

BEAVER BRAE SECONDARY SCHOOL**BURSARY, SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD
APPLICATION FORM**

NAME _____

AWARD: THE KENORA TRAPPERS COUNCIL BURSARY IN MEMORY OF
JOHN LONGE.

GRADUATION DATE _____

INSTITUTION[S] YOU PLAN TO APPLY TO _____

OR _____

PROGRAM[S] APPLIED FOR _____

NAME OF PARENT[S] GUARDIAN[S] _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBERS _____

MOTHER'S OCCUPATION _____

FATHER'S OCCUPATION _____

HAVE YOU A RELATIVE IN THE TRAPPING INDUSTRY? _____

IS HE/SHE A MEMBER OF THE KENORA TRAPPERS COUNCIL? _____

WHAT FIRST BROUGHT EXPLORERS AND TRADERS TO LAKE OF THE WOODS?

IS TRAPPING IN ONTARIO STRICTLY REGULATED? _____

WHAT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY ? _____

DO YOU WORK PART TIME? _____ HRS/WEEK _____

DO YOU OWN A CAR? _____

WILL YOU BE TAKING A VEHICLE TO COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY? _____

I AGREE ALL INFORMATION TO BE CORRECT & ACCURATE _____

John Longe, a founding member of Kenora Trapper's Council is the oldest active trapper in our district. Born January 21st, 1906, he's still working the same line he started trapping sixty three years ago. John's trapping trips are less frequent now but his enthusiasm is as strong as ever.

He spends much of his trapping activity skinning and stretching the fur that his partner, John Simundson brings in. John is always active in local trapping affairs and rarely misses a workshop or a meeting.

His trapping career started in the spring of 1937 after a winter of commercial fishing. He had taken over a fishery licence earlier in the year when the licence holder, a man called Westlund, had approached him as they crossed a street in Kenora . When Westlund asked John if he wanted to buy a "white elephant", John replied he couldn't afford "any kind of elephant." Work was hard to find and a deal was agreed upon where John would take over the fishing licence, equipment and camps for \$1500.00. This would eventually be paid for at a rate of 2 cents a pound for walleye and whitefish and 1 cent a pound for northerns.

That winter John walked out to the fish camp from the CNR station at Jones via the trail to Grassy Narrows and found the main cabin and two outpost cabins filled with nets and fishing equipment. In the early days, John would take fish south to Redditt (CNR station) on a sled drawn by a dog team or pony. The trip took two days by these means. John would eventually rely on airplanes to pick up his fish, a much speedier but costlier trip. He felt he "bought" several planes over his fishing career as they took up much of his profits. Because of this, he referred to the airplane as his "senior partner".

In the spring of 1937, after a winter of fishing on the English River system, John, once again facing unemployment, decided to

trap some of the many muskrats that were to be found inhabiting the bays and inlets of the river. In the days before registered traplines, all you needed to trap was a licence and lots of leg power. Even after all these years, muskrats remain one of John's favorite furbearers. He said that when the rats were "running" in May, he would catch 18 or 20 a day and skin them all in an hour.

In the mid-40's, registered traplines were established but after a few years John was asked by the Department of Lands and Forests to give up his trapline to another trapper, Stan Indian. At this time, John had a small tourist business as well as the fish licence. Keith Acheson, the Chief Ranger at that time, said he "didn't need everything". As John was also working as a carpenter to support his growing family, he agreed to give up the line. Ten or twelve years later, after the holder of his old trapline drowned further north on Woman Lake, John was contacted by the trapper's widow to return to trap the line. The government would not agree to transfer the line back to John so he has trapped the line as a "helper" for the last thirty-odd years.

After a winter confined to town because of breathing problems, John was anxious to get back out to Separation Lake and his old stomping grounds this spring. The highlight of his trip was when his partner, John Simundson, located a canoe that had been stolen from his trapping camp 16 years ago. It had been taken across a portage and stashed on a small lake, patched but still sea-worthy after all this time.

John has an endless repertoire of adventure stories from his many years in the bush. His memory for names and dates is just as amazing. John keeps himself pretty busy, but if a caller is lucky enough to catch him at home, he can easily keep the listener spellbound with his stories and historical data.



In Loving Memory of

**John
Edward
Longe**

Born

January 21, 1906

Passed Away

June 2, 2003

**A Funeral Service to Celebrate
John's Life will be held on
Monday, June 9, 2003 at 1:30p.m. at the
Berean Baptist Church**

Officiant: Reverend Garth Roberts