



Sheena Adamson

Senior High Science, Outdoor Education and
Physical Education Teacher
Samuel Hearne Secondary School
Bag Service #3, Inuvik, NT, XOE OTO

Tel: (867) 777-7170

Fax: (867) 777-4390

E-mail: Sheena_Adamson@bdec.learnnet.nt.ca

Daryl English
Conservation Education Officer
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Inuvik, NT, XOE OTO
Tel: (867) 777-7119
Fax: (867) 777-7236
E-mail: Daryl_English@gov.nt.ca

Re: 2008 SHSS Trapper Training Program

Dear Mr. English

Thank you so much for all your work helping us to deliver another extremely successful trapper awareness program for students at SHSS. We could not have completed this initiative without your enthusiasm, energy and commitment.

I look forward to working with you again on future projects. Please pass on my appreciation as well to Ernie Francis and Owen Allen for their help in delivering the program. I have attached cds with pictures and a MS PowerPoint presentation for each of you.

Cheers

Sheena

**SHSS Take a Kid Trapping Program
Final Report
Departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI)
And Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)**



**Samuel Hearne Secondary School (SHSS)
Wildlife Studies - Trapping Awareness Program
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 to Friday, February 22, 2008.**

Completed by:

Sheena Adamson, SHSS Teacher,
Bag Service #3, Inuvik, NT, XOE OTO

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#1 Overview of Project:

Project Plan:

We took five students out on the land for four days on a trip to Jackfish Creek in February. This is the fourth year that students will have the chance to participate in this excursion. It is part of the curriculum requirements for CTS Wildlife Studies- an optional course offered to students at SHSS. It also allows us to meet one of our major goals in the Beaufort Delta Education Council, which is to “instill greater pride in heritage.”

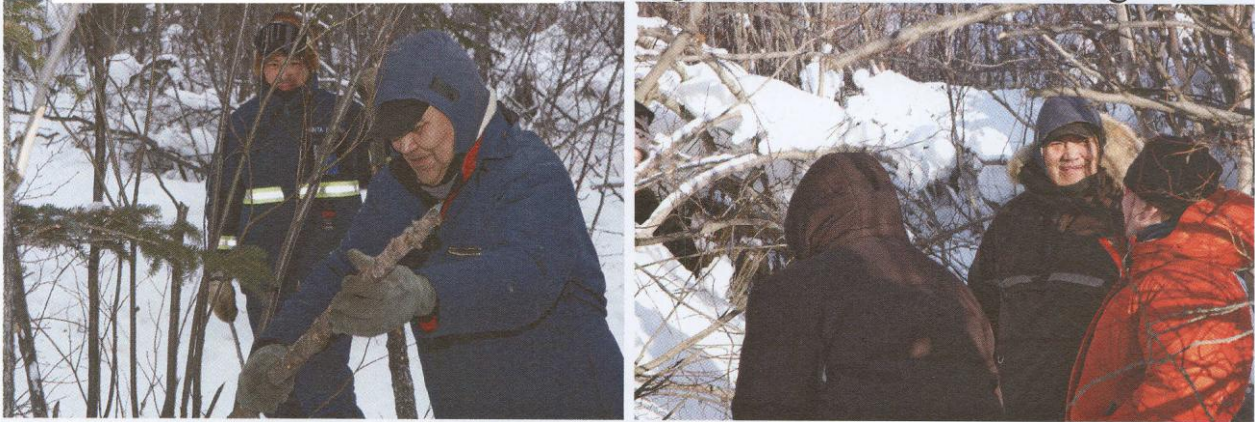
By the end of the trip students learned about fur trapping and modern conservation practices. They will also had the chance to set and check traps and learn about NWT Trapping Regulations and the practice of Humane Trapping. They also cleaned and skinned animals. We snared and trapped one rabbit and four muskrats. Also Fred Jerome brought four martins previously trapped with him and the students learned how to skin and stretch the fur.

Students also learnt about outdoor survival skills, hunting, cutting firewood, building fires, and leave no trace practices.



Community Benefits:

The involvement of the elders, the cook, and the ENR personnel in the program working in conjunction with the school builds relationships between teachers, students and wildlife organizations in the community to deliver high quality and hand-on experiences for students. This was an amazing opportunity for development of community capacity, as students found that they have interest in pursuing careers in wildlife management.



Benefits to Participants:

Our students were immersed in their language and culture on this trip and had the chance to meet curriculum requirements for the CTS Wildlife Studies Program. By taking students trapping they not only practiced the skills and applied the knowledge they learnt in class about wildlife and conservation, but also had the chance to build their awareness of traditional cultural practices on the land.

According to the NWT Curriculum, “The wisdom of the Elders is central to cultural learning according to Aboriginal perspective. Elders are the “Keepers of Knowledge,” and it is their guidance that Aboriginal people seek as they strive for balance in their relationships with the Creator, the natural world, other people and themselves.”

This aspect of a culture-based education enhanced a sense of belonging and pride in cultural activities by providing meaningful learning experiences that connects our learners to the community, the past, and the present. It strengthened their self-esteem, enhanced learning, and will definitely provide for greater success in life.



How Will We Measure Our Success?:

Students were required to journal their experiences and learning out on the land. We measured our success by the experiences of students on the land and their reflections on these experiences.

- Please see additional images of the program on accompanying CD – MS PowerPoint and Pictures.

#2 Participants, Trapper Trainers and Staff

- SHSS Students
 - Blair Conley
 - Alyssa Dick
 - Danielle Allen
 - Wade Maring
 - Robert Cardinal
- SHSS Chaperones
 - Sheena Adamson
 - Maia Lepage
 - Gayle Strikes With a Gun
- ENR Coordinators:
 - Daryl English
 - Owen Allen
 - Ernie Francis
- Trapper and Camp Staff
 - Fred Jerome
 - Ellen Firth

#3 Report on Revenues and Expenses

Budget: (4 day trapper training program)

Items: Costs:		Budget Amount	Actual*
One Instructors	\$1500 x one instructor	\$1500	\$1500.00
One Cook Food:	\$1250	\$1250	\$1250.00
Other Materials	18 people x 100 each = \$1800	\$1800	\$1401.97
Oil and Gas	tarps, ropes, miscellaneous	\$ 450	\$ 226.73
	\$50/day x 14 machines x 4 days	\$2750	\$1511.50
Total Budget		\$7750.00	\$5890.20

*Please see attached receipts.

#4 Were the Course Objectives Met?

Chaperones and presenters agreed the course objectives were met. The students were introduced to the history of trapping in the Delta region and important survival skills. Students were also shown the current techniques of trapping. This included setting traps, skinning, drying and preparing pelts for sale. The students were given an opportunity to experience life as a trapper.

Students were also given lessons in traditional responsibilities. They had to cut wood, haul water, help cook and clean the camp. This should serve them well in their lives. Cultural awareness and traditional knowledge objectives were met. Safety was introduced to the students through the survival training. It was modeled and reiterated when students went out to check traps or set new ones.

We look forward to continuing this program next year.

