

LOCAL NEWS

SCHOOL, Cont'd from Front Page.

store, one corner store, a restaurant and a craft shop. There are no paved roads and everything is within walking distance, even the airport. Their phone book is one page long!

Their first language is Cree and it is the language generally spoken in the community. However, our penpals speak English in school. There are several churches in the community and there is a strong Pentecostal following. Their music is mainly fiddle music and they do square dancing rather than the traditional kinds of native dances we see here.

The homes in the community are government built and all look pretty much the same - three bedroom bungalows of varying colors. Most people have a T.V. There are few trees in Waskaganish

itself, but once you get outside the community, you see lots of spruce and tamarack trees.

As for the activities we were treated to, here are some of them. Upon our arrival, after an exciting plane ride, we were taken by school bus to the school where a buffet meal awaited us. We were welcomed by one of their Chiefs who presented each of our students with a T-shirt, a tamarack goose and a Waskaganish pin. At the same time, our students presented their penpals with baskets made by Josephine Lazore, Sarah Mitchell and Harriet White. After dinner, the students enjoyed some icebreaker games to become more acquainted with one another. We then parted to each spend the night with our penpals.

The next morning we set out by ski-doo (18 ski-doos in all, some with

trailers) for a camp on an island in the Broadback River. We arrived 1 1/2 hours and many bruises later. We played some games and then went ice-fishing (another ski-doo ride), while our hosts prepared a traditional meal. Some of us managed to land a few nice trout. When we arrived back at camp, our supper awaited us and it was delicious caribou ribs, goose cooked the traditional way, hanging over a fire, roast moose and bannock. We arrived home at dusk and then watched a video on the hydroelectric power development in the James Bay area, presented from a Cree perspective.

The next day our hosts chartered a plane to take us up to the LaGrande River hydroelectric power project near Chisasibi. Hydro Quebec personnel guided us on this tour and they showed us the dam, the vast area of flooded

Cree territory and took us on a tour of the generating station. They also treated us to lunch.

After returning home that evening, we went skating at the arena and this was lots of fun.

The following morning we were treated to a display of Cree crafts, with many for the artisans present to describe their work. One of the most unique of these was the making of tamarack geese from twigs of the tamarack tree. These geese are used as decoys during hunting season and they are also sold as souvenirs. Other crafts including painting, carving, embroidery and beading.

In the afternoon we had free time to spend with our Cree friends, shop for souvenirs or just walk

about the community.

That evening we all enjoyed supper together at the lodge and after supper our students put on a great display of Mohawk singing and dancing for our hosts who joined in the latter.

Our last activity together was a game of floor hockey in the school gym in which both parents and students participated. It's anybody's guess as to who won, but what was more important, we all had fun together.

We left the next morning with a touch of sadness at having to say good-bye, but also happy knowing that we would soon be welcoming our Cree friends in Ahkwesahsne. They will be visiting us May 25-30 and we hope we can make

What I Liked in James Bay

by: Students of TsiSnaihne School, Grade 6

I liked James Bay when we went for the ski-doo ride on the Broadback River. What I am looking forward to when he comes down here is taking my penpal on a boat ride on the St. Lawrence River.

By: Daylan Adams

What I liked in Waskaganish was everything, even skating. When they come down here I'm looking forward to going to the museum in Ottawa, going swimming, and going fishing.

Amber Cook

When we were in James Bay, I liked it when we went in the bush. It was fun and I liked it when we played hockey near my penpal's house. I can't wait till she comes down and we go to the wave pool.

Pamela Jacobs

I had a really great time up in James Bay with the family I stayed with. They treated me like I was one of their children. I felt so welcome. I just wish I could go back sometime. The only part I didn't like was when we had to say good bye and nobody but me started to cry. I can't wait until my penpal comes down here and I hope she will have a great time like I had up there.

By: Arisawe Lazore

The best thing I liked about James Bay was being with my penpal because she was so nice and she would tell me a lot of stuff. When I was up there, her dog had 13 puppies and me and Cindy got to feed the puppies with a little bottle. It was about 10 cm high. All she would ask me about was my sister Jackie. She would always want to get nice stuff for her.

When Cindy comes down here, I want her to meet my family and all my friends. My penpal said she would like to go to Pizza Hut and McDonalds.

Lesley

My favorite thing that I liked up in Waskaganish was the snow mobile ride (race) up the Broadback River. When my penpal comes down here I'm looking forward to go to the ODAWA POW-WOW.

Jeremiah Lazore.

In James Bay I liked going to the bush when we had a snowball fight. When we went fishing we caught some trout. When they come down here, we will go fishing and go to my grandfather's island to see him.

From: Ricky

When we went to James Bay I felt really shy. When we were there some people got lonesome. But when you stay at the penpals' homes, you feel like you're at home. The thing I liked best was when we went to LG-2. The thing I look forward to when they come down here is when we go to Ottawa to that wave pool.

Valene King

The trip to James Bay was one of the most exciting things in my life. I liked the plane ride, the Ski-doo ride, the place I stayed, ice fishing, skating, and going out every night making new friends with the people from James Bay. When my penpal comes down here, I want to take him to see what it is like behind my house.

By: Phillip M. Lazore

In James Bay I liked staying in Pam's Penpal's house. I also liked the day in the woods, skating, the plane ride and the trip to LG-2. Also, it was the farthest place I had ever gone. It is so nice up there I would like to go back there one of these days. I can't wait until my penpal comes down here because I want to take him fishing.

By: Justin Thompson



Above shows a goose cooked the traditional Cree way for the Grade 6 students of Tsi Snaihne, while on their visit to James Bay to meet their penpals. Photo: Submitted.

Shown Above, a Cree elder making a tamarack goose from twigs of the tamarack tree. These geese are used as decoys during hunting season and also sold as souvenirs. Photo: Submitted.

The things I would like to do when my penpal comes down are play games, make stuff, ride the fourwheeler, collect rocks, stargaze, and play sega.

By: Amber General

What I liked best up there was all the meat they had. What I look forward to doing when they get down here is going to the wave pool in Ottawa.

Robert McDonald

