

Government to expand trapping program

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Ontario Fur Managers Federation (OFMF) congratulate the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for introducing a youth trapping program in the province. The announcement was made at the OFMF annual general meeting held in Napanee over the weekend.

“Trapping is a heritage activity and by providing an opportunity for youth to be involved, it will enhance their appreciation for the outdoors and instill a lifelong dedication to conservation,” said OFAH Executive Director Angelo Lombardo. “The OFAH is pleased that the MNR recognizes that a youth trapping program will not only provide recreational and outdoor benefits, but also pass along knowledge of an activity that is part of the cultural fabric of Canada.”

Beginning this fall, youth between the ages of 12 to 15 will be eligible to obtain a trapping license. The license will permit youth to possess, prepare and sell pelts commercially. To qualify, youth must successfully complete the Fur Harvest, Fur Management and Conservation Course (FHFMC) and be accompanied by a licensed trapper 18 years of age or older. The FHFMC provides training with an emphasis on safety, humane trapping techniques and sustainable wildlife management practices.

“The Ontario Fur Managers Federation has worked closely with the MNR to make this program a reality, and we are delighted that the government has agreed to move forward on this vital and timely initiative. The introduction of a youth trapping program will allow us to teach young people about the rich history associated with trapping in Ontario, and ensure that future generations understand the key role that trapping and trappers play in terms of conservation, sustainability, wildlife management, protection of crops and livestock and public safety,” said OFMF President Karl Lindstrom.

“Trapping is considered an activity of significant historical, social, cultural and economic value in Ontario for centuries, and one that results in economic benefits to the communities and individuals. Ontario trappers have worked tirelessly for many years towards a program like this which will guide youth to be safe and responsible trappers,” said Minister of Natural Resources David Oraziotti.

For more information, including how to apply, visit www.mnr.gov.on.ca or www.furmanagers.com

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is Ontario's largest, nonprofit, fish and wildlife conservation-based organization, representing 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 710 member clubs. To learn more, visit www.ofah.org