

Northwest Territories Had Whole Slue of Festivals

By LOIS KEATING
Inuvik Correspondent

INUVIK, N.W.T. — Its light around the clock now, with sunset occurring after midnight — although most of this past week it has been cloudy and foggy — and on the 5th of May we had eight inches of snow. From day to day, we alternate between ice and slush, spring jackets and parkas.

It's the time of the spring carnivals in the Delta area — first was the Beluga Jamboree in Tuktoyaktuk; then the Peel River Jamboree in Fort McPherson.

This weekend, the White Fox Jamboree was to be held in Sachs Harbour, but bad weather cancelled charters to Sachs and the Jamboree has been postponed, probably for next weekend.

These festivals come at the end of the long winter — while

snow is still on the ground (as they all feature dog team races) — but they are a forerunner of spring, and help to break the "cabin fever", so common at this time of year in the north.

Inuvik used to have the Muskrat Jamboree, but for the past few years it hasn't been held — and I have heard frequent complaints from long-time residents that they miss it very much.

NEW OFFICERS

On the weekend of April 28 and 29, the Committee for Original People's Entitlement, known as COPE, held their annual directors' meeting at Sachs Harbour (on Banks Island, 360 miles northeast of Inuvik).

The purpose of the meeting was to elect a new executive and to approve a number of activities for the coming year.

The new members of the board are Albert Elias for Sachs



SAM RADDI — Elected President of COPE.

Harbour; Tommy Wright and Peter Thrasher for Aklavik; Frank Cockney and Lena Kikoak for Tuktoyaktuk; Garret Ruben for Paulatuk; Nellie Cournoyea, Victor Allen, Rose

Albert, and Sam Raddi for Inuvik; Philip Blake for Fort McPherson; and Shorty MacDonald for Arctic Red River.

Invited guests who participated were James Arvaluk and Peter Usher from Ottawa; Bertram Pokiak from Tuktoyaktuk; and Wallace Goose from Holman Island, all of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (the Eskimo Brotherhood). A number of other people were present and listened in on the discussions.

Soon to be released is a report on the history and activities of COPE which was written by Peter Usher, and which was approved by the board of directors at this meeting. This report is now being published and will be made available to all members.

A resolution was passed for COPE to act as a regional organization in the Mackenzie Delta region, and to work in cooperation with ITC (Inuit Tapirisat of Canada), IBNWT (Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories) and NWITMA (Northwest Territories Metis Association). Some discussion centered around changes in the constitution, and funding of COPE.

The new officers are Sam Raddi, president; Philip Blake, 1st vice president; Victor Allen, 2nd vice president; Nellie Cournoyea, Secretary; and Tommy Wright, Treasurer.

Agnes Semmler, past president of COPE, spoke to the new executive as she stepped down. She did not run again because she felt that others should be given a chance to participate, but offered them her best wishes and her continued support.

She ended the meeting, stating that she will do all she can for COPE, and that she still loves a good fight.

SACHS HARBOUR

I was fortunate enough to go along with the COPE group to Sachs Harbour last weekend. It was my first visit to one of the settlements and I thoroughly enjoyed it. After leaving Inuvik, we made stops at Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk to pick up COPE members headed for the meeting. At Sachs Harbour, our DC-3 was met by a large number of the residents, and we were taken to their homes in Bombardiers and Skidoos.

I stayed at the home of Noah and Alexandria Elias — and was treated to the best caribou meat I've ever eaten — and also had an exciting midnight skidoo ride. An impromptu dance was also held, after the one fiddle in the settlement had first to be repaired.

Most of our time was taken up with meetings (ten hours of them) — and I hope to return again some day when there is more time for visiting.

TRAPPERS MEET

A meeting of Delta Trappers was held in Aklavik on April 24, with delegates attending from Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson, and Arctic Red River, together with Games Management Officers from the regional and settlement offices. George White, president of the Aklavik Trappers Association, acted as chairman.

A resolution was passed that the Delta be registered as a group area. This is a different sort of situation from that in some parts of the north, where individual traplines are registered.

Also discussed were communication, monitors who are making periodic checks on the area, and land use applications. Another meeting is planned for June.

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