

NFLD. TRAPPER'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER AUG. 15TH, 1977

Newsletter #1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On July 16th, 1977 a director's meeting was held in Deer Lake, attending were:

Gerald Spencer, Glenwood – Vice President

Bert Coish, Corner Brook – Secretary Treasurer

George Jennings, Corner Brook – President

Ross Rowsell, Roddickton – Director

Byron White, Deer Lake – Director

Ted Ellis, Glenwood – Director

Stewart Rideout, Manuels – Director

The meeting was very successful and some very interesting subjects were discussed.

The first matter to be discussed was when and where our annual meeting would be held. It was agreed that the weekend of Oct. 8/9, 1977 would be appropriate and that we would try to obtain the use of a building near Pasadena or Deer Lake.

We have since tried but are not getting very far in obtaining a building with sleeping space, so it looks like we may have to be satisfied with a building for meetings only and each trapper would have to arrange his own accommodations.

We need to know how many members will be attending, therefore would appreciate your advising Bert Coish, 13 Hillcrest Road, Corner Brook, Nfld. By Sept. 12th if you plan attending and you will then be advised of exact location of meeting and any other details.

We would like to see a good turnout from each district.

It is you, the members, who have to choose your officers for the coming year.

We presently have 4 districts, East, Central, Northern and Western/Southern. We intended to have 5 but were informed by the Registrar of Companies that we would have to drop "Labrador" from the name of our association because of objections received from some persons in Labrador. Apparently they intend forming their own association. Although any trapper from Labrador would be welcome to join ours. It's been a struggle from day one as we never did receive any names of trappers from Labrador from the Wildlife Department.

Other matters discussed at the meeting were:

1. The obtaining of a crest for our association. (If anyone has any ideas for a design please let us have same.)
2. That Government be contacted on the following:
 - (a) Grants for trapper's workshops
 - (b) The possibility of small and big game licenses carrying some kind of warning re: illegal shooting of beaver and other fur bearing animals during the hunting season. (As you are aware, some people shoot at everything they see, thus spoiling or destroying a great deal of good fur.)
 - (c) That taxidermists be required to purchase a license to practice and that they only accept animals and birds from licensed trappers/hunters.
 - (d) That the Wildlife Department be approached as to the possibility of transferring pine marten to the Roddickton area, as the area seems to be ideal for their survival, one reason being the abundance of red squirrels in the area.
 - (e) That because of climatic conditions on the Northern Peninsula, the date for opening of the trapping season to be the same as Labrador.

Members from Central & Western areas brought up the subject of wildlife officers dead trapping nuisance beaver during the summer months. It was agreed by all present that nuisance beaver should be live trapped and moved to areas where beaver colonies could be established.

All the above matters have been taken care of by your secretary and the different government departments have been contacted.

We have had several queries from trappers as to whether or not we intend buying furs. We have advised them that it is not our intention (in the foreseeable future anyway) to purchase furs, but would recommend that they deal with the auction companies, especially the Ontario Trappers Association, a non profit organization, whose executive is made up of trappers.

The success of our association is up to the members themselves. We will endeavor to maintain the interest of all members in the association, and by working together all trappers will benefit.

The Director of Wildlife and his staff seem ready and willing to listen and assist us anytime.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please let us know and please try to attend the annual meeting on Oct. 8/9th, 1977.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Before Jan. 13th, 1977 the Newfoundland trappers were the only group of trappers in Canada that weren't organized. Your association, less than 10 months old, has become a member of the Canadian Federation of Trappers. We have written every trapper in Newfoundland, and there are now 254

members and our membership is still growing. You are represented by a director from every area of Newfoundland, plus three officers, President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. We have written the Dept. of Tourism pertaining to trapping regulations, trying to upgrade them and make new ones. They have met us with a positive response and are one hundred percent behind the trapper.

One of our objectives is to hold workshops in different areas of the province, where a trapper can upgrade his skills in trapping and pelt preparation, so trappers support your association. Attend our first assembly meeting on Oct. 8/9th, 1977.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Lawyers Roche and Verge of Corner Brook were hired to register our association under the Companies Act and they have already forwarded the application to the Minister of Provincial Affairs, for a license directing the registration of this association.

The lawyer's fee was \$442.00, but our President managed to have this reduced to \$242.00, by explaining, among other things, that we were a relatively new association, and our only source of revenue was from trapper's membership fees. It worked! A big savings of \$200.00.

We have \$1,038.00 in the bank, with all bills paid, including the lawyer's fee.

It was earlier noted that someone in Labrador objected to us using "Labrador" in our name. Now for the good news. We have received an anonymous donation of \$100.00 from Makkovik, Labrador. We have at least one backer in Labrador.