



In loving memory of our friend and cherished FHA family member.

DAVE BOSMA
November 10, 1959 - May 31, 2025



Our good friend and lifelong fur man Dave Bosma passed away Saturday morning in North Bay. Dave's career started in the fur trade in Montreal with the Hudson Bay auction house where in his late teens he began working alongside his father Sip Bosma. In the 1980's Alex Shieff GM of the late Ontario Trappers Association was in need of a fox grader and Dave fit the bill and moved to North Bay. I recall very clearly him arriving as I was not yet 20 years old and took a liking to him instantly as did most all of us. His positive fresh care free attitude made him a pleasure to be around. Over the years Dave trained a lot of graders and a great many working at FHA today were products of his teaching MYSELF included. In my early 20s it was Dave who ran the beaver department and I was his runner. After he called out the grade number he passed the skin to me and I placed it in the proper numbered bin. During this time he was training me to grade and he did it in a way that made it clear, this was his gift. In time Dave stepped away from being head of the beaver department and passed the torch to me and twenty years later I passed it to Kenny Frederick.

Late in 1980s Dave Bosma left OTA and moved to Seattle to work under Fred Glover who was in charge of the wild fur division of the Seattle Fur Exchange. Fred had just left OTA a few years earlier where he held the position of Marketing Manager. Fred got his start with the HBC in Montreal and Dave had worked for him during his start in the trade. It was during this period that the Ontario Trappers Association was faltering and struggling to survive and the management at the time was unable to correct the situation and on Jan 4th 1991

OTA went into receivership. Days later Fur Harvesters Auction was formed and shortly after a call was made to Fred Glover to come on back to North Bay. The rest is history as Fred came and Dave Bosma followed shortly after.

As mentioned earlier, Dave's true claim to fame as a LIFER in this fur trade was his vast knowledge and versatility in being able to confidently grade any and all species exceptionally well. This rare ability was actually over shadowed by his gift of teaching others the skills needed to grade fur.

Dave and Don Rumford for years would spend weeks on Canada's east coast every fall visiting fox ranchers and live grading their herds prior to pelting time. He was very well respected by all Canada's east coast fox ranchers and as proof of this both Dave and Don were called upon to travel to countless Canada Fox Breeders Association events to be the official judges at the annual winter fox shows. Dave was in his element when it came to passing knowledge and he did it just as handily when we sent him to fur fairs all over the world to do grading seminars.

Dave was also an accomplished auctioneer and we could always count on him to stand and deliver at this often stressful demanding time.

He took his job seriously and as all of us in this business know there is no missing a deadline. The goods come in and often times the quantities are so huge it's beyond most folk's imagination. Its seven days a week, head down, long hours at the grading table where many sales average days were 12 hours plus for several weeks in order to meet the deadline for buyers arriving. During these times tempers get short, moral starts to slide and it was during these times as well we could count on Bosma to lighten things up while always getting the job done. For the past few weeks Dave was in an Ottawa Hospital battling a terrible illness and during this time we spoke almost daily. Always a paramount part of these conversations was him asking me how the crew was making out in preparation for the June auction.

On Thursday morning May 29th Dave called me and told me he had bad news and that he was being airlifted back to North Bay Hospital where he could say goodbye to all his close friends as his news that morning was heart breaking.

The grader, auctioneer, mentor, teacher and friend to so many in this great trade passed away early Saturday May 31st 2025. In doing so he leaves a tremendous legacy which is a true tribute to all who were fortunate to know him. God bless you Dave you were a GOOD ONE.

Respectfully,

Mark Downey
Chief Executive Officer
Fur Harvesters Auction Inc.