

AGM Highlights

by Mac Pitcher, from notes by
Hayward Smith

On August 15 and 16, 2015 the Newfoundland and Labrador Trappers Association held a successful annual general meeting at the Salvage Bay Motel in Eastport, Newfoundland.

The meeting boasted 31 registered members, despite the absence of several of our regulars. Our Labrador Vice-President Frank Phillips was in Norway attending a caribou/reindeer conference, Secretary Mac Pitcher was home recovering from a recent surgery, and Labrador Directors Roy Bowers and Dave Woodworth were unable to attend. Six new members enrolled in NLTA and participated in our AGM: Gerry Bond, Michael Holloway, Glenn Lidstone, Andrew Newhook, Jacob Power and Freddie Spencer.

A special thank you is offered to our Treasurer, Hayward Smith, who despite some serious health concerns of his own, was again our Rock of Gibraltar in organizing the meeting.

As is customary, the Saturday morning general meeting started with a minute of silence for departed members. This year we acknowledged the contribution of Bert Coish, a founding NLTA member who passed away on March 23 in his 78th year.

A generous contribution of \$165 was made to our association by Rex and Janice Holloway on behalf of the Holloway family. Rex's brother Nelson passed away suddenly on his trapline last fall.

In the absence of the secretary, President Ken White read the minutes of our previous AGM. Following adoption of the minutes, Treasurer Hayward Smith spoke on retention of members and acknowledged that the low price of furs was having a negative effect on maintaining and increasing membership. He went on to say that if some of the members

now in arrears did not pay up, then cuts in our membership and magazine subscription lists would be inevitable. Hayward then spoke on the financial position of our association. He noted that we ran a deficit this past year, the first time such an event had occurred since the account was revived seven years ago. However, Hayward noted that our association still has a healthy balance.

Eugene Tiller, representing Fur Harvesters Auction, presented a cheque to our association. Calvin Cormier reported that he had not received a similar contribution from North American Fur Auctions but would continue his efforts to secure this donation.

Ken White next addressed the meeting with a review of resolutions presented to the Wildlife Division subsequent to last year's AGM. He said that it is his understanding that a number of these resolutions had been addressed at the departmental level, but that cabinet approval was required before these could be resolved to our satisfaction. Unfortunately, there was no Wildlife Division or other government representation at this year's AGM. We did hear from fur biologist Bruce Rodrigues who offered his regrets as he was on the road during our meeting.

Following this there was a small ceremony in which one of our founding fathers, Gerald Spencer of Glenwood, had a photo opportunity with our newest member, Jacob Power. On the roster of members' numbers, Gerald is listed as member #2, while Jacob proudly carries his membership #3461.

The afternoon session began with the election of officers, and a full report of these results appears on page 24.

Following the meeting, our annual auction proceeded with our jovial and very entertaining

Derm Eason as auctioneer. A sincere thanks to Derm, along with auction overseers Ruth Bond, Marge Bond and Director Ed Piercey as auction accountant, for a job well done. NLTA also offers a sincere thank you to all those donating auction items this year. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Our Saturday evening barbeque was hosted by Director Calvin Cormier, who went to great lengths in preparing and cooking delicious moose sausage. For the children and less adventurous adults, hamburgers and hot dogs were also available. A collection was taken by Mary Lane at the barbeque, which adequately covered the barbeque food cost.

The weekend festivities concluded on Sunday morning with the annual games and competition. Many thanks to all attendees and volunteers who made this event the success that it was.



One of our founding fathers, Gerald Spencer, with newest member Jacob Power.
Photo by Colleen Power.

NLTA 39th Annual AGM Report

by Mac Pitcher, NLTA Secretary



Thanks to North Bay FHA for the props used on the float. Photos by Jo-Anne Eason.

Christmas Parade 2014 in Conception Bay South

The AGM got underway at approximately 10:15am. President Ken White welcomed everyone and noted that a number of long-standing members sent their regrets at not being able to attend this year. He then asked everyone to observe a moment of silence to remember the many trappers and their family members who passed away this year, notably one of our founding members—Bert Coish.

Ken read the minutes of the last AGM for secretary Mac Pitcher who was unable to attend. A motion to adopt the minutes as read was made by Eugene Tiller and seconded by Wally Hicks.

Treasurer Hayward Smith gave a detailed financial statement that showed the NLTA is still doing well and in the black. He said that about 40 members had not paid their dues to date. If they have to be dropped, we will be down to approximately 160 active members. He then gave an account of last year's fundraising efforts at the AGM and said we even made money on the barbeque.

A brief discussion on the trapper education program followed. Hayward stated the NLTA held 11 courses from April to June 2014 in anticipation of an agreement with Wildlife Division (WD), which never came. Five courses were held in the fall, and in the absence of a contract, NLTA was compensated in the amount of \$1750 from WD to do these courses.

Eugene Tiller presented Hayward with a cheque from Fur Harvesters Auction for our 0.5 percent of Newfoundland fur sales. He then gave a review of last year's fur sales and a forecast of next year's projected sales (poor at best). He then went on to explain some of the benefits trappers gained through Best Management Practices.

Derm Eason wanted to publicly thank Howard Noseworthy of Fur Harvesters Auction for his help in getting materials for a Christmas float in Conception Bay South.

The election of this year's officers was held with the following members being elected: Eastern – Ed Piercey,

Central – Doug Mercer and Wally Hicks, Southern – Ed Dominic, Labrador – Roy Bowers and Frank Phillips.

Hayward conducted six draws for \$50 each with the following winners: Harris Wheaton, Jessica Eason, Andrew Newhook, Jacob Power, Bill Newhook and Eric Wheaton.

Next year's AGM, our fortieth, will be held on August 19-20, 2016 in the Codroy Valley. Thanks to Calvin Cormier for making these arrangements. Further details will be provided as they become available.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Derm Eason and seconded by Gerry Bond.

Hayward conducted one draw for \$100, was won by Lisa Newhook.

In another contest, participants had to guess the weight of the large lobster pictured. This was a 50/50 draw, with the closest guess winning half of all ticket sales. The auction started at 2:30pm.

Minutes were recorded by Ken White and transcribed by Mac Pitcher.