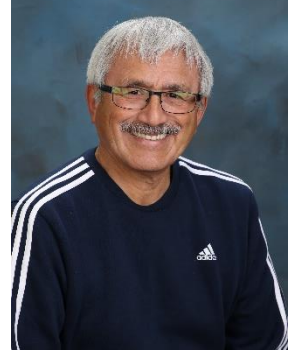


NI'NOXSOLA

Elders in Residence Program
Indigenous Education Comox Valley Schools



Bryce Mercredi
'Visiting Mooshoom- Weasles'



We had a great uncle who we called Mooshoom. He lived on Back Bay across from the Old Town of Yellowknife, in a two room log cabin which he built. He also built a shed where he kept his supplies, such as harnesses for his dogs, nets for fishing and other tools needed to live comfortably. He also had a flat bottomed boat called a skiff which he used to set his net in the summer.

In the summer he had a little garden and he set his net in the lake to catch primarily whitefish, but other fish would also be caught such as suckers, pike and sometimes a lake trout would be caught, which was a treat. The fish was used as dog food as he had 6 sled dogs that needed to be fed.

In order to visit him we would either walk over the rocky hills or walk in the valley through the bush to his home. He was always glad to see us. Quite often he would have or has made fresh bannock which he shared.

I spent a few nights sleeping over. As the house was a log cabin there was a lot of mice running around. You could hear them scurrying in the attic, in the walls and on the floor. Then we heard a mad scrambling and a squeak. Next morning Mooshoom told me that his cat was cleaning up the mice.

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Later in early fall my brother and I were hunting and decided to visit Mooshoom. He had just made a fresh batch of bannock which we dug into when this beautiful white weasel came right up to Mooshoom and stood up. He said "Well, you decided to come back" as he gave the weasel a piece of bannock. Apparently the weasel cleaned up all the mice in the area and left. That was his cat which we never saw earlier in the summer. He then asked us to not shoot his cat. We never saw the animal again.



Weasel in summer coat



Weasel in winter coat