

## **Pre-Conference Field Trip to Cinnabar Research Station - June, 2007**

The weekend prior to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Moose Conference in Prince George, seven researchers and conference attendees travelled to Cinnabar Research Station in the John Prince Research Forest for the Pre-conference field trip. The group was hosted by the Tl'azt'en Nation and guided by JPRF Research Coordinator, Dexter Hodder. On Saturday, the group was introduced to Tl'azt'enne culture and ways of life by members of the Tl'azt'en Nation. After a brief presentation about the work of the John Prince Research Forest between the Tl'azt'en and UNBC, as well as about the Chuntoh Education Society, the audience had the honour of listening to several Elders tell stories of the past.

Prior to the arrival of the guests, members of the Tl'azt'en Nation had taken the time to set up several displays and were demonstrating traditional activities such as scraping moose hide, smoking meat, drum making and bone-tool making. The researchers were invited to take a close look at everything and even try some hide scraping themselves. Tl'azt'en were also showing off their bone-tools and several hand-made drums. The afternoon was filled with traditional games, which were cheerfully presented by Tl'azt'en youth and accompanied by traditional songs and rhythmic drumming. The experience of Tl'azt'en culture ended with a traditional feast with plenty of moose meat, bannock and an Elder's birthday cake. Many of the visitors later stated how very satisfied they were with the experience and that it was an honour to be part of it. It was also pointed out that the activities that were being presented blended well into an interesting mix presenting various aspects of Tl'azt'en culture.