ᐊᓂᐯᑯᐃᐧᐃᓐᓂᒃ ᓄᑎᒋᑕᐃᐧᐃᓐᓂᒃ ᐁ ᓀᑕᒪᔨᑦᑕᐤ (ᐃᓐᓴ ᐊᑦᒋᐤ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

ᐃᓐᓴ ᑎᐯᓄᑎᒋᒧᐧᐃᐣ
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

First Goose Hunt in Eeyou Istchee

Chisasibi Elder Eddie Pashagumiskum describes the celebrations and traditional lifestyle as taught to him by his parents.



www.cngov.ca

The Goose Hunt in Eeyou Istchee

“We lived on the land in harmony with nature. It’s like a religion.”

Eddie recalls the important celebration of a child’s first harvest such as a bird or a fish. For a bird, the beak, or a jawbone in the case of a fish would be kept until a special occasion like a community feast.

There, time would be set aside for any children celebrating their first kill.

“That part of the animal is very special. It represents all that you will harvest in your future hunt.”

The kept item from the first harvest would be set at the center of a bowl of pimihkaan for all in attendance to enjoy.

Eddie recalls his dad’s first spring goose harvested of the season as a special day.

“We admire the beauty of the goose and give thanks for sacrificing his life for us.”



First Goose Hunt

First Goose Harvest of the Season

Chisasibi Elder Elizabeth Chiskamish tells of a child's first goose as an "exciting time" not only for young hunters but for families and communities as well.

A young hunter is first taught gun safety and once they can be trusted with a gun they are mentored by a father or an uncle.

At the blind, once the hunters have harvested an acceptable number of geese and the youngster has observed the hunt first-hand, their time finally comes to aim and shoot for a first harvest.





First Goose Feast

If possible they would immediately return to camp with the first harvest. The goose would be cleaned and a feast held that day.

The goose would be prepared by the mother and cooked whole, including the head and the feet. The head could also be saved and decorated with beads as a souvenir.

“The new hunter becomes an important person in the family for sharing their first kill and now has the skills to go hunting safely and help provide for the family”