

Paradise Creek Ecology Camp 2008

Participants



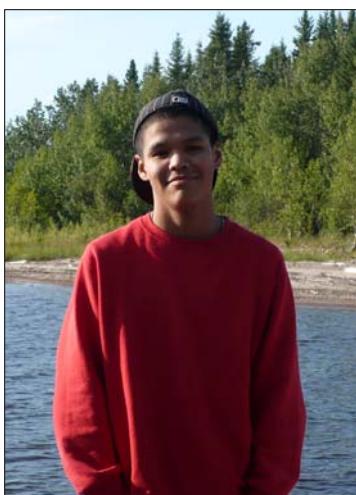
Students



Jerome Constant
Age:13
Hay River



Brendan Hardisty
Age:12
Fort Simpson



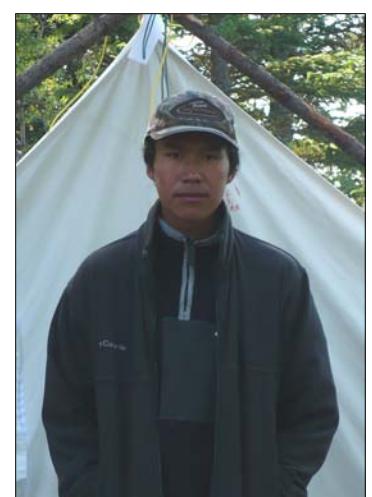
Joseph Antoine
Age:15
Fort Providence



Sheldon Sanderson
Age:15
Fort Providence



Preston Sabourin
Age:17
Fort Providence



Donovan Punch
Age:14
Trout Lake

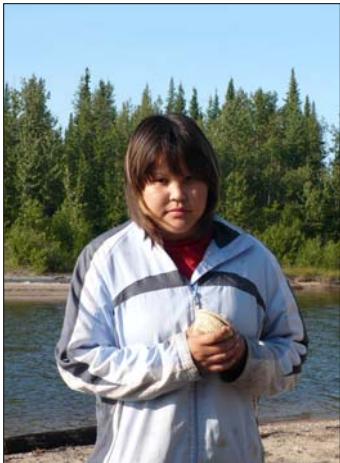
Students



Jody Bonnetrouge
Age:17
Fort Providence



Chantel Cazon
Age:14
Fort Simpson



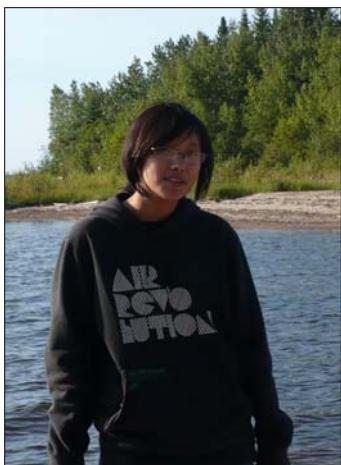
Rosalie Norwegian
Age:12
Fort Simpson



Brianna Kotchea
Age:16
Fort Liard



Shanaya Cook
Age:12
Fort Simpson



Marlena Tsetso
Age:15
Fort Simpson



Blair Kotchea
Age:14
Fort Liard

Staff



Edward Jumbo
Elder
Trout Lake



Thomas Kotchea
Camp Assistant
Trout Lake



Victor Nande
Camp Attendant
Trout Lake



Ruby Jumbo
Camp Facilitator
Trout Lake



Margaret Jumbo
Instructor
Trout Lake



Helen Kotchea
Cook
Trout Lake

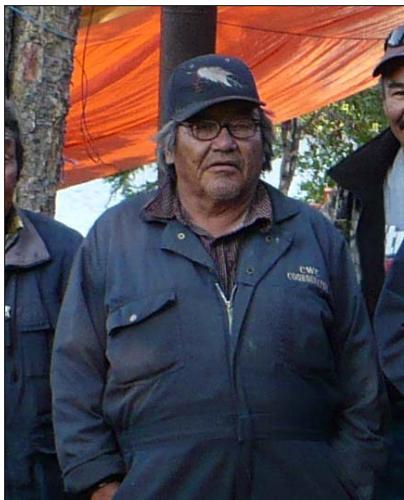


Victor Jumbo
Guide/Instructor
Trout Lake



Dolphus Jumbo
Camp Coordinator
Trout Lake

Staff



David Jumbo
Guide/instructor
Trout Lake



Emily Jumbo
Elder
Trout Lake



Eric Kotchea
Photographer
Trout Lake



Norma Jumbo
Cook
Trout Lake

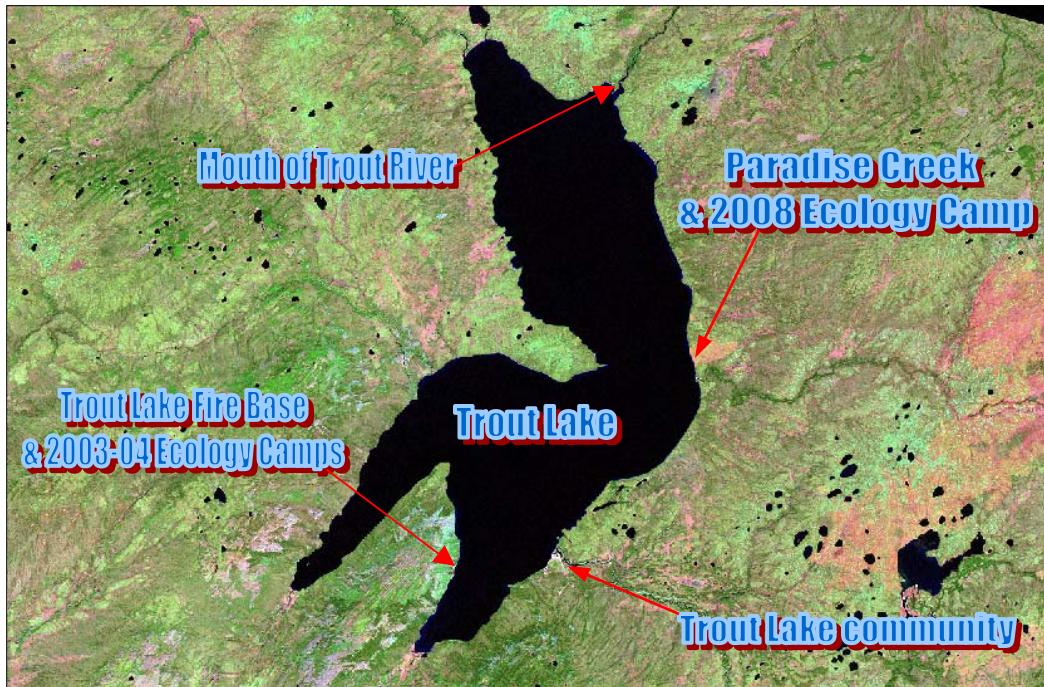


Andrew Lomen
Guide
Trout Lake



Sara Ann Jumbo
Elder
Trout Lake

Paradise Creek and Trout Lake



After the students unloaded the airplanes, they were brought down to the dock to be shuttled by boat to Paradise Creek, after arriving at the camp the students were given an orientation of the camp. They spent the evening setting up their tents.



Students waiting to leave to Paradise Creek

Students getting ready to leave Simpson for Trout Lake



Water, Boat and Canoe Safety

Before the students left to the camp, water and boat safety rules were reviewed. Stories were told of tourists that had recent close calls out on the lake, due to improper planning and fishing in rough conditions. Before venturing out on the lake the students had to feed the water with an offering. The students had canoes available to them in the evenings, some considered canoeing as one of their highlights of the camp.

Each student was fitted with a lifejacket according to their weight and size. All students had to wear life jackets while on the water during trips and they had to have adult supervision while swimming and canoeing.



Students going for a boat ride to Paradise Creek

Victor Jumbo explaining to the students the importance of wearing a lifejacket



Students wearing life jackets waiting to go out on the lake.

Setting Rabbit Snares

On day 2 of camp, the elders showed the students how to set rabbit snares traditionally and how to set snares with some new techniques. Every morning during the camp the students went out and checked their snares. Harvesting rabbits during the year was an important element of the traditional lifestyle, especially in the winter when the ice on the lake was too thick to set fish nets.

The students eagerly learned and participated in all of the activities.



Emile Jumbo showing the students how to skin a rabbit for supper.



Above: a spring pole snare set (see red), when a rabbit is caught it hangs above the ground, out of range of predators



Left: Margaret Jumbo demonstrating how to set a traditional ground snare.

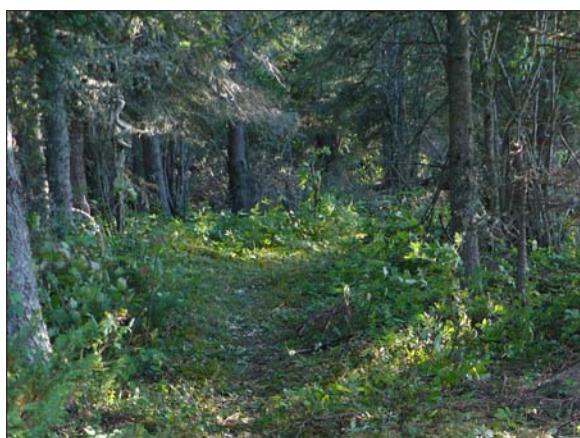
Plant Identification & Preservation

During all nature walks elders taught the students traditional names of medicinal plants. Students learned what parts of a tree were utilized for certain tools and what type of plants and berries were edible, medicinal, and nutritional. At the start of the camp, students picked spruce boughs to lay on their tent floors, the elders taught them how to weave the branches together. Track identification was also taught opportunistically to the students. The students found it quite interesting and eagerly participated in all of the practical exercises.



A set of bear tracks on the beach

Margaret and Sara Ann Jumbo getting ready to go out to check the rabbit snares with the students.



One of the trails used for plant identification

Traditional Fishing methods

On day 3 of the camp, the students learned how to set a fish net out on the lake. They later learned how to process, dry and prepare fish for cooking. During boating trips some of the students spent time fishing, all evidence of the fish for this report were eaten. During the week some survival tricks and traditional knowledge were also taught to the students by the guides and elders, including how to setup a proper campsite. Stories were told by the elders in the evenings about how life used to be when they were young, the students eagerly listened.

Ruby Jumbo and Victor Nande look on as Blair tries to reel in her fishing hook.



Fishing supplies needed for setting a fish net



David Jumbo instructs Preston on how to reel in the fish he caught.



Birch Bark and Spruce Root basket making

On day 4 and 5 of the camp, the students helped the instructors get birch bark and spruce roots from the land. The instructors taught them how to clean, split and soak the roots for baskets. Some of the students made their own baskets to take home. The students found it quite interesting and eagerly participated in all of the practical exercises.



Rosalie Norwegian proudly showing her completed spruce root basket

Joseph Antoine showing his birch bark canoe and basket and his spruce root basket (1/2 completed)



Andrew Lomen cleaning off a spruce root for baskets



Emily and Norma Jumbo showing the students how to split the roots and weave into baskets

Returning to Trout Lake

On day 6, it was decided that all participants at the camp would travel back to the village, while the weather allowed it, it was windy last night. The generally cloudy weather didn't deter students from actively participating in all of the activities. The elders, supervisors and facilitators played an integral role in the ecology camp's success as did the group of students from throughout the Dehcho. All students wholeheartedly participated in and became involved with all of the different experiences provided to them during the camp. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the 2008 camp and made friendships that will last a lifetime.

Under the guidance of local guides, all participants at the camp were transported back to the Trout Lake community by boat. All of the students flew out by airplane to Fort Simpson the following day.



The students were boated down Trout Lake towards the community to ensure they were ready to leave the following day by airplane.



Students getting ready to leave the camp.

Returning to Fort Simpson

During the last day of camp, the students were taken on a tour of the west side of the lake, they went and visited some traditional trapping cabins. After the boating trip there was a small feast made to celebrate the closing of another successful camp. The students were brought out to the airport and waited for their airplane back to Fort Simpson. After arriving in Fort Simpson, students from out of town had rides waiting for them and ENR staff brought local students home.



Ecology camp enjoying a small feast before leaving to Simpson



Youth waiting for the airplane.



Youth unloading their gear from the Islander



Youth waiting for their rides back home.



During the last regional wildlife workshop held in October 2006 there was consensus that the youth ecology camp should continue to be held at different locations throughout the Dehcho Region. The 2003 and 2004 camps had been held at the Trout Lake Fire Base. By holding the camp in different locations this would allow different communities the opportunity of hosting and conducting the youth ecology camp as well as providing the chance for participants to experience different areas of the Dehcho. A joint DFN/ENR committee reviews the proposals and awards the camp. The 2005 camp was held near Jean Marie River and hosted by Land is Life Ltd. The 2006 camp was held near Hay River Reserve and was hosted by the Katlodeeche First Nation. The 2007 camp was held at Cli Lake west of Fort Simpson and was hosted by North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge Ltd. This year's camp was held at Paradise Creek north of Trout Lake community and was hosted by the Sambaa K'e Development Corporation.

Previous camps taught a variety of traditional and scientific skills. This year's camp focused on more of the traditional survival skills. Students learned a lot of new tools which should help them in future endeavours. Once again we appreciate all the work the instructors and elders did this year to ensure a most memorable experience by all those who attended.