

Keeping our culture alive

Northern News Services

Friend, "I want to keep our culture alive, more than it has been in the past decade," said Mary Masuzumi of Radilih Koe', Fort Good Hope.

At Deline's caribou workshop a while ago the youth were wisely included to get an overall view on a very important project they are now a part of.

The idea is for a group of them to spend some time at the late spiritual leader Charlie Tobac's camp down river from town some 64 km.

No one can fail to notice that in the time Masuzumi refers to, there has been a great amount of soil erosion due to global warming all up and down the Duhogah, Mackenzie River. Even right in town there is a spot where an old graveyard is located with the banks now fallen in only a few feet from the fence.

With elders like Thomas Manuel, George Barnaby and others to guide them, the youth co-ordinator Eugene Boulanger will have plenty of resources to draw from to connect the need to keep the land as it was for generations of the future.

It is also good to know that the other places in the Sahtu, Kabami Tue, Colville Lake, Norman Wells, Tulita and Deline will be doing their own studies like this one.

There have been others, like Wilfred Jackson and Charlie Barnaby, who have done the same kind of work the late Charlie Tobac and his wife Laura were doing with the troubled youth who need to reconnect with their Dene culture.

There is no doubt in a way I can tie into this myself, too.

I have spent my summers for the last few years there doing various art-related projects



for the community.

With the help of the NWT Arts Council I will be in a good position to let the rest of Radilih Koe', or Fort Good Hope, know of the work that the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board is now involved with these youth as well.

Either way we can never go wrong in reaching out to get the youth involved in their future.

Mahsi, thank you.

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