

Journey to Iqaluit

By Susan Lomas

August 18-25, 12 adults and five teens from the Diocese of Ottawa traveled to Iqaluit to volunteer in the community and do some sightseeing. The adults volunteered at the annual Iqaluit Music Camp, at lunch at the Soup Kitchen, and at the local Thrift Shop. The Teens, all from St. Stephen's, Ottawa, worked alongside local Junior Counselors to assist local and visiting music teachers working with 146 youth from the Iqaluit area.

This was the 23rd annual Music Camp directed by Darlene Nuqingaq. The children were each offered two workshop choices from choir, song and dance, accordion, percussion, guitars, fiddle, guitar, recorder, drum dancing, throat singing, xylophone, or saxophone.

Each day the Music Camp started and ended with an assembly which provided the participants with fun musical interludes and an opportunity to learn three songs for the



PHOTO: MARY ATTWELL

The Grand Finale at the Iqaluit Music Camp, with all 146 participants, the Junior Counselors and the music teachers.

grand finale at the concert. The school gym was packed for the Friday night concert attended by family and friends of the participants, and Inuit elders from the town of Iqaluit.

The group also collected 40 suitcases of supplies to take to the Iqaluit Distribution Centre. Contents included baby quilts, blankets, hats and sleepers collected from the quilters and knitters at The Country Quilter

and many other places. Also donated by many parishioners and friends of the group were school supplies, food, clothing and money.

Most of the suitcases were left for use when new mothers travel to the Iqaluit Hospital for delivery of their children and for any patients who have to travel to Ottawa Hospitals. Two-thirds of the donations were shipped to Iqaluit at no charge, courtesy of Canadian North airlines.