

GMVF **TRAPPERS'** **NEWSLETTER**

Summer 2010

Tulita youth paddling a newly built mooseskin boat.

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K'alemi Dene School students tap trees to make birch syrup at Yellowknife River.

Take a Kid Harvesting / Birch Syrup Project

The **Take a Kid Harvesting Program** sponsored K'alemi Dene School to do a birch syrup project near the Yellowknife River in May 2010. The school hired Mike Mitchell to instruct the students on harvesting methods. Mr. Mitchell brings a wealth of knowledge on harvesting and processing birch sap into syrup. The camp produced several gallons of syrup over the three week project. Plans are to produce birch syrup again next spring as everybody learned a lot and had a lot of fun!

“Learning on the land enhances learning in the classroom” – K'alemi Dene School

Birch Syrup Process:

- The sap runs for about three to four weeks in early May in the North Slave Region.
- Birch sap is about 1% sugar so it takes about 100 litres of sap to make one litre of syrup.
- 100 birch trees should produce approximately 400 litres of sap per day. When the sap is heated it evaporates and produces one gallon of syrup.
- The trees are tapped with food grade plastic spigots to draw the sap out of the trees.
- Plastic pails are connected to the spigots in order to contain the dripping sap.
- The sap is heated to make syrup with a combination of wood-fired and propane-fired evaporators.
- Taps are removed from the trees and corked at the end of each season.



Photo credits: GNWT



Take a Kid Trapping / Mooseskin Boat Project



The **Take a Kid Trapping Program** sponsored Tulita's Chief Albert Wright School in the development of a mooseskin boat this spring. It took three mooseskins to cover the frame made of local forest timber. Harvesting the materials and constructing the boat took several months and it was completed and launched in early June prior to summer break. The boat was built on the school grounds where several community members were able to keep an eye on the progress. Tulita elders guided the project from start to finish, while students from Chief Albert Wright School eagerly observed and participated as necessary. The boat will be a lasting legacy for the community and it will remain in Chief Albert Wright School.



Photo credits: Ron Doctor, Chris Tourangeau, Jessie Campbell



TED PAPPAS-1921-2010

It is with very deep sadness that we deliver the news of the passing of Mr. Ted Pappas, long-time President and owner of Western Canadian Raw Fur Auction Sales of Vancouver, British Columbia. His business was founded by his father in 1924, and was well known for housing the finest collection of sables on the continent. Ted was a man with a deep understanding of the fur trade, and a deep respect for the people who produced the goods. Ted could be best summed up in one word as a “**Maverick**”, an untameable force to be reckoned with. Under his leadership, Western Canadian was an aggressive competitor and Ted **always** played to win.

In 2008, Ted Pappas made an agreement with Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. for which we will be forever grateful, striking a deal that gave us the marketing rights to his entire collection, and a list of shippers, agents, dealers and buyers dating back nearly nine decades. Men like Ted Pappas are a rare breed and are not being replaced. He was a man of honour, courage, honesty and integrity and to those fortunate enough to really get to know him as I did, he had a heart bigger than ten men.

Ted passed away peacefully on May 3 while sitting in his recliner watching the stock market at the age of 89. He was a high roller and had an uncanny ability to succeed while playing at a level that would have most suffering from ulcers. Ted Pappas will be deeply missed, but forever fondly remembered. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wonderful family, including his wonderful wife Helen, sons Theodore III and Constantine, and daughter Daphne.

Respectfully,



Mark Downey, CEO

And the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Fur Harvesters Auction Inc.

Ted Pappas Jr. at a young age, on top of a horse-drawn wagon full of beaver pelts. Circa 1930 Prince George, BC.



Ted Pappas (right) and brother Angelo Pappas at the February 2010 fur auction in Seattle.

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 at 867- 920 - 6406 or email 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