

**BORN:**

*December 24th, 1924
(died May 7th, 2002)*

BIRTHPLACE:

*Nihtavan Diniinlee,
Yukon Territory, up the
Arctic Red River*

PARENTS:

*(Jean Tsal) John Andre
and Julienne T'eh
Deech'yaa*

GWICH'IN:

Gwichya Gwich'in

MARRIED:

*Caroline Kendo, July 16,
1949*

CHILDREN:

*James, John (d), Ernie,
Beverly, Linda, Charles
(d), Loretta, Richard,
Robert (d), Edna (d),
baby girl (d), Andy,
Doreen, Mary and
Russell (adopted)*

After his father died in the flu epidemic of 1944, Antoine became responsible for looking after his mother, younger brother and sister.

He worked hard for them, hunting, trapping and fishing until his younger brother was old enough to look after their mother and sister. Antoine then married Caroline Kendo and together they had 14 children.

During these years Antoine provided well for his family in a variety of ways by trapping, rafting logs to Inuvik and by learning the trades of painting, carpenter's helper and furnace repair.

Antoine says most importantly, he learned and practiced the traditional skills of his culture, how to live and survive on the land. He learned these skills from his parents and elders and says that although he may not have graduated from high school, he has graduated from his cultural teachings because he was taught well how to read the land and knows how to survive and live well in the bush.

For the past few years, Antoine's health did not allow him to travel far from town but for the last few summers you could find him and Caroline living at a fish camp near Tsiigehtchic where Antoine liked to make dryfish. Sadly, Antoine passed away on May 7, 2002. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Antoine (Tony) Andre

Antoine remembers how, as a young child, he travelled with his parents on the land up the Arctic Red River, around Snake River, Travaillant Lake, Tree River and the Mackenzie Delta. He remembers that his clothes were made of caribou calf skin. They were very soft and warm.

Most of all, he remembers how well he ate when he was young. His favourite meals were rabbit, caribou, moose, marrow, duck grease, drymeat and sometimes, in

the summer, mountain sheep. Antoine remembers the teachings of his father who worked hard and provided well for his family. His father said to him, "My son, what I do, the way I work, the way I hunt, the way I provide for the family, that is what I'm teaching you to do.

When it's your turn to take my place, you will have to provide and work hard in order for your family to live well. Always hunt well and do your men's work well. That's the kind of son I hope you would be."