



Ross Hinter

Wildlife Conservationist, Craftsman, Educator

“He could easily have lived in the mountains with Jeremiah Johnson”

“John Conti, Mass, USA”

Ross Hinter has been with the Alberta Trappers Association in varying capacities for 30 years. He currently represents the Association as the Community Liaison with Public, Industry, Indigenous and Government. Ross is also the FIC Federal Liaison representing Alberta on the Fur Institute of Canada Committee for Humane Trapping. Ross is the certifying body for trapper education instructors in Alberta and is himself a licensed trapper in the province of Alberta.

In addition, Ross Hinter was employed for 17 years as a Wildlife Management Professional and is an expert in municipal and urban wildlife management.

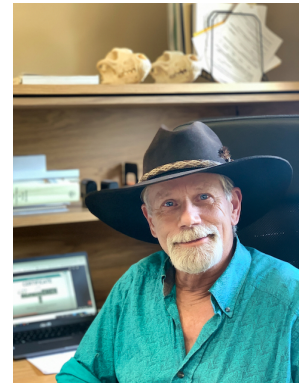
He grew up in British Columbia raising his family of 5 children while working as a cowboy on the ranches of the Cariboo and the interior.

He spent a great amount of time with the Shushwap & Okanagan First Nations Peoples, learning valuable insights and gaining a great love and respect for the land.

He offers his expertise in bush craft skills such as winter wilderness survival, arrow making, traditional Native tanning, primitive weaponry, talking sticks, rawhide, and other aspects of bush living.

The influence of Mors Kohanski, Bradford Angiers, Grey Owl, and Thoreau, can be summed up as “life Changing” for Ross.

He has not been without danger, when at 28 degrees below zero, while working near thin ice outside a beaver lodge, on a remote Alberta Lake, his recurring nightmare come true, as he plunged through ice. For this wilderness survival instructor, it was a lesson never to be forgotten. Other adventures, such as being chased by a black bear, narrowly escaping, and having both hands caught in a conibear trap, while alone, far from help, he had to break his fingers in order to get free before passing out. He has faced down wolves, lynx and other wild animals as a trapper, in 40 below zero temperatures, travelling snow covered stump ridden trails that once again almost cost him his life, but the most dangerous by far, was facing down a woman in downtown Calgary. He was working the river valley trapping beaver that had invaded areas, when she spotted him. Wielding a thick club she came for him as she was trying to protect the beaver!



This reaction is an opportunity to try to educate the public about the misconceptions of outlawed steel jaw traps of yesterday.

In an ever-shrinking habitat, humans push the boundaries severely. As animals are pushed into smaller areas, they become overpopulated and can become diseased or starve. Even the people who feel they have no part in killing animals, need to realize the greatest threat to wildlife is not trapping it is loss of habitat. Think about that next time you flush the toilet in the new 7-11 that was just built on the corner! Or the next time you pick up a steak on a Styrofoam tray at the local supermarket. Don't lose touch with the link to reality!

Ross believes that our relationship with nature is intertwined and is not just something we observe. Importantly, if you have the heart to learn, he has an unmatched passion for sharing his knowledge with you. Your life will be enriched!

Ross's journey has led him down numerous paths that included:

- Television commercial on conservation awareness
- News media and magazine articles
- Education with the University of Alberta and Alberta Colleges
- Subject of DVD produced in conjunction with filmmaker, Anne Troake, **"Meet your local trapper" Trapping in the 21st Century**, of the essential role of trappers in wildlife conservation, scientific study and preservation of traditional skills and knowledge.
- Instructor for Wilderness College, European wildlife biologists, Environmental groups, Bushman Inc, Buffalo Lake Naturalists, Treaty 8 as well as Junior Forest Wardens. Also for Karamat Wilderness Ways and the Roots To Learning Tours from the USA and Hunting for Tomorrow – Annual Outdoor Women's Program

These successes however, pale in comparison to one of his greatest accomplishments. Ross has helped over 9000 students young and old, begin to walk the path of wisdom and respect for the natural world; this he considers to be, a great privilege. As one teacher states "he held the students captivated with his stories and adventures, they received a lesson they will never forget"!

Ross believes that our kinship with the simple life in the bush, cultivates a deeper understanding of the early ways. Ross also works with hides, bones, wood and other natural materials, crafting items from the practical to the decorative and even ceremonial.

Ross's experience, gained through years of working with animals and living on the land, may change forever the way you think about the role of trapping. Dispelling many of the myths of an increasingly urban society, which has cast a negative image when we hear the word "trapping". Most of the public gain their information about the wilderness from nature shows, which ignore diseased animals and overpopulation, only adding to the misconception of trapping. Ross gives flight to the stereotypical "trapper" label, by conveying to us that humane trapping is an effective tool for managing furbearers, and gain respect for the species.

A way of life and heritage that has been around more than 100 years...

Character References

“Ross Hinter packs a lifetime of respectful interaction with and experience of wilderness in everything he does. His wisdom and insight into the realities of the natural world have shed light on my own presumptions about a subject of which I had limited knowledge. This has enabled me to see the world, both natural and human-made in a new and more honest way”. **Anne Troake, Filmmaker**

“His professional approach, multitude of skills and engaging manner strongly reflect his exceptional knowledge of the natural world. His passion and respect for the wilderness are infectious and it would be hard for any student to come away without a broader understanding and a much deeper respect for the Canadian wilderness and its inhabitants”. **A Past President, Alberta Trappers Association**

“Ross Hinter always proved himself to be a very able and professional teacher. He has the great ability to motivate and keep students concentrated on the subject at hand through commitment, good communication skills and expert knowledge. His unlimited understanding and rapport with the Wild rank him among the best”. **Erik Van Hezel, Lecturer, Burton College, University of England**

“It is my pleasure to provide my insights about one of Alberta's outdoorsman treasures - Master trapper and outdoorsman Ross Hinter. For the last 5 years Ross has engaged my university classes with an insightful and intriguing introduction to the art and wisdom of humane trapping as practiced by Alberta trappers. Ross, like many others has years of trapping experience including reading wildlife sign and habits, as well as expertise in woodcraft, leather and hide processing and using the materials brought from the bush. What Ross has that is unique however, are honest communication skills and style that allows even those with no concept of trapping and living off the land to grasp profound insights into these time-honored activities. Ross is quite familiar with the common misperceptions and lost connection between most urbanites and their rural predecessors and it is with understanding, tolerance, and a willingness to respect a wide variety of opinions that Ross introduces concepts to visitors on the land. Ross is a one-man window into a time, place, and relationship with nature that is exceedingly rare these days. In a sense, he is an ambassador for the careful and sustainable use of wildlife resources as a way of helping ensure their future by giving them explicit value and stewardship. A day spent on the trapline with Ross Hinter is like a season spent living in the bush learning lessons the hard way. I strongly recommend this immersion experience to those with an interest and willingness to learn”. **Dr. A. Lee Foote, Research Ecologist, Department of Renewable Resources**

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Ross Hinter brings the world of trapping and wildlife management to life in his courses. His depth of knowledge and skill as an instructor make even the quietest student become fully engaged in the material. His respectful teaching style and high regard for the wildlife that have been such an important part of his life makes each day of his courses something to look forward to. Highly recommended.

**Dr. Glynnis A. Hood, Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences/Studies
Augustana Campus University of Alberta**