

TRAPPING: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

What comes to mind when you hear the word trapper?

For many, its an image of an old hermit with a rusty, jagged-tooth trap. But we've come a long way from those primitive ways and the near extinction of our valuable fur-bearing animals.

Today, trappers see the big picture; the wise use of our natural resources.

This means sustaining healthy wildlife populations for the long-term harvest of fur, maintaining biodiversity (all of the varieties of plants and animals) for future generations to enjoy, and preserving endangered species.

Trapping is a way of life for some, but the profit from harvesting fur isn't enough to be the main source of income for most trappers. Yet, their contribution to the Canadian economy is massive.

Trappers save taxpayers millions each year by managing destructive wildlife. They invest millions in equipment and supplies and inject hundreds of millions more into the economy through the fur trade industry as a whole (Conference Board of Canada Survey – 2019).

It's All About the Big Picture

It's important to realize trappers aren't out there setting their own rules.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) governs all aspects of trapping in Ontario with all regulations backed by scientific data. Laws dictate the length of the season, types of traps used, the numbers by species, mandatory reporting and more. Specific rules are reviewed and updated regularly.

Trappers embrace these regulations.

Why? For two reasons. And they both involve the big picture.

First: Conservation isn't a one-person job.

We all must work together. Wildlife doesn't stop at the border just because someone drew a line on a map.

Second: To give consumers peace of mind. An assurance their fur came from an ethical and sustainable source. With our open and transparent tracking system, fur from Canada can be traced back to its origin.

The MNRF has a wealth of knowledge about conservation. They've gathered data for years. They connect with wildlife biologists, researchers and conservation agencies. Experts across North America share their collective wisdom.

The Ontario Fur Managers Federation (OFMF) works closely with the MNRF. We ensure trappers in Ontario are licenced, qualified and informed of any new directive.

Ongoing Support for Ontario Trappers

The OFMF promotes humane, ethical and sustainable trapping. We offer one of the most stringent trapping courses in the world. The course is mandatory if you want to trap in Ontario. We support our trappers by providing:

- Ongoing access to training at the highest level
- Up-to-date information on humane harvest methods and trapper safety
- A voice in decisions affecting our industry

Part of Our Heritage

Trapping is part of our heritage. A vibrant history marred by exploitation then found its footing as a key wildlife management tool.

Today's trappers care about the welfare of wildlife. They spend months on the land, are aware of the slightest change and are first to sound the alarm when something isn't right.

Trappers are the eyes and ears of the forests. They are the frontline in maintaining healthy wildlife populations for our future.

This pursuit isn't restricted to men. Trapping is open to anyone willing to get qualified.

Some trappers involve their whole family, passing it down from one generation to the next. They get to spend quality time enjoying outdoor activities like camping, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, paddling and hiking – but all centered around a core purpose: managing the trap line.

There's more to trapping than meets the eye. So much, we couldn't cover it in detail on this page. Go ahead and explore. Be sure to contact us if you have any questions.