



# THE ALBERTA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

April 2020 – March 2021



OUR VISION:

WE SEE AN ALBERTA WHERE THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST AND MANAGEMENT OF WILD FURBEARERS IS AN ESTABLISHED AND RECOGNIZED CONSERVATION ACTIVITY THAT IS INTEGRAL TO OUR HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND IDENTITY

## **ASSOCIATION ADDRESS**

**HWY 44 SOUTH INDUSTRIAL PARK LOT 14  
PO BOX 6020  
WESTLOCK, AB T7P 2P7**

**PHONE: (780) 349-6626  
WWW.ALBERTATRAPPERS.COM**

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

---

### **Alberta Trappers Association Annual Report to Government of Alberta**

The past year has been fraught with uncertainty and hardship, yet we see hope and a glimpse of a return to better times despite the current COVID variant upsurge. The current situation for the ATA I would describe as stable. Our membership sits at 2145 including 606 3-year paid memberships.

Our business units have been running at a slight deficit over some of the past 18 months, but we are bouncing back quickly with steady retail sales, increased course and workshop offerings and renewed confidence in demand for wild fur based on some fairly positive auction results at the last fur harvester sale.

Many of our local chapters have suffered over the course of the pandemic. The inability to meet face to face and in many cases the lack of technical resources to hold online meetings have left some locals dormant for lack of a better word. I would encourage all locals who are having trouble re-activating their local to contact Ross or Donna at the ATA offices. We are happy to help connect with your members, organize a meeting or event and will attend in person to provide updates and answer any questions. In addition, our Forestry Liaison, Darcy Chambers has an excellent presentation to inform trappers how they can take a more active role in dealing with the forestry companies that are operating on their traplines. Darcy is very knowledgeable, and your local trappers will benefit greatly from it.

One of the pressing issues has been the ATA proposal to take over administration of the trapping file from AEP. Negotiations with government have gone well and we are close to submitting a proposal to the minister for approval. COVID has made this process arduous but this summer we made good progress. I was able to attend quite a few local meetings to update members and get feedback, but the lack of local chapter meetings has delayed a full vetting of our proposal. This fall when social conditions are more favorable, we will initiate town hall meetings across Alberta to allow non-ATA members to participate in the process. Also, the ATA board and staff have made considerable efforts to ramp up engagement with First Nations and Metis trappers and communities over the past year. There has been some success but again COVID has really made it difficult so we will continue to press forward this fall as Indigenous representatives become more accessible. The biggest concern I have heard back on is how will the change affect license fees? Until we hear from government what the extent of their financial support will be it is hard to pin down. What I will say is that it will be less than what we first anticipated and if there is not adequate support from government then we may have to approach things from a different direction because the cost of trapping administration should under no circumstances rest solely on the backs of trappers.

My information is that the ATA Wolf Management Program will run again this trapping season however we are still waiting for funding conformation from Dave Hervieux. Last season trappers harvested 71 wolves from 5 Caribou Management Areas (Little Smoky-A la Peche, Chinchaga, Red Rock, Athabasca East, and Cold Lake). Despite reduced numbers I believe the program was a success, given the 84 trappers that participated all reported either declining, low, or non-

existent wolf activity. I believe that trappers have demonstrated that they have a valuable role to play in humane and sustainable wolf management in Alberta.

One of the most exciting things that has happened for our association in a long time is the establishment of the Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bush Craft near Dapp, AB. This small but productive RFMA is only ½ hour from the ATA offices in Westlock. This fulfills a long-standing desire for Alberta Trapper Education to administer its own teaching RFMA. With the Teem Time Ranch located right on the trapline our capacity to deliver world class programming and professional development training not only to the trapping community but anyone who is interested in bush living and sustainable use of the landscape. In addition to certification programs, we will recruit experts from across Alberta in all communities and cultures to support a broad scope of educational opportunities. In time I believe this asset will create revenue and employment opportunity for trappers and most importantly showcase our trapping culture and sustainable use philosophy to the world. My thanks to Dave Kay and Travis Ripley at AEP for their support and Minister Jason Nixon for the final thumbs up. Details on how trappers can get involved with the Centre are available at the ATA offices from Tracey Fedorovich our Trapper Education Coordinator, Ross Hinter our Community Liaison or Perry Kulmatyski our new part time Education Program Coordinator.

For the past few years, we have made a considerable effort to forge a more beneficial relationship with Forestry on behalf of trappers in Alberta. Over the past year we have achieved some real success largely due to the efforts Ross Hinter our Community Liaison who has given multiple presentations to the forest industry and the good will and our Slave Lake local lead by Darrel Walde and our Zone 4 Director and Forestry Liaison, Darcy Chambers. We now have forest industry partners that want to work with trappers to collect data and monitor harvest and furbearer habitation in response to some efforts to retain conservation value and habitat through different forest harvest models. The ATA has turned to our long-standing friend and partner the Alberta Conservation Association for research and administrative support for what we hope will be a large scale and long-term research project opportunity for trappers' province wide. One of the things that will fit in perfectly to our project plans will be the ATA Trapper Logbook Program which is as promised paying pack trapper effort with opportunity and hopefully financial support. Standby for updates in the near future.

Existing project opportunities for trappers include the Northwest Species at Risk-Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute caribou monitoring project. The Environment Canada Mink Research Project, and the Washington State Fisher Relocation Project. There will be more opportunities available so keep an eye on the ATA Website Members Only page for updates and additional research and conservation opportunities.

Aside from the new Alberta Centre, our trapper education team has continued to deliver the Standard Trapping Certification program province wide and will be rolling out our very successful grade 4 and 5 ATA School Presentation Program this coming school year. We are also continuing our continuously sold-out Trapper Kids Camps and Youth/First Time Trapper Mentorship Program. Also, we are finalizing our awareness campaign for trappers and rural residents regarding Responsible Trappers and Rural Pet Owners. Our hope is that our proactive initiatives will put the trapping community in good standing when it comes to reducing non target catches on free roaming pets.

Education and training are the cornerstone of our association and the dedication and commitment of our education instructors and management team cannot be understated. Some of our very best work was done over the past year under very difficult circumstances and the trapping community in Alberta should be very proud of what has been accomplished in their name.

I would also like to thank our board of directors for their wisdom and support, also unsung heroes like Deborah Hinter who works behind the scenes for all our benefit continuously and tirelessly, our staff in Westlock for their unwavering passion and loyalty, and the miraculous Donna Moore our executive director who holds it all together.

With the continued instability prompted by COVID outbreaks, a roller coaster economy and misunderstood or miscommunicated regulatory policy trappers seem to continually get caught up in government and corporate bureaucracy. Please continue to contact me personally as you have been, and I'll do what I can to get things on track. That is my job and I'm here to help.

Respectfully,



Signature

Bill Abercrombie, President  
Alberta Trappers Association

# Table of Contents

---

<b>PRESIDENTS MESSAGE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>We Are Committed to Trapper Education Programming</b>	<b>9</b>
The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) is committed to:	9
<b>ATA 2020 – 2021 Members of the Board of Directors</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ATA 2020 – 2021 Staff Members</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Director Perspective – ATA Board</b>	<b>11</b>
What do our board members do? – Ken Hildebrand	11
<b>Development and Delivery of the Approved Standard Trapper Education Course Across the Province of Alberta</b>	<b>12</b>
What is Trapper Education?	12
<b>To Develop and Implement “Best Practices” Workshops to increase the Competency Level of Alberta’s Trappers</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>To Develop and Implement Trapper Instructor Training Courses and Workshops to Maintain and Improve Competency Levels of Trapping Instructors</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Successful Partnership with the Government of Alberta Wolf Management Project in the Northern Regions</b>	<b>15</b>
The Wolf Management Project – Jeff Bakker	15
<b>Successful Partnership with Northwest Species at Risk (NWSAR) and Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI)</b>	<b>16</b>
Caribou Camera Project – Terry Batt	16
<b>Development and Delivery of School Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices</b>	<b>17</b>
In School Trapper Industry Presentations	17
<b>Development and Delivery of Public Education Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices</b>	<b>18</b>
Public Presentations and Trade Show Booths	18
<b>Development and Delivery of the Alberta Trapper Magazine and Maintenance of the Alberta Trappers Association Website</b>	<b>19</b>
Alberta Trapper Magazine	19
The Alberta Trapper’s Website – Deb Hinter; Webmaster and Facebook Administrator.	20

<b>Administration of Compensation Programs</b>	<b>22</b>
Alberta Trappers Association Compensation Program	22
Alberta Trappers Association Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program	22
<b>Successful Partnerships</b>	<b>23</b>
Youth Camp Programs	23
<b>Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Logbooks: Not the Pariah of the Trapper Life – Darnell McCurdy</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Logbooks – Darnell McCurdy (continued)</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>ATA 2020 – 2021 FUR DEPOT – Tracey Fedorvich</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>ATA Volunteers – Ross Hinter</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Trapper Education RFMA – Hunter Botham</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>ATA Science Programs – Ross Hinter</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Indigenous Community Engagement, Training and Education</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Manufacturing – Hunter Botham</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Fur Depot and Retail Store</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>THANK YOU!</b>	<b>35</b>



## The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA)

---

Is a non-profit organization that has been in operation since August of 1971

- Offering educational programs to schools, community groups and the general public
- Providing curriculum related programs through classroom virtual and in-class presentations, fur kit loan program and facilitating field trips
- Delivering special event programming such as youth summer camps, mentoring programming, attendance at trade shows and special group presentations – although Covid-19 but a damper on holding and attending these events in 2020, we have been busy brainstorming ways to adapt to the current situation and are looking forward to a busy summer
- Hosting workshops for our educators to help enhance their fur industry regulations and processes
- Offering post-secondary scholarships to students from active trapping families



**A sampling of the many thank-you cards, and notes received from schools who've taken part in our "Trapper in the Classroom" program**





## We Are Committed to Trapper Education Programming

---

The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) is committed to:

- Delivery of approved Standard Trapper Education Courses to qualify first time trappers to obtain their Fur Management Licence
- Delivery of “best practices” workshops to increase the competency level of Alberta’s trappers
- Committed to training and development of all our instructors
- In consideration of the health and safety of our students, staff and instructors, we at the ATA adjusted our protocols to include all of the public health guidelines set out by the provincial government and we continually monitor as required



**Our instructors adapted to the Albert Public Health guidelines while teaching the Standard Trapper Education Course in Hinton, AB**



## ATA 2020 – 2021 Members of the Board of Directors

---

<b>Bill Abercrombie</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Kevin Klein</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Darnell McCurdy</b>	<b>Secretary/Treasurer – Zone 1</b>
<b>Glen Kalmbach</b>	<b>Director – Zone 1</b>
<b>Landon Delorme</b>	<b>Director – Zone 2</b>
<b>Colin Truman</b>	<b>Director – Zone 2</b>
<b>Brian Bildson</b>	<b>Director – Zone 3</b>
<b>Terry Batt</b>	<b>Director – Zone 3</b>
<b>Darcy Chambers</b>	<b>Director – Zone 4</b>
<b>Joe Gauthier</b>	<b>Director – Zone 4</b>
<b>Ken Hildebrand</b>	<b>Director – Zone 5</b>
<b>Brian Jackson</b>	<b>Director – Zone 5</b>

## ATA 2020 – 2021 Staff Members

---

<b>Donna Moore</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>
<b>Jeff Bakker</b>	<b>Trapper Education Coordinator</b>
<b>Ross Hinter</b>	<b>Community Liaison and Program Development</b>
<b>Tracey Fedorvich</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>
<b>Hunter Botham</b>	<b>Operations Assistant</b>
<b>Deborah Hinter</b>	<b>Webmaster and Contractor</b>
<b>Byron Oulton</b>	<b>Manufacturing Assistant</b>
<b>Kimberly Verge</b>	<b>Part-time Store/Fur Depot Assistant</b>



## Director Perspective – ATA Board

---

### What do our board members do? – Ken Hildebrand

I have been privileged to be a director for the greatest non-profit organization in Alberta. I respect both those who in the past and present who have supported me, and those who have not.

Directors must take their position very seriously, have trappers of Alberta's interest above their own, and be honest always having their integrity intact. We are all human and can only do our best. We can shine and look good when we have the support and input from our membership. More calls just to see what we are doing for you and our Association would be great. Or just a call to say thanks for work and services that we volunteers give our energy to. The Alberta Trappers Association is only as strong as our members. Having a membership and your interactions only improve trapping.

As Directors we let our executive and staff do their jobs, while we oversee how things are going and perhaps chat about how we can improve our operations. Look at what's in our store, remembering that it was the membership who wanted the store in the first place. Look at the quality of merchandise, cheapest is not always the best.

Most of the calls we get are complaints, many a times the callers are in an agitated mood. It would be great for those to cool so they can think more clearly and be patient enough to listen to the response from their director. Sometimes the director may have been on their line or may have been in meetings and are not aware of your complaint or issue. I as well as all other directors will do our best to find the answers, facts, and ways to try and resolve any issues we can.

I personally like face to face meetings, and interactions the best, however in these times. Phone calls, emails, and Zoom meetings are used the most. Board meetings at the ATA or government personnel face to face seem to be the best in my opinion.

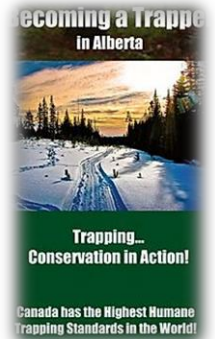
Directors are volunteers who represent and work with ATA members in our communities across Alberta, we also with other provinces, Public Education, finding "Best Trapping Practices" with biologists, and scientists, work with and engage all departments of Government, Landowners, and Industries such as logging, oil, and gas, with respect. We also look ahead and try to find solutions for the future of the trapping community.

I take my hat off with total respect to your current directors, president, and vice president, for how they have carried us forward in these uncertain times. These volunteers spend time away from family and other things they hold dear to keep our organization moving forward. I encourage all members to do their part, little things like logbooks helping new trappers become better, older trappers with patience learn more humane better practices. Also, those who think they can improve trapping and issues revolving around our industry better than your current board step up and become a director. Your eyes may be opened to more issues and challenges than you are aware of. I apologize as I do not always get a director's report in for my zone, but sometimes life or family must get priority.



## Development and Delivery of the Approved Standard Trapper Education Course Across the Province of Alberta

---



### What is Trapper Education?

The Alberta Trappers' Association Trapper Education Program provides the Standard Trapping course, as well as numerous workshops and presentations to schools and other interested groups year-round throughout the province.

The Standard Trapping Course is your first step toward becoming a trapper. The course includes instruction on the safe use of traps and other equipment, biology of furbearers, animal management, marketing and grading of furs, skinning and fur handling, as well as humane trapping techniques.



**Standard Trapper Education Course  
in Westlock, AB**



## To Develop and Implement “Best Practices” Workshops to increase the Competency Level of Alberta’s Trappers

---

Currently we teach eight training workshops including:

1. Wolf Workshop
2. Resident Trapline Management
3. Foot-holding
4. Snaring
5. Fur Handling
6. Under-Ice-Beaver
7. Tanning
8. Public Presentation Training.

These workshops include hands-on training, demonstrations along with group activities to complement the materials being taught. Our education department has been working on the development of new workshops including a Five-day Instructor’s Course, Bear Awareness, Adult Mentoring and Standard Trappers course level II.



**Fur Handling Workshop – Keeping Safe!**



## To Develop and Implement Trapper Instructor Training Courses and Workshops to Maintain and Improve Competency Levels of Trapping Instructors

---



**Training Workshops for Provincial Instructors took place on the ATA Trapline this year!**



**Hunter Botham and Chuck Hambling hard at it!**



## Successful Partnership with the Government of Alberta Wolf Management Project in the Northern Regions

---

### The Wolf Management Project – Jeff Bakker

The wolf program for the 2020/2021 was a success again. We targeted areas where the caribou populations have been declining over the past few years, talking with most trappers, it was a tough year all around.

Very little sightings of wolves were a popular response when talking to trappers, not just in one area, but in all areas that were involved in the program.

This year we had 84 Trappers involved this year.

- 25 from the Chinchaga Region
- 43 from the East Side Athabasca Region
- 7 from the La Peche Region
- 5 from the Red Rock Region
- 4 from the Cold Lake Region

With the 84 trappers actively trapping and targeting the wolf we were able to harvest 71 wolves. Which is a large decrease from the past years of the program.

We have had multiple sightings of Caribou and larger groups at that on the landscape, which have been significantly increased from past years, so in saying that the program is doing what we need it to do.

The area the wolves were harvested were as follow.

- 30 from the East Side Athabasca Region
- 33 from the Chinchaga Region
- 6 from the Cold Lake Region
- 2 from the La Peche Region



Great job to all trappers involved, the Alberta Trappers Association wants to thank all Trappers for their continued support and dedication into this program and future programs.



## Successful Partnership with Northwest Species at Risk (NWSAR) and Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI)

---

### Caribou Camera Project – Terry Batt

The second phase of the Caribou Camera Project for NWSAR and ABMI has been completed with all deployed cameras having batteries and cards changed. With the amount of early snow that we have received proved to be a challenge this year. A few guys managed to complete their batteries and card changes early and avoided the deep snow but for those of us that could not get out early struggled to complete their cameras. One of the questions I get asked most is are we capturing any images of caribou. There have been some pictures of caribou but most of the cards have not been processed yet and ABMI will be presenting the data at the RFMA Grand opening so I am really looking forward to seeing what the first year of data will tell us. The cameras are scheduled to be picked up in 2021/22 but there might be an extension pending on the data that has been gathered already. This decision will be made later this fall. There is some confusion with this project being called the Caribou Camera Project when in fact it is a multi species project. The cameras will detect most species out there to determine the densities of these species. Currently there is very little information out there to determine this. In the past the number of any given species were determined by what was reported when trappers renewed their RFMA. This number was not really accurate because it is influenced by fur prices and trapper effort. Higher prices equal more effort, beaver prices are a good example of few people making an effort because of low prices, so we are hoping that the data that is collected will help all trappers to better manage their RFMA's. Thanks again to the trappers involved in this project and, also the trappers involved with the other projects that the ATA has going on.







## Development and Delivery of School Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices

---

### In School Trapper Industry Presentations

Studying the history of Canada's fur trade is part of the Alberta curriculum for grades four and five. To help educate Alberta's youth, we have produced school kits that are sent out upon request. These kits include furs, skulls, trade beads, etc. In addition to the fur kit program, in-person school presentations are also delivered.

The primary objective of this project is to educate youth on the historical and current importance of the trapping industry. Our presentations focused on the topics of fur trading, trapping today, animal damage control, as well as animal habitat and how that has changed over the years.

This year our presenters had to adjust how they got their messages across, due to public health restrictions put into place early in the school year. To date, our public educators have seen **261** students in the classrooms of schools throughout Alberta and have done **35** virtual presentations to **1631** Alberta students. We spoke to students, teachers and public individuals who were interested in attending, on the important role trapping plays in maintaining animal habitat balance and conservation in general.

Educating our youth is imperative to ensuring the future of conservation in our province. This is achieved by teaching youth the impact that trapping has on conservation of the wildlife population and the importance of the fur industry.



**Ross Hinter all set to do another virtual school presentation!**



## Development and Delivery of Public Education Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices

---

### Public Presentations and Trade Show Booths

We deliver public presentations as well as offering educational programming to unique groups across Alberta.

We currently have three completed fur kits, including all furbearer pelts and skulls, that we specifically use for our public education programs and our youth camps.



**Ryan Golby Representing the ATA  
in Beaver County, AB**



**Edmonton Farm Fair and Cabela's  
Family Outdoor Days in Edmonton**



## Development and Delivery of the Alberta Trapper Magazine and Maintenance of the Alberta Trappers Association Website

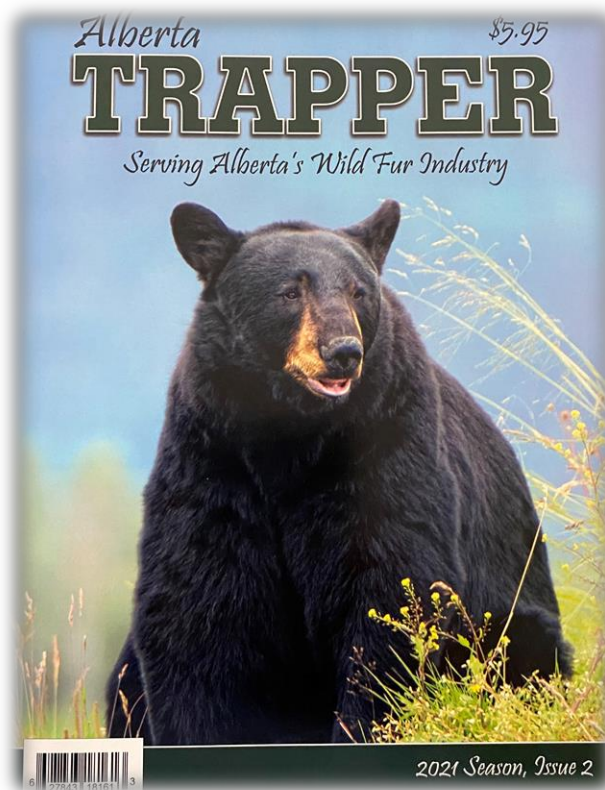
---

### Alberta Trapper Magazine

The Alberta Trappers' Association publishes the Top Notch, glossy and professional Alberta Trapper Magazine on a quarterly basis. It is mailed to members informing them of current issues and concerns trappers face.

Trappers are encouraged to send stories, pictures and anecdotes about trapping experiences and life on a trapline.

The classified ads provide a service to members wishing to sell items that are of interest to other trappers.





## **The Alberta Trapper's Website – Deb Hinter; Webmaster and Facebook Administrator.**

**Apr 1, 2020 – Mar 31, 2021**, saw **15,677** new visitors to the website.

The highest number of visitors took place during the month of Jan 2021, with 2,392 visitors. 3,717 are regular return visitors to our website.

### **93% of the visitors are from Canada as follows:**

Alberta – 12,944

British Columbia – 910

Ontario – 509

Saskatchewan – 265

Manitoba – 143

Quebec – 132

Nova Scotia – 36

New Brunswick – 26

Newfoundland & Labrador – 23

Northwest Territories – 18

70% of our visitors are male, 30% female.

Majority of visitors to the website fall into the age bracket of 25 – 55, with 10% age 18 – 24 and 24% age 56 and over.

61% of visitors arrive on their mobile devices, followed by 34% on a desktop computer, followed by 5% using a tablet.

### **Most Popular Pages visited on our website:**

1. Trapping Courses
2. Becoming A Trapper
3. ATA Store
4. Fur Depot
5. Membership
6. Contact
7. Workshops
8. Trapping Locals
9. Calendar

In March of 2021, we opened a **Members Only Section** of the website, and current number of sign ups are sitting at **103 members**.



## ATA FACEBOOK GROUPS

At the end of **March 2021** there were **3,165** members of the Facebook group, with 2,294 of these having active participation.

The most popular posts are ones from the Fur Depot, along with the launch of Alan Purdy's book, followed by announcements by the ATA Admin and Staff.

The announcements keep everyone on the group up to date and cover:

- Upcoming courses,
- Workshops
- Youth camps
- ATA hours
- Fur Depot and Fur Pick Up Schedules
- Magazine Deadlines
- Membership Information
- Research Projects
- The ATA involvement with the scientific community and other relevant activities the ATA is involved in
- There are also posts directing users to updates on our website

It has been a very productive year with engagement in our social media along with our website presence and interest.

Looking forward to another year of serving the membership of the ATA and beyond, with trapping related news, views, information, and education.





## Administration of Compensation Programs

---

### Alberta Trappers Association Compensation Program

The Alberta Trappers Compensation Program (ATCP) is a program of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP).

This program provides a framework for compensating trappers for business losses incurred through industrial activity on their RFMA's when they are not able to reach a settlement with industry.

Incidences of theft and vandalism to assets on RFMA's are also considered.

<b>ATCP</b>	<b>April 1, 2020, to March 22, 2021</b>
<b>Number of claims submitted</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Number of claims paid</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total claim amounts paid</b>	<b>\$15,179.70</b>
<b>Number of claims denied</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Claims awaiting further information</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Claims Coordinator Expenses</b>	<b>\$2583.00</b>
<b>Misc. Expenses (advertising, fees, etc.)</b>	<b>\$2380.95</b>

### Alberta Trappers Association Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program

The ATA Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program is a program of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP) that provides a framework for compensating trappers' business losses incurred from forest fire damages. Fortunately, there were no claims to this program in this past year.



## Successful Partnerships

### Youth Camp Programs

Many thanks to our partner in environmental education, the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) for teaming up with the ATA on various projects.

In 2020-2021 our youth camps and youth mentoring programs were put on hold due to the Covid-19 public health restrictions. We've not let that slow us down though. We've been actively looking at our options for 2021 and will be announcing dates soon. Our goal will be to reach as many youths, ages 9 to 14, as we can this summer. We will be doing so safely, by keeping the groups small and outdoors on the ATA trapline.



**Kids who've attended our youth camps loved it so much that they've had trapper camp themed birthday parties!**



## Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

<b>Athabasca</b>	<b>Local 1010</b>
<b>Bonnyville/Cold Lake</b>	<b>Local 1021</b>
<b>Calgary</b>	<b>Local 1031</b>
<b>Drayton Valley</b>	<b>Local 1060</b>
<b>Edson</b>	<b>Local 1050</b>
<b>Eureka River</b>	<b>Local 1053</b>
<b>Fort Assiniboine</b>	<b>Local 1061</b>
<b>Grande Cache</b>	<b>Local 1066</b>
<b>Grande Prairie</b>	<b>Local 1070</b>
<b>Greater Edmonton</b>	<b>Local 1054</b>
<b>High Level</b>	<b>Local 1080</b>
<b>Hinton</b>	<b>Local 1082</b>
<b>La Crete</b>	<b>Local 1188</b>
<b>Lac La Biche</b>	<b>Local 1120</b>
<b>Manning</b>	<b>Local 1020</b>
<b>North Eastern Trappers</b>	<b>Local 1130</b>
<b>Peace River</b>	<b>Local 1195</b>
<b>Rocky Mountain House</b>	<b>Local 1180</b>
<b>Slave Lake</b>	<b>Local 1190</b>
<b>South Country Trappers</b>	<b>Local 1110</b>
<b>Sundre</b>	<b>Local 1193</b>
<b>Wabash River</b>	<b>Local 1210</b>
<b>West Central</b>	<b>Local 1040</b>
<b>Whitecourt</b>	<b>Local 1231</b>







## Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

---

### Annual Alberta Trappers Association Rendezvous & Outdoorsman Shows

Our annual Rendezvous is a provincial event that will include demonstrations, speakers, a trade show, competitions, and entertainment meant to bring together the trapping community while continuing to educate the public on the trapping and fur industry in Alberta. Sadly, we've had to cancel the 2020 and 2021 events. In lieu of this, and because we've missed getting together, the Board of Directors and staff are working to put together an event to launch the Trapper Education trapline.

Here are a few pictures to hopefully bring back some fond memories.





## Logbooks: Not the Pariah of the Trapper Life – Darnell McCurdy

---

Ah! Logbooks. The mere mention of these three pieces of paper can strike fear in the heart and soul of weathered and hardened trappers. Three pieces of paper that ask only questions the diligent trapper could answer. Three simple pieces of paper, so why is there such hesitation and reluctance from trappers to fill out the requested information? Let's look at the innocent logbook.

### Logbooks ARE NOT

1. an attempt to pry into the lives of trappers who are out on the lines monitoring and controlling fur bearer populations
2. being used to justify the elimination of trapping.
3. being used to manipulate the quotas on quota species
4. difficult to enter in the online webpage

### Logbooks ARE

1. vital tools to document your fur harvest in any given trapping season. Something which the majority of trappers do already in some sort of notebook.
2. vital tools to help resource managers determine the harvest counts of fur bearing species across the province in all RFMA's.
3. vitals tools that help to verify if population science is being verified by harvest numbers and ratio's being reported.
4. Vital tools to determine if landscape impacts from various resource users are impacting fur bearing animals.
5. a means to prove that trapping and the long trapping heritage in Alberta is alive and well.
6. a means to determine research opportunities that can be undertaken to support species and population dynamics.
7. a means to prove that trappers and resource managers can be proactive and responsive in fur bearer and RFMA management.
8. very easy to enter on the website and take a maximum of 5 minutes for data entry. The system is user friendly and takes as little a click on a button to answer the question.
9. an alternate method for keeping track of the trapline activities in any given trapping season. This is something that most trappers already do so this is just a better method of record keeping.

Logbook data has been gathered by participating trappers for the last 5 years. The ACA now has a data set that is statistically robust on non-quota data for Marten. Statistical information has also been compiled on quota species for Fisher, Lynx, Otter, and Wolverine. The ACA uses a variety of analytical tools to determine if male to female ratios for Marten are correct, but, most importantly, sustainable.



## Logbooks – Darnell McCurdy (continued)

The ATA has hit a plateau in logbook submissions (151 in 2021). It should not be so difficult to get 300 logbooks submitted over a given trapping season. Trappers must take the personal responsibility to complete and submit their logbook information. This is just a part of the whole RFMA management responsibilities that rest on the shoulder of each and every trapper. The ATA working in concert with the ACA will continue to ask for the logbooks each season. Voluntary compliance with logbook submissions is much better than having a mandatory logbook submission which could become a part of the Trapping License Renewal.

The choice is yours fellow trappers. Three pieces of paper do not need to be so terrifying. Completion and submission of logbooks is the least we can do to support fur bearer management and promote trapping across the Province.





## ATA 2020 – 2021 FUR DEPOT – Tracey Fedorvich

---

It was a rough start to the season. When the staff left for Christmas break, we had hardly a hide in the Fur Depot. From January 4-16, 2021, we tagged 10,116 hides, it was a remarkably busy week and half. Things stayed busy in the Depot from this point on. On May 6, 2021, we filled another semi with 14,181 hides to finish the season with a total of 24,297 hides shipped to Fur Harvesters Auction this year. It was such a great feeling after the April auction was a go to have something positive to talk to the trappers about!! We have received payments totalling \$29,720.83.

Jason Jarvie did another bang up job of remote fur pick up this year, again sponsored by Fur Harvesters. He was able to cover a wider area as he scheduled pick up himself which made things go smoother for him and allowed him to accommodate more trappers. Jason spent a total of 29 days on the road collecting fur and delivering it to the Depot. We are thankful to have him onboard the ATA team.

Thank you to all the Trappers that again supported the ATA this season!

I would also like to thank the volunteers that helped in the Depot this season, Chuck Hambling, Darrell & Joanne Walde, Nathan Taylor, Keith Ewanchuck, Cam & Byron Oulton. You all sure made a difference here for us!





## ATA Volunteers – Ross Hinter

As with many organizations and associations we rely on our volunteers to help us get things done. We have been fortunate to have people that continue to help us, like Chuck Hambling, Darrell and JoAnne Walde and many others that have come in to help when we are loaded down with in-coming fur closer to last receiving dates, or when we have a truck coming to load up with fur to head out to auction.

Our Board of Directors are another great example, that help us keep our association on track and moving forward. This is a big commitment of time to serve in this capacity.

We would not be able to continue without these people helping us. We have many people that continue to work with us during functions and programs each year and we are so very grateful to them all. Some have offered their time and help, others have given us their shop or facility to use, and some have done all the leg work to set up areas and places to hold courses and workshops.

Some of these volunteers are Presidents of our locals, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, etc. Here again, some of our people open their shops or buildings for the locals to hold their meetings. Many have cooked lunches and dinners for potluck suppers.

Some have taken the time to write up stories and articles for our magazine. Many have stepped up to help during our yearly Rendezvous.

The list goes on. We just wouldn't be the family association that we are without all these people helping us. A huge thank you for all of you.





## Trapper Education RFMA – Hunter Botham

The first year on the Alberta Trappers Association trap line was very productive regarding, harvest of fur and locating areas with decent access for holding workshops and other education courses. Usually, I tried getting out once a week if weather conditions allowed that, taking around 6-7 hours to run the line. The trap line does hold quite a few fur bearing animals. This year we were able to take around 50 beavers.

Trapper Education held the Under Ice Beaver workshop on the line this past January and there are plans for several new educational programs to be run on the line. The entire staff are excited to host the Youth Trapper Camps out there this summer, a total of five camps over the months of July and August. There are so many possibilities for the trap line I can't wait to watch it unfold.





## ATA Science Programs – Ross Hinter

---

### Trappers and Science

This past year, 2021, we completed our first year with Kyle Shanebeck from the University of Alberta, (U of A) to supply him with otter and mink for his study of toxins and heavy metals etc., on these semi aquatic species.

We also did another project with Dr Phil Thomas from our Federal Government who is also studying these species up in the oil sands region after finding higher-than-normal amounts of toxins from earlier studies. Luckily, these two projects came together, and Phil Thomas gave us the go ahead to send all the otter collected from his program to Kyle at the U of A. In total there was just over 90 otters for this project.

This science work with otter and mink at the U of A will continue into next year so I am hoping to have better participation from our trappers for this coming season of trapping. Trappers were paid \$15 for mink and \$20 for otter to bring in their carcasses.

We were also contacted by Sophie Preckler-Quisquater a Ph D candidate from the University of California that is studying the Phylogeographic history of the red fox in North America. It is unfortunate that she contacted us so late in the season that most trapping was finishing up so I am hoping we can continue this for this coming season. She is wanting small, dried skin samples from these fox. It is interesting to note here that the State of California has worked to outlaw trapping and is trying to ban the sale of fur in that state. This is an interesting time for us over this past decade of working with science.

The value for good to the trapping industry in these projects cannot be understated. This has been a huge boost for us at the local level provincially, but also on the world stage as well. I see this continuing to take us up the ladder for our work here in conservation. A big thank you to all the trappers that have gone out of their way to contribute to these efforts.

And finally, I was contacted by Tatyanna Ewald an Archaeologist from Atlatl Archaeology LTD in Lethbridge Ab. We will be providing some Tissue samples from bear, fisher, and lynx for some work she is doing.

We have a great future as I have already stated in future work with the Scientific Community, and we will continue to step up to this as we are approached by these people needing our expertise across the province.



## Indigenous Community Engagement, Training and Education

---



Paul Band Course taught in Wabamun, January 2021





## Manufacturing – Hunter Botham

As a joint effort from The Alberta Trappers Association staff and volunteers, some of the products that we sell in the store are manufactured in house. This includes all the **snares**, **submarine traps**, **muskrat floats**, **trap anchors**, **skinning gambrels** and **trap drags** - with over 2400 individual units sold in the store this year alone. This is a great asset as we can adjust for reasonable complaints or concerns on some products as needed to suit all trappers and better products in our store.

### Manufacturing

Item No.	Description	Unit	ON Hand	NO. Sold
ATA050	COYOTE SNARE KIT	Each	3	13
PBMF	MUSKRAT FLOAT	Each	7	30
PBS01	Coyote Snare 1/16 1x19 Tail Wire 3/32 7x7 8 feet long	Each	800	598
PBS02	LYNX SNARE 1/16 1X19 YELLOW TIE	Each	269	211
PBS03	WOLF SNARE 5/64 1x19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7-11' BLACK TIE	Each	201	171
PBS08	COYOTE SNARE 5/64 1X19 w/Lights out trigger system - SPOR	Each	0	300
PBS09	SPECIAL ORDER SNARES - Keith Ewanchuk	Each	0	60
SC08	#9 WIRE - SNARE CABLE	Each	3	44
TC04	LARGE SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	5	7
TC05	SM SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	6	12
TT009	HEAVY DUTY 2' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	7	31
TT010	HEAVY DUTY 1.5' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	15	25
TT014	GAMBREL	Each	3	3
TT092	HEAVY DUTY WOLF DRAG-2 PRONG	Each	6	30



# Alberta Trappers' Association



## Fur Depot and Retail Store





## THANK YOU!

---

We wish to thank all our supporters who are key to our success

Alberta Environment and Parks  
Alberta Conservation Association  
Alberta Forest Products Association  
ATCO  
Government of Canada

**For more information please contact us:**

### **The Alberta Trappers Association**

PO Box 6020  
Hwy 44, South Industrial Park, Lot 14  
Westlock, AB T7P 2P7

Phone: (780) 349-6626  
Email: [info@albertatrappers.com](mailto:info@albertatrappers.com)



**Visit us on the web at: [www.albertatrappers.com](http://www.albertatrappers.com)**

**Donna Moore ATA Executive Director**

The Alberta Trappers Association is a registered society  
No. 500063862