

Trapping is a very important part of my life. It is also an essential part of many other individuals' lifestyle. There are many reasons why trapping is so important in the world today. It is important for helping to sustain a healthy environment and animal species for future generations. It is also important in keeping a part of Canadian history alive. It connects people to each other and the environment. This sustains an appreciation of nature and the beauty of our world and what it has to offer. And finally it is a great way to keep families together; sharing knowledge, being active and enjoying each other's company.

One reason trapping is so important is ensuring that the history and tradition of the trapper is not lost. Early settlers came to Canada and trapped beavers by the thousands initiating the fur trade. It was one way that men would support the family. However this was a practice that generally involved the wives and children as well with them actively skinning and drying beaver pelts. These precious pelts were then traded for living essentials. This initial development of trapping also led to the dispensing of knowledge from native groups to the settlers. This vital practice of sharing of knowledge and skills continues today despite the access modern technology gives us to information. Many people involved in the industry rely on and value the knowledge passed down through the generations and across cultures.

Trapping in my family dates back many generations. It is not something we do but rather a way of life for us. Family always comes first. Trapping in my life is a time when family and friends get together; they laugh, share stories, distribute knowledge and always have a good time. It's the perfect opportunity for family to turn off T.V's, cellphones and other devices and enjoy what nature has to offer. My Papa trapped when he homesteaded in Alberta. Soon after he married my Nana, he got her involved as well. They trapped beaver, mink and squirrels selling them for extra money for family vacations. They used to tell us many stories of their trapping adventures. My Dad and Uncle both began trapping at a young age just as their father had. They both supplemented their high school years with money from fur. My Dad continued to trap and acquired a trap line where he taught me and my brother the family methods. I have many memories of trapping when I was as young as five years old. I skinned my first muskrat at age of 8 and have never looked back. I now trap on my own and pass my knowledge on to my brother and friends who spend the day with me. Today fewer people engage in trapping and I believe that it is important to teach youth about trapping and keep trapping alive for the next generations. Trapping is not only about sustainability but time spent together in the bush out on the line.

This is a vital part of Canadian history but also important to keep animal populations healthy and viable. Sustainability is when you keep an environment healthy and predator and prey populations balanced. Trappers play a role in sustainability by removing unhealthy animals such as coyotes suffering from mange or mites. This practice reduces the rate at which these diseases spread and reduce the rate at which healthy animals will be affected. This is ultimately

protection against wiping out species with outbreaks of disease. Populations remain balanced; this is the goal of trapping. Also trappers work very closely with biologist sharing information and programs such as the Wolverine study. This way the biologist can spread the information about certain populations and their numbers. Trappers can help with the field information because they are in the environment and interacting with the wildlife and notice changes. This allows information to be shared quickly and efficiently which really impacts the sustainability of species. This information is shared in many ways but it is a very important component of the Rendezvous. The Rendezvous is where trapping friends get together share stories, techniques and enjoy some friendly competition. This event promotes the history of trapping, the science and skill involved while focusing on solid practices focused on sustainability. The knowledge of trapper's, biologists, sustainable resources and landowners is all embraced improving the practices of the trapper. Events like this keep the industry sustainable as well as the skills and the practice of sharing information through conversation.

As an active member of the Trappers Association, it is my duty to keep the future of trapping alive and well. I want to continue trapping because it is important to those who came before me, the life I live now, and the life of those who will follow me as well as the species of furbearing animals.