



PRESS RELEASE

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Fur Institute of Canada 2017 Award Winners

Montreal, QC — At the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Fur Institute of Canada in Montreal, QC the following awards were presented.

Our congratulations to all of the award winners and our appreciation to their dedication to the fur industry.

Jim Bourque Award – Dr. Serge Larivière

The Jim Bourque memorial award was presented to a well-known trapper across Canada and the United States, Dr. Serge Larivière.

Early in his scientific career, he started writing for numerous trapping publications and outdoor magazines, explaining in simple terms complex concepts of biology, sustainable use, explaining better methods for harvesting fur animals in various aspects of the fur trade, from the harvest, the culture of trapping and also the various steps of the entire fur industry. In his articles, he constantly emphasizes the role that trappers, native and non-native, play in the proper management and conservation of fur animals.

His outdoor articles, which now exceed well over 500, have been published in all major trapping publication across North America in both French and English. Moreover, in 2007, the recipient launched through his work the only hunting and trapping magazine devoted to indigenous hunters in Canada.

In his travels, he has given seminars on trapping and the role that trappers play in wildlife conservation, often explaining the importance of trapping to aboriginal culture. The candidate is a trapping instructor in his home province and has contributed to the training of aboriginal trappers in Québec, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

People that know him will agree that he is a deserving recipient, it is impossible to separate fun, work or career because everything he does is related to the fur trade, outdoor harvesting activities, indigenous cultures and the sustainable use of wildlife resources.



North American Furbearer Conservation Award – Fédération des Trappeurs Gestionnaires du Québec

We are proud to present the North American Furbearer Conservation Award to the Fédération des Trappeurs Gestionnaires du Québec (FTGQ). The FTGQ mission is, among other things, to promote trapping and to ensure its sound management in a way that respects wildlife and their habitat. In recent years, the Federation has acquired an expertise in order to improve furbearer welfare as well as their habitat, to promote and enhance trapping, to support trappers, and to increase and share knowledge on furbearing animals locally as well as internationally. The Federation is also recognised as an indispensable partner in furbearer management in Quebec. The FTGQ is also in charge to educate trappers in Quebec.

In recent years, the FTGQ, through the work of many employees and volunteers, achieved projects with the support, either financial or in-kind, of several partners like the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board, the Fédération québécoise des Chasseurs et des Pêcheurs, la Fondation de la Faune du Québec, the Fur Council of Canada, Fur Institute Canada, the ministère de la Forêt, de la Faune et des Parcs, North American Fur Auction, the Société d'établissements de plein air du Québec, the Union des Producteurs Agricoles, ZECs Québec and many others.

The FTGQ has been involved in so many projects that they are deserving winners of this award and here are a few of the projects that demonstrate the amazing work they do for trappers to promote and contribute to sustainable furbearer management:

- The Federation has actively taken part in controlling raccoon rabies in southern Quebec since 2006.
- The FTGQ established a program to ensure a young succession of trappers aged between 12 and 24. This program has been provided each year since 2007.
- The Federation regulated intrusive black bears in 2009.
- The Federation produced the manual *Canid Trapping and Management* (in English and in French), developed this formation and trained new instructors to provide this formation beginning in 2010.
- The FTGQ produced a book on habitat management for American marten in 2011. This tool allows trappers to make their needs and expectations better understood upon the forest industry in order to retain high-quality trapping on registered traplines.
- The Federation mapped the habitat for American marten on registered traplines in Quebec and has developed a tool in 2012 to make the needs of trappers better understood.
- The Federation developed a manual to manage problematic furbearers, the manual *Coexisting with Local Furbearers (CAFE)*, in English and in French in 2013.
- The FTGQ tested several culvert management devices to decrease problems with beavers between 2013 and 2015.
- The Federation produced information sheets relating the best trapping practices, 14 in 2012, 4 in 2014 and 2 in 2017.
- The Federation produced pamphlet and developed a webpage to increase public awareness for a harmonious coexistence between trappers and pets as well as accidental captures of birds of prey in 2014. Since then, this information has been used by several organisms, provinces and states.
- The FTGQ produced 4 videos promoting trapping in 2014. Furthermore, the Federation achieved 3 promotional campaigns for trapping between 2015 and 2017 and developed the website pourquoiieger.com (French) whytrapping.com (English).
- The Federation remade educational videos for the trapping course (PGAF) between 2015 and 2017.
- The Federation created a video on black bear enhancement (gutting, skinning, butchering, fur handling and enhancement of other body parts: claws, skull, teeth, baculum, and fat) in 2017.
- The FTGQ produced and distributed activity books of children (*le cahier du mini-trappeur*): 3 volumes as well as 2 special editions for NAFA (activity book for young trapper).
- The Federation support and inform trappers on forest management.



Neal Jotham Award: Dr. Rudolf W. Mueller

“Neal Jotham Award for the Advancement of Animal Welfare” is given in recognition of Neal’s unparalleled contribution to improved animal welfare.

Dr. Rudolf W. Mueller graduated in Veterinary Medicine 1969 from the University of Zürich. He wrote his doctoral thesis in 1974 after postgraduate studies at the University of Bern. From 1974 to 1976 he worked as Assistant Professor in veterinary pathology at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

From 1976 to 1978 he was assistant professor at the University of Guelph for Wildlife Fish and Poultry diseases.

From 1978-1982 he was a fellow of the Canadian Medical research council for research in toxicologic pathology in Saskatoon.

1984 to present he has been a member of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine at University of Ottawa.

From 1994 – 1997 he was representative of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association on Animal Welfare Committee on the International Standards, Organisation Committee on the Development of Humane Traps; chaired by Environment Canada, the Fur Institute of Canada, and External Affairs.

Since 1994 he has acted as Consultant Pathologist to the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) on the certification of traps in the Framework of establishing International Standards and Agreements between Canada, EU, US, Russia. Member of the Trap Research Committee of the FIC.

He has more than 70 scientific publications, more than 60 poster presentations or conference talks and several projects.



Lloyd Cook – Paul Blackwell

The 2017 Lloyd Cook Award, which recognizes commitment to excellence in trapping, trapper education and public understanding of wildlife management, was awarded to Paul Blackwell.

Paul began his career in the trapping industry at the young age of 24, in the lower mainland of British Columbia. He almost immediately became a member of the BC Trappers Association and was active from the onset. With a career as a public educator, Paul was a natural fit to the trapper education program. He has remained active as not only an instructor, but a director at a local level, provincial executive positions and on the trapper education committee. There are less than a handful of years he has not held the position chair of the education committee over the last 26 years. Paul was instrumental in developing the curriculum and training material that makes the BC Trapper Education program one of the tops in the country. One of Paul's motto's in the teaching side is to keep things a bit simpler. Do a good job of teaching the simple basic items, allow students to catch something and provide a decent quality fur. Students can build on the basic skill once they are hooked and build their skills. His dedication to trapper education is further compounded with his regular contribution of good technical articles in our quarterly magazine.

Paul is a loving husband and grandfather to 10 grandchildren. After teaching high school for five years, Paul moved to the Cariboo and has not missed a winter on the trapline since. He enjoys a view of Greeny lake out the front of his home and steps out of the back door onto his 300-square mile trapline. His love of the outdoors led him to manage Well Grey Provincial Park during his summer months. There is no position he has not served on within the BC Trappers Association. He has held position of president on down to director for many years. Upon creation of the North American Wild Fur Shippers Council Paul served as the chairman for the first board. Paul coordinated the transplant trapping for the successful reintroduction of lynx to Colorado State. A passionate advocate for the fur bearers, Paul is often found attending local forestry meetings fighting for trappers rights and fur bearer habitat. Paul has received many awards in the BCTA, including the Norman McKenzie award for outstanding service to the BC trapping industry and the coveted wold hat. An avid hunter, Paul has found time in retirement to follow a passion to hunt everything from moose to turkeys. February and March is downtime for Paul in the bush and he is found enjoying the sandy beaches of Maui.



Bernard Cahill – Pierre Canac-Marquis

The Bernard Cahill Memorial Award is given to recognize significant volunteer contributions by individuals in promoting a respect for people, animals and the environment at the community level and with a global perspective. Pierre Canac-Marquis has committed to sustainable use of wildlife resources, improved animal welfare and development of Canada's modern fur trade. Pierre has devoted many years to playing a leading role in the trap research program. As Chair of the Fur Institute of Canada's TRDC Scientific and Technical Sub-committee, Pierre oversaw the biological and technical projects which have established Canada's pre-eminent position in humane trapping.

Pierre also had a direct and leading role the negotiations which led to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards, which helped to establish a solid base for the fur industry's future. As the Trapping Coordinator for Quebec's Wildlife Department, Faune et Parcs Québec, he has worked tirelessly to effect advances in furbearer management and trapper education in his home province. Pierre has also made significant contributions as a member of the Canadian Fur Managers Committee as well as abroad, working with conservation agencies in the United States, France, Russia, Argentina and Spain to promote sound furbearer management and trapper education. Pierre remains a highly respected leader who has made a lasting impact on humane trap research and trapper education. His untiring dedication and passion is truly inspiring.



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About the Fur Institute of Canada

The Fur Institute of Canada (FIC), started in 1983, is the country's lead expert on humane trap research and furbearer conservation and is the official trap-testing agency for the Government of Canada and all provincial/territorial governments. The FIC manages Canada's humane trap research and testing program through the Alberta Research Centre and in accordance with The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) within Canada. The FIC is mandated to: Provide accurate and credible information relating to the economic, social, cultural and environmental issues surrounding the harvesting and farming of fur in Canada; and to represent the interests of Canadians actively involved in fur use and wildlife conservation.