

# **GMVF TRAPPERS NEWSLETTER**

Spring 2010

Greg Balsillie of Fort Resolution achieved the Top Trapper High Fur Sales Award 2008-2009 for the South Slave Region. Greg displays his award, a muskrat board plaque and a Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur (GMVF) Jacket.

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Youth trapper Adrian Oudzi attends a trapper's workshop in Colville Lake



Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment





# Trapper Recognition



The GMVF Program recognizes trappers efforts and achievements.

Awards are given annually to the youngest, oldest, high sales and high pelts achievers.

Awards include; GMVF jackets, muskrat board plaques and certificates of acknowledgment. Drums of gas are given to trappers who attain two awards in the same year.



Chief Richard Kochon of the Behdzi Ahda First Nation presents youth trapper Adrian Oudzi of Colville Lake with the Youth Trapper Award 2008-2009 for the Sahtu. Looking on is Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Sahtu Superintendent Keith Hickling.



John Alexander Dewar of Yellowknife receives the Youth Trapper Award 2008-2009 for the North Slave. John displays his new GMVF jacket, a certificate of acknowledgment and a muskrat board plaque.



Greg Balsillie of Fort Resolution receives the High Fur Sales Award 2008-2009 for the South Slave.



Charlie Tale of Wrigley receives the High Fur Sales and High Pelts Awards 2008-2009 from ENR Dehcho Superintendent Carl Lafferty.



Gabriel Kochon of Fort Good Hope receives the Senior Trapper Award 2008-2009 for the Sahtu from ENR Renewable Resources Officer Mabel Tatchinron.



## Trapper Workshops



10 year old Adrian Oudzi looks over a sheared and died beaver pelt at the workshop in Colville Lake. Adrian, who shared his outlook on trapping, was quite impressed with the different furs on display.

The GMVF Program, along with Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. of North Bay, Ontario put on trapper workshops in the Dehcho, Inuvik and Sahtu regions in January and February. Communities visited were Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River, Wrigley, Norman Wells, Tulita, Deline, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake and Fort McPherson. Many trappers and youth attended the workshops, which dealt with pelthandling techniques to help trappers meet industry standards.



ENR Renewable Resource Officer Jeff Walker (standing) talks to participants in Colville Lake about the GMVF fur program.



Jim Gibb of Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. gives otter pelthandling tips to trappers in Fort McPherson.

# Fur Auction Results

## Sales results from the February 2010 auction held in Seattle, Washington.

The auction results for the February sale of GMVF saw positive sales for most species, especially when average prices are compared to the previous year. GMVF achieved top prices for marten and lynx. Notable species and prices for this auction are:

SPECIES	PELTS OFFERED	PELTS SOLD	HIGH Feb 2010	AVERAGE Feb 2010	AVERAGE 2009	Percentage Increase
MARTEN	7,342	7,066	\$126.75	\$70.34	\$61.97	13.5%
LYNX	347	268	\$304.20	\$137.96	\$106.08	31.9%
MUSKRAT	231	231	\$8.82	\$7.21	\$3.15	128%

Total sales and income to trappers from the February 2010 auction in Seattle, Washington was \$554,385.07.

The estimated income from the January and February auctions is \$656,000.

For the Seattle auction strong demand came from China and Russia. Muskrat pelts had surprisingly high prices and demand. In fact, prices have doubled on average compared to the 2009 trapping season. GMVF marten pelts continue to be in high demand as can be seen in the chart above. GMVF marten is outperforming marten from all other sources by a wide margin.

Seal pelt sales continue to decline and average prices are in the \$10-12 range. The GMVF Territorial Seal Pelt Program is now outperforming the market and is providing harvesters a price of \$55 per pelt. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is considering starting a similar program for mid-to-lower grade beaver pelts.



**GMVF Marten lot at Fur Harvesters Auction**

### CONTACT US

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment wants to hear from you. If you have any news, pictures or comments for the GMVF Newsletter, please direct your enquiries to Traditional Economy 867-920 - 6406 or email [gmvfurs@gov.nt.ca](mailto:gmvfurs@gov.nt.ca).

For further information on Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur related issues see our website at [www.iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries/genuinefurs.shtml](http://www iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries/genuinefurs.shtml)