

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **2009 North American Furbearer Conservation Award Winners Announced**

(Ottawa, May 19, 2009)— Two deserving individuals are sharing one of the continent's most prestigious conservation awards. David Neave, former FIC Director, and Milan Novak, former furbearer management coordinator with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, have both been chosen as recipients for this year's North American Furbearer Conservation Award.

The announcement was made at the start of the North American Fur Auctions wild fur sale in Toronto by Herman Jansen, Managing Director of North American Fur Auctions, the sponsor of the award, and the Fur Institute of Canada's Executive Director Rob Cahill.

Mr. Jansen explained the purpose of the award, now in its third year, is to encourage innovation and excellence in furbearer management and to recognize those who have helped build public awareness and appreciation for furbearer conservation. He noted that both of this year's recipients have made invaluable contributions in ensuring fur has a future in Canada.

Rob Cahill said that David Neave's entire working life has been devoted to wildlife conservation and humane trapping. "As Alberta's wildlife director and then as the first executive director of Wildlife Habitat Canada, he has had significant influence in the stewardship of wildlife and habitat through programs, policy and communications," Mr. Cahill said. He also noted that for several years following retirement, Mr. Neave remained active and influential through his lead role in the development of the Model Forests Network of Canada and his continued participation in various capacities on the FIC Board.

Milan Novak has had a similar influence on animal welfare and conservation efforts. Mr. Cahill explained that as a furbearer biologist, Mr. Novak carried out published research and data collection on traps and trapping in Ontario, which were used to successfully negotiate the AIHTS. "This data collected over many years, Mr. Cahill said, "will continue to serve the fur trade well in the year's ahead." Among his other accomplishments, Mr. Novak helped in the creation of the first national standards for animal traps as well as the formation of the Ontario Fur Managers Federation.

Both recipients will also be honoured at the Fur Institute of Canada 26th Annual General Meeting and banquet on June 13 in Toronto.

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For more information or to arrange an interview,

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