

DEH CHO STUDENTS TAKE TO THE HILLS

At the tail end of Spring Break 19 intrepid students from Fort Liard, Fort Simpson and Wrigley embarked on a trip to the Rockies to put to good use the skills that they had learnt at the recent Snowboarding Clinic held at Hay Lake.

Powder King, situated roughly between Mackenzie and Chetwynd, is a fantastic venue for new and experienced snowboarders alike. It boasts some of the best powder in all of Canada and has an average annual snowfall of an amazing 41 feet. This year has surpassed that total and is a mere foot away from breaking the snowfall record.

Once at the hill there was no stopping the students, and everyone enjoyed 3 days of fantastic snowboarding and skiing in near-perfect weather conditions, with temperatures hovering just around the 0°C mark.

Those less experienced snowboarders had lessons on the first morning whilst many of the students headed straight out for the chairlift and beyond, and at Powder King there was something for everyone from practice runs in the Strawberry Fields to leisurely runs down Abbey Road and Penny Lane to shredding up the more technical

Powder King hoodie as a prize for being the most improved snowboarder.

With future trips to Powder King in the pipeline, and snowboards available for the community to use, it is hoped that some of the participants will continue to practice and improve their technique and who knows where that might lead... the Arctic Games and beyond.

A big thank you to Roslyn Firth from the students and chaperones for organizing such a wonderful trip and ensuring that everyone had a safe and exciting time.



Left: Group shot at Powder King, Right: Alinda Edda and Terrence Kotchea

All the students awoke early on Wednesday, March 16th and eagerly set off around 7 a.m., only to find themselves back in Fort Liard by 10 a.m., having turned back due to Mechanical issues.

A replacement bus was quickly dispatched from Fort Simpson and by midday and still in good spirits the students and chaperones set off once again in preparation for the nearly 14 hour trip ahead.

Blue Jay Way and the precipitously steep #9.

It seemed that all the students had an incredibly good time and vastly improved upon their snowboarding skills, once again everyone involved represented the three communities in a very encouraging light and everyone should be very proud of their efforts and attitudes. A special mention should be given to Terrence Kotchea. Terrence was awarded a

Dominique Trembley using the tow rope

COMMUNITY MEETING A SUCCESS!

Fort Liard held its third interagency meeting on March 17. Community agencies are working towards a healthy, safe community for everyone. Inspector Parker Kennedy and Doreen Reid from the Community Justice Division, Department of Justice, in Yellowknife were invited to make presentations. They gladly accepted this invitation. The meeting was open to community members.

57 elders, men, women and children attended the meeting. Everyone was there to learn about the symptoms and effects of illegal drugs and alcohol.

The local RCMP detachment gave a 40 minute presentation on the drugs that have been seen or rumored to be in Fort Liard. These drugs include alcohol, cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, crystal meth and

marijuana.

Parker Kennedy talked about the various programs the Community Justice Division operates to help communities develop alternative ways of dealing with justice issues that meet their individual priorities and needs. He spoke about Community Justice Committees, Restorative Justice, Family Violence, Policing, and Victim Services. He also talked about how the Division works together with community members, elders and youth.

Doreen Reid provided information about the "NOT US" Campaign, an initiative that provides assistance to communities to take a stand against drugs in their Community. She also spoke about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and the fact that Alcohol is a drug that can result in many people becoming involved in the justice

system as victims or offenders.

DEA members, Robert Firth and Melanie Louie displayed the posters made at the school by the local children with anti-drug messages. Eva Hope provided translation services for the Elders.

The Community meeting was brought together by the local Social Services, Probation Services, DEA, Hamlet of Fort Liard, Acho Dene Band, Victim Services, Fort Liard Health Center, RCMP, and Community Justice.

Parker and Doreen would like to extend a huge thank you to the community of Fort Liard for the invitation and their hospitality.



March 21

On March 21, the Preschool will be open FULL DAYS for all 4 year olds!

Classes run from 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm daily to help your 4 year old prepare for the longer days in Kindergarten.

Classes for 3 year olds will continue to run from 9:00am-12:00pm daily.

If you have any questions or are interested in registering your child for Preschool, please contact the Preschool directly at 770-4880.

Fisherman Lake - Fishing Derby

Happening the weekends of...
April 9th & 10th
April 16th & 17th

Come out to the lake for a weekend of fun & fishing

Lots of prizes to be won!!

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate & hotdogs at the Band Cabin!!

ITION

Acho Dene Native Crafts recently hosted a “Best Dressed Doll Competition.” Participants were invited to pick up a doll from the store and dress the doll in traditional dress. Judging was based on the following criteria:

- Original Materials Used
- Tradition of Dress
- Creativity
- Neatness and Design

The deadline for returning the dolls was Tuesday, March 29th. Five dolls were entered into the competition and results of judging were announced the following day at the craft store with cake and ice cream. The following artists were awarded the top four prizes of \$150 (1st place), \$100 (2nd place), \$75 (3rd place) and \$50 (4th place):

- 1st – Yvonne Nande
- 2nd – Dolly Klondike
- 3rd – Adele Klondike
- 4th – Victoria Klondike

A big thank you from Acho Dene Native Crafts to Jamie Lawrence and Virginia Holroyd from Quicksilver Resources for their donation of the prizes! Thank you also to Lucy, Camilla and Pearl for assisting and a special thank you to Pearl for her intuition and initiative in having such a competition.

Today is Pearl Sassnett’s final day at Acho Dene Native Crafts. Fort Liard wishes Pearl all the best in her future endeavors.



men, Pearl Sassnett and Camilla Nande displaying her winning dele Klondike with her doll Victoria Klondike with her doll lay of all dolls that were entered



CAREER FAIR HELD AT ECHO DENE SCHOOL

The Fort Liard Career Fair took place at the School on Wednesday, March 23rd and Thursday, March 24th. Approximately 20 students from grades 8 – 12 from the Echo Dene School attended the sessions as well as four students from the Aurora College Community Learning Centre.

Presenters from educational institutions and businesses from across the territory and from B.C. attended the Career Fair and were offered breakfast and lunch in the School kitchen. Each presenter gave a presentation in one of the classrooms and all were available at

their booths during break times. Despite a minor glitch on day 2 (the power was out for approximately 1 hour leaving Anna Sahadat from the Northern Store and Maury Sparvier from the R.C.M.P. without power for their presentations) all presentations were received well and students seemed glad for the opportunity to ask presenters questions during the breaks.

The keynote speaker, Scott Murray, was well received and gave interesting and pertinent information on aboriginal literacy and its importance in modern society.

It is believed by the organizers of the Career Fair that it was a successful event. The students were provided important and up-to-date information about their career and educational opportunities, and an overall message relaying the importance of finishing high school and pursuing post-secondary education was delivered and well received. Students and teachers seemed pleased with the results and hope to continue to have career fairs in the future.



Parks Canada's display



Emily Amprako, Monica Berreault, Christine Abela, Ross Duntra, Stacey Buckley, Brent Kotchea and Ken Nowoselski



Johnniel Deneron watching Anna Sahadat's presentation

TAKE NOTE...

As I say goodbye:

I want to say a thank you to members of the community for making me feel welcome especially the following families: Edda, Nande, Kotchea, Klondike, Lomen, Duntra, Nelson and the Whiteheads. Sorry if I missed a few.

Thank you.

Pearl Sasnett

The Hamlet Website is Being Updated!!!

The website will now include information on emergency services. Updates will be posted as Spring Flood Season approaches.

Check it out at:

www.fortliard.com!!

Fort Liard, NWT

Community Hall Playgroup

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Community Hall, Pre-school aged children are invited to join in the fun!!



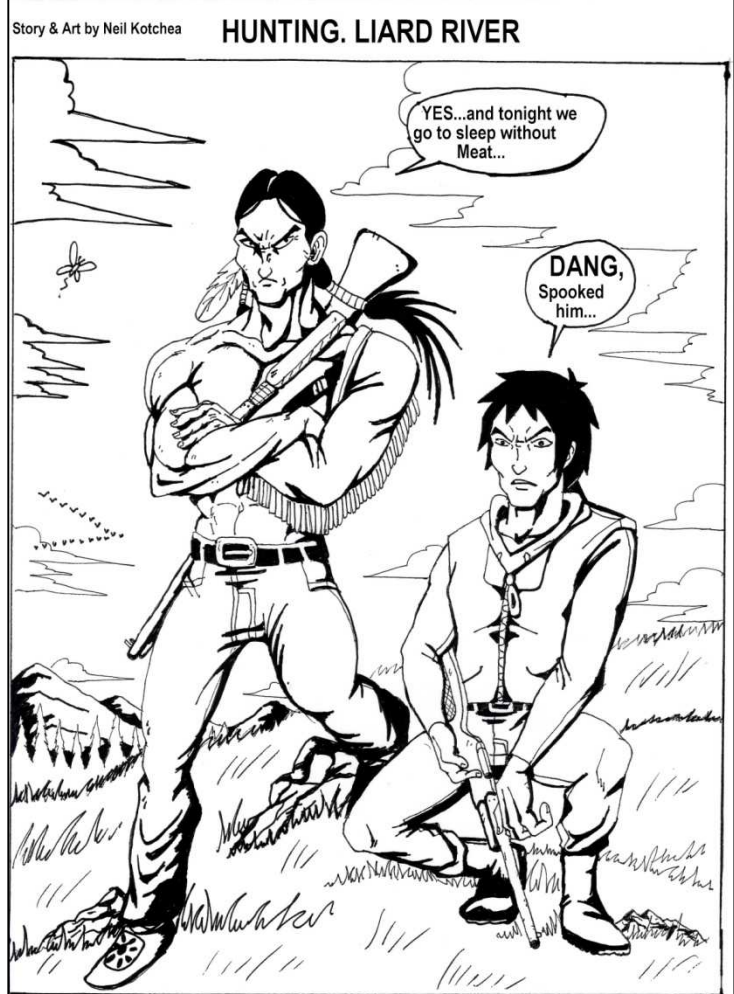
Contact the pre-school for more information at 770-4880

LOCAL TALENT *Support your Local Artist!!*



Top: Comic by Alinda Edda

Right: Comic by Neil Kotchea (part 3 or 7)... See some of Neil's work at Acho Dene Native Crafts.



Open Sky Festival Events

The Open Sky Festival is July 1-3, 2011



Open Sky Festival Fort Simpson, NT

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Dehcho Residents – May 15th, 2011

For more information or to obtain an application form please visit:

www.openskyfestival.ca

or contact the Open Sky Creative Society at

(867) 695-3005 or

open_sky_society@yahoo.ca

THE WORD FROM THE FIRE HALL

The snow is disappearing quickly and soon there will be grass fires. No grass fire every started by itself. There are some people who light up the dead grass around town and then watch the Fire Department respond. A grass fire can turn into a wildfire and burn somebody's house down or take somebody's life.

Your volunteer firefighters are volunteers who give of their time, come out at all hours of the day or night, and put it on the line to protect lives and property. They don't get paid, and they are there for you! Please appreciate them. Next time you see one of them, thank them. It would mean a lot.

The house they save could be yours!

I am proud to have Vince Bertrand, Patrick Kotchea, Collin Woehl, Louis Amprako, Gilbert Capot-Blanc, Arthur Loe, and Cheryl Bertrand and former Fire Chief Al

Harris for his mentoring on the Fire Department. These people are there for you every day.

I have included a news article about 2 volunteer firefighters who lost their lives 2 weeks ago fighting a fire. They were just like the volunteers in Fort Liard. They died when they went inside to check for people still inside when the building collapsed. Your firefighters never know what they will be dealing with when they get called.

If you know anyone who is setting fires please call the Fire Department or the RCMP. Someone out there always knows.

Make sure you have a fire extinguisher in your kitchen that works. The Fire Department can visit and check your extinguisher, smoke alarms and give you some tips on how you can stop your house from burning down.

We will be practicing this **Sunday, April 3rd at 11:30 a.m.**

S.A.F.E. Smoke Alarms for Everyone

The Fire Department will be working hard to make sure you have a new working smoke detector in your house. If we missed you please call the Fire Department 770-4104 and let us know. You can also pick up a smoke detector at the Fire Hall.

Remember Smoke Alarms are a sound you can live with!

If you have ever thought of joining the Fort Liard Fire Department call Robert 770-4104, come down to the Fire Hall and have a coffee. All we ask is you to be a minimum of 18, male or female and willing. We will take care of the rest.

Mahsi

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Volunteer firefighter died doing what he loved

The widow of a volunteer firefighter in Ontario, who was killed after reportedly entering a burning store in an attempt to rescue any trapped shoppers, says her husband was a family man who died doing what he loved.

Kenneth Rea, 56 of Atwood, Ont., died Thursday with another volunteer, 30-year-old Raymond Walter, of Listowel, after the roof of the burning dollar store collapsed during the blaze.

"He was very family oriented; he loved his kids; he loved family," Louise Rea told local radio station

AM980 on Friday. "He loved the fire department – that was his life"

The store in Listowel, about an hour northwest of the southwestern Ontario city of Kitchener, was open for business when the fire started about 3:30 p.m. Witnesses say people were spotted running inside to warn shoppers to get out.

Louise Rea said the men couldn't be rescued before the roof collapsed. "They told me that it happened real quick," she said of learning her husband was dead.

A grass fire in Fort Liard



In all his years as a firefighter, Rea – who rose through the ranks to become deputy district chief for the Atwood station – had never had a close call, his wife said.

The Ontario Fire Marshal's office has brought in a structural engineer to advise on how to safely recover the bodies.

North Perth Mayor Julie Behrns and Premier Dalton McGuinty expressed

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LETTER FROM A CONCERNED PARENT

Hello again my dear friends;

Here are some views contained within the Resource Guide brought to us by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation:

Dr. C. Brant is a psychiatrist of Mohawk ancestry. In his practice he observed that nine out of ten young Aboriginal people he saw were being socialized by their peer group. He reported that, through the peer group, these children often destroy their education opportunities, create an alcohol/drug habit and experience illegitimate pregnancies. The circumstances of families that contribute to the negative roles of peer groups in the lives of pre-adolescent and adolescent youth continue in many communities today.

It is normal for a child to seek the respect or appreciation of peers. Friendship provides affection, intimacy, and reliable alliance... what only a group can provide is a sense of inclusion, which all children crave.

Needs met by a peer group can also be met in other social situations, such as in a home, at school, or on a team managed effectively by someone who knows the dynamics of relations that nurture, as opposed to doing the opposite.

Think of young people who prefer to spend time at home with family and/or friends, instead of going to town and looking for a good time. Think, too, of how often friends of such a young person enjoy spending time at his home because of relationships with members of his family, especially with one or both parents. A person who enjoys spending time at home, participating at school (or on the job if in the

workforce) and doing things with peers from time to time may be said to enjoy some balance in his life.

First Nations youth long for better relationships with their parents. They want their parents to nurture and support them and to protect them against the vagaries (unpredictable or erratic behaviours or actions i.e. a whim) of life. A case in point is the young men who are at highest risk to commit suicide. The fear, hurt, shame and anger youth sometimes feel is aided and abetted by parents who neglect and abuse them usually while under the influence of substances like alcohol

Young people learn about gender from two main sources: friends and peers; and media images

Young people most prone to the negatives of the first source do not usually have good relations with caregivers and rely mostly upon peers for support. These youngsters are most vulnerable to the images continually bombarding them from the television, print and music industries. Through these means, popular contemporary models of masculinity and femininity become familiar to all children and youth. Almost none of these models are of positive First Nations men and women.

Another important issue is positive gender identity and its relationships to all aspects of health. Colonization took away men's roles as providers and protectors, and racism and/or oppression often prevented men from getting jobs or developing businesses that would allow them to be self supporting. For some, addictions and violence have resulted.

Too many males live with poor ability to have healthy relationships, to protect their own and their partner's sexual health from HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and to be free from sexual and physical violence.

These above noted ideas are offered to the community at large so as to lend some awareness. It is AWARENESS that contributes to HEALING.

Respectfully submitted with sincerity,

Jack Yeadon, a parent and grandparent.

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condolences Thursday night. Both spoke about the selfless dedication of those who put their lives at risk to voluntarily fight fires. "I know that I am speaking on behalf of the whole community of North Perth when I say how saddened we are as a community... to share this tragic loss," Behrns said. "We thank all of our volunteer firefighters and their families for their dedication protecting us."

McGuinty said Rea and Walter's deaths should serve as a reminder to everyone not to take for granted the sacrifice for their communities men and women like them make. "Our volunteer firefighters take time away from their families to keep us safe," McGuinty said. "We rely on their selflessness and [the] tragedy is a solemn reminder that we must never take their sacrifices for granted."

Witnesses say the fire appeared to start from the roof of the building, where work may have been taking place.

Police say the two firefighters were unaccounted for a short time later.