

Ten-year-old trapper sees a future in the business

Adrian Oudzi recognized as youngest trapper

by **Katie May**

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Kahbamiue/Colville Lake

A year into the trapping business, Adrian Oudzi already has a head start over his peers – he's only 10 years old.

The Grade 4 student at Colville Lake School was recently honoured for being the youngest to participate in trapping workshops put on across the Sahtu last month through the departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Environment and Natural Resources and the Fur Harvesters' Auction.

Fur prices have been strong lately and spring 2009 data from the auction showed an increase in trappers across the territory, particularly in the Sahtu region, where trap-

per training and Take-A-Kid trapping programs have been most successful.

Oudzi said he definitely wants to be a trapper when he grows up because he's already making his own money selling pine marten pelts.

"It's good that you get money," he said. "I want to get a lot of money."

Although he equally enjoys duck hunting, Oudzi said his favourite part of trapping is "checking it."

He learned how to trap when he was nine, under the guidance of his uncle George, who has a camp out near little Aubry Lake.

"(He) set me two or three traps and I caught my first marten," Oudzi recounted excitedly. "I just ran to my first marten and caught it."

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photo courtesy of Matt Hubert

Adrian Oudzi, a 10-year-old Grade 4 student at Colville Lake School, was recently honoured with a youth trapper award at a trapper training workshop in the community.

"It made me feel really happy."

In total, Oudzi said he's caught 14 marten on two trips out to the camp, though he's also interested in expanding to fox, lynx, wolverine and wolf.

Oudzi is the oldest of his siblings – two brothers and one sister – and says he likes school, but not as much as being on the land.

Last fall, he returned from a month-long trip in the mountains, bringing back with him

all kinds of adventure stories, including his close encounter with a wolf he spotted near the trapline.

"I went really fast, full blast about 60 kilometres an hour (on a snowmobile) and caught up to him and I lost my

axe so I turned back to find it and the wolf was still running, so I just left it and went to check my trap," he said.

Oudzi said he would like to have a camp of his own someday on big Aubry Lake with his future wife.