

The Cree Hunter And Trapper



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY BOARD



IN THIS ISSUE

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Mission and purpose

To help promote, maintain, and facilitate the participation of Cree people in the traditional lifestyle and harvesting activities as a way of life.

Request for stories

The Cree Hunter and Trapper is interested in receiving stories and articles from the beneficiaries of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program. It will also consider stories about any activities related to the traditional lifestyle of the Cree. All submissions are welcome. The Cree Hunter and Trapper will pay, upon publication, up to \$300 per story based on quality of text and accompanying photos.

Editorial comments, submissions, and inquiries should be submitted to:

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Acknowledgements

The Cree Hunter and Trapper is the official magazine of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board.

S. Larivière, Director-general, acted as editor-in-chief. Luc Farrell provided photographs. A special thanks to Elijah Sheshamush for his willingness to share his life story.

Editorial

Fall and early winter always is a beautiful time. Leaves have fallen, nature is bare, and the first snowfall has rendered the landscape into a peaceful-looking, almost dormant state. But if dormant it appears, alive it remains – and tracks in the snow constantly indicate that indeed life continues during winter in Eeyou Itschee.

But for many animals, this winter will be one of learning, and possibly some hard learning. After all, this is the first winter for most of the animals in the woods – most which were born in the spring – and have yet to live through their first winter.

Winter creates hardships for the people as well – temperatures being colder, and road and ice conditions dictating when or how to travel. But before winter really settles in, before the big colds arrive, autumn takes place and hunting is at its best.

For this issue, we gladly portray maybe the most important large animal of Eeyou Itschee – the moose.

Moose meat likely contributed to the survival of all actual Cree families, and not surprisingly, Cree hunters cherish this species very much.

So enjoy this issue – and have safe hunting out there.

Serge Larivière, Ph. D., MBA
Director-general
The Cree Hunters and Trappers
Income Security Board



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ISP AND CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM

The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program has existed now for over 30 years. Over time, many changes have been made but overall, the program has remained the same. The fact is, changes to the program are not easy to do – they must go through an official negotiation process between the Crees and the government of Québec and be adopted by the Québec legislative assembly.

Although the program works well, there is always place for improvement. The Board wants to modernize and update the program to ensure that it will continue to play an important role in keeping alive the traditional lifestyle of the Cree. In the past months, members of the Board have been traveling throughout the Cree territory to meet with beneficiaries of the program to find out which improvements are most needed. Over the next few years, we are hoping to present a new version of the program, more modern and up to date with the evolving socio-economic situation of the Cree territory and most importantly, more adapted to the Cree lifestyle of 2009 and the coming years.

Over the past few years, the Board has been able to make a few improvements that have direct and noticeable impacts - and advantages - for the beneficiaries of the program, such as: ▶

IMPROVEMENTS	IMPACT ON BENEFICIARIES
Simplifying and reducing the forms	Shorter and quicker interviews for beneficiaries
Monthly payments	Income available on a regular basis (each month) similar to other programs
Direct deposits	Monthly payments (only) deposited directly into beneficiaries' accounts – easier and simpler access to benefits
January cheque advanced to December	Cheque available before the Christmas holidays
Scheduled Appointments for interviews (in certain communities)	Specific date and time reserved for each beneficiary – no unnecessary waiting in line
Revision period at the Head Office shortened	Local Administrators are more present in their community during the summer



The Board members have ended their tour of the communities to gather everyone's opinions and ideas.

However, please do not hesitate to communicate any suggestion that will help us offer the best hunter and trapper income security program available, by contacting your Local Administrator or the Head Office.



à propos du... PSR

CHANGEMENTS APPORTÉS AU PSR

Le Programme de sécurité du revenu des chasseurs et piégeurs cris existe depuis plus de 30 ans. Malgré les nombreux changements apportés au fil du temps, il est essentiellement demeuré le même. En fait, il n'est pas facile d'y apporter des changements, car ceux-ci doivent d'abord traverser un processus de négociation officielle entre les Cris et le gouvernement du Québec pour être ensuite adoptés par l'Assemblée législative du Québec.

Pourtant, il y a toujours place à l'amélioration. L'Office souhaite moderniser et mettre à jour le programme pour assurer qu'il continue de jouer un rôle de premier plan dans la sauvegarde du mode de vie traditionnel des Cris. Au cours des derniers mois, des membres de l'Office ont voyagé partout sur le territoire cri pour rencontrer les bénéficiaires du programme et découvrir quelles améliorations s'imposent. Au cours des quelques prochaines années, nous espérons présenter une nouvelle version du programme qui soit plus moderne et adaptée à la situation socio-économique en constante évolution du territoire cri et particulièrement au mode de vie des Cris en 2009 et dans l'avenir. Au cours des dernières années, l'Office a réussi à apporter des changements qui ont entraîné des effets directs, sensibles et positifs pour les bénéficiaires du programme, notamment :

AMÉLIORATIONS

Formulaires simplifiés et raccourcis

Paiements mensuels

Dépôt direct

Chèque de janvier avancé en décembre

Rendez-vous fixé à l'avance pour les entrevues (dans certaines communautés)

Période de révision raccourcie au bureau central

EFFETS POUR LES BÉNÉFICIAIRES

Entrevues plus courtes pour les bénéficiaires

Revenus disponibles de façon régulière, chaque mois, comme dans les autres programmes

Dépôt des versements mensuels (seulement) directement aux comptes du bénéficiaire pour un accès plus facile et plus simple aux prestations

Chèque disponible avant les vacances de Noël

Une date et une heure précise réservées à chacun des bénéficiaires, éliminant l'attente en file

Les administrateurs locaux sont plus présents dans leur communauté pendant l'été.

Les membres de l'Office ont terminé leur visite des communautés pour recueillir les opinions et les idées de chacun. Cependant, n'hésitez pas à nous adresser toute suggestion qui pourrait nous aider à offrir le meilleur programme de sécurité du revenu des chasseurs et piégeurs possible, en communiquant avec votre administrateur local ou le bureau central.



Moose



ANIMAL PROFILE

English name: Moose
French name: Orignal
Scientific (latin) Name: *Alces alces*
Cree Name: Muus
Cree syllabics: ᓄᓂ



Photo: Luc FARRELL

« Only the males have antlers... »

The moose is the largest member of the deer family (cervids) in North America. This family includes two other eastern North American species, the white-tailed deer and the caribou. Moose are abundant in Quebec. In 2002, their population was estimated at 100,000.

Adult moose weigh between 227 and 635 kg (500–1400 lb.), with some individuals reaching as much as 770 kg (1700 lb.). Given Quebec's harsh winter conditions, especially in Cree territory, moose typically lose between 20% and 55% of their maximum fall weight by the end of the cold season. In winter, they eat branches, twigs, and bark from a wide variety of trees. In summer, they feed on leaves and can spend several hours a day in the water eating aquatic plants. ▶



Photo: Luc FARRELL



Photo: Serge LARIVIÈRE

« Moose have the largest antlers of all the cervids. »

Only the males have antlers, which start growing in early March, and fall in late November. Moose have the largest antlers of all the cervids. A rack of antlers can weigh as much as 35 kg (80 lb.). Moose are solitary creatures, except during mating season and in winter. Mating season runs from late September through early October. Moose mating calls can be heard up to three kilometers away. During this period, the males spar, antlers clashing, as they compete to mate with available females. In winter, due to the heavy snowfall in Cree territory, the animals gather in moose yards where they trace a network of trails that make it easier for them to move about, feed, and flee from predators.

In addition to the harsh winters, moose must deal with wolves, their natural predator in Cree territory. In spring, bears are also a major threat for moose calves during their first six weeks of life. Together, these two predators may kill up to 50% of young calves, as well as the occasional adult.

Cree hunters do not hunt on just any winter's day. They wait for "moose days" when weather conditions are favorable. For the Cree, the best time to kill a moose is when animal and hunter are face to face and look each other in the eye. Moose meat is tender and savory, and the hide and antlers are also used for crafts. The Cree are experts in making moosehide clothing and gloves. Down through the centuries, and still today, this large mammal has held important spiritual, cultural, and subsistence value for the Cree community.



Photo: Serge LARIVIÈRE

Original



PROFILÉ D'UN ANIMAL

Nom Français: Original
Nom Anglais: Moose
Nom (latin) Scientifique: *Alces alces*
Nom en Cri: Muus
Syllabique cri: ᓄᓂ

« Seuls les mâles portent des bois... »

L'original est le plus gros représentant de la famille des cervidés en Amérique du Nord. Cette famille inclue aussi deux autres espèces dans l'est de l'Amérique du Nord: le cerf de Virginie et le caribou. Les orignaux sont abondants au Québec et en 2002 leur population était estimée à 100 000 individus.

Les orignaux adultes pèsent entre 227 et 635 kg (500-1400 livres) avec certains individus atteignant même 770 kg (1700 livres). À la fin de l'hiver, en raison des conditions rigoureuses surtout sur le territoire Cris et de la difficulté pour se nourrir, les orignaux peuvent avoir perdu entre 20 et 55 % de leur poids maximal d'automne. En hiver, l'original broute les branches, les ramilles et l'écorce d'une grande variété d'arbre. En été il se nourrit surtout de feuillage et peut passer plusieurs heures par jour dans l'eau à manger des plantes aquatiques. ▶

« L'original a les plus grands bois de tous les cervidés... »

Seuls les mâles portent des bois qui chaque année commencent à pousser début mars puis tombent vers la fin novembre. L'original a les plus grands bois de tous les cervidés, leurs masses pouvant atteindre 35 kg (77 livres). C'est un animal solitaire excepté à l'époque du rut et en hiver. Le rut a lieu principalement fin septembre, début octobre. Les orignaux poussent des cris pouvant s'entendre à plus de 3 km et les mâles s'affrontent pour se reproduire avec les femelles en croisant leurs panaches. En hiver, la neige étant très abondante en territoire Cris, les orignaux se réunissent dans des « ravages » où ils tracent un réseau de sentiers facilitant les déplacements et donc le nourrissage et la fuite contre les prédateurs.

En plus des conditions hivernales difficiles, les orignaux doivent affronter les loups, le prédateur naturel de l'original en territoire Cris. Au printemps, les ours sont aussi d'importants prédateurs sur les jeunes jusqu'à 6 semaines après la naissance. Ces deux prédateurs peuvent tuer jusqu'à 50 % des jeunes orignaux et ils leur arrivent également de tuer occasionnellement des adultes.

Les chasseurs Cris ne chassent pas n'importe quel jour en hiver. En effet ceux-ci attendent les « journées à orignaux » qui sont des conditions climatiques favorables. Pour les Cris, le meilleur moment pour abattre l'original est lorsque celui-ci se trouve face au chasseur et que leurs regards se croisent. Sa viande est réputée pour être vraiment tendre et savoureuse et sa peau ainsi que son panache servent pour l'artisanat Cris. Les Cris sont notamment des experts dans la confection de vêtements et de gants en peau d'original. Depuis des siècles et encore aujourd'hui, ce grand mammifère a une valeur spirituelle, culturelle et de subsistance pour la communauté Crie.



Meetings of interest

National and International

JANUARY

MARCH

JANUARY
19 TO 22
2 0 1 0

- **EVENT:** 2010 SHOOTING, HUNTING AND OUTDOOR TRADE SHOW AND CONFERENCE
- **LOCATION:** SANDS EXPO & CONVENTION CENTER LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, USA

DESCRIPTION: THE SHOOTING, HUNTING, OUTDOOR TRADE SHOW AND CONFERENCE (SHOT SHOW) IS THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE TRADE SHOW FOR ALL PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED WITH THE SHOOTING SPORTS AND HUNTING INDUSTRIES. IT IS THE WORLD'S PREMIER EXPOSITION OF COMBINED FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, ARCHERY, CUTLERY, OUTDOOR APPAREL, OPTICS, CAMPING AND RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. THE SHOT SHOW ATTRACTS BUYERS FROM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA AND FROM MORE THAN 75 COUNTRIES. THE SHOT SHOW IS OWNED AND SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION AND IS PRODUCED AND MANAGED BY REED EXHIBITIONS. LAST YEAR'S SHOW IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, ATTRACTED ALMOST 60,000 PEOPLE, MAKING IT BY FAR THE LARGEST OUTDOOR SHOW IN NORTH AMERICA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.SHOTSHOW.ORG](http://www.shotshow.org)

MARCH
19 TO 21
2 0 1 0

- **EVENT:** 33^E SALON DU TRAPPEUR (33RD PROVINCIAL TRAPPER'S CONVENTION)
- **LOCATION:** MONT SAINT-ANNE, QUEBEC

DESCRIPTION: THIS ANNUAL TRAPPER CONVENTION IS AN OCCASION TO MEET TRAPPERS FROM ALL AROUND THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC. AS PART OF THE ACTIVITIES, YOU WILL FIND SKINNING DEMONSTRATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AMONG THE ATTENDEES WILL BE NUMEROUS TRAP SUPPLY DEALERS AS WELL AS FUR BUYERS. THE EVENT'S BANQUET IS HELD ON SATURDAY NIGHT WITH SEVERAL GUEST SPEAKERS (IN FRENCH). DEMONSTRATION AND SPEECHES ARE ALSO IN FRENCH, ALTHOUGH MANY ATTENDEES ARE BILINGUAL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.FTGQ.QC.CA](http://www.ftgq.qc.ca)
OR CALL 418-872-7644
(IN FRENCH)

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

APRIL
9 - 10
2 0 1 0

- **EVENT:** FUR HARVESTERS 19TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
- **LOCATION:** FUR HARVESTERS AUCTION, NORTH BAY, ONTARIO

DESCRIPTION: THIS ANNUAL EVENT IS A GATHERING OF TRAPPERS (MOSTLY FROM ONTARIO AND QUEBEC) TO DISCUSS NEW TRAPPING TECHNIQUES, PELT PREPARATION, AND INCLUDES NUMEROUS BOOTHS FROM TRAPPERS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC AS WELL AS COMPETITION FOR SKINNING AND PELT PREPARATION. THE GATHERING OCCURS IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE, AND INCLUDES AN EVENING BANQUET ON THE SATURDAY NIGHT. ATTENDING TRAPPERS CAN ALSO VISIT THE WAREHOUSE FACILITIES AND EVEN PURCHASE TRAPPING SUPPLIES ON LOCATION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.FURHARVESTERS.COM](http://www.furharvesters.com),
EMAIL [COMMENTS@FURHARVESTERS.COM](mailto:comments@furharvesters.com),
OR CALL 705-495-4688

MAY
2 TO 4
2 0 1 0

- **EVENT:** NORTH AMERICAN FUR AND FASHION EXHIBITION OF MONTREAL
- **LOCATION:** PLACE BONAVENTURE, MONTREAL

DESCRIPTION: THIS ANNUAL TRAPPER CONVENTION IS AN OCCASION TO MEET TRAPPERS FROM ALL AROUND THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC. AS PART OF THE ACTIVITIES, YOU WILL FIND SKINNING DEMONSTRATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AMONG THE ATTENDEES WILL BE NUMEROUS TRAP SUPPLY DEALERS AS WELL AS FUR BUYERS. THE EVENT'S BANQUET IS HELD ON SATURDAY NIGHT WITH SEVERAL GUEST SPEAKERS (IN FRENCH). DEMONSTRATION AND SPEECHES ARE ALSO IN FRENCH, ALTHOUGH MANY ATTENDEES ARE BILINGUAL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.NAFFEM.COM](http://www.naffem.com) OR CALL
THE FUR COUNCIL OF CANADA
AT 514 844-1945

JUNE
10 TO 12
2 0 1 0

- **EVENT:** 2010 FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL RENDEZVOUS
- **LOCATION:** COLUMBUS, INDIANA, USA

DESCRIPTION: THIS CONVENTION IS ONE OF THE TWO LARGEST GATHERING OF TRAPPERS IN THE UNITED STATES (THE OTHER BEING THE NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION HELD IN AUGUST). IT IS HELD ANNUALLY IN VARIOUS PLACES, AND YOU CAN EXPECT ANYWHERE FROM 3,000 TO OVER 10,000 TRAPPERS TO ATTEND. ON LOCATION, YOU WILL FIND NUMEROUS TRAP SUPPLY DEALERS, NON-STOP SKINNING AND TRAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS, VARIOUS CONTESTS, AND EVEN A FLEA MARKET OF OUTDOOR GEAR. NEARBY MOTELS FILL UP FAST, BUT YOU CAN CAMP ON LOCATION AS WELL FOR MINIMUM FEE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.FURTAKERSOFAMERICA.COM](http://www.furtakersofamerica.com)
OR CALL JAMES MAHONEY 812-526-6480

Study of perception and satisfaction of ISP

By Vincent COLLETTE

During the summer of 2009, 205 interviews (for a total of 233 individuals) were done with the Income Security Program beneficiaries from the ten Cree communities. So far, the analysis reveals that:

- Transportation and the cost of life in 2009 are the main issues discussed in all communities;
- There is misunderstanding concerning the functioning of the program (calculations, far harvesting, deductions, old age pension), but also the general purpose of it (e.g. a financial help - that is not equivalent to a salary - to those who want to pursue hunting and fishing as their main subsistence activity);
- The ISP is slowly turning into a form of old age pension or a retirement plan, and the ISP administration has to be prepared to face this new reality;
- In 2009, the cost of living is high in the northernmost communities and this has a tremendous effect on life-quality (food) and land access for the beneficiaries (gas);
- The recruiting aspect of the Program is closely linked to the wage-labour market in James Bay (that is, as long as there is employment opportunities the recruiting of young adults will be difficult);
- The monthly payments prove to be justified in light of the life-style of 2009. It shows that the ISP can adapt to the socio-economic situation prevailing from time to time.



Étude de perception et de satisfaction du PSR

Par Vincent COLLETTE

Nous avons mené, durant l'été 2009, 205 entrevues (pour un total de 233 individus) auprès de bénéficiaires du Programme de sécurité du revenu (PSR), membres des dix communautés Cries. Voici ce qui ressort jusqu'à maintenant de ces entrevues :

- Le coût de la vie et les frais de transport en 2009 préoccupent au premier rang l'ensemble des communautés;
- Le programme est mal compris, tant son fonctionnement (calculs, prélèvement en région d'exploitation éloignée, déductions, pension de vieillesse) que son objectif général (il s'agit d'une aide financière, non pas d'un salaire, accordée à ceux qui veulent poursuivre leurs activités de chasse et de pêche comme principal moyen de subsistance);
- Le PSR est en voie de devenir une forme de pension de vieillesse ou de pension de retraite, et les administrateurs du programme doivent se préparer à affronter cette nouvelle réalité;
- En 2009, le coût de la vie est élevé dans le Nord, une situation qui a de graves conséquences sur la qualité de vie (nourriture) et l'accès à la terre (essence);
- Le recrutement de bénéficiaires est directement lié au marché du travail rémunéré à la baie James (c'est-à-dire qu'il sera difficile de recruter de jeunes adultes tant qu'il y aura des possibilités d'emploi);
- À la lumière du mode de vie en 2009, il est justifié de faire des paiements mensuels. Cela prouve que le PSR peut s'adapter à la situation socio-écono-mique des bénéficiaires.



The traveling Director

HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL DURING HIS RECENT TRIPS TO CREE COMMUNITIES.



PETER SHECAPIO KEEPS AN EYE OUT FOR INCOMING GEESE.



PETER SHECAPIO, CALVIN BLACKSMITH AND ELIJAH AWASHISH ARE READY FOR THE NEXT FLOCK OF GEESE.



CALVIN BLACKSMITH KEEPS A CLOSE EYE ON A LIVE GOOSE THAT JUST LANDED AMONG THE DECOYS.



THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, SERGE LARIVIÈRE, ENJOYS A NICE SUNNY BREAK WITH THE TALLYMAN, ISAAC SHECAPIO.



ELIJAH AWASHISH DOES HIS BEST TO CONVINCE INCOMING GEESE TO LAND.

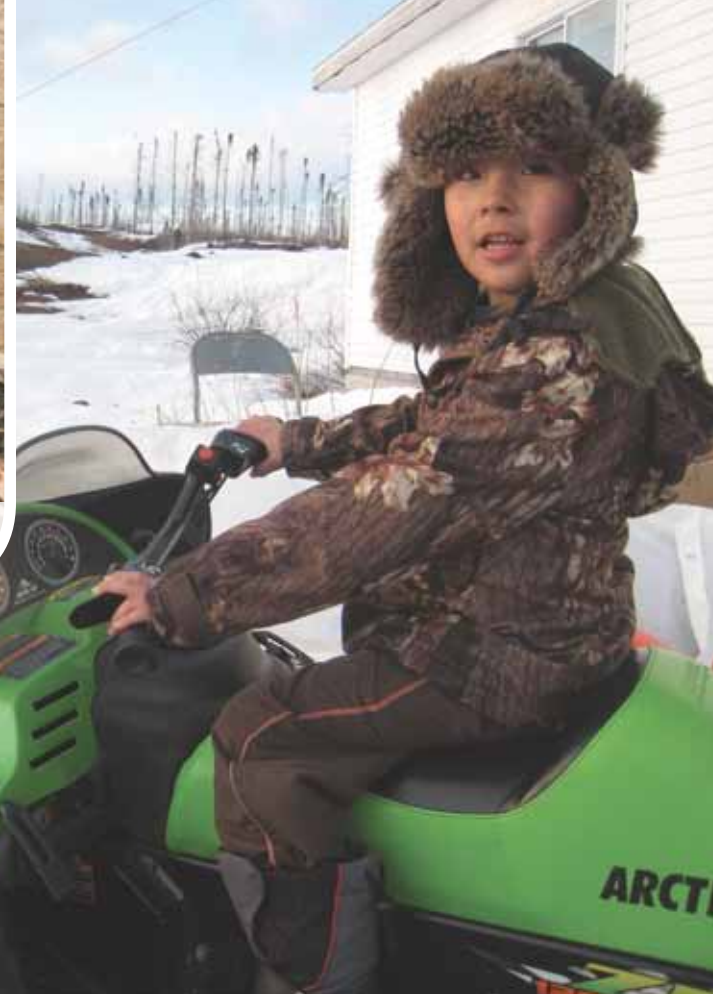


ISAAC SHECAPIO, TALLYMAN OF COLD WATER LAKE IN MISTISSINI HOLDS A GOOSE FROM HIS TRAPLINE.



SIMON MATTAWASHISH FLESHES A MOOSE HIDE AT COLD WATER LAKE.

Cold Water Lake Mistissini



SPRING BREAK IS ENTERTAINING FOR HUNTERS OF ALL AGES.



SEVERAL YOUNG HUNTERS HARVEST THEIR FIRST GEESSE IN COLD WATER LAKE, MISTISSINI.



Laura Shecapio cleans the goose at her camp.



Plucked geese ready for the next step.



Teacher Laura Shecapio trained the Director-General of the Income Security Program how to properly clean geese.

June 2009 Whapmagoostui



WINNIE BOSUM, LIZZIE DIAMOND, SALLY HERODIER, KRISTA KAKABAT AND PETER SHECAPIO DURING A STAFF MEETING IN WHAPMAGOOSTUI.



STAFF, FRIENDS AND GUESTS GATHER FOR A TRADITIONAL MEAL AFTER A DAY FULL OF MEETINGS.

July 2009 Old Nemaska



SAMMY MATCHES HOLDS A LITTLE WALLEYE QUICKLY FOR A PICTURE BEFORE RELEASING IT.



RONNIE NEEPOSH HANGS ON TO A STURGEON RECENTLY HARVESTED FROM OLD NEMASKA.



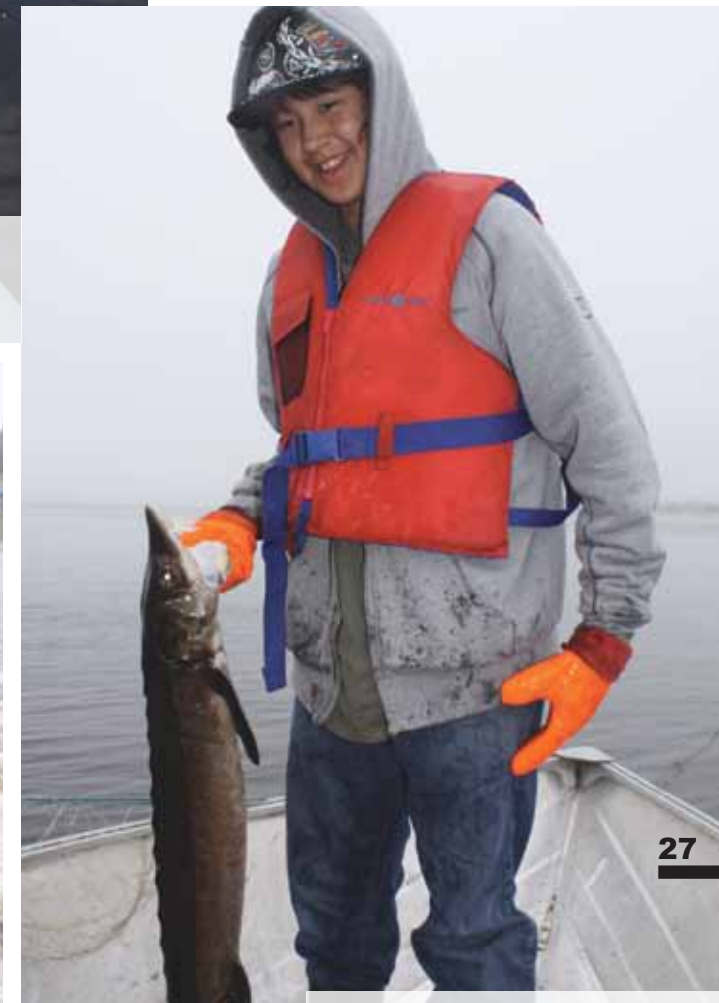
EVELYN PETAGUMSKUM MOLDS BANNOCK ON A STICK FOR EVENING FEAST.



VALERIE HERODIER-PETAGUMSKUM AND EVELYN PETAGUMSKUM PROCEED TO CUT GEESE IN PREPARATION FOR THE SUPPER.



LAWRENCE NEEPOSH HEADS OUT FORM OLD NEMASKA TO CHECK HIS STURGEON NETS.



CURTIS JOLLY LEARNED HOW TO REMOVE STURGEON FROM THE NETS WHILE IN OLD NEMASKA.



SUSAN B. WAPAGHEE, AN ELDER FROM OLD NEMASKA.



YVON NEEPOSH, LAWRENCE NEEPOSH AND SUSAN WAPAGHEE ENJOY QUALITY TIME AT OLD NEMASKA.



SECURITY IS IN GOOD HANDS AT OLD NEMASKA.



STUDENTS OF ALL AGES WATCH ANNIE JOLLY CLEAN STURGEON.



NEMASKA YOUTH AT THE OLD NEMASKA SITE.

July 2009 Waskaganish



BENEFICIARIES AND STAFF WHO ATTENDED THE CONSULTATIONS IN WASKAGANISH.



ELIZABETH ISERHOFF VOICES HER COMMENTS DURING THE CONSULTATIONS.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ELMA KATAPATUK-STEPHEN, LORRIE WHISKEYCHAN-STEPHEN AND EDITH WHISKEYCHAN-GILPIN.



THE HEAD TABLE DURING THE WASKAGANISH CONSULTATIONS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KRISTA KAKABAT, LIZZIE DIAMOND, GUY GIROUARD, PETER SHECAPIO, SERGE LARIVIERE, GEORGE WAPAGHEE, PHILIP AWASHISH AND WILLIE ISERHOFF.)

july
2009
Nemaska



KENNY TANOUSH JR. VOICES HIS COMMENTS DURING THE CONSULTATIONS.



LUKE TENT PROVIDES SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM.



A TRAPLINE CABIN ON M-35.



GEORGE M. SHECAÏO PREPARES LUNCH "À LA GEORGE"!



BROOK TROUT READY FOR THE FRYING PAN.



THE HEAD TABLE DURING THE CONSULTATIONS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KRISTA KAKABAT, GEORGE WAPACHEE, GUY GIROUARD, PETER SHECAÏO, SERGE LARIVIÈRE, PHILIP AWASHISH AND WILLIE ISERHOFF.

Aug. 2009 **Lake Mistassini**



GEORGE M. SHECAÏO, PETER SHECAÏO AND NATHAN DION-LARIVIÈRE WITH A NICE BROOK TROUT FROM M-35.

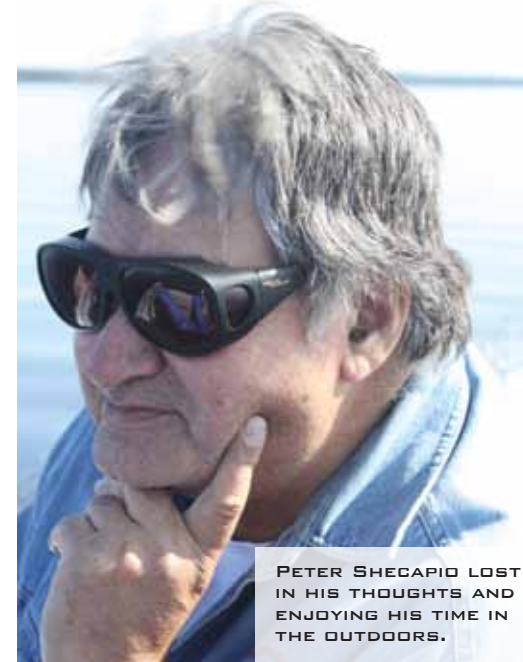
Aug. 2009 **Trapline M35: Mistissini**



A NICE SUNSET ON M-35.



GEORGE M. SHECAPIO TAKES US TO A SECRET FISHING SPOT.



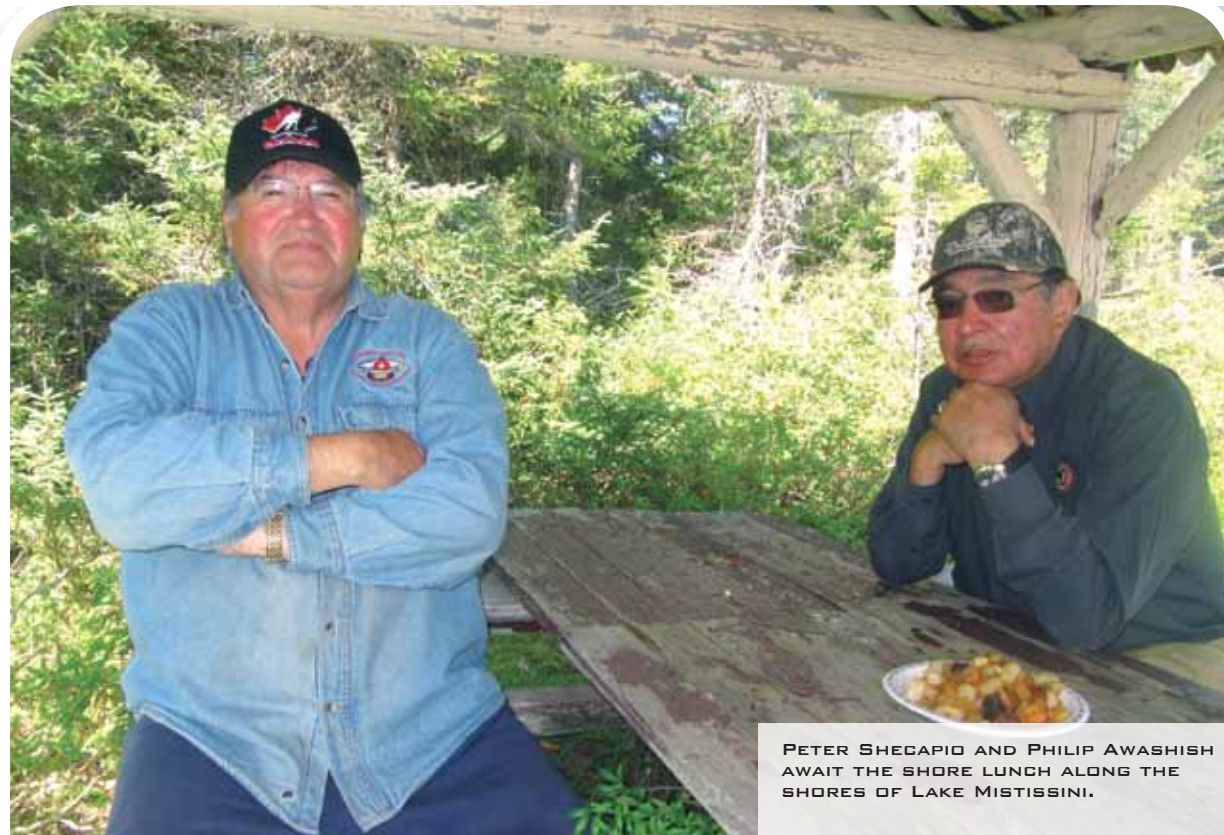
PETER SHECAPIO LOST IN HIS THOUGHTS AND ENJOYING HIS TIME IN THE OUTDOORS.



RICHARD MIANSUM PREPARED SHORE LUNCH FOR SOME OF HIS GUESTS.



ISAAC TRAPPER AND KENNETH COONISHISH CLEANING WALLEYE FOR THE FRYING PAN.



PETER SHECAPIO AND PHILIP AWASHISH AWAIT THE SHORE LUNCH ALONG THE SHORES OF LAKE MISTISSINI.



GÉRALD LEMOYNE, GEORGE M. SHECAPIO AND JEAN-GUY DUGRÉ ENJOY SHORE LUNCH ON THE SHORES OF LAKE MISTISSINI.



ISAAC TRAPPER HOLDS A NICE LAKE TROUT.



GEORGE M. SHECAPIO, PETER SHECAPIO AND STANLEY MIANSUM AT CAMP OSPREY ON M-35.



ONE MORE STRETCH OF MOVING WATER ON THE RUPERT RIVER.



KENNY LOON AND A NICE BEAR HARVESTED IN WEST NITCHEQUON.



KENNY LOON HAULS A HEAVY LOAD OF BEAR MEAT.



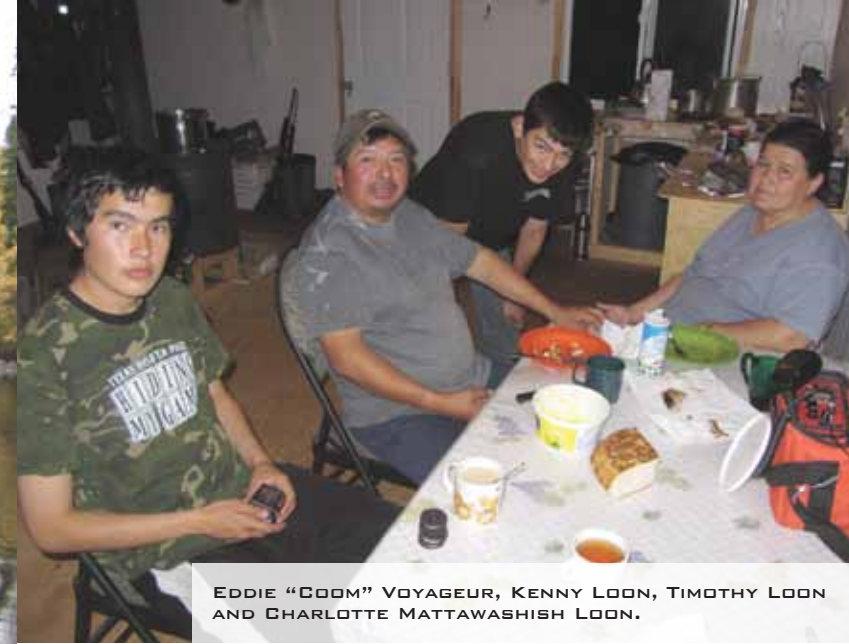
A BEAR WRAPPED AND READY TO TRANSPORT THE TRADITIONAL WAY.



UNLOADING SUPPLIES FOR A WEEK STAY IN WEST NITCHEQUON.



EDDIE "DOOM" VOYAGEUR WON THE LOCAL FISHING DERBY.



EDDIE "DOOM" VOYAGEUR, KENNY LOON, TIMOTHY LOON AND CHARLOTTE MATTAWASHISH LOON.



KENNY LOON AND DOOM VOYAGEUR PLAY WITH A LITTLE PORCUPINE BEFORE MOVING ON.



BEAR FAT, ONE OF THE DELICACIES OF THE NORTH.



KENNY LOON AND HIS WIFE CHARLOTTE, CLEANING BEAR INTESTINES.



KENNY LOON IS ABOUT TO SHOW THESE TWO BOYS HOW TO REALLY CLEAN WALLEYE.

Make that set!

Float sets for muskrats

By
Serge Larivière

Muskrats are one of the most important furbearers on the North American fur trade, and they occur on most northern traplines. On some lakes, muskrats are plentiful, and can often be observed as they climb onto rocks, fallen logs, or any object protruding from the water to rest, groom or sun themselves. In the spring, muskrats also use such places to scent mark their territories.

Float sets are one of the easiest methods to catch muskrats by relying on this habit.



“Float sets are one of the easiest methods to catch muskrats ...”

Place any object that floats in the water near the shoreline, place a trap or two on top and you will catch muskrats if they are present in the area. Commercial trappers in areas of high muskrat abundance will place several traps on a good float, and multiple catches are common.

Foothold traps are most commonly used of this set, and by securing the trap with a piece of wire so the animal can jump in the water and drown, the set becomes a humane method of harvesting muskrats.

Moreover, muskrats in the water are less likely to be eaten by birds, mink or to be bitten by other muskrats. The float set is one of the oldest methods of catching muskrats, and the types of floats are endless. Use your imagination, and have fun catching muskrats! •



Essayez cette installation!

Flotteurs à rats musqués

Par
Serge Larivière

Le rat musqué est l'un des plus importants animaux à fourrure employés dans le commerce des fourrures en Amérique du Nord et il est couramment piégé dans le Nord. Certains lacs regorgent de rats musqués. On peut généralement les observer lorsqu'ils grimpent sur les rochers, des troncs morts ou tout autre objet émergeant de l'eau sur lequel ils se reposent, font un brin de toilette ou prennent un bain de soleil. Au printemps, le rat musqué choisira ces mêmes endroits pour marquer son territoire.

En raison de cette habitude, les pièges flottants constituent un excellent moyen d'attraper le rat musqué.



«...les pièges flottants constituent un excellent moyen d'attraper le rat musqué.»

Placez n'importe quel objet flottant sur l'eau près du rivage, disposez une ou deux trappes sur le dessus et il est certain que vous piégerez des rats musqués s'il y en a dans la région. Les piégeurs professionnels se trouvant dans les zones où les rats musqués abondent installent plusieurs pièges sur un bon flotteur; les captures multiples sont alors monnaie courante. Par ailleurs, en fixant le piège avec un bout de fil de métal pour que l'animal se jette à l'eau et se noie, on s'assure de capturer les rats musqués efficacement. De plus, une fois dans l'eau, les rats musqués sont moins susceptibles de se faire dévorer par les oiseaux et les visons, ou encore de se faire mordre par leurs congénères.

Le flotteur est l'une des plus anciennes méthodes de piégeage du rat musqué, et les types de flotteurs sont innombrables. Laissez donc libre cours à votre imagination et amusez-vous à piéger le rat musqué! ●

LE PSR ET LE VERSEMENT DE DÉCEMBRE

Parmi les nombreux changements au programme, un des changements majeurs entrera en vigueur dès le prochain paiement. Après avoir passé 33 ans à émettre le deuxième chèque de l'année du programme en janvier, nous l'enverrons dorénavant, et dès cette année, en décembre.

Effectivement, l'Office a reçu au fil du temps d'innombrables demandes d'émettre les versements du PSR en décembre. Dans le but de satisfaire cette demande, l'Office a travaillé sans répit pour pouvoir maintenant émettre le paiement des prestations en décembre.

Quand le chèque sera-t-il émis?

Après le premier versement de l'année, en septembre, le deuxième chèque du PSR sera émis en décembre (le 7 décembre pour l'année 2009-2010).

Est-ce que je recevrai aussi un chèque en janvier?

Non. Le chèque émis en décembre remplace simplement celui qui était émis auparavant en janvier. Il sera distribué à l'avance comparativement aux années passées.

Est-ce que je dois sortir du bois pour recevoir mon chèque?

Oui. Comme d'habitude, vous devrez rencontrer votre administrateur local pour une entrevue afin de recevoir votre chèque.

Quand le chèque suivant celui de décembre sera-t-il émis?

En avril. Il est important de prendre note qu'il aura 4 mois (décembre, janvier, février, mars) avant le prochain chèque.

Pour plus de renseignements sur les dates de versement du PSR, veuillez communiquer avec votre administrateur local ou le bureau central.



interview

with a
beneficiary

Elijah SHESHAMUSH

During one of his recent visits to Whapmagoostui, the Director-general of the Income Security Board, Dr. Serge Larivière, had the chance to spend some time with beneficiary and longtime hunter, Mr. Elijah Sheshamush. As both of them sat in the Whapmagoostui airport, waiting for a flight to Chibougamau, they had the chance to exchange stories and the Director-general learned much from the life story of Elijah Sheshamush. It is therefore a real privilege for the Director-general to introduce Mr. Elijah Sheshamush, from Whapmagoostui, Québec.

SL **Mr. Sheshamush, you and I have met several times over the last few years here in Whapmagoostui and I thank you for sharing your story with the readers of “The Cree Hunter and Trapper”. For the record, can you tell us about your family and your background?**

ES My name is Elijah Sheshamush, I am 61 years old and I was born on July 22, 1947 in Whapmagoostui, Québec. I am the son of Emily Quito and Ronnie Sheshamush. My mother, Emily is 84 and still goes out in the bush, but my father, Ronnie Sheshamush, died two years ago.

SL **Did you grow up and always live in Whapmagoostui?**

ES Yes, I grew up in the community of Whapmagoostui and never left the community. I did not go to residential school, but attended day school for three or four years. I come from a big family. My mother had eight sons and three daughters, of which there are three boys and two girls still alive today.

SL **Do you have kids of your own?**

ES Yes, in 1968, I married Caroline Lameboy with whom I had two girls: Doris Sheshamush and Valerie Sheshamush-Snowboy, who is currently married to Joseph Snowboy. In 1971, three years after our marriage, Caroline died in an accident during a blizzard. I was fire chief at the time and this was a very difficult time for me.

A few years passed, and in 1973, I got remarried to my current wife, Sarah Masty, with whom I have had two boys and two girls. Tragedy struck again in my life when we lost one boy who was nine months of age at the time. I can really say that I have had good times and bad times in my life and I sure have seen a lot.

SL **Are your kids enjoying the bush life as much as you?**

ES Yes, they do. My son, Ron, is a hunter. He just finished high school and wants to be a pilot. Two of my girls, Brenda and Cynthia also live in Whapmagoostui and both enjoy the bush life.

SL
ES

What do you like best about the bush life?

What I like best is the peace and quiet of nature. When I am in the bush, I never get stressed, regardless of what I do. It really is the best place to be. Another item I really enjoy about the bush life is the food. Nothing tastes better than bush food!

SL
ES

What is your favourite bush food?

I like all bush food but I must say that bear is one of my favourite, especially in the fall, after the bear has been eating blueberries.

SL
ES

Over the course of your life Elijah, what have you seen as some of the biggest changes to the bush life?

The main change is the price of things. Years ago, things were a lot cheaper. For example, one trip by Beaver to my trapline would cost \$300. Today the same trip to my trapline costs \$2,500.

SL
ES

Any other changes worth noting?

There are a lot more animals now, more geese, more caribous, more bears and more ducks. We never go hungry in the bush. Years ago, I recall that sometimes we would go in the bush and spend one or two days with nothing to eat. If we killed something, we would eat it, whether it was a squirrel, a marten, a fox, or an otter. Today, we never go hungry, plus we have all the store foods in case the hunting is not good.

SL
ES

Have you been enrolled on the Income Security Program since the very beginning?

Yes, I have. I got involved from the very beginning. I must say that the money from the Income Security Program was a lot better back then just because things were cheaper. Today, the money from the Income Security Program is hardly enough for us to access our remote traplines.

SL
ES

Do you think that the bush life is still attractive to young people?

Yes, I think the bush life is attractive to young people. The problem is equipment. Young people do not have snowmobiles, boats, guns and traps to go in the bush. Equipment costs money, so to be a hunter, you need to have money. That may be one reason why our youths find it hard to fully enjoy the bush life, especially if they do not have a family to support them when they start.

SL
ES

Elijah, you seem so passionate about the bush life, even though this has always been your life style. What keeps you so passionate about bush life?

In the bush, everything we do is peaceful, whether it is hunting, trapping, fishing or any other traditional activity. The peace and quiet that I find when I am in the bush is important for me and as I always say, the bush is the best place to be! ●





During the time he spent in the bush, George gained a lot of survival experience by living on the land. While hunting and trapping, he learned how to understand the elements around him and how to care for the environment.

In 1972, George started working as a part-time guide at Camp Louis Joliet for the *Ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche* and worked there every season until 1980.

He then started working for Mistassini Lake Outfitting Camps as a guide and became General Manager in 1987.

As General Manager of the Mistassini Lake Outfitting Camps, George did extensive work promoting and marketing outfitting products. While managing overall operations, he also traveled to various parts of the eastern United States and parts of south-eastern Canada to promote the business.

It was in 1991 that George joined the ISP team and started working for The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board.

George M. Shecapio likes spending time with his wife, their 7 boys and his grandchildren. As for traditional activities, he loves to go fishing, hunting and trapping. George is always ready and willing to learn more about the bush life.

In 2004, George was the winner of the annual Mistissini Police Fishing Derby. He came in first place with an overall weight of 34.6lbs and also won first place for his 19.8lbs lake trout. He is very proud of this accomplishment.



« George is always ready and willing to learn more about the bush life. »

George M. Shecapio currently works in Mistissini. After 18 years of service, George has been named Program Assistant – Services in replacement of Peter Shecapio, who will retire at the end of 2009. This new position will require George to travel periodically and regularly to other Cree communities and to the head office in Québec City. He is greatly looking forward to this future challenge. ●

The Cree Hunter and Trapper

Profil d'un employé

LE PROGRAMME DE SÉCURITÉ DU REVENU DES CHASSEURS ET PIÉGEURS CRIS A ÉTÉ UN FRANC SUCCÈS DEPUIS 30 ANS ET CE, EN RAISON DE L'ENGAGEMENT DE SON PERSONNEL. NOTRE ARTICLE «PROFIL D'UN EMPLOYÉ» PRÉSENTE UNE COURTE BIOGRAPHIE DES EMPLOYÉS QUI ONT TRAVILLÉ À ASSURER LE SUCCÈS DU PROGRAMME. DANS LA PRÉSENTE ÉDITION, NOUS RENDONS HOMMAGE À M. GEORGE M. SHECAPIO, NOTRE ADMINISTRATEUR LOCAL À MISTISSINI.

George M. Shecapio

Employé par l'Office depuis :

25 février, 1991

Position actuelle :

Administrateur local

Lieu de travail :

Mistissini, Québec

George M. Shecapio

est né dans le bois quelque part dans la région de Nitchequon, à environ 240 milles (386 km) au nord de Mistissini. George est l'aîné des sept enfants de Matthew Shecapio et Elizabeth Loon. En 1963, encore tout jeune, George a été envoyé par les Affaires indiennes dans un pensionnat indien à La Tuque où il a fréquenté l'école primaire et secondaire. Puis il est revenu à Mistissini pour y poursuivre ses études.

George a ensuite passé les sept années suivantes dans le bois avec ses parents à apprendre le mode de vie des chasseurs et piégeurs, avant d'épouser Charlotte Wapachee, de Nemaska, en août 1975. ▶



Au cours de la période qu'il a passée dans le bois, il a acquis une riche expérience de survie en vivant sur le terrain. Pendant ses activités de chasse et de piégeage, il a notamment appris à comprendre les éléments qui l'entourent et comment prendre soin de l'environnement.

En 1972, M. Shecapio a commencé à travailler comme guide à temps partiel au Camp Louis Joliet pour le ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche et y a travaillé chaque saison jusqu'en 1980.

C'est alors qu'il a commencé à travailler comme guide pour l'Association des pourvoyeurs du lac Mistassini et en est devenu directeur général en 1987.

À ce dernier titre, George a accompli un travail considérable de promotion et de mise en marché des produits de pourvoirie. En plus d'assurer la gestion de l'ensemble des activités, il a également visité différentes régions de l'est des États-Unis et du sud-est du Canada pour y faire la promotion de ce commerce.

C'est en 1991 qu'il s'est joint à l'équipe du PSR et a commencé à travailler au sein de l'Office de la sécurité du revenu des chasseurs et piégeurs cris. M. Shecapio aime passer du temps avec sa femme, leurs sept garçons et leurs petits-enfants.

Quant aux activités traditionnelles, il aime la pêche, la chasse et le piégeage. D'ailleurs, il est toujours prêt à en apprendre davantage sur la vie dans le bois.

En 2004, M. Shecapio a remporté le tournoi de pêche annuel de la police de Mistissini. En effet, il a obtenu la première place grâce à des prises dont le poids totalisait 15,7 kg (34,6 lb), en plus de remporter la première place pour la capture d'un touladi de 9,0 kg (19,8 lb). Il n'est pas peu fier de cet exploit!



« ...il est toujours prêt à en apprendre davantage sur la vie dans le bois. »

M. Shecapio travaille actuellement à Mistissini. Après 18 ans de service, il a été nommé adjoint au programme – Services, en remplacement de Peter Shecapio qui a pris sa retraite le 30 novembre 2009. Ce nouveau poste exigera de sa part de nombreuses visites régulières auprès d'autres communautés cries et au bureau central de Québec. Il est vraiment enchanté à la perspective de cette nouvelle expérience. ●

isp Important Dates

FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

DECEMBER 15-18, 2010

Local Administrators are in Quebec City for a meeting.

JANUARY 5, 2010

Direct deposit for beneficiaries who chose monthly payments.

FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Direct deposit for beneficiaries who chose monthly payments.

MARCH 1, 2010

Direct deposit for beneficiaries who chose monthly payments.

APRIL 6, 2010

Third cheque for beneficiaries of ISP for the Program-year 2009-2010.

MAY 3, 2010

Direct deposit for beneficiaries who chose monthly payments.

JUNE 1, 2010

Direct deposit for beneficiaries who chose monthly payments.





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