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ISSN: 1911-8008

DÉPÔT LÉGAL:
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE
DU QUÉBEC, 2008
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE
DU CANADA, 2008

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 Alan Herscovici of Fur Council of Canada 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. Luc Farrell and Betty Tomatuk provided photographs.

Cover page: George M. Shecapio is a Local Administrator of the Income Security Program in Mistissini. He loves to spend time in the bush and knows well the value of beavers to Cree trappers!

DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY ISABELLE SIMARD, GRAPHISTE

Editorial

Beavers hold a special place in the heart of northern hunters and trappers. Once an active beaver lodge is located, the beavers living therein are like food in the refrigerator, or money in the bank. Beavers provide delicious food that is accessible any time of year, and when harvested during autumn or winter, the beautiful soft pelt offers an added bonus. Moreover, in addition to the meat and the fur, beavers also provide oils and scents from their glands that can be used to attract other fur animals such as lynx, fox or marten. The Cree also find medicinal value to the glands of beavers. Not surprisingly, the beaver is among the most sought after and appreciated furbearer of the Cree.

Today, the beaver remains a pillar of the fur trade. For the Cree, it is, with the marten, one of the two most commonly harvested fur animals. And when you add in the quality of the meat, the tail, the feet, the liver and the guts, beavers bring a smile to any hunter's face.

Enjoy the harvest!



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



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Long Lane

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The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Editorial

Le castor tient une place spéciale dans le cœur des chasseurs et trappeurs du Nord. Une fois localisée, une colonie de castors constitue une source de nourriture fiable et accessible, comme de la viande au réfrigérateur. Lorsque récoltée en automne et en hiver, la fourrure du castor constitue aussi un supplément exceptionnel à la chair délicieuse. De plus, la capture d'un castor fournit aussi des huiles et des senteurs de leurs glandes qui sont utiles pour attirer d'autres espèces animales comme le lynx, le renard et la martre. Certains utilisent même les glandes de castors à des fins médicinales. Il n'est donc pas surprenant de savoir que le castor demeure un des animaux à fourrure les plus appréciés par les Cris.

Aujourd'hui, le castor demeure un des piliers de l'industrie de la fourrure. Pour les Cris, le castor est, avec la martre, une des deux espèces animales récoltées en plus grande abondance. Quand on additionne à cette fourrure la qualité nutritive de la chair, la queue, les pattes, le foie, et même les entrailles, la capture d'un castor fait toujours sourire de joie.

Profitez de la récolte!

Longford

Serge Larivière, Ph.D., MBA
 Directeur général
 Office de la sécurité du revenu des
 chasseurs et piégeurs cris



ISP
USEFUL

ISP AND WORK
CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS
INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

By Tanya Lynn Strong, Program Assistant-Administration

Editor's introduction

The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program is for Crees who choose the traditional way of life of harvesting as their main occupation. However, seasonal or temporary work is possible while on the Program, as long as you spend at least 120 days in the bush and more time in the bush than working throughout the year.

How Does Work Affect my ISP Benefits?

1. Any days you spend in the bush are payable except during periods when you are working.
2. You cannot be paid by the Program for days for which you receive a salary, even if your job takes place in the bush.
3. Any income you receive from employment is accounted for in your file. 40% of this income will be deducted from your Basic Amount (which is based on the number of adults and children in your family unit).

What if I Start Working?

Contact your Local Administrator as soon as possible to tell them you or your consort are working. Your Local Administrator will make sure that no overpayment is created in your file by making the necessary adjustments. They may, however, need to cancel an ISP payment if the modification to your file was not made in time. Doing so helps you by not creating an overpayment that will need to be repaid to the Board.

You will need to mention how long you plan to work and how much you will be earning. When your temporary/seasonal job is over, your Local Administrator will give you a salary confirmation that must be filled out by your employer and sent to the Board.

IMPORTANT: You must provide all documents requested by the Board and your Local Administrator concerning your job. Otherwise, the Board will estimate your income and calculate your benefits accordingly.



OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS

- If Head of the Family is working, no days are payable for the consort during that period of time, even if the consort harvests in the bush.
- If the consort works, the salary received is accounted for and deducted from the Basic Amount. Days spent in the bush by the Head during this time are payable.
- If you are unsure if you will work during the year or how much you will earn, your Local Administrator and you will estimate an amount to be included in your file. As long as you stay under that amount, no changes will be made to your benefits. At the end of the year, when you have provided all your salary confirmations to your Local Administrator, your file will be adjusted with the exact amounts.

Examples of Benefits If You Work*

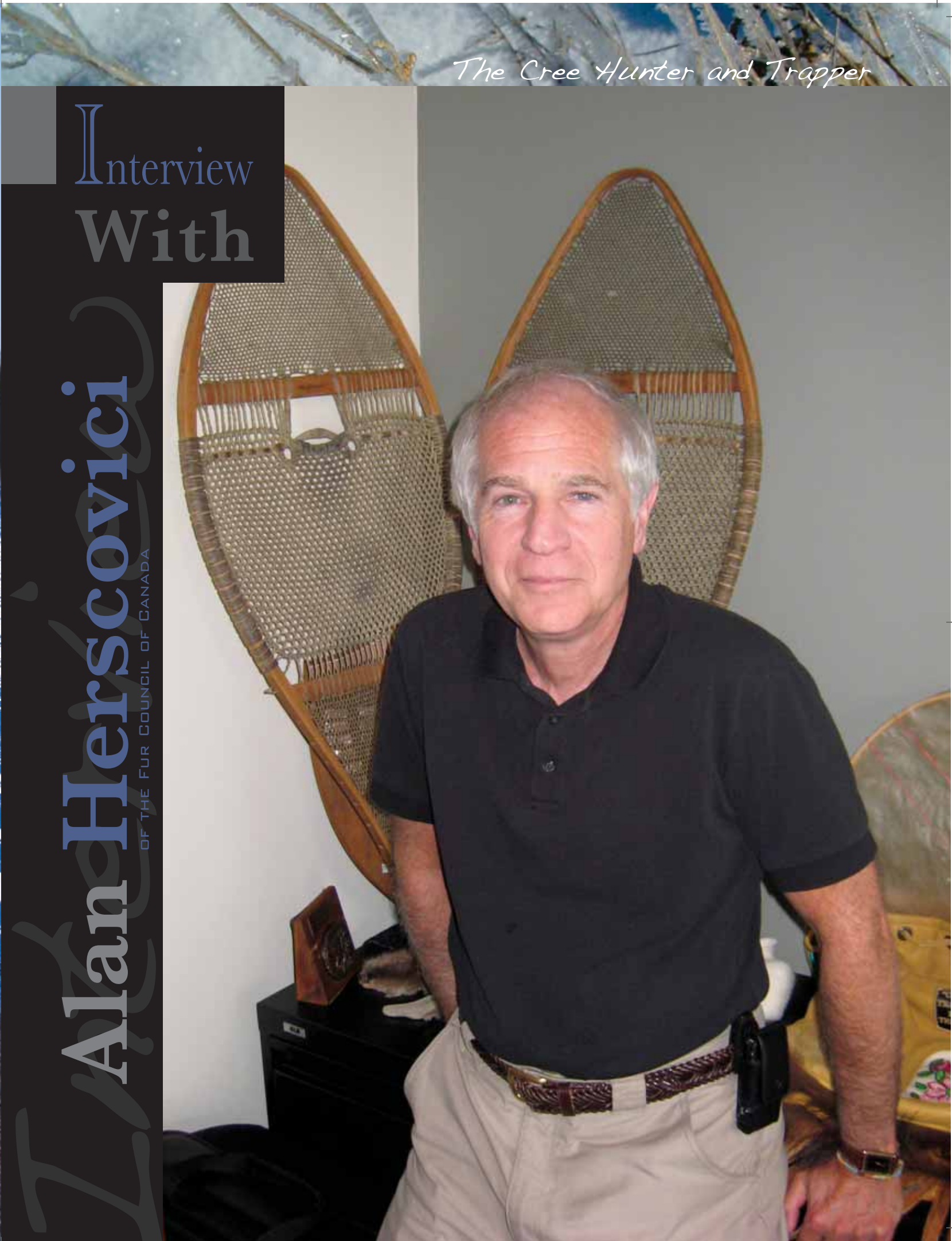
*(Based on preliminary rates for 2007-2008)

	1 Adult	Income from work \$0	Income from work \$1000	Income from work \$4000	Income from work \$5000
	ISP - Days Paid (120 days)	\$6905	\$6905	\$6905	\$6905
	ISP - Basic Amount (Family unit)	\$1493	\$1093	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL ISP + Income from work	\$8398	\$8998	\$10905	\$11905

	2 Adults 2 Children	Income from work \$0	Income from work \$1000	Income from work \$5000	Income from work \$10000
	ISP - Days Paid (120 days each: Head and Consort)	\$13810	\$13810	\$13810	\$13810
	ISP - Basic Amount (Family unit)	\$8098	\$7698	\$6098	\$4098
	TOTAL ISP + Income from work	\$21908	\$22508	\$24908	\$27908

As you can see from the examples, no matter the amount earned from a job, the amount received for days spent in the bush remains the same. If you worked but still spent 120 days in the bush, the Board will pay you 120 days in the bush. Only the Basic Amount changes when you earn a salary.

* Please note that ISP benefits vary according to your family and financial situation. Please contact your Local Administrator for the best evaluation of your ISP benefits. You can refer to the January 2007 Edition of "The Cree Hunter and Trapper" magazine for more details on Entitlement, Eligibility and how the benefits are calculated or to the June 2007 Edition for more details on examples of payments and explanations on the "Retro" cheque.



The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Interview
With

Alan Herscovici
OF THE FUR COUNCIL OF CANADA

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

THE CREE TRAPPERS HAVE FOR YEARS EXPERIENCED THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE FUR MARKET. TODAY, WILD FUR IS STILL A PRODUCT IN HIGH DEMAND, MOSTLY FOR THE EXPORT TRADE. FOR MOST TRAPPERS, CREE AND NON-CREE, THE INTERNATIONAL FUR TRADE IS AN OBSCURE WORLD THAT IS REGULATED BY FASHION, INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE, CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES, AND MANY OTHER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FORCES.

Mr. Herscovici, can you please start by introducing the Fur Council of Canada for our readers?

The Fur Council of Canada is a national, non-profit organization that really is a federation of various fur associations. It was created in 1964 and it acts as an umbrella organization, with a mission to promote and protect all sectors of the fur industry.

Who sits on the Fur Council?

There are 30 delegates on the Council, and the allocation of seats is based on sectors of activity. Simply, there are 9 seats for fur manufacturers, 8 seats for fur retailers, 9 seats for producers and processors, including auction houses, and 4 seats for other groups, including the Fur Institute of Canada.

Who sits on the Fur Council representing the trappers?

One seat is held by the Cree Trappers Association, and the other is held by the Fédération des Trappeurs Gestionnaires du Québec (Quebec Trappers Federation). The Cree Trappers Association seat usually is occupied by Mr. Rick Cuciurean or by Mr. Thomas Coon.

And how does the Fur Council of Canada differ from the Fur Institute of Canada?

The Fur Institute of Canada represents mostly the producer issues, including trap research. The Fur Council of Canada is more on the marketing side for finished products, promoting fur in the world of design and fashion.

So what are the main objectives of the Fur Council of Canada?

Our strategic plan includes four main objectives. They are 1- Product development, 2- Fashion promotion, 3- Education/consumer reassurance, and 4- Marketing.

Can you explain how do these objectives contribute to your mission?

Sure, and you will see they are all related. Product development involves helping our members to make new types of fur products that more people will want to buy and wear. Historically, fur coats were long and heavy. ►

► Current fashion trends ask for a younger look, lighter garments, fur accessories, and all-season wear instead of just winter-wear. With product development, we are simply trying to anticipate future fashion trends and make sure fur keeps its place.

What about your second objective, Fashion Promotion?

We have to tell consumers about the cool new fur styles we are producing. The image of fur is changing, and so is our customer base. With China playing an ever increasing role in the industry, we must also promote Canadian fur as a better fur. We have magazine ads and billboards in major cities advertising the beauty of Canadian fur. Our Association has registered the brand name "Beautifully Canadian" to identify fur apparel crafted here in Canada. We use that to encourage the purchase of Canadian fur around the world.

Tell me now about Education/Consumer reassurance?

There are still very serious attacks on the fur industry. Many of the anti-fur groups spend large amounts of money to turn consumers and governments against our fur trade. We must respond and tell the truth about fur, how it is renewable, fashionable, comfortable and affordable. Fur is a "green" product, trappers help manage animal populations, and the fur trade supports the lifestyle of many people, native and non-native. ►

WHEN A CREE HARVESTS AND SELLS A FUR ANIMAL, THESE ARE THE FIRST STEPS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUR MARKETING SYSTEM. TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW TRAPPING FITS IN THE BIGGER PICTURE OF THE FUR INDUSTRY, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM, MR. SERGE LARIVIÈRE, MET WITH THE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE FUR COUNCIL OF CANADA, MR. ALAN HERSCOVICI, AT HIS OFFICE ON STREET SAINT-ALEXANDRE IN MONTREAL.

► We must educate the public about the true message. The antis constantly promote false images of trappers and trapping, we do our part by sponsoring presentations in schools, printing education materials, and maintaining a web site (<http://www.furcouncil.com>). Few organisations spend money fighting the anti-fur groups. We have to do our part.

And your final point is Marketing?

Yes. Marketing in the largest sense. We seek to develop new markets for fur, new outlets, new uses. For example, if one manufacturer of parkas decides to use coyote fur as trim for the hoods, then it has a huge impact on the sale of coyote pelts, hence prices go up and the trappers get more money for their pelts. Any gain in this industry benefits everybody else before and after! Our most important marketing vehicle, of course, is the North American Fur and Fashion Exposition in Montreal, commonly referred to as NAFFEM.

What is NAFFEM?

NAFFEM is held each year towards the end of April to show, display, and promote Canadian fur products. Retailers and manufacturers from around the world meet in Montreal and do business during this show. A large number of American retailers come to NAFFEM to place orders for the coats they will show in their stores the next Fall. We even had a major delegation of Russian buyers at NAFFEM this year. There are fashion shows, professional seminars and social evenings too. It is a great time to meet everyone and see what the fur industry the exciting new looks that designers are creating with wild and ranch fur.

Could trappers and their families attend the show, even if they are not manufacturers?

Absolutely! We would be pleased to welcome anyone from the Cree communities who would like to attend. It is a very exciting event for anyone who is interested in the fur trade!

In closing, what message would you have for Cree trappers who hunt and trap as their lifestyle?

International buyers and consumers need to know that by buying fur, they not only support the economy, they also support the lifestyle of people, especially First Nations. Cree hunters have a right to feel proud of their skill and knowledge as fur producers. The world would love to hear more about the role that trapping plays in your culture. It is time to correct the misunderstandings that animal-rights extremists have been

spreading. People are very interested today in learning more about nature, about the environment. You have a very interesting perspective to share about this. This whole industry is about crafts, art, and people. We have a

wonderful story to tell. This trade is almost a culture in itself, and it is time for us to talk more about the positive contributions that trappers and other people in the fur trade make. This is what the Fur Council and our members are trying to do.

Thank you Mr. Herscovici for your time. I am sure the Cree hunters and trappers appreciate your work on behalf of the industry.

We are all together in this industry, and this industry is, well, "Beautifully Canadian".

«People are very interested today in learning more about nature, about the environment...»

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The traveling DIRECTOR

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

May
2007 **Washaw Sibi**

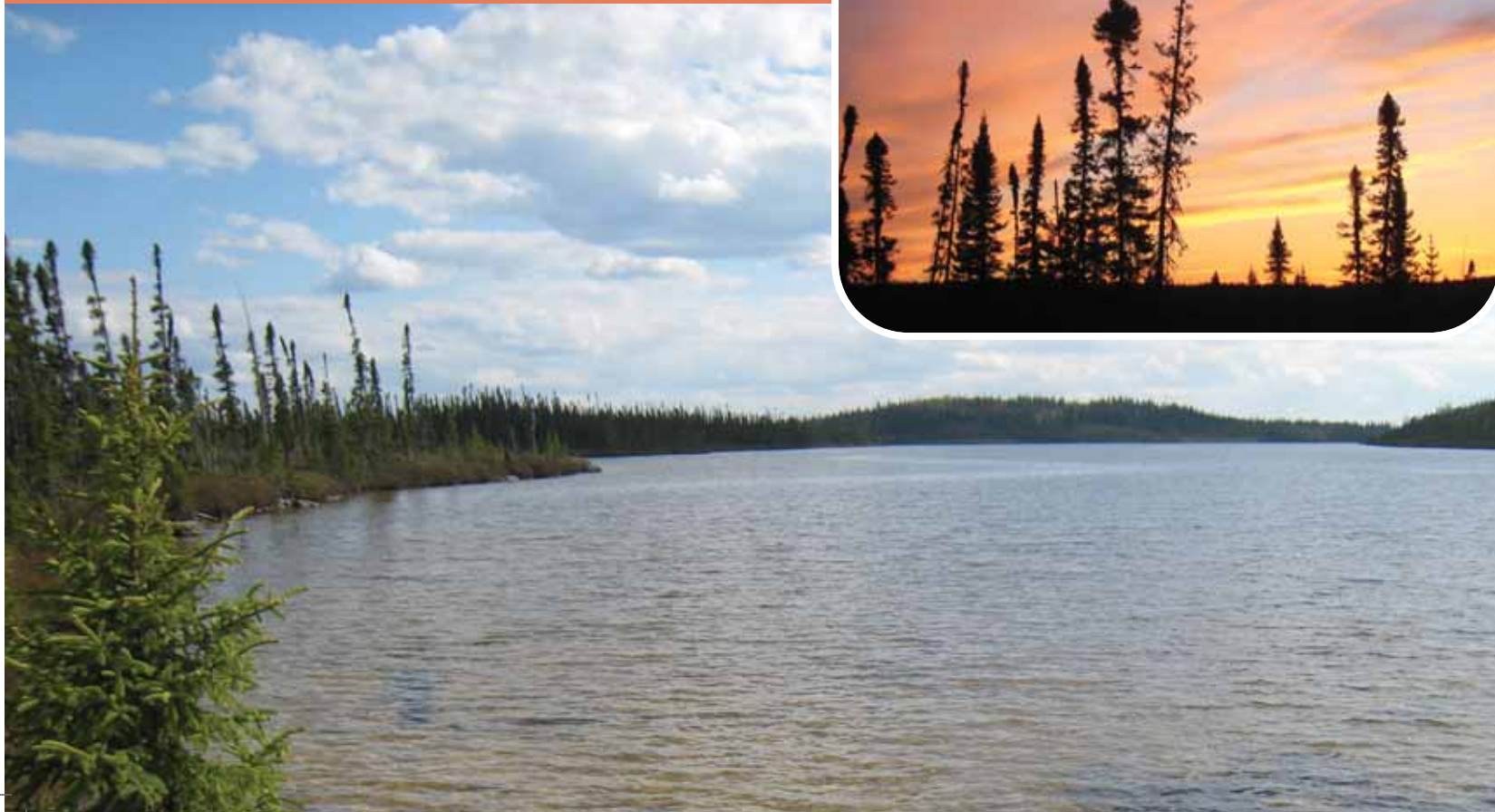


June
2007

Eastmain



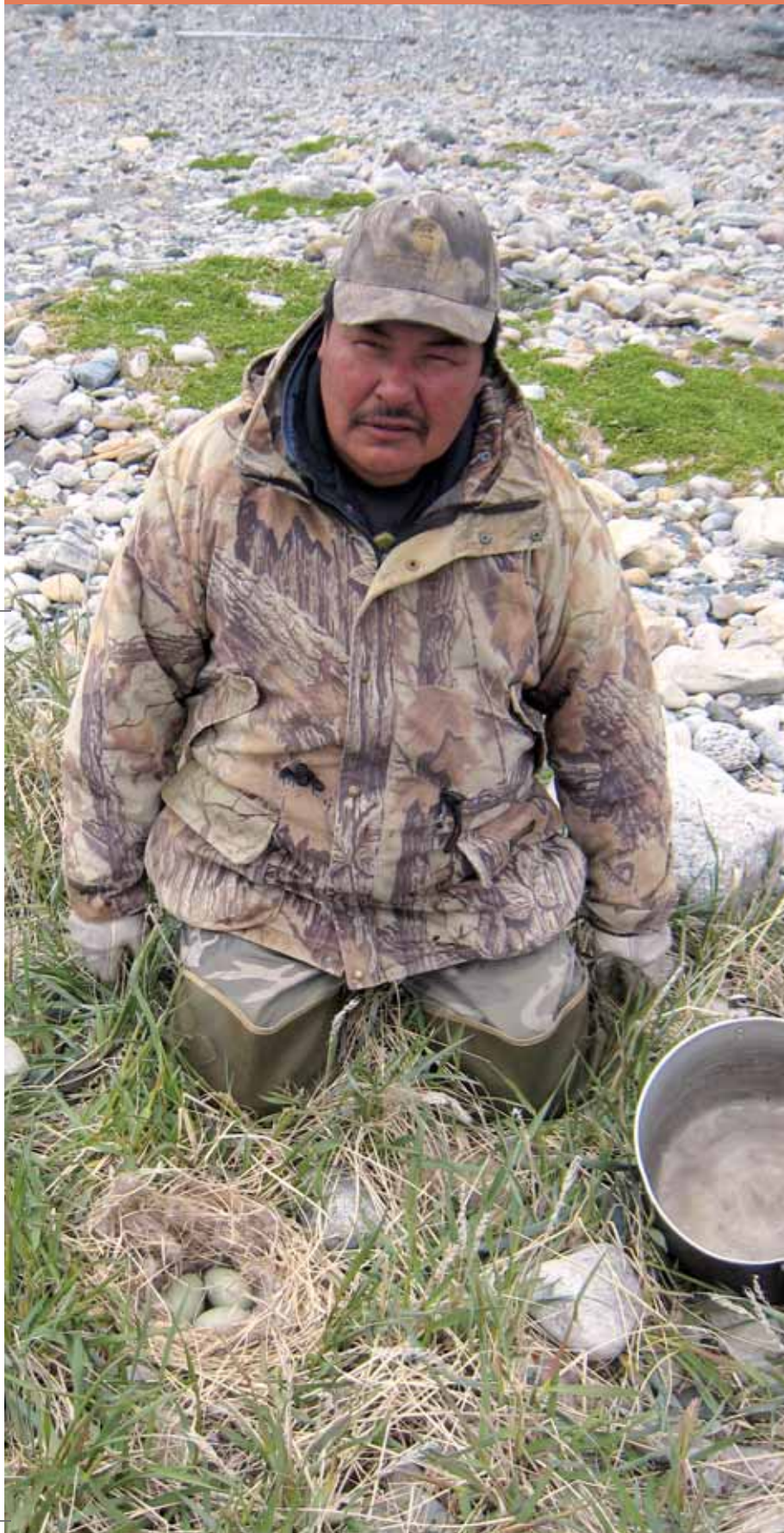
June
2007 **Nemaska**



The Cree Hunter and Trapper

June
2007 **Whapmagoostui**

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

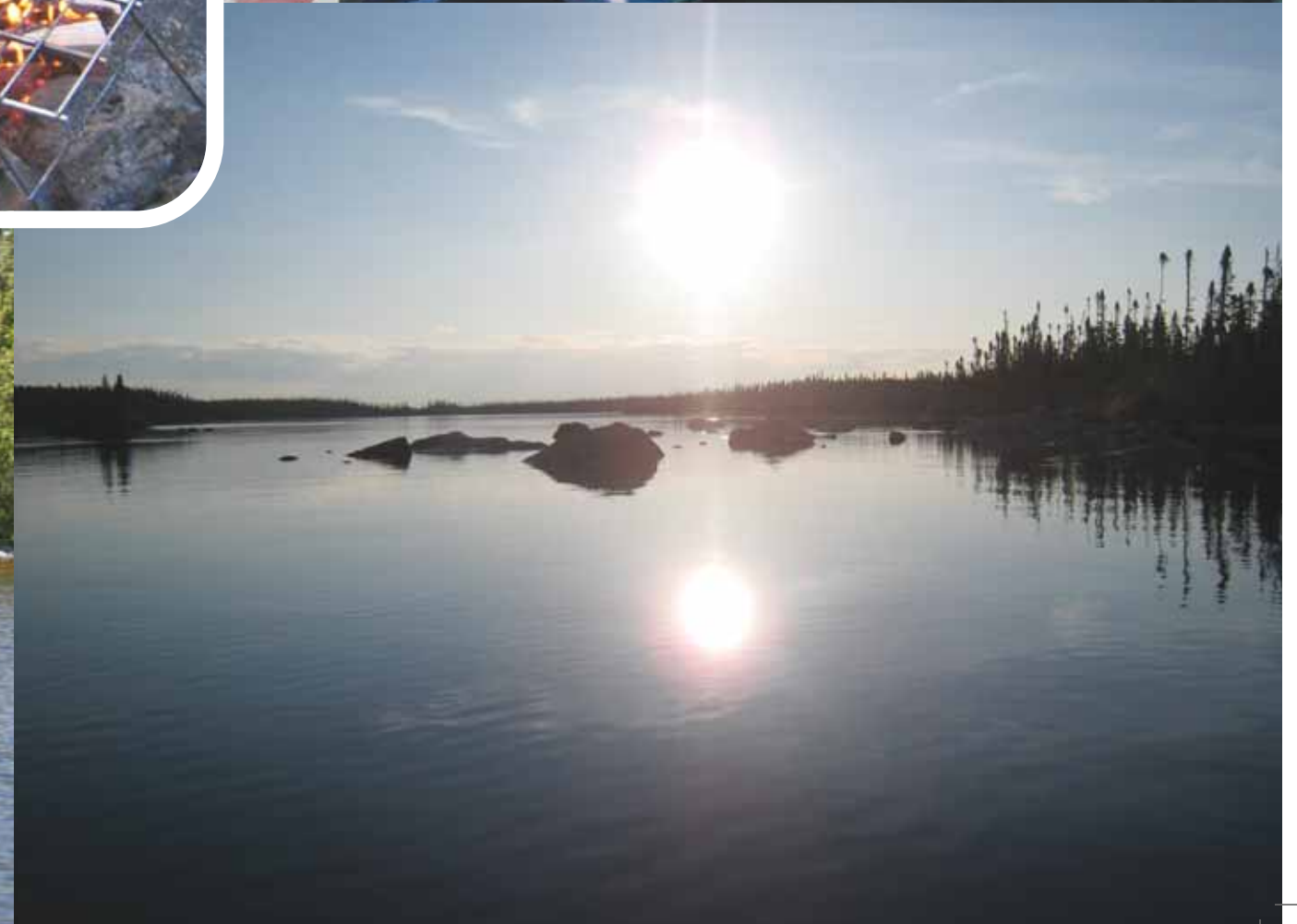


The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

July
2007

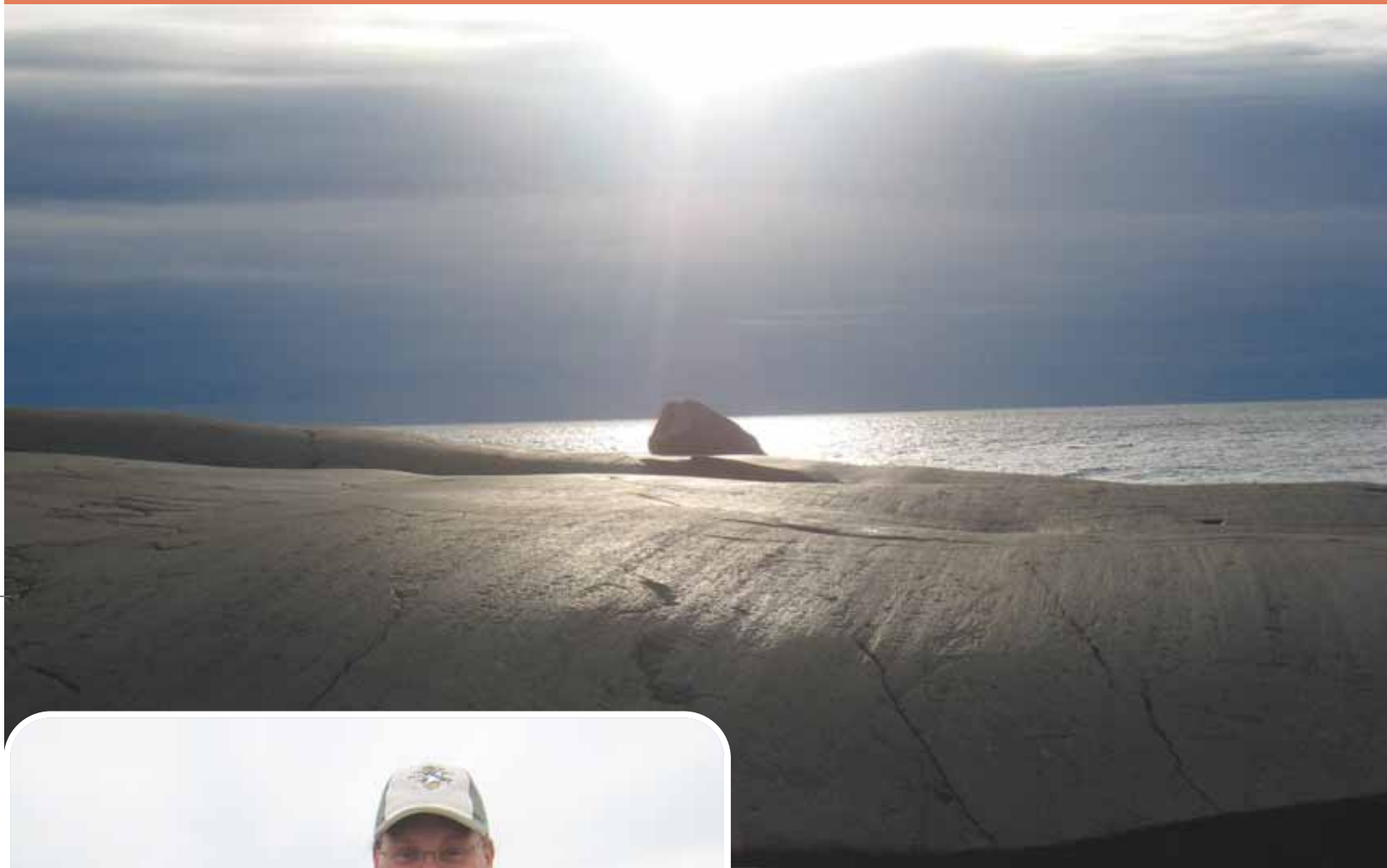
Mistissini



The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Sept.
2007 **Whapmagoostui**

The Cree Hunter and Trapper



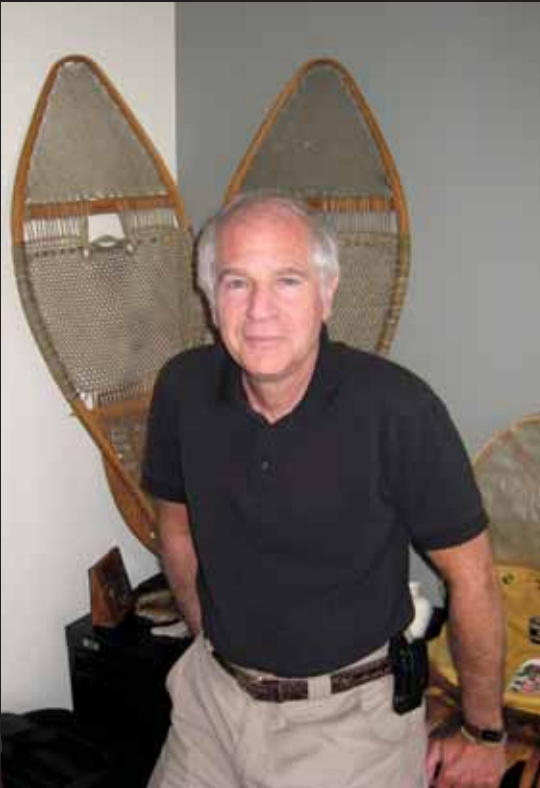
The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Oct.
2007

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The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Beaver

Photo: Luc FARRELL

ANIMAL PROFILE

English Name: North American Beaver
 French Name: Castor
 Scientific (latin) Name: *Castor canadensis*
 Cree Name: *amiskw*
 Cree syllabics: ᐱᓄᓴᓴᓴ



Photo: Luc FARRELL

«Beavers live in close family groups.»

The North American beaver is the largest rodent in North America, and the only member of the family Castoridae. Historically, this family included a giant beaver that could reach the size of a black bear! However, this giant beaver is long extinct, and the North American beaver usually weighs between 7 to 20 kg (15-40 pounds), with some individuals reaching over 30 kg (70 pounds).

Beavers live in close family groups. Most lodges are occupied by a pair of adults, as well as offspring of the current year (beaver kits), and often a few offspring from the previous year (yearlings). In the spring, the yearlings abandon the colony to disperse into new areas and find a colony of their own. ▶

For this reason, hunters and trappers often observe beavers away from established colonies during the spring.



Photo: Luc FARRELL

«Beavers provide both food and fur for Cree hunters and trappers.»

Autumn is the busy season for beavers. To survive the long winters locked under the ice, beavers must store food near their lodge. The large feed pile is gathered in late September and October, and will sustain beavers until the warmer weather allows them access to land again. Favorite foods of beavers are trembling aspen, white birch, and willows, but hungry beavers will eat a variety of other shrubs, trees and aquatic plants.

Beavers provide both food and fur for Cree hunters and trappers. The meat is excellent table fare, as are the feet, tail and guts. Beavers also have two sets of glands, castors and oil sacs that are used in traditional medicine or too attract other fur animals. Not surprisingly, the beaver is the most sought after, and the most commonly harvested fur-bearing animal across all Cree communities.



Photo: Luc FARRELL



Photo: Luc FARRELL

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Meetings of interest National and International

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY

18

2 0 0 8

- **EVENT:** FUR HARVESTERS AUCTIONS FEBRUARY
- **LOCATION:** SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION: INTERNATIONAL AUCTION OF WILD AND RANCH FUR. YOU MUST CALL AHEAD OF TIME TO GIVE NOTICE OF YOUR ATTENDANCE, BUT YOU CAN WITNESS HOW LARGE FUR AUCTIONS OPERATE.

MARCH

4 - 9

2 0 0 8

- **EVENT:** NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS MARCH SALE
- **LOCATION:** TORONTO, ONTARIO

DESCRIPTION: INTERNATIONAL AUCTION OF WILD AND RANCH FUR. YOU MUST CALL AHEAD OF TIME TO GIVE NOTICE OF YOUR ATTENDANCE, BUT YOU CAN WITNESS HOW LARGE FUR AUCTIONS OPERATE. WILD FUR STORAGE ROOM AND AUCTION FACILITIES ALSO CAN BE VISITED BY THE GUESTS.

MARCH

14-16

2 0 0 8

(IN FRENCH)

- **EVENT:** 31E SALON DU TRAPPEUR
(31ST PROVINCIAL TRAPPER'S CONVENTION)
- **LOCATION:** HÔTEL DELTA, SHERBROOKE, QUEBEC

DESCRIPTION: THIS ANNUAL TRAPPER CONVENTION IS AN OCCASION TO MEET TRAPPERS FROM ALL AROUND THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC. AS PART OF THE ACTIVITIES, YOU WILL FIND SKINNING DEMONSTRATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AMONG THE ATTENDEES WILL BE NUMEROUS TRAP SUPPLY DEALERS AS WELL AS FUR BUYERS. THE EVENT'S BANQUET IS HELD ON SATURDAY NIGHT WITH SEVERAL GUEST SPEAKERS (IN FRENCH). DEMONSTRATION AND SPEECHES ARE ALSO IN FRENCH, ALTHOUGH MANY ATTENDEES ARE BILINGUAL.

MARCH

28-29

2 0 0 8

- **EVENT:** FUR HARVESTERS 17TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
- **LOCATION:** FUR HARVESTERS AUCTION, NORTH BAY, ONTARIO

DESCRIPTION: THIS ANNUAL EVENT IS A GATHERING OF TRAPPERS (MOSTLY FROM ONTARIO AND QUEBEC) TO DISCUSS NEW TRAPPING TECHNIQUES, PELT PREPARATION, AND INCLUDES NUMEROUS BOOTHS FROM TRAPPERS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC AS WELL AS COMPETITION FOR SKINNING AND PELT PREPARATION. THE GATHERING OCCURS IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE, AND INCLUDES AN EVENING BANQUET ON THE SATURDAY NIGHT. ATTENDING TRAPPERS CAN ALSO VISIT THE WAREHOUSE FACILITIES AND EVEN PURCHASE TRAPPING SUPPLIES ON LOCATION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL
705-495-4688 OR BY EMAIL AT
FHA@FURHARVESTERS.COM
WWW.FURHARVESTERS.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT BOB MCQUAY
AT 416-675-9320
OR BY EMAIL
AT BMCQUAY@NAFA.CA

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
HTTP://WWW.FTGQ.QC.CA OR
CALL 418-872-7644

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT
HTTP://WWW.FURHARVESTERS.COM,
EMAIL FHA@FURHARVESTERS.COM,
OR CALL 705-495-4688

APRIL

APRIL

30

T O - M A Y

3

2 0 0 8

- **EVENT:** NORTH AMERICAN FUR AND FASHION EXHIBITION OF MONTREAL
- **LOCATION:** PLACE BONAVENTURE, MONTREAL

DESCRIPTION: THIS EVENT IS TRULY A PLACE TO WITNESS THE LATEST CRAFTS AND TRENDS IN FUR PRODUCTS. YOU CAN EXPECT TO MEET FASHION DESIGNERS, MANUFACTURERS, RETAILERS, AS WELL AS ALL THE SEGMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY THAT PROMOTE THE PELTS FROM THE PRODUCERS TO THE FINAL CONSUMERS. LOTS OF FUR, FASHION SHOWS, HIGH GLAMOUR, A REAL EYE-OPENER FOR ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE FUR INDUSTRY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT
HTTP://WWW.NAFFEM.ORG OR CALL
THE FUR COUNCIL OF CANADA
AT 514 844-1945

MAY

M A Y

22-27

2 0 0 8

- **EVENT:** NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS MAY SALE
- **LOCATION:** TORONTO, ONTARIO

DESCRIPTION: SAME AS FEBRUARY SALE (SEE ABOVE). COMPARED TO THE FEBRUARY SALE, THE MAY SALE HAS A LARGE COLLECTION OF PRIME, LATE SEASON WILD FUR FROM ALL OVER NORTH AMERICA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT BOB MCQUAY AT
416-675-9320
OR BY EMAIL AT
BMCQUAY@NAFA.CA

MAY

M A Y

29-30

2 0 0 8

- **EVENT:** FUR HARVESTERS AUCTIONS MAY SALE
- **LOCATION:** NORTH BAY, ONTARIO

DESCRIPTION: INTERNATIONAL AUCTION OF WILD AND RANCH FUR. YOU MUST CALL AHEAD OF TIME TO GIVE NOTICE OF YOUR ATTENDANCE, BUT YOU CAN WITNESS HOW LARGE FUR AUCTIONS OPERATE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 705-495-4688
OR BY EMAIL AT
FHA@FURHARVESTERS.COM
WWW.FURHARVESTERS.COM

JUNE

J U N E

19-21

2 0 0 8

- **EVENT:** 2008 FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL RENDEZVOUS
- **LOCATION:** COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, USA

DESCRIPTION: THIS CONVENTION IS ONE OF THE TWO LARGEST GATHERING OF TRAPPERS IN THE UNITED STATES (THE OTHER BEING THE NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION HELD IN AUGUST). IT IS HELD ANNUALLY IN VARIOUS PLACES, AND YOU CAN EXPECT ANYWHERE FROM 3,000 TO OVER 10,000 TRAPPERS TO ATTEND. ON LOCATION, YOU WILL FIND NUMEROUS TRAP SUPPLY DEALERS, NON-STOP SKINNING AND TRAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS, VARIOUS CONTESTS, AND EVEN A FLEA MARKET OF OUTDOOR GEAR. NEARBY MOTELS FILL UP FAST, BUT YOU CAN CAMP ON LOCATION AS WELL FOR MINIMUM FEE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
HTTP://WWW.FURTAKERSOF-
AMERICA.COM

Cree Trappers Association

Message from CTA President

I wish to praise those Hunters, Trappers and Fishermen that still continue to practice our Cree Way of Life, in spite of the difficulties they encounter when they go out onto the Land. This way of life can make a big difference in Cree Community life, even today, because of the strong values and customs that continue to be demonstrated by those hunters, trappers and fishermen that continue to go out in the land today.

I also wish to inform you that the CTA soon will be coming into the communities to talk about a document titled, "Eeyou Hunting Law".

This document will explain itself during the upcoming consultation tour that will begin in near future. Rest assured that this document is not meant to offend anyone in any way, but rather to be used as a tool that can address the difficulties that exist today in the use of traplines. This document will have a final version only after the consultation process has been completed. This document comes from research in some Cree communities; a Booklet produced by Cree as well as comments that came from individual Cree and not by Non-Cree Government officials. The production of this document is very challenging due to the attempt to have it in today's legal language. It is a very interesting document. I encourage all those with trapline responsibility to participate in the consultations. We will inform the communities of the dates once they have been set.



The Fur sales for Year 2006-2007 were poor and the end result was that there were no second fur cheques during the summer months. There are indications now that the fur sales may be better for year 2007-2008.

There will be no regional trappers cabins in 2006-2007 due to difficulties in negotiating agreements with funding Parties. CTA will continue to work with the

Niskamoon throughout this coming year about future regional CTA cabin programs.

CTA thanks and appreciates the offer to be part of this informative newsletter from the Income Security Program.

Be safe and enjoy your time in the bush.

Isaac Masty, B.Ed
President
Cree Trappers Association

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

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אֲדַבֵּר לְךָ, בְּיַחְדָּוְךָ אֶת יַחְדִּי לְיַחְדְּךָ
 וְעַתָּה

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST!

Most people choose fur for warmth and beauty.
But wearing fur also helps to protect nature,
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They are the first to sound the alarm when these vital wildlife habitats are threatened.

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they are our 'eyes and ears' on the land.

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about fur and the
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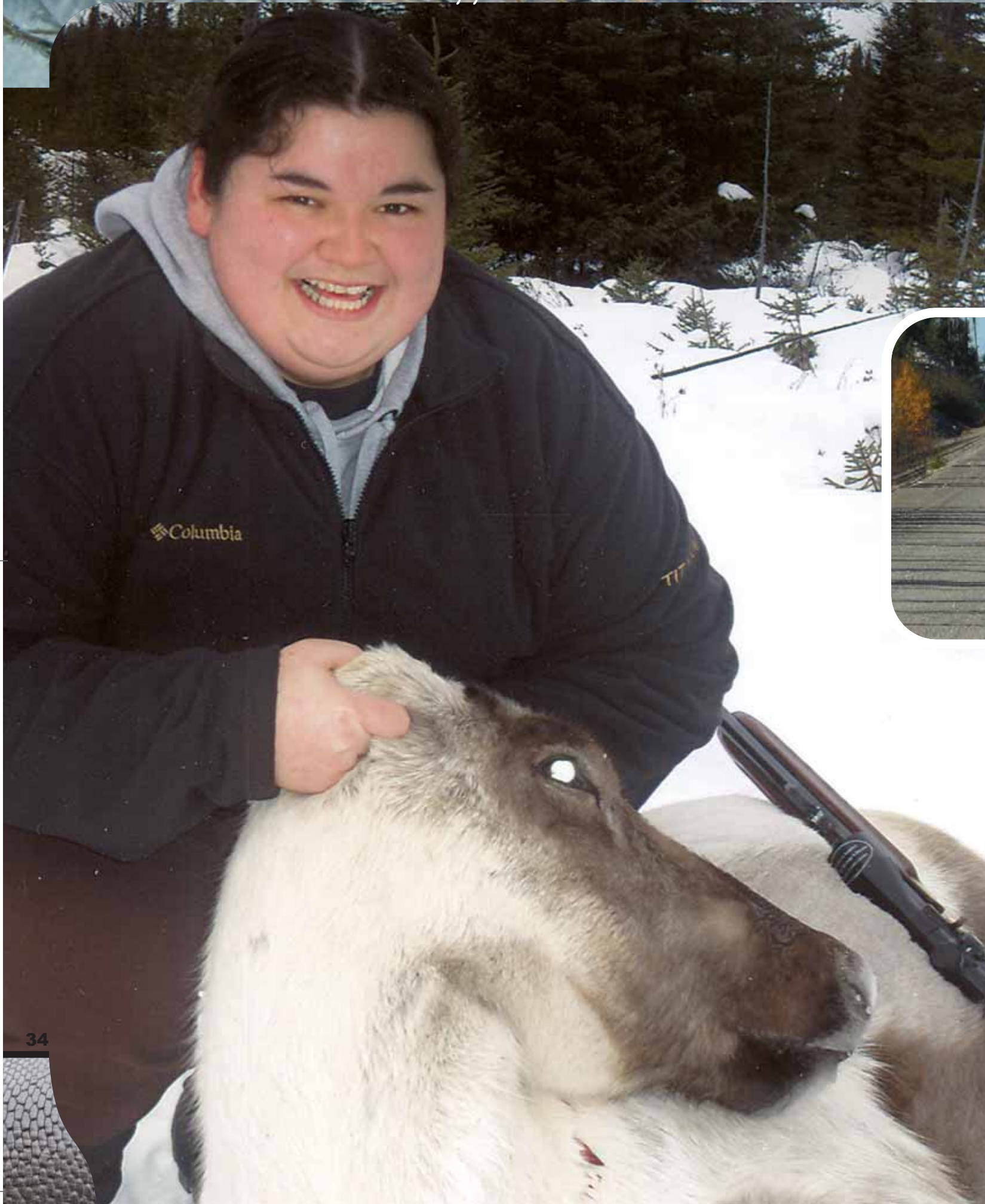


CONSEIL CANADIEN DE LA FOURRURE
FUR COUNCIL OF CANADA

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Reader Photos



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Betty Tomatuk, daughter of Fred Tomatuk and Frances Mark-Stewart of Eastmain, has proven her skills with the rifle! Here she is with her first caribou and just this fall, with her first moose!

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The Cree Hunter and Trapper

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

"In memoriam"



Billy George Blackned

March 27, 1949 – June 16, 2006

Billy was the son of the late Richard Blackned and Alice Gilpin. At the time of his passing was survived by his spouse Shirley Swallow, son Sean and daughter Sherri, also by seven siblings, Freddie, Daisy Linklater, Jimmy, Gordon, Frances Visitor, William, Joseph and his brothers-in-law Thomas Linklater, Miller Visitor, sisters-in-law Jacqueline Hughboy (Jimmy), Sarah Weistchee (Gordon), Agnes Bosum (William) and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by both his parents, brothers, Clifford, Luke, Johnny and sister Bertha also his sisters-in-law, Minnie Georgekish (Freddie), Elsie Georgekish (Freddie) and Lillian Diamond Gull (Joseph).

Billy started out to school in 1959 to Moose Fort School in Moose Factory, Ontario at the age of ten. Apparently on his first morning he was put in Kindergarten and by recess time was promoted to Grade 1 continued his elementary education until he completed Grade 6 by 1964 then went to Sault Ste. Marie from 1964 to 1969 completing Grades 7 to 11 then went on to graduate from High School in North Bay by June 1970. In 1971 he attended a one year teacher training course at the McGill University. After working for a year he went to attend University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario taking Native Social Course a one year program. After that he took short courses from 1980 to 1995 for the various positions he held while he was employed, General Education 126, University of Regina – summer 1980, Economic Development Officer training in Mississauga – July 1993, Entrepreneurship – Val-d'Or – January 1994, Strategy Development Training – Val-d'Or – January 1994, Strategy Development Training – Val-d'Or – August & November 1995, On the Job Training for EDO's Wemindji – October 1995, Human Resources Management Training – McGill University – May 1996 to April 1997, Professional Sales – Chisasibi – Fall 1997 to June 1998. Introduction to personal Computers via correspondence February 2000 to July 2003.

His work experience started back in 1970 as a summer student employment for the University of Western Ontario as a surveyor of Thames River. From January to April 1971 Adult Education Teacher in Wemindji. May to August 1972 worked as Student Researcher for National Indian Brotherhood, Ottawa, Ontario. September 1972 to June 1973 part time teacher and principal, Eastmain, Quebec. 1974 to 1978 Social Counselor while Band was working under the Department of Indian Affairs, Social Animator 1978 to 1981 when Cree School Board took over - Wemindji. 1980 – 1981 Corporate Secretary, Sakami Eeyou Corporation, Wemindji. 1982 Office Clerk, Cree Construction Company, Wemindji. October 1982 to May 1992 Petroleum Depot Attendant, Wemindji Human Resources Development Officer May 1992 to April 1993. Economic Development Officer – April 1993 to April 1996. Senior Clerk, Cree Health Board, Montreal – August 1997. Local Administrator – ISP December 1999 until his passing.

Billy married Shirley on August 27, 1975, had a son by January 1976 and daughter August 1978. Following his father's advice, he encouraged both his children to get an education. Also supported Shirley when she decided to go study nursing in Montreal.

Billy learned the traditional way of life at a very young age before he attended school and practiced every chance he got whenever he was back in the community. He used to hunt at his late father-in-law John Swallow trapline every spring and fall for Goose hunting and small games.

*«Billy learned
the traditional
way of life at a
very young age»*

investigation. It was on October 12 that he was told his vocal cords were paralysed and he needed to have a tracheostomy (tube attached to his throat) to help him breath better. After when he came back from the hospital on October 31st, he used to clean the tube himself every morning and evening. Also at the beginning he needed to use a walker to ambulate (walk) around the house from October 2004 to February 2005. He was able to walk with a cane after that but couldn't walk for long distances. It was with the help of the Physiotherapist, Rehabilitation Monitor and Occupational Therapist with the exercise program set for him that improved his balance, strength and endurance and which really motivated him to go out of the house from Monday to Friday and do his exercises.

Billy will always be fondly remembered by his family, friends, coworkers for the guidance, inspiration and all his contributions he made while he was here with us.

In his memory, his daughter Sherri had a baby girl on April 21, 2007 named her Billie-Kaye Jaylene.

Billy will always be remembered for his sense of humour and his ability to make people laugh even when was asleep. Even after he became very ill he kept his sense of humour.

On September 25, 2004 Billy was found by his spouse Shirley semi-unconscious sitting up to the side of the bed and had difficulty breathing, at this time when Shirley asked him what was wrong, he answered her there's nothing wrong with me. Once transferred to the local clinic after many hours of observation he had to be intubated and transferred to Val-d'Or never regained consciousness until October 2nd at the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital which he was transferred to on September 30th for further

Make that set!

Crossover Set for beaver and otter

By
Serge Larivière

Beaver dams are magnets for all furbearing animals. Of course, beavers check their own dam daily, to insure that it continues to perform its duty – retaining water – flawlessly.

But other semi-aquatic animals also visit beaver dams for various reasons. River otter will often play, fish or rest near beaver dams. Mink will explore the nooks and crannies of the dams to find hidden frogs, minnows or muskrats. Muskrats will use dams as resting sites.

«Sometimes, several
crossovers may
occur, and all make
great set locations.»

Each beaver dam constitute a blockade on a water course, and animals swimming up or downstream must cross the dam to access the upper or lower part of the watershed. Beaver themselves often establish the crossover. Usually, the largest and most important crossover is located right in the middle of the dam, and constitutes the best place for a set. Sometimes, several crossovers may occur, and all make great set locations.

There are several way to catch animals using a crossover. The simplest of all is to simply guard the crossover with a Conibear or other brand of bodygripping trap.

When beavers are present, the best size trap to use is the largest, 10"x10" beaver size trap (#330), but on abandoned beaver dams, crossovers also exists and are great locations to catch otter, mink and muskrats. In these situation the smaller 7"x7" trap such as the Conibear #220 or the 8"x 8" (#280) do a fine job for all species.



The ideal trigger placement is on the bottom, as to harvest the smaller mink and muskrats. The trap itself can be positioned either at the top of the dam, in the water or not, or simply below the dam. What is important is to have the trap centered over the crossover. If the location appears heavily used, do not hesitate to set two traps at the same crossover, it is common to obtain two catches at once when using multiple traps!

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

ISP
USEFUL

WHAT ARE SEPARATE PAYMENTS?

By Tanya Lynn Strong, Program Assistant-Administration

ISP Payments are generally made to the Head of the Beneficiary Unit. However, the consort of the file may request that 50% of the benefits payable to the family be issued in their own name, by signing a form provided by the Local Administrator.

Who Can Request Separate Payments?

The consort in the file can request separate payments by meeting with their Local Administrator and signing a form. The signature of the Head of the family unit is not required.

How Are Payments Separated?

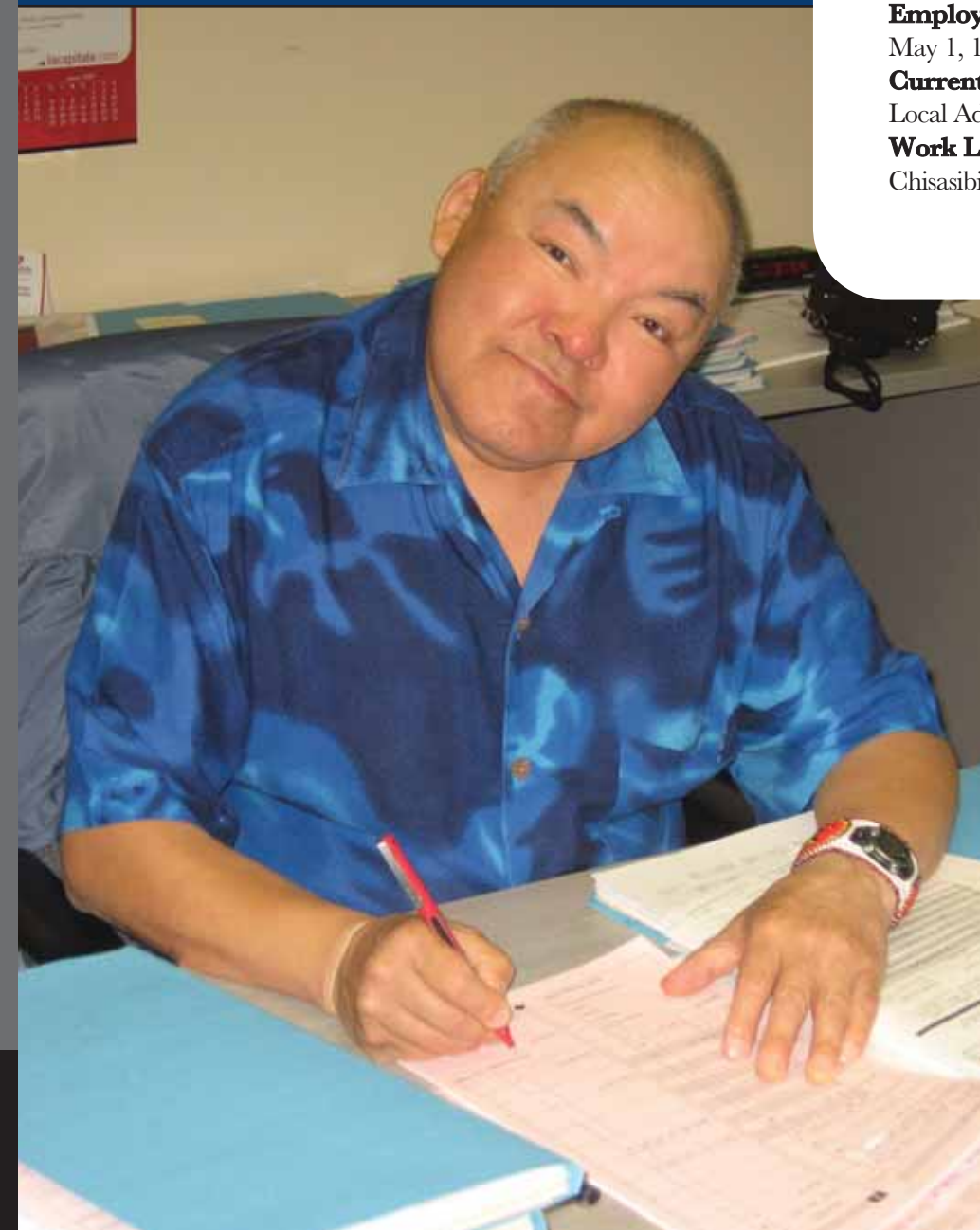
Each ISP payment is separated into 2 equal amounts. One cheque is issued in the name of the Head, the other is issued in the name of the Consort.

When Can the Consort Receive their Cheque?

Even if a consort receives separate payments, no payment can be issued to the Head or the Consort until an interview in person is conducted with the Head. As usual, all information regarding the family situation and any other income received by all adults in the family (such as work salary, Employment Insurance, Social Aid, etc.) must be declared before any cheque can be issued.

Staff profile

THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL FOR OVER 30 YEARS BECAUSE OF THE DEDICATION OF ITS STAFF. THIS COLUMN, STAFF PROFILE, PRESENTS A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE PEOPLE THAT WORK TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM. IN THIS ISSUE, WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT MR. ALLEN NEACAPPO, BETTER KNOWN AS 'GENERAL'.



The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Allen NEACAPPO

Employed by the Board since:

May 1, 1980

Current position:

Local Administrator

Work Location:

Chisasibi

Allen Neacappo, son of Peter and Harriet Neacappo was born in the bush at Kanaaupscow approximately 190km east of Chisasibi. Birth place of Allen is now under water due to damming by the Hydro Project.

Allen Neacappo lived in the bush until he was 5 years old. He attended Residential schools at Fort George Québec as well as Moose Factory and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Allen also attended High School in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario from 1962-1967.

While Allen went to school down south, he participated in numerous activities such as Air Cadets, Army Cadets, as well as part-time militia training which he enjoyed very much. This was when he picked up the nickname «General». Even to this day he is more often referred to by his nickname rather than by his actual name «Allen». ►

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Allen's first full-time job was in 1968 as an orderly for the Ottawa Civic hospital where he gained first hand knowledge and experience in the medical field.

From there, in 1970 he started working for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs until 1975 when he left the city life for good. From 1976 to 1980, he worked as a Quebec Manpower Agent at Fort George, Quebec. In between full-time jobs, Allen worked for various entities for the Crees of James Bay.

During the time of Fort George Relocation in the spring of 1980 while he was employed by a Construction Company, Allen applied for the position of ISP Local Administrator. He was hired and has been working for the Board ever since.

In Allen's tenure as an employee for the Board, he has been involved in various roles in his own community. He feels that his greatest accomplishment to date was receiving a recognition award from the community of Chisasibi for his services as a volunteer worker. Allen has also been a band councillor, board member and president of local radio station, has been on the Board of compensation, local returning officer, stringer for CBC North, not to mention volunteering at community and church functions.

Allen always looks forward to seeing other Board employees when it comes time for meetings down south. He feels that since he has known most of the employees for 10 years or more, they have been part of his life. Allen also has other friends in the City of Quebec that he goes and visits every summer.

Allen is a bachelor and has never been married. Whenever he is not working, he likes to spend time with friends and family as much as possible.

«Whenever he is not working, he likes to spend time with friends and family as much as possible.»



Allen's favourite past times are going to movies and playing games with friends. He is a very avid Scrabble player and likes to cook for the family.

His immediate family consists of stepmother Hannah Neacappo; two older brothers, Jimmy and Billy, two halfbrothers, John and William; two halvesisters, Emily and Maudie; two stepsisters, Connie and Nancy. With the exception of John, all of the other siblings are married.

Allen Neacappo currently works in Chisasibi along with colleagues Sally Herodier and Marjorie House. He, like his colleagues Peter Shecapio and Jacob Gull, received a gold watch to highlight his 26 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.

He has no definite plans when he would like to retire. Although Allen has worked for ISP for the past 27 years, he stated that it seems like only yesterday he was hired by the Board.

Philosophically, Allen points out that life is short. So enjoy every moment whatever you want to accomplish in life and make the best use of what the Creator has provided for you. •

ISP IMPORTANT DATES

FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

JANUARY 3, 2008

Date of the second ISP cheque for the Program-year 2007-2008. During this interview, beneficiaries report on their activities for the months of September, October, November and December. As usual, cheques are available following an interview between Local Administrator and beneficiary.

FEBRUARY 2008

Deadline for the issuance of Relevé 5 "Statement of benefits" indicating the amount received by beneficiaries enrolled on the Program during the calendar year 2007.

APRIL 4, 2008

Date of the third ISP cheque for the Program-year 2007-2008. During this interview, beneficiaries report on their activities for the months of January, February and March.

APRIL 2008

The Annual Report of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board is available from your local administrator following tabling at the National Assembly.

JUNE 30, 2008

Date of the fourth and final cheque for the program-year 2007-2008. During this interview, beneficiaries report on their activities for the months of April, May and June, and also enroll for the next program-year.

JULY 2008

Period for Annual inscriptions, new demands and reinstatements.





Photo: Luc FARRELL©

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