

The Jet Crash

As told by Ashlee Laliberte

The jet crash occurred in the winter of 1983. My mom remembers being in Grade nine. When she and her classmates saw a jet and as usual everyone ran to the windows. Then they all returned to their seats but my mom and her cousin, Natalie Durocher, continued to look out. They noticed a jet going up and down, side to side like it was doing tricks. Then all of a sudden the jet went down and didn't come up. As they looked for the jet, they noticed a puff of smoke coming up in the air where the jet was last seen. They called for their teacher, Mr. Yole, to look out and the rest of the students ran to the window to see what was happening. Then they noticed emergency vehicles going out to the ice road. They realized that the jet had crashed and that the pilot had lost his life. Everyone wondered why he didn't eject from the Jet. My papa, Goodsie, said the jet was scattered from Canoe River ice road to the South Bay Area.

**In 1983, March 7th, the village was rocked as a CF-5 fighter jet crashed into Ile a la Crosse Lake about two miles south of town on a routine training mission from Cold Lake. The pilot, 30 year old Captain T. A. McKenzie died in the crash.