



North America Edition



around noon, and did a bit of sight seeing and lunch recon on our way to the Mangilaluk School and Kelly Johnson's 7th grade class for a presentation by the students on Tuk lifestyle.

We learned about the daily life of these extraordinary people and their daily lives, the stuff you just don't read about in books. Simple things – like water having to be delivered by truck and paid for like a heating-oil delivery – is common for these people (you can't drill a well in perma-frost). Vegetables what, are you joking? We did see some in the local grocery store (where a 1.5 kilo box of cold cereal is \$13.82), but were only driving as far north as possible on public roads, and just were not adventurous enough to try any...

After the children finished their presentation, we made our presentation to the students. Peter brought 'Flat Stanley' along from students in Michigan; Kim brought an assortment of maps and goodies from Ontario Parks and Neal brought some Cycle-Systems t-shirts for the kids.

As a special treat, we all suited up and the kids climbed in, on, under and around the trucks like ants on a sugar cube. They had fun with Mike's back-up assist camera and the CB radios, talking to each other in the trucks (I wish they worked that well for us). I suppose, to be fair, any time out of the class room is great when you're a seventh grader; but perhaps we inspired some of those kids to get outside of their small community and see that great big world out there waiting for them to explore. Learning doesn't have to be boring.

After visiting the children, we did a tour of Tuk, and ended up at the very end of the Trans Canada Trail, which starts in St. Johns,



Newfoundland, 11,233 miles away (by the way, we were there in St. John's during Drive the Globe Newfoundland II in 2005). The trail is about 60 percent complete as of this writing. A small monument has been erected here at the Tuk end, and we used this in our group photos as a photographic reminder for our children and grandchildren of our travels to Tuk in 2007. Our most Northerly point of this trip, and about as far north as you can possibly drive on public roads is: North 69 degrees, 27 minutes, 19.4 seconds by West 133 degrees, 2 minutes, 15 seconds.

The ride back down to Inuvik was blissfully uneventful; the skies were clear and traffic was virtually non-existent on the ice as we moved south from Tuk and we could really appreciate the beauty and solitude of the ice roads this way.

Rolling back into our lodge, Kim, Neal and I had a few hours dog sledding. We headed to the office for a bit of training and signing of those organ donor cards, and before we knew it, we were mushing like pros.

As the sun set and the eventful day wound down, we relaxed in the cabins and sipped our favorite

*Above left: White-out conditions were common on this trip. Rear worklights helped us see each other in the blowing dust.*

*Above right: This is what -44F looks like 250 miles above the Arctic Circle.*

*Below: Another tiny town overlooking the frozen river along our route.*

drinks, reflecting on the day we had, and what may lie ahead as we regretfully make our way back to the rest of the world. A new found feeling of accomplishment was shared by all after driving to the top of the world.

### **MARCH 17**

Expedition stranded at the Arctic Circle...

We headed out of Inuvik around 1pm with blue skies and a light breeze. The temperatures were a balmy minus 4F, quite a change from the minus 44F experienced on a previous night. We made excellent time as we wound back down the Dempster Highway to Fort MacPherson to be greeted by

