

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."

Ìdì Eyits'ò Dì Dze

Ìmbek'e eyits'ò xat'ò nindè hwe k'ets'ede ha nezi àt'ì, ekò nindè hwe k'alahwho segha nezi.

Ìhata ìmbek'e Archie, Lucy eyits'ò sì, tahmì k'ats'ehta ha Frank Channel, Bechokò gots'ò honòchì akò ts'ède.

Archie tahmì k'àhtò hò asìk'òòmì hwe ìò, ìì wek'ets'edi eyits'ò ìhda t'a tì ha wek'ets'edi, hhcho k'ets'etìle t'à hwe azhò weyi whela ats'ìlà.

Gok'ò ts'ò nats'ede hò, enèkoa Frank Channel nàwo wegà hdi ts'edò ha wegà nets'ìde. Enèkoa 98 wègho eyits'ò whachò nàde, ìla whaedò k'è nàde, naidìk'e ts'ò weghò sheèzhe nayehdi le, nàze zò t'à shètì, asì t'ala neyìwò dè dedì whachò yehts'ì t'à yit'à at'ì.

Sexè shìtì gohdi, t'à Lucy eyits'ò sì h gìgha ts'eht'è dedì whaedò gondì t'à gots'ò gonde. Dì hadì "Ìdì mì k'ats'ehta nindè dezhi ìle, akweìò k'ì t'à elà ts'ehtsì eyits'ò k'ò t'à tahmì ts'ehtsì. Ekwòwò t'à hòlì mihba t'à ats'et'ì. Honodaots'ò tae sègho hò sì whachò asì azhò hahò, nahze, ehdzoh k'ehè, lewe k'ahwho, tsoh tāt'a eyits'ò tì ihchì. Dòne gots'edi ts'edi sì haamì weghò ts'ìkw'ole. Nahxì nexì ts'ò hòdì dì haamì hòt'ò eghàlats'ìda sì nahxì haanile."

— Dogrib

