



# Bella Greenland

**NIJÙK DÀI' VAGÒONLIH:** 1932

**NIJÌN VAGÒONLIH:** Old Crow danh

**VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT:** Robert ts'at Ellen Bruce

**GWÌCH'IN:** Vantat Gwich'in

**VATR'ÒONJIK:** Freddy Greenland 1960 dài'

**VITR'IINÌN KAT:** Judy, Debbie, Helen Kathy, Melma, Sheila, Shawna, Esmeralda, Heather, Bobby Jo, Sharla

**BORN:** November 18, 1934

**BIRTHPLACE:** Old Crow, YT

**PARENTS:** Robert and Ellen Bruce

**GWÌCH'IN:** Vantat Gwich'in

**MARRIED:** Freddy Greenland in 1960

**CHILDREN:** Judy, Debbie, Helen Kathy, Melma, Sheila, Shawna, Esmeralda, Heather, Bobby Joe, Sharla



Bella Greenland zrit 1932 dài' November 18th danh vagòonlii, yee'ohts'aii Old Crow Shiinjik gwinjik danh gwà'an. Viti zrit Robert vaazhii ts'at vahanh Ellen vaazhii juudin K'i'k'avihchik iinli'. Viti ts'aii zrit Ichyaa nilii ts'at vahanh ts'aii zrit Naatsaii nilii. Bella zrit Robert chan ts'at Ellen googii chit nilii gehkhee ts'at vachaa zrit Billy akòò ts'at vachaa ants'at vijùu kat Abraham, Robert, Marie chan ts'at Shawn kat hàh t'àngiin'uh. Natsal dài' nihk'yùu nagahdadal chan ganadhindaii nuh nàtr'aazrii, khyàh nàtr'iinlii ts'at shih tr'ahgaii gah goo'aih. Khaii dài' vadzaih, dinjik ts'at daagoo hàh tthak nàtr'ilzri'. Sreendit dài' dzan, dats'an gehkhee ts'at geh chan nàtr'ilzri'. Łaii nahaanzhok, aih hàh nagahdadal ts'at zhoh gaghaa chan ganadhindaii.

Tr'oochit nagwidadhak neekak jùutin dài' Old Crow gwà'an diik'iidhat zrinuh. Aii t'ee Aklavik gwats'at chùuzhii ezhik danh didinjii tr'oochit yinah'in' khaii 1957 gwizhit. 1960 chan nihkhàtr'agwàhnjik ezhik dài' zrit lavàsdaa nichii tr'agwàtsaii, ts'at veek'aii Effie Linklater tyùh ch'ùh dhandaii gooveenjit vakadhich'uh. "Dachan tat ts'at naiidàdal," diyehs'i' eenjit agwaaandak sreendit ts'at shin dài', aii t'ee ddhah tat chan khaii dài' akòò naiidàdal.

Juudin iisrits'at eenjit niinji'adhat ts'at vats'at giik'yàanjik t'at vahanh, veek'aii

kat ts'at iisrits'at veek'aii ihlee Lydia ts'at vitsuu Myra Choo eenjit niinji'adhat nuh t'inuh. Ezhik dài' agadhanh łòq hàh gwitr'it t'agogwah'in' guuzhik gògwijaht'oo chan giinli'. Dachantat gwandài ts'at k'e'jàhkai' eenjit gwiinzii gàgootr'ooniltin' ganadhindaii.

Geetàk hee Joe Greenland Centre gogàhnuu gwizhit gwitr'it t'agwah'ii ts'at digizhehk'oo chan veenjit iisrits'at goonlii.

Bella Greenland was born in Old Crow, Yukon, up the Porcupine River on November 18th, 1934. Her parents were Robert and Ellen Bruce. From what she can recall, her father's family was from the Wolf Clan (Ichyaa) and her mother's family was from the Crow Clan (Naatsaii). Bella was Robert and Ellen's eldest child and she was raised with her brother Billy and her four other siblings: Abraham, Robert, Marie and Shawn, who were all adopted. Some of her fondest childhood memories were of moving across the land throughout the seasons, hunting, trapping and drying meat. During the winter they would hunt caribou, moose and ptarmigan. In the spring, they would hunt muskrat, ducks, and rabbits. She also affectionately remembers their dog teams, snowshoeing, and packing snow.

The first two decades of Bella's life were spent in Old Crow being raised on the land. She moved to Aklavik in her early

twenties to work and it was in 1957 when she met her husband, Freddy Greenland. For their wedding in 1960, which took place in Old Crow, Bella remembers having a large feast of traditional foods prepared for them and her Auntie Effie Linklater had made them a cake. Together, Bella and her husband had ten children. "We used to go out on the land," she explains how she would take her daughters out on the land during the Spring and Summer months, and up into the mountains during the winter.

Bella was inspired by her mother, her aunts, specifically her Aunt Lydia and her grandmother Myra Kaye (Myra Choo), who in Bella's eyes were hard working and smart Gwich'in women. She remembers the lessons they taught her, from sewing to living well in the bush.

Today, Bella continues to spend her days in Aklavik, her hometown, and sometimes works in the Joe Greenland Centre, where she tends the elders of the community. She is proud of her grandchild and would like the young to continue on with their education, but not to forget where they come from.