



GMVF marten & weasel boards

**GMVF**

**TRAPPERS**

**NEWSLETTER**

Summer 2009

Paul Mackenzie and James Sangris of Dettah work on carving out 1250 GMVF stretchers for distribution to trappers at future workshops.



Fort Simpson youth launch a newly built birch bark canoe as elder Jonas Antoine (centre) and MLA Nahendeh Kevin Menicoche (far right) attend the celebration.

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# Traditional Skills Development at Fort Simpson

Liidlii Kue First Nation, in partnership with the Take a Kid Trapping Program put on a traditional skills workshop in Fort Simpson this past June/July. The program involved building a traditional Slavey style birch bark canoe from raw materials of birch bark, white spruce wood, white spruce roots, tamarack wood and pine resin.

Under the expert instruction of birch bark canoe builder Aaron York of Cold Lake Alberta, the 15 day project started in June and was complete by July 17<sup>th</sup>. Participants included Nicholas de Pelham, Bobby Cazon, Jessie Tsetso, Amber Allen, Clinton Kraus, Michael Kraus and Pauloosie Allooloo.

The canoe was built in the yard of Liidlii Kue First Nation where many passersby stopped to greet the youth and investigate the progress of the canoe taking shape.

Plans are to place the finished canoe in the meeting room of Liidlii Kue First Nation until a more permanent display is developed.



Bobby Cazon retrieves aspen logs for pegging the canoe while under construction



Michael and Clinton Kraus proudly display their hard earned certificates of achievement along side of the finished canoe



(Left) Pauloosie Allooloo, Clinton Kraus, Bobby Cazon, Jessica Tsetso, Amber Allen, Nicholas de Pelham and Michael Kraus



Clinton Kraus and Amber Allen paddle the canoe on the Mackenzie River

## NWT Trappers produce top lots

Year to date, the NWT has sold 36,778 pelts for a total of \$1,123,000. Overall income from sales is down almost 20% from the previous year.

Production of fur was up by 35% especially in regions where we have seen a decline in exploration for oil and gas.

The number of active trappers is up by 30% for a total of 811. Growth is mainly evident in the Inuvik, South Slave and Sahtu Regions.

Trappers from the NWT remained top performers at this year's auctions of marten, lynx, wolf, and wolverine pelts.

The NWT provided the largest single section of marten (Canadian sable), offering 15,487 pelts, generating \$843,224.00. Production of marten has increased by 37%. The principle buyers were Hong Kong/China, Russia, Greece and Italy.

Interest in lynx remained strong with the principle consumer being Russia, generating \$108,000.00. Production of lynx has increased by 83% to 1,355 pelts.

Demand for wolf and wolverine was very strong and dominated by the taxidermy trade in the United States. Wolves averaged \$180.00 and a high of \$437.00. Wolverine average \$394.00 a pelt with a top price of \$537.00.



*GMVF lot of wolverine in the top lot*

## Take a Kid Harvesting \*NEW INITIATIVE\*

The Take a Kid Trapping Program is seeing some expansion with a new initiative under way called Take a Kid Harvesting. The new program will follow the template of Take a Kid Trapping. However, eligibility will require harvesting wild on the land food resources. Take a Kid Trapping/Harvesting applications can be picked up at your regional Trade and Investment office below.

### Contacts:

North Slave Region	North Slave Region	South Slave Region	Dehcho Region	Inuvik Region	Sahtu Region
John Buist Manager, Trade & Investment Phone 920-3349 Fax 873-6109	Gord Bohnett Dogrib Area Superintendent Phone 392-6119 Fax 392-6339	Paul Wiedrick Manager, Trade & Investment Phone 872-6433 Fax 872-4628	Renalyn Pascua-Matte Manager, Trade & Investment Phone 695-7510 Fax 695-7501	Melanie Swain Manager, Trade & Investment Phone 777-7103 Fax 777-7321	Leanne Taneton Manager, Trade & Investment Phone 587-2900 Fax 587-3538

# GMVF creates industry standard forming boards for NWT trappers



Newly formed boards are ready to be marked for measurements



James Sangris (left) and Paul Mackenzie make a jig to cut the boards



Several boards cut and planed are ready to be formed into their proper shape and marked for size



James awaits the next board to come through the planer

The GMVF Program is creating forming boards (stretchers) to assist NWT trappers meet fur industry standards when sending pelts to auction. The boards are being fashioned in Yellowknife under the skilled hands of Paul Mackenzie and James Sangris both of Dettah.

Fur Harvesters Auction (FHA) officials have indicated the importance of having a standard size board for trappers similar to the ranched fur industry. Also noted is the importance of marking the sizes on the boards. That way, trappers can gauge what size pelt they are working on and pin it to dry accordingly. The program is using templates from FHA to get the proper sizing. Once complete, the boards will be branded with the GMVF brand and marked for sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL, and XXXL.

Plans are to distribute samples of the finished boards to trappers who attend future GMVF workshops. This will enable trappers to make exact replicas when making their own boards.

## CONTACT US

We want 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)