

Students Learn plenty at Envirothon

Trent Allen
Editor

In an advancing day full of video games and the information highway, a group of students from all over northern Manitoba were gaining some valuable, and for many forgotten, information of their own last week.

The students, from schools in Norway House, Cormorant and Thompson, were taking part in the annual regional Envirothon, which focuses on raising awareness of environmental issues. Five teams from the three schools competed.

The theme of this year's Envirothon was protecting groundwater, with more specific themes centering around wildlife, soils, forestry and aquatics. Ten stations were set up for the students, with questions on each topic located there and volunteers from University College of the North, Tolko, Manitoba Conservation and Kelsey Conversation manning them.

"It was fun," said Robbie Bonthron, a Grade 9 student from Thompson's RD Parker Collegiate, adding he found it interesting how he could learn the height of a tree by measuring it's circumference. "It was worth coming to for sure." Bonthron's classmate Kayla Holbrow agreed.

"I liked learning how to identify paw prints," said Holbrow, pointing out she has a distinct interest in animals and is planning on becoming a veterinarian. "The whole thing was very applicable for me."

While it doesn't play into the veterinarian side of her, Holbrow admitted the most interesting thing she learned was how to skin a rabbit, without a knife.

The students filled out a test and completed an oral presentation on the Envirothon, with the tests expected to be graded next week before a winning team would be declared.

Teams were given the option of registering for just the regional Envirothon, or also trying to compete provincially. One team from Norway House took up torch to represent



Taking time to analyze crayfish is the task of these two students.

the north, and will be doing so in Brandon later this month at the provincial Envirothon.

"It went pretty good. We had a great turn out, a really great turn out," said Jacqueline Monteith, Regional Envirothon Coordinator, adding a team from Joe A. Ross was scheduled to participate but was forced to drop out due to a scheduling conflict. "I'm hoping for more next year."

The team from Norway House, comprised of Grade 9 students Amy Cromarty, Laurette McKay, Meridith Boulette and Miranda Saunders, used the regional Envirothon has a warm up for the provincials. This was their first time taking in the event, and admitted having nerves about going to Brandon to compete but were still looking forward to the opportunity.

"We learned a lot," said Boulette. "I learned a lot about furs and skulls and using them to identify animals."

While skills like that have been demonstrated for thousands of years by ancestral people in the region, not all of the studies have been limited to practices handed down



Photos by Trent Allen/Opasquia Times


Students take down information on fish.

from generation to generation. More modern practices, such as using a GPS, was also demonstrated.

"If I ever become lost in the bush, that'd be important to know," said McKay, adding so would knowing which plants are edible, something else she studied during the Envirothon.

PREMIERE VAN SERVICES

Glenn Snowdon
Regional Sales Manager



1373 Spruce Street,
Winnipeg, MB R3E 2V8
www.globemoving.ca

Direct (204) 925-7794
Cell (204) 797-6019
Fax (204) 925-7790
Toll Free 1-888-456-2321 ex 794

GLOBAL MOVING & STORAGE
glenns@globemoving.ca
gsnowdon@premierelines.com