

OASIS OSKAYAK EXPLORING TRADES - CHIANNIE BEAR

Program is to identify and provide opportunities to prepare First Nation and Metis girls, youth and women from Nipawin and surrounding First Nation communities for technology and trades careers.



This program is funded by Ministry of Education—Literacy Office—SaskSmart Innovation Fund, Sask. Status of Women Office and sponsored by SaskPower.

We were fortunate in being able to have Pat Fayant (1st aboriginal woman in Canada to complete the carpentry program) with us for the month of June with program coordination by Chianne Bear.



Activities during the month included:

“Oasis Try a Tool” project to students (209) from K-3 in the Cree Nation communities of Shoal Lake (61), Cumberland House (64), James Smith (69) and the Oasis central park students (15). The **“Try a Tool” project includes 23 hands on activities for students** such as dry-



walling, drilling, sawing, hammering, plumbing, measuring, Cree words matching tools, filling, use of basic hand tools, literacy and safety equipment with assistance from the



women in the Oasis Building Women program. An average of over 80% of the students want to be carpenters when they finish school. Quote from Pat: **“One grade one student pointed at me and he said “When I grow up I want to be one of you’s” I’ll forever treasure that comment and how he looked and pointed at me.”**

With the use of Handiwork’s shop, Garry Schenstead and Pat Fayant the girls in the Oasis carpentry program built 4 bookshelves for the literacy program at the Oasis centre.

Two 8x12 sheds were built, one by the girls in the Oasis carpentry program to store the **“Try a Tool” kits, Air cadet uniforms, gowns for performances, and youth programming supplies and equipment.** The other shed



was built by the women in the Oasis Building Women program with assistance from the women in the Residential Renovation and Construction program at Red Earth and the level 1 carpentry program at the Cumberland College which will be the shed for the new Habitat for Humanity home.

The women also built panels for a play are for toddlers at the Oasis and also 3 picnic tables were built and routed for the Oasis centre by volunteers.

Exploring the possibility of running a Girls Exploring Trades Camp where they will be making a scooter.

