



*Junior Ranger Louisa Tookalak receiving her Duke of Edinburgh award from Brigadier General Barabé*

*Photo: Isabelle Dubois, Nunatsiaq News*

**Junior Ranger Louisa Tookalak** of Puvirnituaq received a Duke of Edinburgh award at the 2007 Okpiapik Camp near Kuujjuaq. As part

of the Young Canadians' Challenge, Louisa had helped elders in her community, cleaned the local co-op store, improved her sewing and hunting skills and played sports to increase her physical endurance. Camp Okpiapik, dedicated to developing good citizens, challenges youth to overcome obstacles and develop leadership skills. The campers, who represent, Cree, Inuit, Montagnais, Napaski and European ethnic backgrounds, build self-confidence in an environment of cultural exchange.

In its 10 years of operations, the Junior Ranger Program has bolstered pride in heritage and helped develop traditional and transferable skills. It is a powerful character education tool.