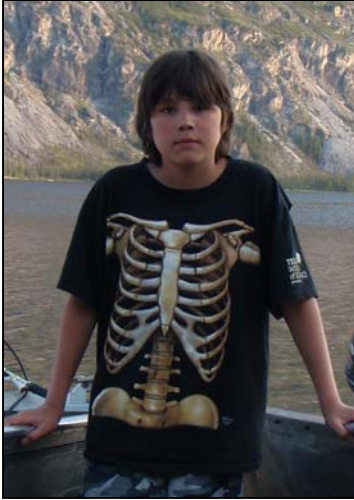


Cli Lake Ecology Camp 2009

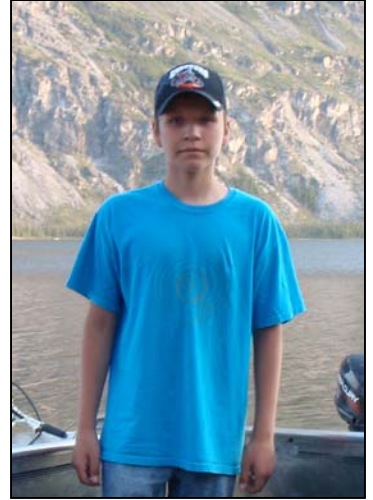


Students



Ernest Tsetso
Age:15
Fort Simpson

Tristen Thurber-Tsetso
Age:14
Fort Simpson



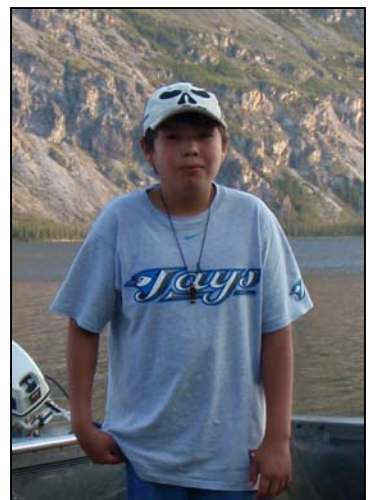
Jordan Villeneuve
Age:16
Fort Simpson

Logan Wright
Age:12
Fort Simpson



Cody Hardisty
Age:12
Jean Marie River

Michael Gast
Age:12
Fort Simpson



Students



Rebecca Tsetso
Age:14
Fort Simpson



Lonnie Wright
Age:14
Fort Simpson



Ashley Burwash
Age:12
Fort Simpson



Elaine Landry
Age:13
Fort Providence



Leah Burwash
Age:12
Fort Simpson



Winona Cli-Letcher
Age:12
Fort Simpson



Cydney Nahanni-Kwasney
Age:13
Fort Simpson

Staff



Loyal Letcher
Facilitator
NNNL



Ria Letcher
Host
NNNL



Susan Betsaka
Custodian
NNNL



Ginette Martineau
Cook
NNNL



Bruce Townsend
Instructor
AAROM



Virginia Tsetso
Elder
NNNL

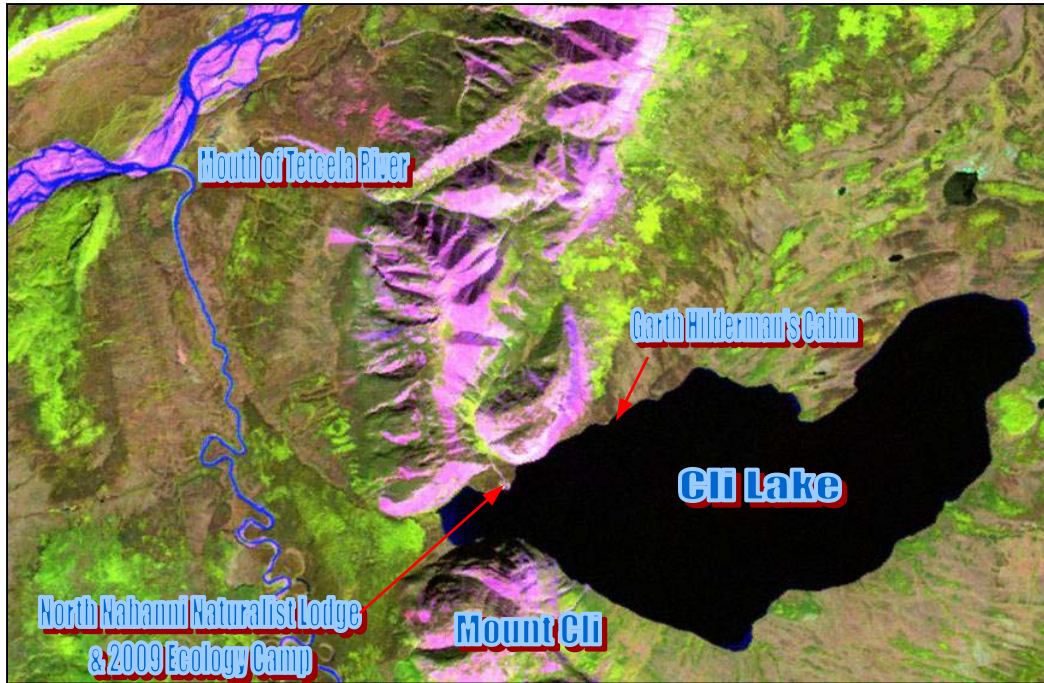


Johnny Denethon
Guide
NNNL

Neal Phillips
Camp Maintenance
NNNL



Cli Lake Area and the Lodge



After the students unloaded the twin otter and met everyone, they were given an orientation of the camp, provided with the camp rules, and assigned their accommodations. The rest of the day the students familiarized themselves with each other and the facilities.



North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge
at Cli Lake



Staff quarters

Water, Boat, Canoe Safety

Loyal and Bruce taught the students water, boat and canoe safety and rescue. Bruce reviewed the small vessel operators handbook and all students obtained the Pleasure Craft Operator Card. Bruce also provided instruction on snorkeling. Water safety and rescue was taught to the students by Loyal. They were taught how to properly get into and out of a canoe and how to do proper canoe strokes (forward, draw, pry and sweep) by Loyal. All activities were taught in the classroom and then practiced on dry land during the morning. A canoe trip in the afternoon provided the opportunity for practical experience.



Bruce reviewing a boating safety manual with the students



Loyal reviewing paddling strokes with the students



Students learning how to snorkel.



Students went for a boat/canoe ride down Cli creek after the canoe rescue exercise was completed.

Water, Boat, Canoe Safety

All students had to wear life jackets while on the water during trips and they had to be supervised while doing recreational activities in the lake. Each student was fitted with a lifejacket according to their weight and size.

Students practised canoe-over-canoe rescues out on the lake. Students intentionally flipped their canoe to be rescued by another group of students with a canoe. All students took part in the exercise, which provided them with invaluable experience.



2 students intentionally flipped their canoe



Another canoe with 2 students helped get the flipped canoe out of the water



Students getting ready to flip a canoe



3 students stabilized the empty canoe as another tries to get in.

Nahanni Park Expansion

Loyal Letcher, a facilitator for the North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge (NNNL) taught the students about the greater Nahanni ecosystem and the recent Nahanni National Park Expansion. The unique geographic features of the area, traditional lifestyles and the establishment of the lodge were taught to the students providing them with a better understanding of the area and its geography.

Loyal Letcher explaining the geography of the region to the students



The students listening to their first lesson

Hiking up the Landslide and Creek Bed

Hiking and mountaineering safety were taught to the students by Loyal. Loyal also went over bear safety with the students. The students did two hikes while at the camp, one hike was up the landslide to a small pond and the other was up the creek and valley behind the lodge.



Students walking up the landslide



Students taking a break at a small pond created by the landslide



The students walked with Bruce and Johnny up the creek bed behind the camp.



The group exploring the creek bed while others were resting.

Water Ecology

During the course of the camp, Bruce taught 8 modules on water ecology to the students. Freshwater zooplankton, the water cycle, dissecting fish, contaminants and food web dynamics were some of topics taught to the students. Students went out on field trips and used scientific equipment to do experiments. The zooplankton were viewed under a microscope by the students.



Bruce taught how the net captures zooplankton



A student using the net to catch zooplankton



Students looking at zooplankton under a microscope



Students using a Seine Net in the lake

Water Ecology



Students checking the temperature of water captured at different levels in the lake



A student using a water sampler to collect water at different levels in the lake



A student using a Secchi Disc to measure water clarity



Students taking a quiz on water ecology



Students learning about the aquatic food web using component cards.



Students using the snorkeling equipment looking for aquatic life

Traditional Knowledge

Traditional knowledge was taught by Elder Virginia Tsetso. She demonstrated how to skin a beaver, how to stretch a beaver hide and how to make dry fish. Johnny Denethon showed the students how to set a fish net, which was checked daily. The students learned how to make bannock on a stick, which they cooked themselves. The students found it quite interesting and participated every step of the way.



Virginia showing how to skin a beaver



A stretched beaver hide



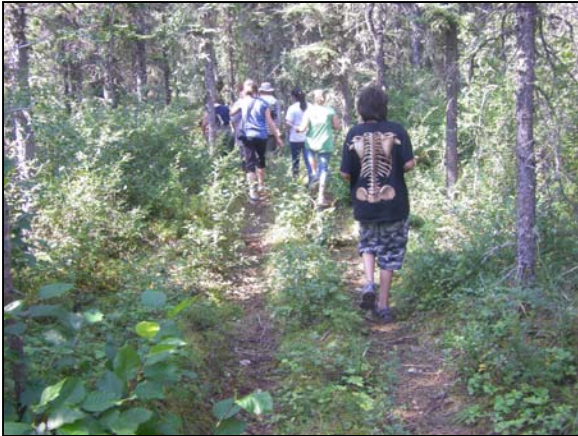
Virginia showing how to make dry fish



Johnny getting ready to take the students to check the fish net

Medicinal Plant Identification

Ria taught the students some interesting facts about common plants of the boreal forest. Elder Virginia Tsetso also taught how to identify medicinal plants of the boreal forest. Students learned what parts of a tree were utilized for certain tools and which plants and berries were edible, medicinal, and nutritional. Plants were collected during a hike towards the cultural camp and the berries collected were soon eaten by the students. The students found it quite interesting and eagerly participated in collecting berries.



Students hiking to the cultural camp



Ria demonstrates to the students the importance of spruce gum



Ria and Bruce showing the students what kind of edible berries there are in the boreal forest



Student holding a high bush cranberry for the camera

Navigation & Orienteering

Loyal taught the students basic orientation, map and compass reading. Students had to find a location on a map using coordinates and define a location with coordinates.



Students learning how to read coordinates on a map

Students learning how to record coordinates from a map.



Wilderness Safety and Survival

Loyal taught the students basic wilderness survival techniques, including survival essentials (warmth, water, sleep, food), STOP (stop, think, observe and plan), the importance of a fire and what you need to make a fire. The students learned how to make a proper signal fire in case of an emergency.

As an exercise the students were split into 3 groups and built their own signal fires. The fires were lit after dark to demonstrate to students how fast a signal fire needs to light in order for a boat, vehicle or plane to see it.



Loyal explaining how a signal fire is built



Students building their signal fires



Each group made a signal fire



Students standing by the lit signal fires

Recreational Activities

During the evenings students spent time swimming, tubing, snorkeling, using the hot tub and sauna. They were supervised during swimming and other water activities. Indoor evening activities included story telling, card games, and board games. The students thoroughly enjoyed their free time, they took advantage of the nice weather and swam in the lake each day.



Students getting towed on a tube by a boat



Students enjoying the hot tub



Boys posing for a photo after taking a swim



A student getting ready to go snorkeling



During the last regional wildlife workshop held in October 2008, 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. 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. The 2008 camp was held at Paradise creek near Trout Lake and was hosted by the Sambaa K'e Development Corporation. This year's camp was held at Cli Lake. We would like to thank AAROM for providing additional funding and expertise for the camp this year, without their help we would have been unable to hold a camp this year.

Previous camps taught a variety of traditional and scientific skills. This year's camp had a great mixture of both. 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 for all those who attended.

Returning to Fort Simpson

Due to inclement weather the students were unable to visit Virginia Falls, which had been planned for the last day. This year the weather was great until the last day, which didn't deter students from actively participating in all of the activities. The elders, supervisors and facilitators played an key 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 2009 camp and made friendships that will last a lifetime.

The students were flown back to Fort Simpson in a twin otter. At the last camp held at Cli Lake in 2007 most of the students went out by jet boat, but we had decided not to go back by boat this year but by plane via Virginia Falls for the day.



The students took the twin otter back to Fort Simpson.



The staff took the twin otter back to Fort Simpson