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*"The primary instrument for Renewable Resource Management in the
Tr'ondek Hwech'in Traditional Territory"*

January 30, 2009

Fish & Wildlife Enhancement Trust
P.O. Box 31022
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 5P7

Hi Folks:

Please find enclosed what I hope is all the papers required from our 2009 Fur Show. If anything is missing, please email me at dawsonrrc@northwestel.net.

The Dawson District Renewable Resources appreciates your involvement in our Fur Show and would like to take the opportunity now, to thank you.

Yours truly,

Linda Taylor
Co-Chair
Dawson District Renewable Resource Council

Final Report

2009 Dawson Fur Show

By Jessie Curell, Coordinator

This year's Fur Show took place on a very chilly January weekend, with the help of many volunteers and paid professionals keen to make sure the event happened despite -50 temperatures! I was unaware of the logistical challenges we would face as the thermometer steadily dropped, and though things really could have fallen apart, last minute deliveries from Kluane, local judges stepping up to help, and a few eager members of the community lending a hand, the 2009 Dawson Fur Show proved a success once again.

TH Hall/Logistics

The TH Hall was donated in kind for our 3-day usage, (Set-up Friday, show Saturday, take-down Sunday), booked through a very helpful Dolores Anderson. I did inquire into renting the Gertie's Hall to allow for more room for displays and educational activities, but this was vetoed by the Council & Committee. Bill Holmes from the KVA was interested in donating Gertie's to us in exchange for advertising, and I think this venue could be great in the future if the show was to grow in scope. One issue for the council members working in the kitchen was the size of the Gertie's kitchen and a concern that there wouldn't be enough room. The Hall doesn't have proper theatre lights or light stands, and after some investigation, I managed to locate light stands that were made for the 2005 Fur Show, made by Megan Waterman. They worked great for the Fashion Show, and I decided to donate them to the Hall for future events and Fur Shows. Lights were rented from KIAC and were operated by Evelyn Polluck.

Trapper Registration & Fur Receiving

Trapper registration and fur receiving took place from 11:30am-4pm. This year 7 trappers entered 31 pelts—down from last year, but that weekend saw only -20 temperatures, so I can't complain. A few members of the community called us at the DDRRC prior to the show asking if we were going to postpone the show, but we decided to go through with it. Because of fur auction house deadlines, the show has been held in early January to allow for trappers to send their furs down after our Fur Show, but the DDRRC did make up a questionnaire that was passed out to all attendees asking for their advice about the time of year this event is held. Speaking to many trappers and persons working within the industry, the Fur Show is understood to have "no good time" to be put on. Dave Robinson has since talked to several trappers post-Fur Show and the weekend of the Yukon Quest has been offered as a suggestion. Trappers registered with volunteers, were given a welcome bag, and then entered their furs which were tagged and set out for viewing. In terms of fur categories, the beaver category was nixed due to no submission last year, no one entered the Youth or Little

Trapper category, with every other category entered. Lynx had the most entries, with only one trapper entering the wolf and wolverine category.

Displays/Events/Kids Tent

Dawson Conservation Officer Kirby Meister set up a table/display for sealing furs and providing information to the public and trappers about the industry. Yukon Fish and Wildlife staff from YTG were also present with information on the 20:20 Symposium. Dawson trapper and wildlife technician Martin Kienzler was also on-hand. A representative from the Yukon Trappers Association was supposed to come up and participate as well in this capacity, though due to pretty serious disorganization on their part (and the weather didn't help) they did not. I think this should be a priority for their participation in the future. I asked Parks Canada and the Dawson Museum if they would like to set up displays to promote their respective organizations, though neither of them came through --the Museum would like to be included in the next show. I would have liked to have had more educational displays—it is in the mandate of the event to encourage learning about the industry, and more information the better! The Kids area worked well set up in the Wall Tent with little chairs and tables from Trinke Zoo Daycare, and though we expected a much larger group of kids, temperatures kept many of them at home. DDRRC Director Gladys Netro took the kids activities on, and had organized children's entertainer Remy Rodden to come up from Whitehorse to play, though he cancelled due to the weather. Glenda Bolt was also expected to put on a 45-minute puppet show for the kids, though the same went for her—too cold. Allison Anderson was hired to take charge of the kiddies and did a great job, with lots of great prizes bought from Maximillian's. Lego was borrowed from Trinke Zoo as well, and a colouring contest was held throughout the day. A jigging contest was scheduled, though it turned out to be more of communal jig with Allison leading the way than a real contest. Simon Crelli and Peter Menzies played the fiddle and guitar and it sounded great. Helen Slama was due to come up with a big bag of furs and skulls that the kids would be able to touch and identify, though *also* had to cancel due to the cold. Three display tables were set up to show-off garments and furs to the public. Local designers and trappers were free to leave them there for the duration of the event. This provided a nice opportunity to the public to see fur being used in contemporary and traditional designs prior to the Fashion Show. As an extra, I asked Fire Chief Jim Reginbal to light a bonfire outside in the Hall's parking lot for the duration of the event, and he was really into it. It looked great, and if the temperatures were any warmer, I'm sure we'd have a crowd around the fire.

Judging

Three judges were lined up to come from Whitehorse, and the cold stopped them all from coming up. Helen Slama, Harvey Jessup and Alex Van Bibber (all who had

participated last show) would be great to have on board for next show, and they seemed really distraught that they couldn't make it. A hotel room was booked for the men, and Alex was bought a gift from the Council as thanks for all his help over the years. Too bad they couldn't make it, but it was understandable, and just too dangerous to travel.

Last minute, Dan Reynolds managed to wrangle Jack Fraser, Dave Robinson and Mel Besherah to judge, and they saved the day! Great men who took the job very seriously. Jack had entered lynx into the show, so for that category he stepped down to remain fair.

Helen Slama had sent a new judging sheet to me which was more specific and accurate than in past years, with the judges scoring the furs on a scale of 1-10 for various items. It seemed to work very well, though is a bit more of a time commitment for the judging.

Door Prizes

I am happy to say that we received a massive amount of door prizes this year, including Air North gift certificates and 12 other donors, numbering over 40 prizes all together. Letters were written up and hand-delivered to each Dawson business, with follow-up phone calls. Whitehorse businesses and hotels were sent letters by mail and phoned with a follow up as well. Draws took place every 30 minutes, with the value increasing as the day wore on. A tip for the next coordinator—start seeking out donations right away, because Christmas will get in the way with other organization seeking donations for December events.

Fashion Show

Kyla made it clear in her final report for the 2007 Fur Show to hire a fashion show coordinator, and so I did. Unfortunately, with 4 weeks until the show, she bailed on me, and so I had to organize it myself. A friend of mine experienced with fashion shows, Sadie Cote was able to help me at the last minute and proved invaluable to the logistical operation of the show. **Again, I would strongly recommend hiring someone specifically working on the Fashion Show for the next show.** It's just too much for one person to do everything, and the fashion show is supposed to be fun! Local designers were contacted about submitting items, as well as locals about any vintage items they would like to have shown off. Dawsonite Rosemarie Gassner from Sewwhat Upholstery was insanely generous with her new and vintage pieces, submitting 27 pieces in all. Lea-ann Dorval from Whitehorse's Maggie & Lea-ann's Lil' Shoppe donated 10 contemporary pieces which were great to have too! The Yukon Trappers Association shipped up hand-made items, including mostly hats, mitts, a few vests which were on consignment at their Whitehorse store. Models also brought in their own fur items both vintage and new, and it helped if they modeled their own. We had 16 models this year, including 4 kids 12 years and under. A model meeting was held the Monday before the event (which was a bit unnecessary) with a much more

important and helpful rehearsal taking place the night before the show. All models were told to dress all in black, and that was helpful for highlighting the fur items. A catwalk was borrowed from Parks Canada free of charge, and brought in from their Bear Creek compound. It worked out well, and I would recommend it again. Music was compiled by myself, which included old-timey tunes, mixed in with some up-beat techno that had an unmistakable 'fashion-show feel'. Make-up was brought in by Marni Bramadat (also a model) and was very helpful to the other models. No hairdresser could help out with the event, though everyone looked great, and it actually kept things alot simpler.

Media Coverage

Media releases were sent out to media outlets one month before the event, including: CBC North, CHON FM, CKRW, APTN, Klondike Sun, Whitehorse Star and the Yukon News. CBC Producer James Miller was able to come up for the whole weekend and several pieces were heard the following week. Dan Davidson from the Whitehorse Star and Klondike Sun was also present. CKRW and CHON FM aired interviews prior to the event, and I did a live CBC interview the Friday before the event during set-up. An article can be found in the files from the Whitehorse Star done by Davidson.

Honoraria

Sebastian was my main helper for set-up and take-down, and was just great. He was very punctual and ambitious. He was paid \$100 X 3 days, and I would strongly recommend him for future shows. Richard Halliday was a great sound guy as always, and was paid \$100. Tara Rudnickas was paid \$50 to photograph the event, Sadie Cote was paid \$150 to be the Fashion Show assistant, Evelyn Polluck was paid \$50 for doing such a great job with lighting the catwalk, and Liz Fraser was paid \$50 as Kitchen Assistant to Linda and Rachel.

Coordinator Position/Executive Director/Committee

My coordinator contract and the 270 hours allotted for this event were adequate--I don't think I'll need to work too many additional hours doing the wrap-up. I worked approximately 25 hours per week for the first month of trapper contacting, poster creation, logistical organization and event coordination, with the second month and a half working up to 37.5 hours per week. I greatly appreciated the flexibility and autonomy I had working on this event, but I cannot stress enough how beneficial it would be to have more input from the council and committee. Not being a trapper myself, nor having ever attended the Dawson Fur Show before, advice and experience (if constructive) would be greatly appreciated, especially from some of the members who have been instrumental in this event for years. I would also advise the council to

ask the ED of the DDRRC to act as a kind of assistant to the coordinator as well--it's just too much for one person to do. Another issue I encountered upon starting the contract was realizing that no funding had been applied to before I started, save for my wages. After going through the 2007 fur show files, I realized that Cholena (the then ED of DDRRC) had already applied for several funds before Kyla even started that year, including Yukon Energy, City of Dawson, Northwestel and all the Fur Auction Houses. A KVA grant application was handed to me the day I started work, and it was due 2 days later. I managed to get it in, and was successful in receiving the maximum \$2000, but I think more organization and incentive needs to be pursued by the Council in this regard.

The Fur Show Committee was a bit of a mystery to me, in terms of acting as an invested group interested in being actively involved. I was surprised to hear that this was the biggest event for the DDRRC every second year; if the council is interested in expanding the event more genuine interest should be felt from the coordinator. It is nice to be able to feel trusted and allowed to coordinate however I saw fit as an experienced event producer, but to hear negative feedback from a certain few of the least active members is unnecessary and leaves a sour taste with the person who should be supported, guided and encouraged. The kitchen was taken care of by 2 council members, which was definitely appreciated. The donations from the council members were also greatly appreciated by the winners (and myself) and I was blown away by their generosity.

I would suggest each council member taking on one role/responsibility that directly affects the Show. For example, if one Council member with trapping experience could take care of purchasing prizes for the trappers, I feel this would be extremely beneficial. Another could take care of the kitchen, another could help with take-down and set-up, another could facilitate the fashion show, and yet another could coordinate displays and educational booths.

Something else I would recommend is a pre-registration attempt when sending out invites to all trappers—just a note asking for a RSVP would be helpful to have a better idea of who and how many trappers were interested in coming.

I would love to see this very important and valuable event expand and succeed, and it should, having just finished this leg of four consecutive biennial shows. I feel a lot of support and interest from the community, though change is always good, and I see change in this capacity happening as expansion. Perhaps in the future one element of the show could be an area where fur designers and workers (including beaders) could sell their wares.

I am very thankful to have had this experience, and I wish the DDRRC and the Fur Show all the best in the coming years!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesa Arrell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the typed text.