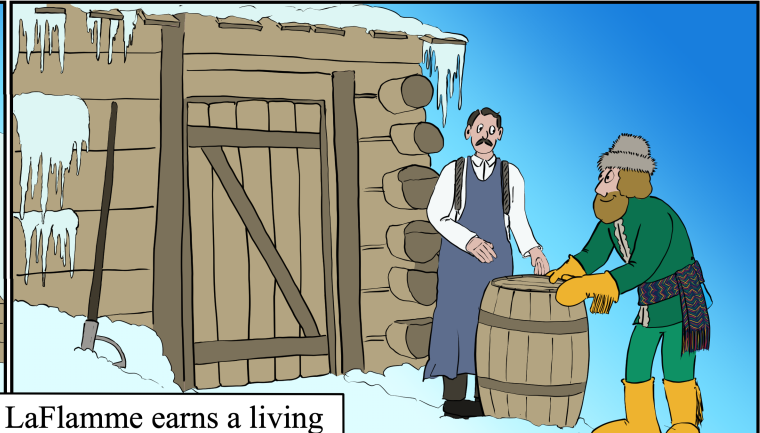
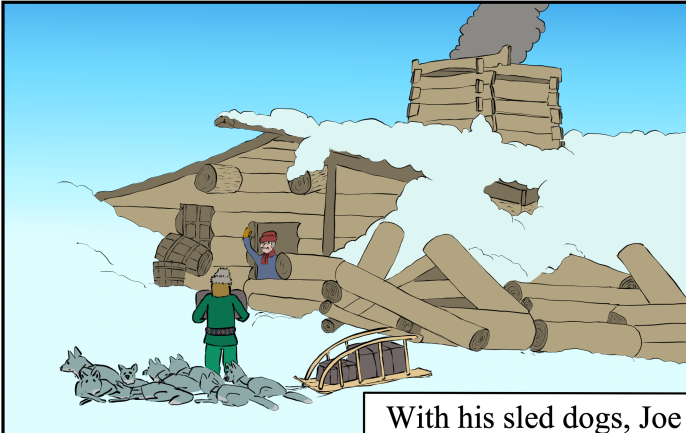




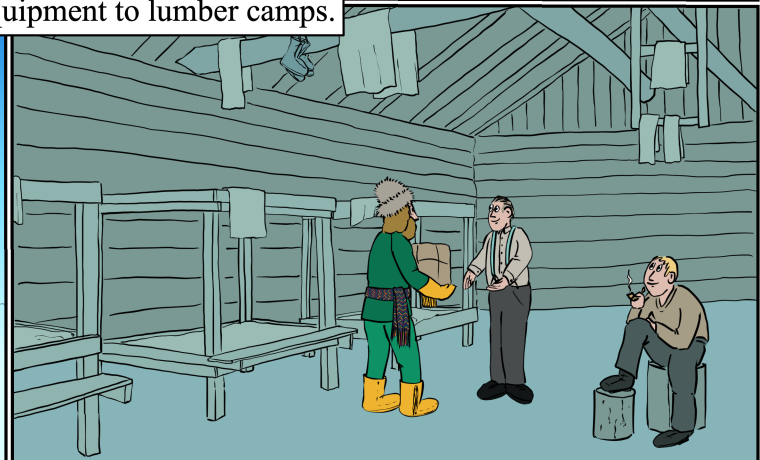
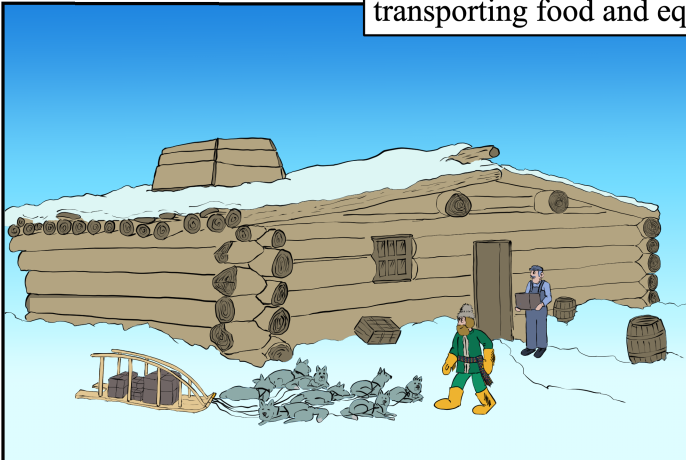
# The first wolf



Gogama, winter 1923.



With his sled dogs, Joe LaFlamme earns a living transporting food and equipment to lumber camps.



I never thought this would happen here.

So far from everything!

1923 is also the year when Joe lost most of his huskies to distemper\*.



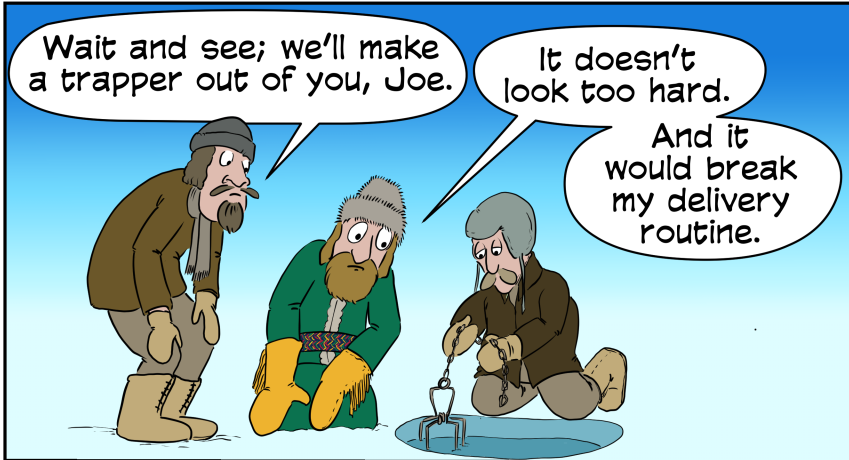
\* Distemper is a disease which is caused by a virus and infects the respiratory and digestive systems.



A few weeks later, at Lake Beaver, south of Gogama.

We heard about your dogs, Joe.

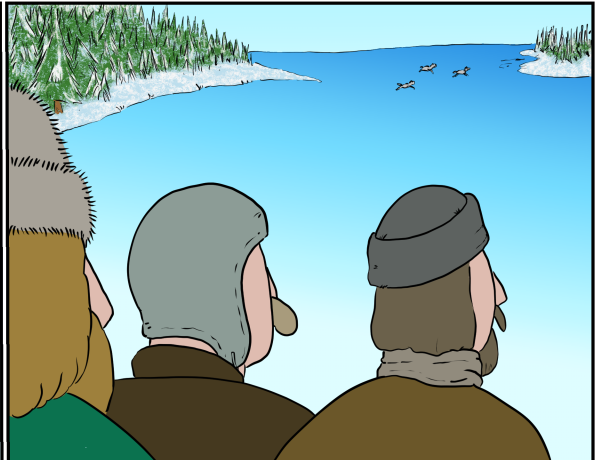
It's been a long while since we've seen cases of distemper in the region.



Wait and see; we'll make a trapper out of you, Joe.

It doesn't look too hard.

And it would break my delivery routine.



I wonder if wolves could replace the dogs I have lost...



It's obvious that you don't know what trapping is all about.

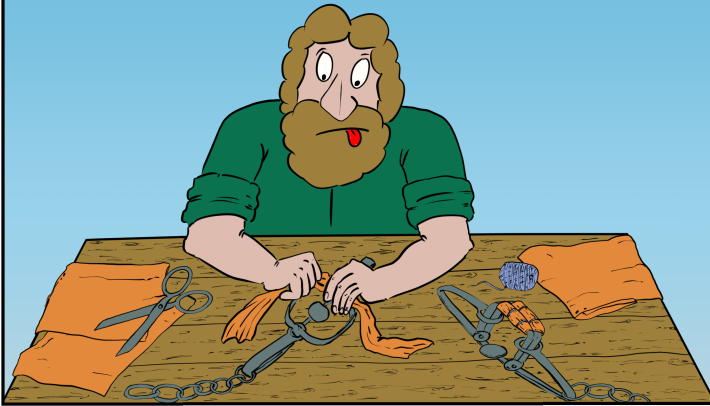
And wolves are not dogs.



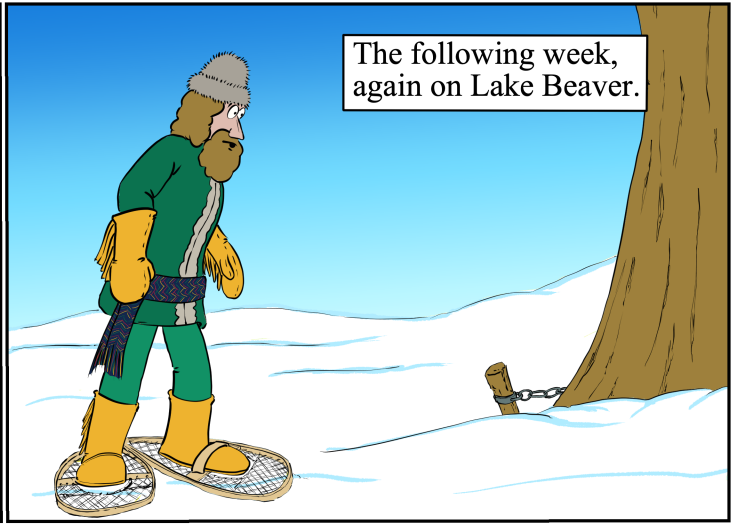
We'll see.



A few days later, at the LaFlammes'.

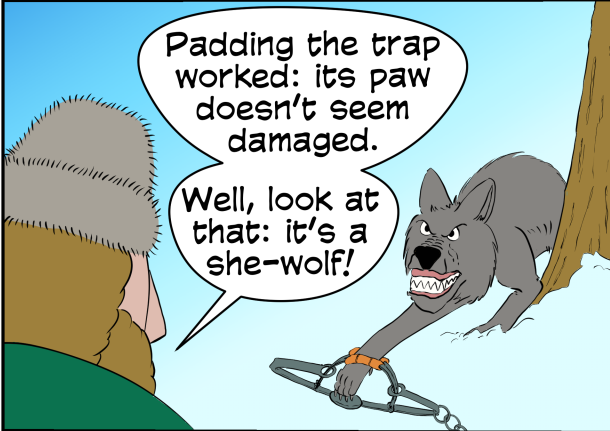


The following week, again on Lake Beaver.



Padding the trap worked: its paw doesn't seem damaged.

Well, look at that: it's a she-wolf!



Not long after.



Easy does it, *ma belle*. I don't want to hurt you.



It's a crazy idea.

But what choice do I have?



She's a fast learner.

It could work.



This successful first experience with the wild beast gave LaFlamme the idea to start hitching wolves to a sleigh. He therefore continued to trap live wolves.\*

\* Suzanne F. Charron. *Wolf Man Joe LaFlamme: Tamer Untamed*. Latitude 46, 2017, p. 26.