April 2011 Newsletter
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board

Students on Ice Program

The Students on Ice Program (http://www.studentsonice.com) is a unique educational experience for students to learn about polar climates and geography. They accompany scientists and educators from around the world on expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. Chantal Bavard from Chief Albert Wright School became the first person from the Sahtu to join this program August 4-20, 2010 with the assistance of the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB). Chantal, and more than 70 other students (including 25 northern aboriginal youth, as well as students from China, Monaco, Norway, the United States and every region of Canada) joined 35 scientists, historians, artists, elders, explorers, authors, educators, leaders, innovators and polar experts on a voyage around the Arctic coast. The northern passenger cruise ship *Lyubov Orlova* took the expedition to the northern reaches of Nunavik and eastern Baffin Island. Activities included shore landings, hikes, community visits, Zodiac cruises, and ship-based exploration. The education program involved presentations, workshops, seminars, and small group discussions.

The expedition started from Ottawa, where Chantal met the other participants including CBC news anchor Peter Mansbridge; who was onboard the ship for the first week. The adventurers saw lots of wildlife including seabirds, walruses and polar bears. They even saw a bowhead whale one day. The students hiked along northern coastal beaches and inlets that were reached by Zodiacs. They visited an abandoned Hudson's Bay Company whaling processing site called Old Blubber Station near Pangnirtung, Nunavut. The students were also able to visit Auyuittuq National Park that is about an hour north of Pangnirtung by boat, as well as Nunavut's Mirnguiqsieviit Territorial Park. Some of the stops included places where the bugs were BAD!

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(Continued from Page 1) Chantal also provided reports on August 8, 11 and 13 for the Students on Ice Daily Journey Updates webpage (http://www.studentsonice.com/arctic2010/daily.html).

August 13, 2010

Today we are sailing in the Hudson Strait heading towards Pangnirtung, which is pretty cool because it's the farthest north I've ever been in my whole life. One of the things I really want to see is a polar bear and some beluga whales.

Also, I really miss home. The other day before Peter Mansbridge left to do other things, he talked about some pretty neat stories and one particular question he asked us or he was asked is "What is a Canadian?" I started thinking about it and thought, "Wow, I really can't think what is a Canadian". So, I asked my friends and they said the same thing, "I don't know, I can't explain it". So, I thought really hard and said, "Hey, I'm Canadian!", then I realized we are very self-less, hockey-loving people who apologize too much. Afterwards, I started laughing and said to myself "I'm a proud Dene-Canadian from the North".

Chantal Bavard

Chantal's experiences on this program are part of a youth climate change action project that is currently being developed by the SRRB. Her participation in the Students on Ice Program was made possible by generous support from Keith Hickling, Superintendant of Sahtu ENR, Deanna Leonard, Fisheries Management DFO, Chris Hopkins, Executive Director SRRB, Chief Albert Wright School, Sahtu Divisional Education Council and the Tulita District Land Corporation. Thank you very much to all of you for making this once in a lifetime opportunity possible.

Announcements

Check out some great pictures of the Norman Wells area that were taken by Mackenzie Mountain School students and used to create an awesome YouTube clip at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZFbTuAF-LA.

Also, don`t forget the Ducks Unlimited Canada Banquette and Auction on Saturday May 7th at the Royal Canadian Legion. Festivities start at 3PM; tickets are available at the Norman Wells Museum.

Organizations that Care

The SRRB would like to thank the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada for their unfaltering support of our fisheries projects. These projects are not only adding necessary information to our understanding of the changes that are going on around us due to climate change, but also helping youth understand the importance of traditional knowledge and science in wildlife and fisheries management.

Trapper News

Fur prices are up this year. This is good news following last year's lower bids and fairly short prime season. NWT marten for example averaged $79.72 at the Fur Harvesters Auction (Sale Results - March 13, 2011) which puts the value close to $100 each, after prime bonus and grubstake. Muskrat increased and averaged $8.44 each. Twenty of these fairly common animals were worth nearly $260 once you add the $5/pelt grubstake. Wolves did well as trappers are guaranteed $400 for a well handled pelt through the GNWT Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program. Quality wolverine pelts also sold well (average of $279 each). This increase in the value of wolverine and wolf reflects an overall upward trend in all three fur categories including trade, trim and taxidermy. The better the handling, the more they're worth.