

STORIES OF ROGER MEMORANA



THE BOY WHO PLAYED IN THE STORM



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FAMOUS ROGER MEMORANA

Roger Memorana's Inuinnaqtun name is Buktukuna. He got his name when he was a young boy growing up across King's Bay. The name means 'storm', because he would play out by himself all the time, even in storms.

When Roger was young life was very different. Back then, people used a 45-gallon jug cut in half for a stove, and to shower they jumped in the snow. Roger was 16 when he first started traveling, and 24 when he drove his first snowmobile, an Olympus 340. Before then, he would travel only by dogsled. Sometimes, traveling towards Minto, the machines would tip over on the rocky ground and the drivers would have to pull their machines upright again to keep going.

Roger likes eating ukpik (owl) because it tastes like chicken, hence his name for it: 'Northern Chicken'. Roger tells that his sister Ima was the toughest sibling; Mary was the one that would always get picked on; and Barbara liked to hunt the most. One time she got a nice blue fox with black tips. Back then there were no red foxes yet, Roger said.

'When we got bored my siblings and I would tease each other and throw snow at each other.'

WRITTEN BY:
DEVON NOTAINA
TEEGAN TAPTUNA

THE NATTIQ THAT WOULDN'T GO



ROGER AND THE DFO

Decades ago, somewhere in the Arctic circle, awaits Roger Memorana, in a cabin, listening for the breath of a *nattiq* (seal.) This is a DFO operation.

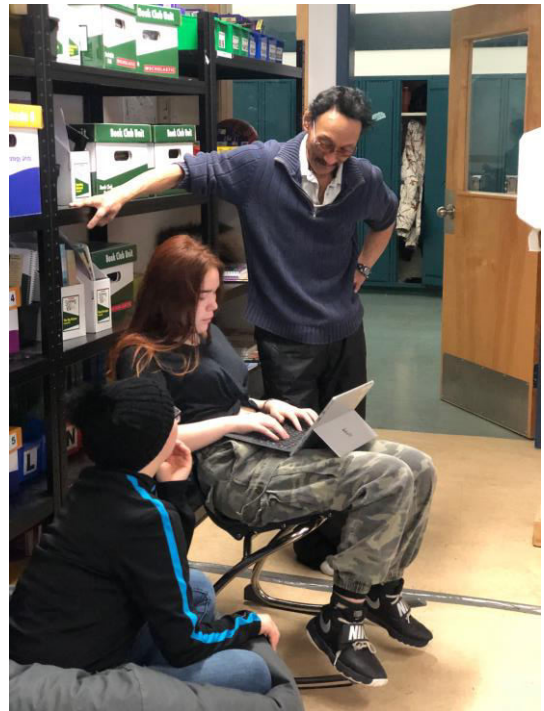
For about 15 years, Roger has been tagging *nattiq* for a scientific organization to monitor migration patterns in ringed seals. When a *nattiq* surfaces for breath, a sophisticated device traps the *nattiq* atop the ice. It is then retrieved, a patch on its skin is dried and the tag is glued on. The rings on the *nattiq*'s nails are counted to see how old the seals are.

This is no regular day. After the *nattiq* is released, it runs back after Roger and the other men. Having become too used to people, or having smelled their food, it no longer wants to head back into the frigid Arctic waters. There's nothing Roger can do but wait for the *nattiq* to change its mind, so he can walk back to the cabin and wait for the next one.

'When you're working with the animals you're looking after the wildlife.'

WRITTEN BY:
KYRAN ALIKAMIK
CATRIONA KATAOYAK
MIGUEL VAN DER VELDEN

ROGER AND HIS PANIK



ROGER'S LOVE STORY

Roger's *panik* (daughter) is named Aurora Jane Kavana. He met her mother at an arcade in Cambridge Bay; they had a nice time playing games together, but they were only together for three months due to her drinking problems.

Roger's fondest memory with his *panik*'s mother was when they went fishing. It was spring time and the flowers were all colorful. The ice on the water was not cold, so Roger started to fish and soon enough he caught an *ehok* (big fish). He took off his shoes to clean the fish in the water and then decided to jump in; his girlfriend at the time promptly jumped in after him and they had a nice time swimming around.

Roger moved from Ulukhaktok to Cambridge Bay with Tom Gross, who was dating his sister at the time, to look for a job. There he found a job as a housing worker. His best memory with his *panik* was holding her in his arms, because when he was holding her she would smile and her eyes would twitch as if she was dreaming. His *panik* is now 26 years old and has brown hair and brownish black-white eyes. He talks to her every month to see how she is doing and just to talk to her. He loves her very much and hopes for her to have a bright future and a successful life.

'When I jumped in the imaq (water) I scared all the iqaluk (fish) away.'

WRITTEN BY:
LUCY-ANN OKHEENA
NAOMI KLENGENBERG

QUANAQPIAQTUTIN TO ROGER MEMORANA FOR SHARING HIS STORIES

