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Fur Producers in Northern Ontario organize first trapper-owned co-op auction company in North America



Doug Harkness, Vice-President holds several martens which will be sold at a December auction, the first for the Fur Producers Co-operative Auction.

Make bedtime story time

ABC CANADA

THE FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE LITERACY IN CANADA

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ONLY 21 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT!

by Cindy Laundry
Staff
The only fur producer-owned co-operative in North America is holding their first auction, and organizers are

confident trappers will receive financial benefits from the new co-operative.

"We will act on behalf of our fur producing members," said Co-operative Vice-president, Doug Harkness. "We will ensure fur producers receive the greatest of financial returns."

Harkness said the co-operative, incorporated in January of 1992 resulted from the collapse of the North Bay Fur Sales in January of 1991. The Ontario Trappers Association owned the Fur Sales buildings in North Bay and had been leased to the sales company for fur

auctions. The OTA also secured the bank loans of North Bay Fur Sales. When the company went into receivership, the OTA was tied up and could no longer operate as a members' association.

Until all assets are disposed of by the receiver, it is not known how much, if any, money will be returned to the OTA by the bank receiver.

A meeting was held last February, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and a new trappers association covering member services was formed to replace the OTA. The idea of holding a "one shot deal" spring sale was also proposed at this meeting.

The Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. resulted from this proposal. The non-share capital co-operative will be holding their first auction Dec. 12, 1992, in Toronto.

Harkness said that having the sale in Toronto gives fur producers across the province better access to Canadian, American and International buyers.

Eventually, the head office for the Fur Producers Co-operative Auction will be in Thunder Bay. They are currently operating in Sault Ste. Marie.

"We chose the Thunder Bay location because of its accessibility to buyers," Harkness said.

He added that because the co-operative is owned by trappers, they are protected.

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