



Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

Update From the Executive Director

GRRB Staff

When writing this, the GRRB has the following positions up and running:

- **Executive Director** (Jari Heikkila),
- **Office Manager** (Barb Chalmers)
- **Communications Manager** (Kathy Bibby, started on Aug. 11th, 2004)
- **Fisheries Biologist** (Les Harris)
- **Environmental Biologist** (Jennifer Walker-Larsen, returned from maternity leave on Nov. 8th, 2004)
- **Renewable Resource Technician Trainee** (Dave Gardlund, started on Nov. 15th, 2004)

Those who are familiar with the GRRB and the staff may notice that Jennifer's title has changed. Her title used to be Fisheries/Forest Biologist, but as a response to changing needs, her new title is Environmental Biologist. Jennifer is the main contact at the GRRB on issues related to renewable resource developments in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.



HARVEST STUDY FINISHED

At the last meeting, from October 4- 5, 2004 in Tsiigehtchic, the GRRB Board of Directors decided that at the end of October, the Gwich'in Harvest Study data collection will not to continue. The harvest study first started in August 1995 and will conclude after existing data have been verified and analyzed.

The Board had a year-end draw again this year for harvest study participants from all communities. The big prize, a Husqvarna 55 chainsaw, went to Phillip Blake from Tsiigehtchic. Congratulations, Phillip!

The steps to finalizing the harvest study will be: 1) verifying the 1995-2000 interview and harvest records, and writing a technical report on the study methodology (this will be done by Ian McDonald, who was involved in the study during its first five years; 2) verifying the 2001-2004 interview and harvest records; and 3) analyzing the data as a whole and writing a comprehensive report.

The GRRB thanks all harvest study participants, interviewers, coordinators and assistants for their involvement in the study. We will keep you updated on the progress of finalizing the Gwich'in Harvest Study.



From the Environmental Biologist

Hello Everyone. I am glad to be back at the office after my maternity leave. I have taken on some new duties and my position title has changed to Environmental Biologist. I am now responsible for coordinating the GRRB review of various land use and water use permit applications within the GSA. I am currently reviewing the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline project and other oil and gas development projects.

I am still responsible for GRRB forestry projects. I am continuing work on the Forest Management Plan with RWED and GTC and I am also working on a Forest Education project funded by the First Nations Forestry Program.

If you have any questions or want some more information please feel free to give me a call at the office in the mornings or email me at enviro.biologist@grrb.nt.ca.

Jennifer Larsen

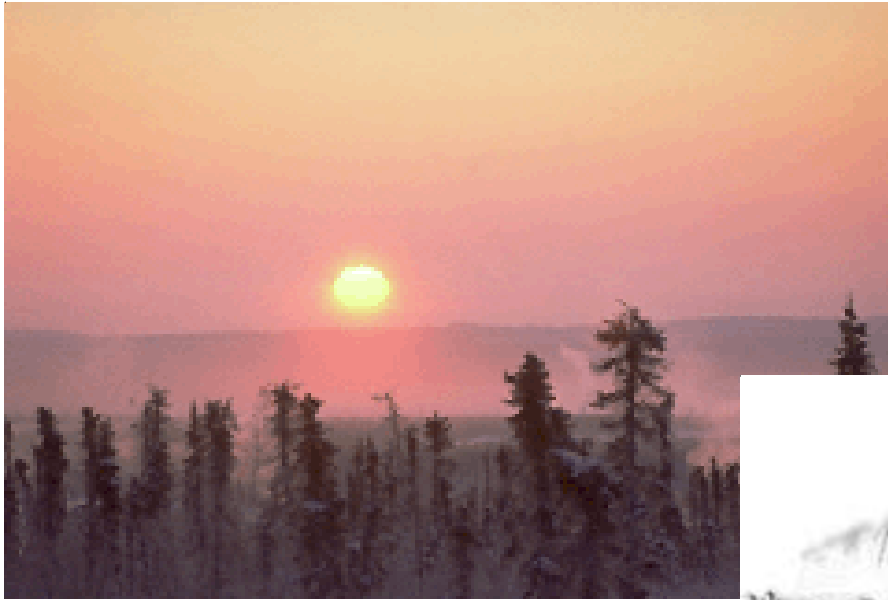


NEW GRRB WEB-SITE

The GRRB web-site has now been revamped and updated. You will notice new write-ups and lots of new pictures. Visit us at:

www.grrb.nt.ca





From the Fisheries Biologist

The 2004 field season has come and gone and as always, it was a very busy year. The majority of my research efforts were focussed on the Travaillant Lake Fish Movement Study and the Travaillant Lake Population Analysis. Nearly two months was spent at Travaillant Lake in which we have implanted 50 fish with radio transmitters, and captured a variety of over 800 fish for the population analysis. Radio-tagged broad whitefish were tracked throughout the summer a great deal of valuable information was collected on their seasonal movements, and identifying areas within the lake system that are important to that species.

The 2004 Arctic Red River Index Netting Study has also come to a close. This year Frederick Blake Sr. was hired as the fisheries monitor. He started fishing at the beginning of August, and continued fishing until November. He captured over 300 fish, and collected a lot of valuable information that can be used to analyze population characteristics of Arctic Red River fish stocks.

Over the winter, all data collected in 2004 will be analyzed, and reports will be submitted to the Gwich'in communities in the spring of 2005.

Les Harris





From the Communications Manager

2005 Callenders & Meeting with RRCs:

New GRRB 2005 Callenders will be available in the new year which I will deliver to each Community. During my visit, I would also like to set-up meetings with the RRCs in order to review projects for 2005. For example, I would like to increase renewable resource education in the schools and do more projects that center on teenagers. I will have a list of current and proposed projects to show each RRC when I visit.

The web-site that I updated will also help with some of your current questions and perhaps enjoy reviewing the "Education Projects" link.

Kathy Bibby



*** From all the staff
at the GRRB ***



Have a great New Year!

