

Old Days, New ways

By Celina Wedzin

The best time for fishing is in the summer and fall. That's when I like to go.

One summer Archie, Lucy and I went to check the fishing nets in Frank Channel, about 10 kilometers from Rae.

Archie pulled the net out of the water, and boy, there were a lot of fish! the whitefish is to keep, the jackfish is for the dogs. We put them in the big fish tub we'd brought with us.

On the way back we stopped at an old man's place for tea. He is about 98 years old and lives all alone in a little house on Frank Channel. He still lives in the traditional way. He doesn't buy any groceries from town and he hunts for all his own food. If he needs anything he makes it himself.

He invited us to eat with him. Lucy and I cooked the fish while he told stories. He said, "In the old days fishing was hard. First we had to build a boat from birchbark and make our own nets of woven willow. We slept in a teepee of caribou hides. When I was 13 years old I did everything myself. I hunted, trapped, fished, cut wood and got water. We didn't even know the meaning of the word lazy! You young people are lucky you do not even have to endure the same hardships that we did."

İdı Eyits'q Dı Dze

İmbek'e eyits'q xat'q nindè hwe k'ets'ede ha nezı at'ı, ekò nindè liwe k'alahwho segha nezı.

İlata ımbek'e Archie, Lucy eyits'q sı, tahmi k'ats'ehta ha Frank Channel, Bechokq gots'q honochı akq ts'ede.

Archie tahmi k'ahq hò asik'qonı hwe ıq, ı wek'ets'edi eyits'q ıhda t'a th ha wek'ets'edi, hhcho k'ets'etle t'a hwe azhq weyi whela ats'ıla.

Gok'q ts'q nats'ede hò, enèko Frank Channel nàwo wegà lidi ts'edq ha wegà nets'ıde. Enèko 98 wègho eyits'q whachò nàde, ıla whaedq k'q nàde, naidik'e ts'q wegho sheèzhe nayehdi le, nàze zq t'a shèti, ası t'ala neywq dè dedı whacho yehts'ı t'a yit'at'ı.

Sexè shıti gohdı, t'a Lucy eyits'q sı ı gigha ts'eht' dedı whaedq gondı t'a gots'q gonde. Dı hadı "İdı mì k'ats'ehtà nindè dezhi ıle, akwełq k'ı t'a elà ts'ehtsı eyits'q k'ò t'a tahmi ts'ehtsı. Ekwowò t'a hòlq mihba t'a ats'et'ı. Honodaots'q tae sègho hò sı whacho ası azhq hahı, nahze, ehdzoh k'ehlè, lewe k'ahwho, tsoh tát'a eyits'q ti ihchi. Döne gots'edi ts'edı sı haani wegho ts'ikw'ole. Nahxı nexı ts'q hıdı di haani hòtl'o eghàlats'ıda sı nahxı haanile."

— Dogrib

