

Wild Craft in Labrador



GRASSWORKS IN GOOSE BAY

On October 14-15, the second FINALY! Wild Craft workshop was held in Goose Bay, Labrador, which focused on **Grassworks**.

Grassworks is a unique crafting technique that creates items, only made of grass, that are waterproof and smell great!

The only items that you use when doing grassworks are scissors, a thimble, a needle, and sea grass. You use grass for your filler and you sew with grass.

It takes time and care to learn this craft and there is a lot of information that must be learned. Josie Lethbridge was a very engaging instructor that quickly earned the respect and attention of the class.

Josie gave a verbal presentation on picking grass, drying and storing grass and how to soak it for sewing. After teaching the class the main sewing stitches, she then provided a sample for all participants to practice on.

After learning and practicing the technique, everyone started his or her own project. Josie was pleasantly surprised at the work ethic of the class and as a result had to take out additional grass to soak for the second day.



The workshop also featured two guest speakers – Janice Pike of the Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE) and Neil Anderson of Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC), each of whom gave a brief overview of the services their organizations could offer to the participants.

Another workshop highlight was the arrival of a local singer to entertain the participants. A great big thank you to Harry Martin! He did a wonderful job singing his own songs and telling us the stories behind each song.

I find that each wild craft workshop is a big adventure that I look forward to exploring. The struggle that the participants feel in learning the skill and the satisfaction that you see in their faces once the job is done is truly a wonderful experience.

HIDE SLIPPERS IN CARTWRIGHT

On November 25-26, the Community Youth Network Office (CYN) in Cartwright, Labrador, was the location of the third FINALY! Wild Craft Workshop.

This Wild Craft workshop was a tremendous success with 10 youth in attendance.

Instructor Thelma Kippenhuck had the pleasure of passing on her knowledge of the traditional craft of making **Hide Slippers** to eager participants. At the end of the workshop each youth took home a beautiful finished product.

I hope that besides preserving the traditional knowledge of this craft, the youth will use the skills learned to create an economic opportunity for themselves. The youth were very eager to learn and worked together, assisting each other when they could.

It is with great anticipation that I look forward to FINALY!'s next Wild Craft Workshop on Dec 8-10/06 on the technique of **Caribou Tufting**. ■



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Barbara



Participants left to right: Back Row: Instructor- Thelma Kippenhuck, Roy Sainsbury, Jonathan Davis, Leonard Toomashie, Trent Penny, Nancy Curl. Front Row: Krista Dyson, Nickki Brown Dyson, Holly Greenleaves, Lisa Morris and Victoria Gatehouse

FINALY! would like to thank its sponsors for making the Wild Craft project a reality:

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