



## Sod House

The Inuvialuit of the Western Canadian Arctic built their traditional winter houses from driftwood and sod. This type of house is called an ig-lur-yu-aq (Inuvialuktun pronunciation) was an amazing form of architecture. An igluryuaq provided a home where people slept, ate, raised their children, played, visited, told stories and carried out many other social activities.

The floors were dug into the ground so that only the top part of the dwelling had to be insulated with sod and snow. The entry into the dwelling was through a tunnel built below the level of the floor. The cold air is denser and heavier than warm air, it gets trapped inside the tunnel, which kept heated air inside. Platforms for sleeping, sitting and working were raised above the floor, so that people sat and slept in the warmest part of the dwelling, and the sloped walls reduced the amount of air inside that had to be heated. Oil burning lamps were all that were needed to keep these houses warm.





## [Ice House](#)

The Ice House was dug in 1963 in the permafrost underneath the town and has been in use by locals to store meat and fish collected during hunts. There are 19 rooms in total, divided into three hallways. During the summer months it stays cool but in the winter it warms up and meat is taken out to prevent molding.

The Hamlet discontinued the practice of allowing visitors to access the ice house in 2015 following advice from insurers who were concerned with the risks involved as you have to climb down a 30-foot ladder to enter the community ice house. Currently the Hamlet is doing a feasibility study on ice houses to identify options in hopes of reconstructing a safe access for local users and visitors.





## *Our Lady of Lourdes*

Donated on behalf of Pope Pius XI in 1931 to Northern missions, the schooner Our Lady of Lourdes sailed the Beaufort Sea for more than 20 years, delivering supplies to far-flung Catholic missions and carrying Inuvialuit children to Catholic residential schools.



Captain Billy Thrasher seen to the left braved the pounding storms and shifting ice flows until 1957, being paid by food and needs from the church. Since 1982 the vessel has sat on display near Tuktoyaktuk's Catholic mission.

**Oblat missionary Raymond de Cocola's book – *"The Incredible Eskimo"* describes the Captain, crew and life on board:**