

Kawartha Haliburton Trappers Council Celebrates its 40th Anniversary at the North Kawartha Community Centre

Each year, the Kawartha Haliburton Trappers Association hosts an event to educate the public and increase their knowledge of the importance of fur harvesting and trapping in Ontario. With 23 different species of fur bearing animals in the province, the trapping industry plays a key role in maintaining the health, quality and longevity of the species. This is especially important, as the local trappers are frequently the first to become aware of disease or a decline in a species' numbers. This fact recently became apparent when Bill Watt, President of the Kawartha Haliburton Trappers Association, indicated that this winter he was "mainly finding only adult beavers in his traps". Where were the young beavers?

The Kawartha and Haliburton trappers arrived early at the North Kawartha Community Centre to set up their displays and to prepare for the day. Admission was free for everyone and there were numerous draw prizes. Visitors were treated to a full day of trapper activities. These included fur handling demonstrations, several fur harvesting and product displays, the annual guess the weight of the beaver and muskrat challenges, and the yearly skills competitions of animal pelt preparation and trap setting. The ladies nail driving competition was a very popular event and enjoyed by the audience.

This year's Trappers Carnival was an event of continuous activity, and the room was filled to capacity. The carnival organizers are to be congratulated for bringing to Apsley and the North Kawartha Community Centre an outstanding and extremely successful day - which was on March 5th.

Story, photos and captions by Jim O'Shea.



Above left: Local trapper, Eric Bolton, is removing the fat from a red fox pelt. Right: Phil Tamlin, a trapper with over 30 years of experience and still an enthusiastic fur handler, is seen preparing a fisher. Phil showed that sawdust was used to absorb the oil from the pelt as he fleshed the hide and to prevent the oil from contaminating the fisher's fur.

Below: The culminating event of the day, the Fur Grading Competition. Each pelt was judged for appearance, stretching, quality of the fur, workmanship and presentation, where perfection means an excellent dollar return.

Bottom photo: The NKCC volunteer kitchen staff was kept very busy with a long line of people waiting to be served.



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Clockwise from top left: Taxidermist, Roman Miszuk, demonstrated with his son Mark how to prepare animal skulls for display.

Above centre + right: Melina Sharpe receives a fur-fringed scarf from Bill Watt and then she proudly wears it.

Bottom right: Organizer Bill Watt displays the 2016 Kawartha Haliburton Trappers 40th Memorial Board. Bill, Kim Dunford and the carnival organizers are to be congratulated for bringing to Apsley and the North Kawartha Community Centre an outstanding and extremely successful day.

Bottom centre + left: For the skill competitions, Yettie Ireland retained her championship nail driving title and Cody Tamlin retained his trap setting title.

Left: Bill Trudeau is working on a raccoon pelt that was hit by a transport truck. Bill said furs are shipped to the North Bay Auction where buyers from countries such as Greece, China and Russia bid on and purchase the yearly fur harvest. Bill also noted that in Russia, fur clothing is considered to be a necessity and not a fashion statement.



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Clockwise from above: Knife sharpening expert, Roger Redner, arrived with his portable equipment and was kept busy throughout the day creating a fine edge on a continuous flow of knives. Kim Dunford teaches Hunter Shee and Owen Perks how to skin a beaver. Below: Josh + Asha O'Hearn-Harvey are working as a team to remove fat from a beaver pelt.



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2017 Trappers Carnival

On March 4th, 2017 the Kawartha Haliburton Trappers Council held their 41st Annual Trappers Carnival at the North Kawartha Community Centre in Apsley. Bill Watt, along with the trapping association, organized an excellent day that was filled with many fur harvesting demonstrations, along with numerous trapping equipment displays and sponsorship tables. The Carnival was also an official Canada 150 celebration activity and those attending were able to have their Peterborough County 150 Passport stamped.

It was very apparent that one of the main thrusts of the carnival was to introduce the trapping experience to today's youth - as seen in the photographs. Many boys and girls eagerly assisted the experienced trappers in the preparation of pelts for display. Working with the trappers, the apprentice students worked at skinning, fleshing, and stretching the pelts for judging later in the day.

Once again, the Trappers Carnival was an event of continuous activity in a hall filled to capacity (see photo above). The carnival organizers are to be congratulated for continuing to host an outstanding and extremely successful educational event at the Apsley North Kawartha Community Centre. Of particular interest, it is noted that the Tamlin and Bolton families continue to be enthusiastic supporters of the Trappers Carnival, as they actively and enthusiastically demonstrate how to set traps and prepare pelts for judging and, especially to the youth, the next generation of trappers.

Finally, thanks should be extended to the mothers of the Apsley Minor Hockey League for their work in the kitchen to feed everyone throughout the day.

Report and photos by Jim O'Shea



Above: Phil Tamlin demonstrating pelt preparation to a future trapper. Below: Bill Trudeau in finishing stages of preparing a pelt for judging. All Photos by Jim O'Shea



Photos Above on the Left Bill Trudeau, carefully working on a pelt; In the Middle: Phil Tamlin, working on two different pelts; On the Right: Eric Bolton, in the trap setting contest.

Kawartha Haliburton Trappers Carnival

Photo on the Left: The Fur competition display table; Below Left: Yettie Ireland, Ladies nail-driving competition; Right: Bill Watt, Carnival Coordinator.



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