



Left and Bottom Right: Terry Batt poses with taxidermy and pelts // That Girl Pearl Photography | Top Right: Rendezvous Event in Teepee Creek // Micheline Thiberge Photography

PRESERVING THE BALANCE WITH NATURE

Alberta Trappers Association ~ Local 1080 High Level

Ever since the fur traders first set up business in northern Alberta in 1788, trapping has been an important activity in the Peace Region. While it no longer plays the vital economic role it once did, people like Terry Batt and the other members of the Alberta Trappers Association from the Local 1080 High Level chapter are keeping the tradition alive.

“Our membership includes trappers and people who are interested in trapping and what we do,” said Batt, secretary of the High Level Trappers chapter. “We welcome anybody who is willing to learn our way of life and the importance of

our role in keeping balance in nature.”

To someone who has spent their entire life in urban areas, the idea of trapping as a way to help maintain balance in nature might seem foreign. However, trappers play a vital role in disease and population control and in addressing the threat of wildlife that no longer fear humans. They have even partnered with biologists as citizen scientists to research the wolverine population in the boreal forests, a project that was initiated by Trappers.

“We provide animal damage control from beavers flooding farmland

or roads and assist in caribou recovery strategies by controlling the overpopulation of wolves. Registered residential trappers really make a difference in these areas,” said Batt.

Many private cabins and trap lines can be found in the same areas the general public use for other recreational activities, so it is important to understand the trapping industry in Alberta is highly regulated. Trappers must be registered, undergo training and adhere to a code. They are required to use the most humane tools available to manage furbearing animals. Events like the recent Rendezvous

and Outdoorsmen Show, which was hosted by the Grande Prairie Local 1070 chapter in Teepee Creek this year, helps develop respect and appreciation for the trapping way of life.

“We love animals and want them to be around for the future,” said Batt. “Even though trapping has occurred here since the 1700s, we still have a healthy managed population. We ask that the public respect our trails, sets and cabins. Trapping will always be around, and with the public becoming more educated about what we do, I believe a balance will be found.”

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