

Charlie Ormond and his guide Al Crawford worked extremely hard to get this almost-in-the-book caribou.



# TURNAGAIN TIMES

The Official Newsletter of B.C. Safaris  
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December 2001

I'm hoping some of you remember me from my Finlay River Outfitter days, but to those of you who don't and those I haven't met yet, just let me say I'm back at it! I've been very particular over the last 8 years choosing a new guiding area. I picked the Finlay in 1978 (at the tender age of 27) as I could operate it without horses. I'm sure it's more than just the added years but my search for a new area involved a lot more criteria and included an easy place to use horses and I spent a lot more time searching. I looked over a lot of areas in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and British Columbia. The one area that kept coming back to mind was a place I had visited 10 years previously. I had flown Eugene Egeler into Turnagain Lake in 1990 so he could do some winter work there. The place really impressed me and I thought then that Eugene had chosen well.

When I flew back into Turnagain in August of 2000 to discover Eugene and Ursula were indeed interested in selling, there was no doubt in my mind, this was my Nirvana. Excellent game country with great populations, relatively easy to hunt, reasonable access for clients, great facilities and still plenty of room to grow. I've done a lot of different things during that past 8 years but almost every fall managed to guide somewhere. So I'm returning to what I do best and love most. This time I'm fortunate in having my long time friend, Shane Black, as my business partner.

We are pleased to announce that BC Safaris is offering some fantastic hunting opportunities for 2002 and beyond. The area we have acquired was owned by Eugene and Ursula Egeler for the past 13 years and operated as Turnagain River Outfitters Ltd.

We have a generous stone sheep quota of 10 per year, as well as an extremely conservative grizzly quota of 6 in 3 years (in case you hadn't heard the new Liberal government re-opened the grizzly bear season). We are unlimited for mountain caribou, mountain goat, moose, black bear and wolf.

The area is almost the same size as my old area on the Finlay at 2,000 square miles or about 1.5 million acres. On the Finlay my sheep quota was 2 while the rest of the game was similar in populations as the new area. On that area I felt that 45 hunters per year with a near 100% success was sustainable. In the new area, which has a tremendous sheep population it is our intention to limit our number of hunters to 30.

Not only do we have a great area but we also have great outfitter neighbours. Two of Shane's and my closest friends, Reg and Ray Collingwood, are south of us. More friends, the Bradford family have the area to the north, Gerry Geraci is to the east and one of my former assistant guides, Rick MacLean, is to the west.

Our main lodge is on Turnagain Lake, about 40 miles southeast of Dease Lake. Most of our hunting is on horseback although we will be offering some riverboat hunts along the Pittman and Stikine Rivers that form our southern border as well as some back pack hunts.

Given the tragedy that the U.S. endured on September 11th, we want you to know that we felt it deeply and personally. We sincerely hope that no one on our mailing list has suffered a direct personal loss.

In 1973 when the U.S. was pulling out of Vietnam a well known Canadian broadcaster, Gordon Sinclair, wrote an editorial that was published widely through North America and got a lot of radio play with the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as background. You can find it on the internet at [www.rcc.ryerson.ca/schools/rta/ccf/news/unique/am\\_text.html](http://www.rcc.ryerson.ca/schools/rta/ccf/news/unique/am_text.html). Some of the comments are obviously very dated but the sentiment still stands. Some excerpts:

"The United States dollar took another pounding on German, French and British exchanges this morning, hitting the lowest point ever known in West Germany. It has declined there by 41% since 1971 and this Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people in the world.

They have helped control floods on the Nile, the Amazon, the Ganges and the Niger. Today the rich bottom land of the Mississippi is under water and no foreign land has sent a dollar to help. Germany, Japan and to a lesser extent Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of those countries is today even paying the interest on its remaining debts to the U.S.

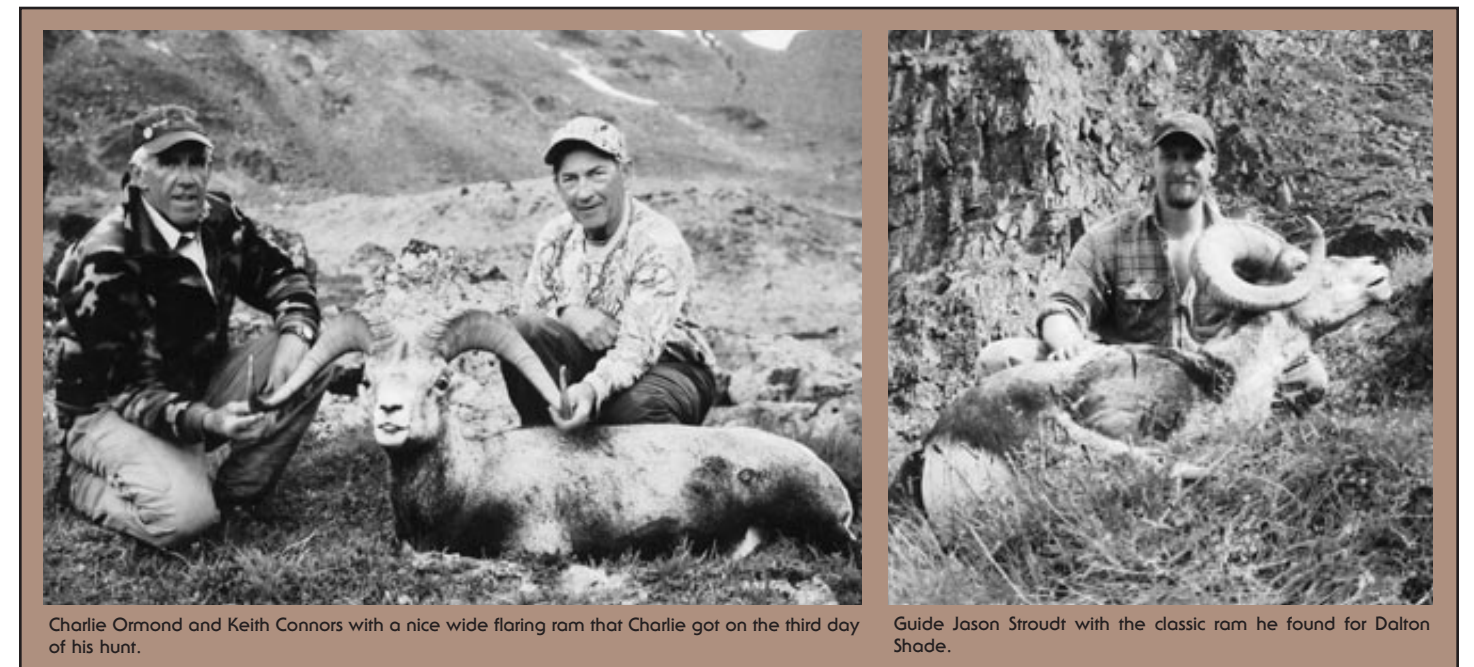
When the French franc was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

You talk about Japanese technocracy and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy and you get cars. You talk about American technocracy and you find men on the moon, not once but several times and safely home again.

Our neighbours have faced it alone and I am one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them being kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles.

And finally, The American Red Cross was told at its 48th annual meeting in New Orleans this morning that it was broke. This year's disasters has taken it all and nobody but nobody has helped."

Mr. Sinclair's editorial was made into a record that made millions for the American Red Cross. If you would like a copy of the complete editorial, let us know and we'll gladly forward it to you.



Charlie Ormond and Keith Connors with a nice wide flaring ram that Charlie got on the third day of his hunt.

Guide Jason Stroudt with the classic ram he found for Dalton Shade.



Willi Gruber and Whitey pack out Willi's fine late August caribou.



Hunter Heinz Ulmer with guide Jason and wrangler Luke with one of two 60" moose from an early October hunt.

The sheep here are mostly dark coloured with above normal horn growth. The average horn length is about 37" with a few going over 40" and the occasional one into the "book". In 2001 Eugene had only 6 sheep hunters and they killed 5 rams with an average of 10 1/2 and horn lengths from 35 to 39 inches.

The area produces huge caribou and the former long standing, world record bull was taken here. On my first hunt here in August we saw 3 tremendous bulls and the one our hunter took would have made the book if it had a second shovel.

The moose average well over 50 inches with lots in the 60" range and a few nearing 65". There is very little of the area that doesn't provide good moose habitat and with almost 50 miles of river frontage on the south that Eugene has not hunted in years we expect to produce some real trophies. Shane and I were a bit humbled getting a 55" moose for Pete Schoening on the final hunt only to find out it was the smallest bull taken during the season.

The mountain goat population is very high, if you'll pardon the pun, with most of the mountain ranges having some good billies hiding in them. In my former area over 10% of the goats we harvested over the 15 year time frame made Boone and Crockett. I expect to do at least as well here.

As mentioned, the grizzly bear limits are extremely conservative but it will allow us to choose from a selection of really big boars. We intend to hunt the bears mainly in the fall but will probably offer spring hunts every other year.

The area is new to us but we have spent a lot of time there this year, trailing in horses and guiding 2 hunts and closing up camp. Eugene is coming back to guide for us next year as are all of his assistant guides. Experience will not be a problem with this crew!

As you may have guessed by now we are very excited about the new area and are really looking forward to the 2002 season. We have taken on some bookings that Eugene had already plus a loyal core of my hunters from the Finlay have booked already but we do have some excellent dates still available.

Our website is [www.bcsafaris.com](http://www.bcsafaris.com). Prices are listed below.

14 day - <b>Stone Sheep</b> (August 1-13, 15-28, 30-Sept. 12)	\$14,500
14 day - <b>Mixed Bag Hunt</b> (August 15-28)	\$ 8,500*
10 day - <b>Mixed Bag Hunt</b> (August 30-Sept. 8, 10-19, 21-30, Oct. 2-11)	\$ 7,500*
* Mixed bag hunts are for any 2 of Moose, Caribou, or Goat.	
If a 3rd animal is shot, there is an additional trophy fee of	\$ 2,000
For <b>Grizzly Bear</b> the trophy fee on all hunts is	\$ 5,000
7 day <b>Moose hunt</b> (October 8-17)	\$ 5,000
<b>Wolf</b> = No charge, but if you shoot and miss one, you owe our beer fund	\$ 100



Eugene Egeler with Ludo Wurfain's 7'8" grizzly from an outstanding late September hunt.



This Boone & Crockett billy was an incredible trophy for Fritz Hoermansdorfer.

The following is a bit of information on ourselves. Keith Connors has guided in B.C. every year except one since 1976 including 16 as a guide-outfitter with experience in 4 different guiding operations. Keith is a commercial pilot with over 6,000 hours, all of it in the bush. He has trapped and logged many winters. A former director of the Guide Outfitters Association of B.C. (GOABC) for 12 years including a term as president. A long time member of Foundation for North American Wild Sheep as well as Safari Club International and the International Professional Hunters Association.

Shane Black was born and raised in Prince George and has trapped and hunted most parts of Northern B.C. He raced canoes successfully across western Canada and is an avid shooter. He has owned and operated Black's Furs in Prince George for over 20 years, and during that time has strongly supported the guiding and trapping industry. He has guided for Dennis Smith of Bear Paw Outfitters and Collingwood Brothers in the Spatsizi.

We have a lot of enthusiasm, a wealth of experience and the attitude to get it done right and have fun. Contact us for a quality, memorable hunt.



Ludo and Alexander Wurfain with two of the many quality trophies they got on a September hunt.