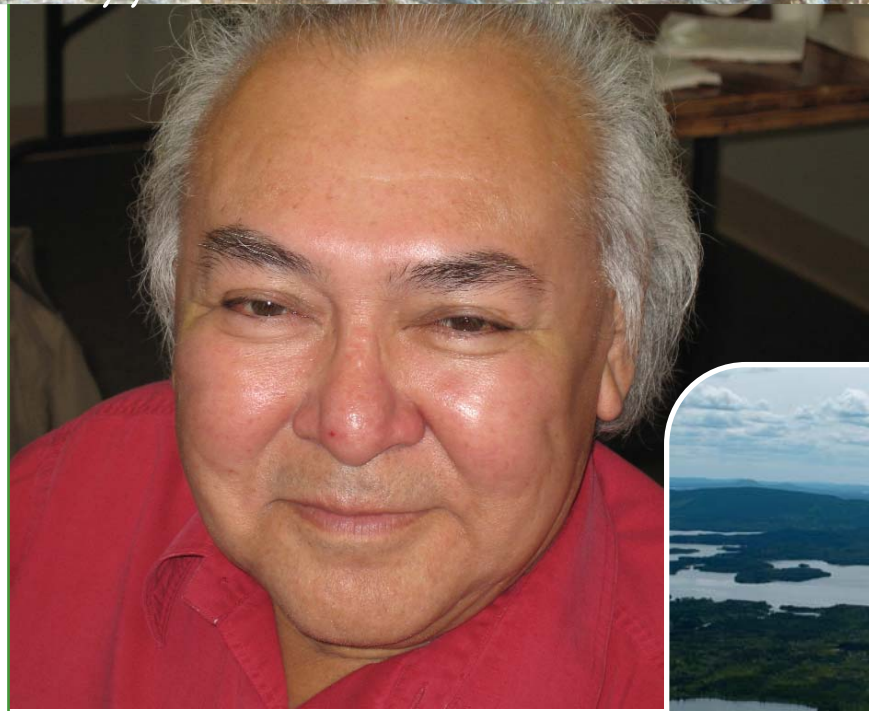


ISP IMPORTANT DATES

FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

Jacob Gull's first jobs were related to mining. He worked as an underground miner for copper mines in Chapais, Chibougamau and Matagami, as well as gold mines in Kirk Lake and Red Lake, Ontario. Jacob Gull's mining career lasted 8 years after which he went to work for a large mining exploration company out of Toronto, Ontario. At that time, Jacob was working in the bush as a field foreman for exploration in both Ontario and Québec. Afterwards, Jacob was asked by the Grand Council of the Crees to go work as a translator for the Montréal Court during the James Bay Court case. After a year of translation for the Court case, Jacob Gull kept working for the Grand Council. Among other duties, Jacob worked on a one-year study of mercury in fish, then became involved in a one-year study on Native harvesting that was meant to clarify the role of the emerging Income Security Program. Soon after the completion of the study, Jacob was hired as the first Local Administrator of the Income Security Program in the community of Waswanipi.

This was in June of 1976 and Jacob has been working for the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board ever since. In addition to his employment with the Income Security Board, Jacob Gull was on the Board of Compensation for 10 years (1976 to 1986) and on the Band Council for 10 years as representative of the Waswanipi Band.



«When Jacob is not working, he likes to spend time with his family...»

When Jacob is not working, he likes to spend time with their family, especially his wife Caroline Polson as well as their five children, Janice (aged 35), Erika (aged 33; wife of current Waswanipi Chief John Kitchen) Jonathan (aged 31), Kimberly (aged 30) and Valerie Lynn (aged 19). Four of five children live in Waswanipi but Kimberly currently attends school in Ottawa. Jacob also likes to travel and visit relatives in both Québec and Ontario.

Jacob Gull currently works in the Waswanipi office, but he also handles the files of beneficiaries from Senneterre, Amos, Pikogan, Matagami and Chapais. Just like his colleagues Peter Shecapio and Allen Neacappo, Jacob Gull received a gold watch to highlight his 30 years of service during the festivities of the 30th Anniversary of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program, held on August 17, 2006 in Mistissini. •

JULY 1 TO 31, 2007

Period of application to the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program.

JULY 15, 2007

Deadline to request for a revision of the List of eligibility for 2007-2008. [List of persons recognized as hunters and trappers in the community].

JULY 16 TO AUGUST 10, 2007

Program Assistant-Services and Local Administrators are absent from their community for a few weeks during this period to participate to the revision of files in Québec city.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

Date of the first Income Security Program cheque for the Program-year 2007-2008. This is also when the retroactive payments, commonly called "retro cheques", are issued when applicable.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

Deadline for the Local Committee to amend the List of eligibility for 2007-2008.

OCTOBER 15, 2007

Extended deadline for application to the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program involving exceptional cases.

DECEMBER 10-14, 2007

Annual meeting of all staff of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board in Québec city at the head office of the Board.

JANUARY 3, 2008

Date of the second Income Security Program cheque for the Program-year 2007-2008.





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