



Northern Water Smart® Summer of 2007

Northern Water Smart® is set to go again over the summer of 2007

(From May—June 2007 Lifelines)

We are into year three of conducting this program. It continues to grow in popularity and success. Two new lifeguard instructors have been selected to conduct this summer's activities and they will travel to 12 remote communities in 9 weeks. They have been busy preparing their itinerary, contacting the communities, arranging weekly accommodations and booking their travel. They spent the early part of June conducting Water Safety educational presentations to rural Farm / Ag Safety Day events, at local elementary schools and to new Canadian immigrants attending English Second language classes.



Vitaliy Suprunov & Dan Dickson —our Northern Water Smart® Instructors

The program is again sponsored by five Provincial Government Departments, led by Aboriginal & Northern Affairs. Also contributing are Health, Conservation, Education and Culture, Heritage & Tourism. Sport Manitoba increased their financial contribution this year, believing in our goal of improving water safety, which may eventually lead to increased water sport activities in the areas we visit. The federal government through Services Canada is also a welcome contributor via its' Summer Jobs Career Program. This year our schedule includes stops in Garden Hill, Seymourville, Black River, Moose Lake, Nelson House, Brochet, South Indian Lake, Wabowden, Little Gods River, Cross Lake, Mallard and Crane River.



We may even squeeze in a few more communities before summer's end.

Each visit includes in-water instruction for children learning our Swim to Survive techniques and evenings are spent teaching BOAT classes and First Aid/CPR training. We anticipate that another 1,000 children, youth and adults will benefit from this venture. From all indications incidents of drowning and water-related injury continues to decrease in the north. We believe the program is working and we are undeniably proud of this fact. **To be continued.....**



Northern WaterSmart® 2007:

(From July—August 2007 Lifelines)



"All of these places are so amazing and the people have been so good to us. We are busy and tired at the end of the day, but this job has just been great!" That's a comment from Vitaliy Suprunov, who along with Dan Dickson has just completed half of this summer's Northern Program while traveling around Manitoba.

The first week of July was spent in Garden Hill. They had 172 children participate in "Swim to Survive" classes, despite cold water temperatures.



The community provided fantastic accommodations for them at the fishing lodge. Week #2, Vitaliy and Dan drove to Seymourville / Hollow Water, where again they got great support from the area recreation leaders. Week #3 began with a 12 hour overnight train ride to The Pas followed by an hour's drive out to Moose Lake. There was a good turnout for every daily session .

Northern WaterSmart® 2007 cont'd:

Now into week #4, our two travelers flew to Thompson, where they were met by members from Nelson House, a 45 km drive west. Vitaliy's most recent call was one of pure amazement. "Carl, you wouldn't believe this place. It's like a four star hotel." One huge forest fire, which is currently burning near South Indian Lake, will alter their plans for the end of July. Fortunately an alternate destination awaits Vitaliy. Dan will head north-west to Brochet, hopefully away from the heavy smoke that has caused others here to evacuate. Stay tuned to see how August unfolds This intrepid duo has four more weeks of people and places to visit, all the while instructing "Swim to Survive", BOAT and First Aid at some of Manitoba's unique, remote and as we have come to know, beautiful surroundings.



To be continued



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Northern Water Smart® Final Update: (From September—October 2007 Life-lines)

Last month we told you of our intrepid travelers who were half ways through summer, about to leave Nelson House. After a weekend in Thompson, Vitaliy traveled to South Indian Lake and Dan flew to Brochet. Despite large forest fires burning in the area, both communities requested our instructor's attendance. So they went and both met with great success. The turnouts for Swim sessions every afternoon and full BOAT and first aid classes kept them working late most every evening. They followed these sites with Dan flying to Wabowden, Vitaliy to Wasagamach. They teamed up again for trips to Cross Lake and Mallard. Some unseasonably cool weather kept late August swim numbers down, but the evening activities were well attended.



Again and again they reported on the great treatment each received in these communities. Both were welcomed and made to feel at home. They completed this year's program knowing they made a positive difference for every participant. They spent a few final days in the office preparing reports, accounting for expenses and writing a final assessment.



In total **525** children registered in our Swim to Survive classes, of which **167** passed the final in-water test.

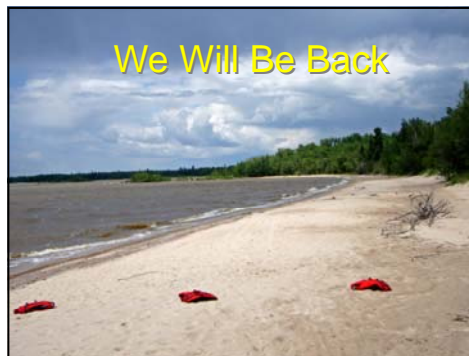


The B.O.A.T. course saw **74 of 86** participants obtain their federal Pleasure Craft Operators license.



113 of 141 candidates acquired First Aid/CPR-A level certification. Our instructors visited **11** communities in just eight weeks. (Two communities had to cancel due to event scheduling conflicts). While the overall results speak for themselves, I'll include one paragraph from a letter I received from Gerald Courchene, Community Administrative Officer of Seymourville. Gerald writes "These two young gentlemen were great to work with and were very popular with the local children that took the swimming lessons. We enjoyed their time here, as they were very polite. We are looking forward to getting these programs for next summer. We found them very successful with teaching safety amongst the community."

This program could not have been delivered without financial assistance and support received from the Province of Manitoba Departments of... **Aboriginal and Northern Affairs; Health; Conservation; Education; & Culture Heritage and Tourism.** Other partners are **Sport Manitoba** and **Services Canada** Summer Jobs Program. To you all, **THANK YOU!**



Beach at Black River

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