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**Sweet Overtime Goal:** Yellowknife Flyers win western title in Northern Hockey Challenge. See page 23.



**Former CAPP chair heads new Alberta regulator**

Gerry Protti, with tight ties to the oil and gas industry, has been selected as the chair of the board of directors of the new Alberta Energy Regulator. See page 3.



**Inuvik welcomes spring with Muskrat Jamboree**

The 56th annual festival saw Northerners from all over compete in snowmobile races and the popular Trapper Skills event. See pages 12-13.



**Mountain Pine Beetle lands in southern NWT**

Environment and Natural Resources department staff discovered live pine beetle larvae in the Kakisa River area, despite a cold winter. See page 15.



**Generation X author to headline NorthWords**

Contemporary writer Douglas Coupland is the big name in the lineup for Yellowknife's spring literary festival. See page 16.

Tuesday, April 9, 2013  
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# NORTHERN Journal

2011 national award winner - "Best All-Round Newspaper"

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Sadie McMahon of Fort Smith, centre in pink, and other young ski racers from across the NWT take off at the 0.25 km free-style mass start during the 30th Ptub Ski Races in Hay River on Sunday. Lacey Furniss of Yellowknife came in first place with Fort Smith's Taylor Porter following close behind in second and Hay River's Destiny Minoza scooping up the bronze. See page 21 for more.

## Alberta tells Suncor to fix wastewater problem Government took two years to issue actions for 2011 incident

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Alberta government is demanding corrective actions from Suncor at its oilsands facility north of Fort McMurray two years after it discovered that industrial wastewater flowing from the company's effluent ponds into the Athabasca River were above acceptable limits for toxicity.

Suncor reported wastewater toxicity failure at the treated water discharge outlet known as Pond C to the provincial government in March 2011. The company closed the pond soon after and began diverting the wastewater to a tailings pond.

Although pond water has been held back from the river over the last two years, Suncor reportedly failed the toxicity test 39 times since the 2011 release and still does not know

the source of the toxicity.

While the water treatment pond is allowed "limited discharge" into the river upstream of Fort McKay, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) spokesperson Nikki Booth said it is unknown how much, if any, made it into the river.

"We have nothing that indicates that there was a problem prior to that test or that any toxic water was discharged into the river," she said in an email response to *The Journal*.

"The pond has discharged in the past; however, it has not discharged since March 2011. There are two other ponds - A and B - that still discharge into the river," she added.

She would not say how much wastewater is released under the condition of "limited discharge."

She said tests are done "regularly" for levels of toxicity.

Wastewater fails a toxicity test when more than 50 per cent of the rainbow trout used in the test die as a result of exposure to the water being released into the river.

Last Thursday, the provincial government ordered enforcement measures requiring that Suncor temporarily suspend any discharge from Pond C until corrective actions are evaluated and it can identify the source of the toxicity.

It also told the company to conduct an engineering audit of the wastewater treatment process to identify potential mitigation measures in the design and conduct enhanced monitoring of the wastewater system, which consists of a series of treatment ponds.

The company has been told to address "dissolved organic compounds" in the industrial wastewater, which Suncor identified as the likely source of the toxicity.

Those contaminants include things like naphthenic acids and other "oilsands extractable acids," according to Booth. Other potential contaminants that may be causing toxicity are to be investigated as well, the government has ordered.

"We fully support the plans outlined in the order, and will be working hard to implement the actions identified by the regulator," Suncor executive vice president of oilsands and in situ, said in a Mar. 28 press release.

Suncor has until Apr. 30, 2013 to submit a report identifying the source of toxicity and monitoring plan to ESRD.

When asked why the government took two years to issue enforcement actions to the company, Booth pointed to the length of the investigation.

"We don't always issue an enforcement order at the beginning of an incident, as these types of situations can take time to investigate," she said, adding that the department has many options depending on the offence to ensure compliance, including warning letters, tickets and administrative penalties, enforcement, environmental protection and water management orders, and prosecution.

"Enforcement orders allow us to give guidance of remedial actions that individuals, companies and municipalities must take in order to get back into compliance," she said.

See Announcement on page 3.

*The best little newspaper in Canada*

Photo: Don Jaque

**NWT mace on display in Inuvik, Fort McPherson this week**

The official Northwest Territories mace, a traditional ceremonial staff made of silver and bronze, will be available for public viewing this week in Inuvik and Fort McPherson. Dating back to parliamentary traditions in the British Commonwealth, the mace was originally designed to protect kings. Today it symbolizes the authority of the Legislative Assembly and the Speaker. It will be on display at Inuvik's East Three Elementary School from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and at Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson on Thursday from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Speaker Jackie Jacobson, regional MLAs, the Legislative Assembly's clerk and the sergeant-at-arms will be in attendance.

**Advance polls open in Liidlii Kue chief by-election**

Advance polls for the Liidlii Kue band election to be held Apr. 10 in Fort Simpson opened last Wednesday. Seven candidates are running for chief: Olinto Beaulieu, Ernest Cazon, Minnie Letcher, Eric Menicoche, Michael Modeste, Bertha Norwegian and Arnold Hope. The successful candidate will replace Keyna Norwegian, who was ousted by council in January after a vote of non-confidence.

**Dominion one step closer to securing purchase of Ekati mine**

Dominion Diamond Corp., formerly known as Harry Winston Diamond Corp., announced last Monday it has been approved by all necessary regulatory bodies to acquire BHP Billiton's Ekati diamond operations in the NWT. BHP Billiton agreed to sell its Ekati diamond mine, located 310 km northeast of Yellowknife, last November to Harry Winston for \$500 million. Dominion said it expects the deal to officially close sometime this week.



Renowned scientist David Schindler says deformities found on fish in the Athabasca River, such as the one pictured above, are remarkably similar to those found on fish in the Gulfs of Mexico and Alaska following devastating oil spills.

**Environment Wildlife**

**Fish deformities in Alberta, US linked to oil pollution: scientist**  
*Abnormalities shared between fish in Athabasca River, Gulf of Mexico and Alaska*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
What do fish in the Athabasca River have in common with those in the Gulf of

Mexico and Gulf of Alaska? They share deformities caused by oil pollution in the water, according to renowned watershed scientist Dr. David Schindler.

The University of Alberta scientist, who helped link oilsands upgraders to carcinogenic contaminants found in the nearby snowpack in northeastern Alberta, brought the issue forward to federal ministers last week, asking them to do more to assist scientific research on the matter.

In a letter to Environment Minister Peter Kent and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Keith Ashfield, Schindler argued there are "remarkable similarities" in the abnormalities found on fish in the Athabasca River and ones following the Deepwater Horizon and Exxon Valdez oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf of Alaska, respectively, along with some found on Great Lakes fish in the vicinity of heavy industries.

"Given the parallels in the cases from various locations, it seems likely that some chemical or suite of chemicals in crude oil is causing the malformations," Schindler said. "The most likely suspects are probably polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), their alkylated derivatives, or closely related dibenzothiophenes."

Many PAHs are suspected or known to cause cancer, mutations or deformities in embryos or fetuses, Schindler said, and are linked to immune suppression.

"In the Gulf, the result has been that many fish species have become vulnerable to a

broad suite of bacterial and viral diseases and...parasites," he said. "High concentrations of PAHs are also associated

the river, it will be impossible to determine which chemicals are responsible for the malformations in the complex

Given the parallels in the cases from various locations, it seems likely that some chemical or suite of chemicals in crude oil is causing the malformations.

*Dr. David Schindler*

with the appearance of lesions in red snapper."

Other chemicals associated with oilsands processing waters, such as naphthenic acids, could also be at play, Schindler noted, along with chemical dispersants used to clean up oil spills in the Gulf.

While some PAHs and related contaminants occur naturally in the lower Athabasca River, Schindler said university and government research links industry to the deformities.

"The recent high frequency of malformations suggests that industrial inputs have caused some threshold for malformations to be crossed," the letter states.

**Keep outdoor lab open, Schindler requests**

Schindler is requesting the ministers act now on protecting a scientific research area in northern Ontario in order to properly test the possible link between oilsands-related chemicals and fish.

"While Environment Canada scientists are now doing an excellent job of monitoring

chemical soup that occurs downstream of oilsands mining," he said.

"A more expeditious way of identifying them would be whole ecosystem experiments where small amounts of selected chemicals are applied to whole lakes, and effects determined on several key species in the food chain...The Experimental Lakes Area in northwestern Ontario (ELA) is ideal for such a purpose."

The ELA is currently under threat of being permanently shut down due to the federal government's decision to cut its \$2-million per year funding.

The federal government temporarily closed the outdoor laboratory - the only one of its kind in the world - in March while they search for a group to take it over. While a new group was supposed to take control of the research site by Mar. 31 when funding ended, a replacement organization has yet to be found.

The department of Fisheries and Oceans has been conducting experiments in the area of 58 small, pristine lakes since 1968.

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# Former industry rep made head of new Alberta regulator

## Appointment criticized as showing conflict of interest, industry bias

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The first executive director of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) is now the first chair of the new single regulator for oil, gas, coal and oilsands in the province of Alberta - a move some term putting a fox in charge of the hen house.

Gerry Protti, who was previously executive director of the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada, which went on to become CAPP, also spent 15 years working for petroleum producer Encana and its predecessor PanCanadian Energy.

Protti served as industry advisor to the Regulatory Enhancement Task Force responsible for establishing the new Alberta Energy Regulator, a single-window body that will replace the Energy Resources Conservation Board and any regulatory functions currently carried out by the department of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

He also served as vice chair of the Energy Policy Institute of Canada, which recently called for a national energy



Photo: Global Forest Watch Canada

Alberta's new single energy regulator will be responsible for all upstream oil and gas, coal and oilsands development, rendering the Energy Resources Conservation Board extinct.

strategy - a key priority for Premier Alison Redford - and worked for a brief period of time for the Alberta government while Peter Lougheed was in power.

"Mr. Protti brings a wealth of governance and oil and gas experience," Mike Feenstra, press secretary for Energy

Minister Ken Hughes, told *The Journal* in an email. "He has experience with a number of boards, including SAIT Polytechnic, the Calgary Opera, Alberta Innovates - Technology Futures and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. His experience is invaluable and, together with

a new board of directors and chief executive officer, they will work to build a world-class organization."

Protti was selected from more than 100 applicants and a shortlist of four candidates pulled from a countrywide search that began in December 2012.

According to the job description posted on the Odgers Berndtson executives recruitment website, the chair will be responsible for formulating and promoting the "new vision" of the regulator.

Protti will first serve as chair of the transition committee before moving onto his permanent role as chair of the board of directors of the Alberta Energy Regulator. The position will be based in Calgary.

The new agency will include nearly 1,000 staff members, process tens of thousands of applications a year and manage a budget of more than \$200 million, according to Alberta Energy.

A chief executive officer for the new regulator is still being recruited.

The appointment has not been without controversy. Environmentalists argue Protti's tight ties with the oil and gas industry will infringe upon his ability to provide the independent oversight required for the job.

"By handing the fox the keys to the hen house, the

Redford government has made a mockery of their claims to being a tough regulator," reads a statement issued by Greenpeace's Edmonton office following the announcement. "No one outside of Alberta is going to take the founder of the oil industry's main lobby group seriously as an environmental regulator. It may be a cause for joy in corporate boardrooms, but it is our communities and our environment that will pay the price of this revolving door between government and industry."

But Feenstra argued that Protti comes with a "well-rounded" perspective.

"He understands the role of the public interest, the economic fundamentals of the industry, the importance of having a social licence to operate and the environmental considerations that are important to Albertans," he said. "In his role, Mr. Protti will be working closely with the regulator's new CEO and board that will represent a diversity of views and backgrounds."

### Environment Water

# Announcement comes in wake of recent leak

Continued from page 1.

Mike Hudema, climate and energy campaigner with Greenpeace Canada, said the two-year gap between the incident and the announcement is unacceptable.

"Industrial waste flowed into the river, killing fish from the same Suncor tar sands site for three days. Yet Suncor and the Alberta government never issued a press release about the incident when it happened, downstream communities never received details of the toxic release, and the public was in the dark about the incident for two years," he said.

He said it was "interesting" that the announcement came at the end of the two-year limit to bring private prosecution against a company under the federal Fisheries Act.

"Finding out now makes it impossible to bring one," he said.

### Announcement follows Suncor pipeline break

The announcement of the 2011 incident came just days after a pipeline spill was detected at the same Suncor facility.



Photo: Suncor

A Suncor photo documents the leak path of process-affected water to the Athabasca River. Around 2,200 barrels of waste water leaked into the river following a pipeline breach on Mar. 25.

Approximately 2,200 barrels (350,000 litres) of process-affected waste water leaked from a burst line into the Athabasca River near the company's oil-sands facility over a period of 10 hours on Monday, Mar. 25.

Water quality tests showed the process-affected water that was released into the river was "within our regulatory approvals (approval limits identified for certain discharge points)," the company issued in a statement last Tuesday afternoon.

The waste water contained a combination of water and suspended solids, including clays and fine particulates, along with "trace amounts

of oil and grease, total suspended solids and ammonia," the company said.

Bioassay tests on the released water indicate there were no impacts on aquatic life, and preliminary upstream and downstream river samples, taken 50 metres downstream, at Fort McKay and at Fort Chipewyan, indicated "negligible impact," Suncor said.

"The final report is still to come but we do not expect any significant deviation from the early reports. Nevertheless, our position remains that any unintended release to the river is unacceptable to us," the company said.

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Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Uluksaktok
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# Paying it forward, without thinking

In his announcement last week of federal support for a proposed pipeline system that would carry Alberta oil to East Coast refineries, Minister of Industry Tony Clement assured Canadians they need not worry about oilsands bitumen being more corrosive than other crude oil, thus shortening the life of the pipe, leading to leaks and ruptures. To support that he quoted "science" from the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA [www.cepa.com](http://www.cepa.com)). That agency is a lobby group created and funded by pipeline companies. Clement is irresponsible if he only bases his decisions on information from such agencies. Everything they say about pipelines is going to be spun to make what that industry look good. That is what lobby groups are about. It is essential that governments acquire independent data to corroborate (or disprove) such information. One would think that would be common sense. It is worrisome that Clement does not have that understanding.

A better consideration in his important role in governing our nation is look at the bigger picture - including the lifespan of pipelines. How long does it take for them to deteriorate. When do they get so old the materials start to break down and leak, even rupture? In such cases, what is to be done? That "detail" seems to be overlooked.

The pipeline connecting the Norman Wells oilfield to the rest of Canada stretches 869 km through vast reaches of boreal forest and traverses challenging terrain, including numerous rivers, not the least of which is the Mackenzie. The pipeline contents are refrigerated so as to not cause issues with permafrost. It was completed in 1985, and as such it is "modern," using state of the

art techniques, technology and materials.

That pipeline has sprung four leaks in the last two years and thousands of litres of oil have leaked onto the land. Are we to conclude this is a sign of worse things to come?

Please tell us what is going to happen to that pipeline when it has deteriorated to the point that it must be replaced.

Is the extent of life of the pipe and the joining welds, and generally the need to eventually replace any pipeline once it reaches old age, ever considered? When permissions are given by the National Energy Board, are those eventual, inevitable, replacement costs factored in? What of the calculations by the company at the design stage when profitability is considered - are replacement costs included?

It seems that none of this is in play. We just build the things and don't consider that they have a limited life.

The ESSO pipeline in Arkansas, where oil from a rupture has recently been running through the streets of affluent neighbourhoods, was built in the 1940s. Conventional wisdom has it that pipeline is showing its age and more spills are coming. Obviously, thousands of miles of pipelines worldwide like that are eventually going to need replacing. They are essential to national economies. We have our fair share in Canada and are planning more. Replacement in future will be incredibly costly. Who will pay?

In the future, we will face multiple boondoggles that dwarf the long term multi-billion dollar costs of the Giant Mine clean up currently being revealed in Yellowknife. Toxic waste that threatens human health and creates an environmental mess, a burden for decades, even centuries to come will be the

new "normal." Since the Canadian government is always stuck with the bill for such cleanups, one would think they would be more circumspect, incorporating projected life and eventual replacement costs into the approval criteria.

## The Alberta solution: Let industry have its way

The Alberta government has selected a long term oil industry promoter to head up a key new provincial board tasked with regulating industry and environmental monitoring.

The appointment of Gerry Protti was announced last week by provincial Energy Minister Ken Hughes. Protti is a former executive officer of several oil companies and is the first chair of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP).

CAPP, thanks to extensive funding by oil companies, has run a superb campaign to counter the negative press generated by environmentalists and First Nation groups about impacts from the oilsands industry, effectively painting all things to do with its expansion as green and beneficial. Mr. Protti is very good at what he does. In selecting him to head their key industry monitoring body, the Alberta government has made it clear that in their province, industry will have its way, totally.

And we criticized Hugo Chavez for his policies in Venezuela....

The Alberta government does not even pretend to be objective. Environmental impact, even the health of the citizens, are secondary in their total commitment to industrial growth. Thinking like this is an embarrassment and will be costly to the future of Alberta and Canada.



**Rankin Inlet team success story at Balsillie Cup:** 21 teams from across the North travelled to Yellowknife on the weekend for the 30th annual Balsillie Cup Old Timer (35+) Hockey Tournament. Due to flight delays, the Rankin Inlet team arrived late and had to play five games within 24 hours, including back-to-back games late Saturday night, but that didn't slow the team down. Neco Towtongie scored on a breakaway with less than two minutes remaining to lead the Bears to a tight 4-3 victory against the Top Knight Spider Goats in the B division final.

## ARCHIVES

### 15 Years Ago...

#### Fire destroys hall

The Fort Resolution fire department is without a home after a fire on Easter Sunday burned the town's fire hall to the ground.

The fire resulted in the loss of the department's only fire truck, all of their fire equipment, plus the community's zamboni.

Hay River has leant them four full fire-fighting outfits, as well as a few hoses and nozzles to attach to water trucks in case they are needed for the time being.

Issue: April 8, 1998

### 20 Years Ago...

#### Tractor trade a 'good deal'

An equipment trade has taken place between Fort Chipewyan and Fort Smith which is being hailed as a good deal for both communities.

The Town of Fort Smith swapped their old zamboni with Fort Chip for a tractor equipped with a front end loader which could be used to work on the golf course and other general duties.

Issue: April 8, 1993

### 30 Years Ago...

#### On the Banks of the Slave

Rich and colourful history is a legacy which is found in Fort Smith and throughout the North. These time-honoured treasures of our past will soon be brought to life using pictures and dialogues with past Fort Smith residents in the book, *On the Banks of the Slave*.

The idea of the book originated with a class of Grade 6 students in 1974, begun as a project for Fort Smith's centennial year.

Issue: April 8, 1983

# Remembering Ralph Klein

By DON JAQUE

Ralph Klein's affable nature and salty ways resonated with many Albertans, although his popularity took a hit when he had to make deep budget cuts. He was basic, he was country and he was the perfect fit for a province emerging from frontier ways trying to establish themselves with ambitions of a cultured and affluent future, yet still seeking the confidence and means to achieve that.

When I started off as a newspaper reporter in Fort Smith in the late 1970s, I was pretty green and had a lot of learning to do. Ralph was in the Alberta cabinet as the Environment Minister at the time.

It was a controversial time for northern Alberta, with opposition mounting over the dumping of toxic effluent into the river by the 14 pulp mills and plywood plants on the Peace River system. The oilsands industry on the Athabasca River was still in the adolescent stage, with Great Canadian Oilsands (GCOS), later to become Suncor, the

big player, and Syncrude getting rolling. The creation of those massive toxic tailings ponds was just underway. There was already concern about the "chemical soup" being injected into the rivers by the combination of industries. This fast paced industrial growth was overseen by Ralph.

In my years at the University of Alberta studying political science in the previous decade, I had worked at Inland Cement, the massive industrial plant in northeast Edmonton, for three summers, earning enough money to fund my winters on campus. The two giant kilns that baked the slurry to create "clinker" had tall smokestacks constantly spewing a cloud of yellow dust, essentially cement, that settled everywhere. It took the shine off every car in a 10-km radius.

Inspectors from Alberta Environment would come to check the emissions. They would call several days in advance and let management know they were coming. With that warning, one of the kilns

would always be shut down "for maintenance." Of course, that would cut the emissions in half, making them acceptable. Every worker at that large industrial facility knew that was going on and joked about it. After seeing that routinely over three years, my opinion of Alberta Environment was a little jaded.

By the time Ralph Klein was elected premier in the early '90s, the problems with the pulp mill pollution were resolved. The hue and cry from a very concerned downstream public, from Fort Chipewyan all the way to Tuktoyaktuk, had forced change. The industry suddenly switched from using bleach to whiten the pulp to hydrogen peroxide. Over 95 per cent of the pollution was eliminated. Huge profits were still being made and the problem of toxic waste was solved. None of that was thanks to the Alberta government. The people, acting together, loudly demanding change, were the catalyst.

After he was nearly a year in as the new premier, I called Ralph for an interview. I was

pleasantly surprised that his office confirmed right away that he would be available the next day. Maybe it was because I was from the NWT, and not a threat, that he agreed so quickly, I wondered. But I was to learn that was not Ralph's way. A former television reporter, he was not in any way intimidated by "the media" and was always willing to engage in an interview. Sure enough, the next morning the call came and he was happy to talk to me. I challenged him with questions and he met them head on. It was an excellent interview.

The next year, I did the same again. And the year after that. So many politicians, for one reason or another, are afraid to have what they think and feel put on the record frankly and openly. Others do not know how to handle reporters, or are even afraid of them. In my experience at least, such things were never an issue with Ralph. He was straight up, told you what he thought, take it or leave it. You have to respect that.

# Keep your pet healthy without breaking the bank

For many of us, our pet is more than just a dog or cat, he or she is a much-loved member of our family. When our pets get sick, we worry and want to help the same way as we do for people.

While veterinary medicine has made huge advances in recent years, the costs of treating these conditions can be overwhelming. For example, one of the most common health conditions that affects dogs today is arthritis, which can cost more than \$2,000 per year to treat.

Veterinary medicine has advanced to the point that basically whatever we can treat in a human, we can treat in our pet. Unfortunately for pet owners, these treatments can be extremely expensive.

Common chronic conditions

affecting dogs and cats are obesity, arthritis, kidney disease, hypothyroidism (dogs), hyperthyroidism (cats) and heart disease.

The cost of treatment for these can be huge, sometime

difficult to shoulder on a family budget. It is good to be aware of this when assuming the responsibility of a pet. For pet owners concerned about the prospect of large bills, there are even insurance programs

to cover pet health costs you may want to consider.

The best way to avoid a big vet bill is to focus on your pet's day to day health. As is needed with your own health, make positive choices for them. That is in terms of diet, exercise, dental hygiene, vaccines and regular checkups to a veterinarian. Remember, your pet can't make these choices for themselves, so it's up to you.

Pet owners should also research the breed of dog or cat they own, to see which health conditions are common. For example, labrador retrievers are more likely to experience hip dysplasia than other breeds. Pet owners should be aware of genetic ailments common in their pet breed so they can watch for early symptoms.

## MUKLUK



### FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

#### Northern Journal 2013

Frieda Martselos is chief of Salt River First Nation once more.



**Martsekis voted in as chief of Salt River First Nation**  
norj.ca

**Ray Tourangeau** Congragulation Frieds wishing you all the best in the next term GOOD LUCK.

**Nora Beaver** Sad when people don t follow SRFN POLITICS , She could nt take the heat before and cost our band a bi election ,She was overly vindictive and controlling my way or the hiway ,Chief has to work with Council not go in swinging , A good leader should be abel to set aside the PRINCIPLES OF DIVISION ,AND WORK FOR ALL SRFN MEMBER S . And yes alot of money was spent on her last term as Chief ,Some People will say she is a good business Person , well why could nt she do that for the SRFN , while she was running our Office , BUT SHE SURE MADE SURE WHEN SHE BUILT HER MOTEL THAT SHE DID NT OVER SPEND HER MONEY .

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## Forecast

Inuvik	Yellowknife
Wednesday -9 High -16 Low	Wednesday 8 High -2 Low
Thursday -10 High -17 Low	Thursday 3 High -9 Low
Friday -12 High -20 Low	Friday 1 High -12 Low
Saturday -9 High -20 Low	Saturday -4 High -12 Low
Norms: -9°C and -20°C	Norms: -1°C and -13°C

Hay River	Fort Smith
Wednesday 8 High 0 Low	Wednesday 4 High -2 Low
Thursday 2 High -11 Low	Thursday 5 High -7 Low
Friday 0 High -10 Low	Friday 3 High -12 Low
Saturday -5 High -10 Low	Saturday 3 High -9 Low
Norms: 2°C and -10°C	Norms: 4°C and -8°C

# NT Energy plans to truck natural gas into Inuvik

## Pilot project hopes to displace 70 per cent of diesel generated electricity

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Trucks could soon be hauling natural gas into the energy-choked community of Inuvik through a new pilot project by NT Energy, the company announced last week during the NWT Chamber of Commerce AGM in Yellowknife.

The company said it hopes to have liquefied natural gas (LNG) powering up to 70 per cent of the town's electricity needs by summer 2014, phasing out the diesel dependency forced onto the community following the premature failure of Inuvik Gas Ltd.'s Ikhil well.

Andrew Stewart, manager of business development at NT Energy, said the company is in the process of collecting bids from transport companies to find out whether or not trucking in LNG is more economically viable than staying on diesel generated electricity.

"We're testing the market now...to see what the landed cost would translate to for LNG, so at this stage we can't say that we're going to go full bore on it," he said.

So far, the company has received seven bids for transport. They've also put out a tender for the vaporization and storage equipment that will be needed on site in Inuvik.

"Depending on what those costs add up to, we'll know how it stacks up against diesel," Stewart said.

The company's hoping to have the project sorted out by the fall.

"We'll need to make a call in the next three to four months," Stewart said. "The construction season is fast approaching, so if we can't get comfortable with the pricing on transportation and the cost of the equipment and the civil works



NT Energy's proposed pilot project looks to transport liquefied natural gas by truck up the Dempster Highway (shown above) to Inuvik. The company hopes to displace the majority of diesel being consumed for power in the community, which has been choked of natural gas since the collapse of the Ikhil well.

and prep that's needed to install it, then we'll push pause. But the goal is to have this implemented by the fall and be at least in the commissioning phase where we're using some liquefied natural gas and offsetting some diesel electricity."

heating in the community. Inuvik residents have been paying \$35.44/GJ for synthetic natural gas heating since Feb. 1 - nearly double what they paid previously for natural gas from Ikhil. And, if successful, it could spread to other

In the medium to long term, I think everybody's objective is to find a local NWT-based supply source for gas. Unfortunately, we can't wait. At this stage, there is no gas supply available.

Andrew Stewart  
NT Energy

While the pilot project focuses solely on electricity, it could hold important implications for the future of

thermal communities. "Hopefully this works and then we can look to other places," Stewart said.

### Trucked gas would require storage

NT Energy first brought up the idea of trucking fuel in its December 2012 *Concept Study of Inuvik Energy Supply Options* report.

The report states that LNG trucked into the community could provide the base-load electricity supply to the two Northwest Territories Power Corp. (NTPC) generators in Inuvik with up to 80 per cent of their annual fuel requirements.

The gas will most likely be trucked to Inuvik from BC or Alberta or barged from the West Coast, according to the report, with the LNG being vaporized (or heated to gas form) in Inuvik and pumped directly into the NTPC gas plant or distribution network.

In a full-out LNG scenario, transporting fuel to Inuvik by truck or barge would require storage twice a year when both river ferries and ice bridges on the Dempster Highway (Hwy 8) are non-operational, according to the NT Energy report. Over the last 10 years, road access was closed for up to 53 days in the spring and 39 days in the fall.

In order to accommodate the town during these periods, fuel would need to be stored in the community, meaning the need for some new infrastructure.

"Infrastructure for heating demand in Inuvik would be significant," the report states. "A land area of up to 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> would be required for unloading, storing and vaporizing LNG for distribution. If LNG were relied upon for heating and electricity, storage of approximately 65,000 GJ or 2,700 m<sup>3</sup> of LNG would be required

to address Dempster Highway closures (river crossings) in the fall and spring."

Capital investment in storage for LNG designated for electricity is estimated to be in the \$3/GJ range, while storage for heat is more likely to be closer to \$10/GJ, according to the company.

While storage is a must, the company stressed the need for reducing seasonal road outages on the Dempster Highway at the Mackenzie River crossing near Fort McPherson and Peel River near Tsiigehtchic.

"As well, the general condition and upkeep of Highway 8 should be reviewed for approved and proposed LNG truck transport," it added.

But for the pilot project, Stewart said the goal is just to have a modest storage system for one or two trucks' worth of gas along with the vaporizer to convert it, to use LNG whenever possible and have the diesel backup kick in when necessary.

"If and when we have gas and the supply chain is open - meaning the ferry's running and the road is thick enough on the ferry crossings and Dempster Highway is fully operational - we'll be trying to get LNG up the road. When we don't have LNG, we'll just burn diesel...Any LNG we get, we can improve the cost situation for electricity."

**A greener, safer option**  
Stewart said there is another benefit to using LNG compared to diesel, and that's a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

"It burns about 75 per cent of the GHG emissions equivalent to diesel, so it is an environmental improvement.

It's a modest one, but it is an improvement. If you had that, plus economics that got you under the landed cost of diesel, then it's a benefit to the whole thermal rate zone," he said.

As well, he said, the product is in a safer state for transporting than other fuels. Supercooled down to -162C, if someone were to take a lit cigarette and dip it in the fuel, the cigarette would simply freeze.

"You're not going to end up with fuel spills or contamination, and as long as you don't have a perfect mix of air and heated gas, then you don't even have a product that's combustible. So it is actually quite a safe product to transport."

### Future LNG facility could power region

While it may seem ironic to have LNG trucked into a community surrounded by fields containing trillions of cubic feet of natural gas, Stewart said the trucking project should be viewed as a short to mid-term option for the community.

"In the medium to long term, I think everybody's objective is to find a local NWT-based supply source for gas. Unfortunately, we can't wait," he said. "At this stage, there is no gas supply available."

That being said, an LNG facility for the region is being considered a possibility for the long-term. Until then, the trucking solution will maintain the existing gas infrastructure and keep the doors open for a local source if and when it emerges, Stewart said.

"In the meantime, we can use something that's 25 per cent better on an emissions basis than diesel and hopefully is a cost-saving measure," he said.



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# Yellowknife RCMP recruit first 'Draganfly'

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A new rookie for the RCMP force has flown into Yellowknife.

The RCMP "G" Division purchased a Draganflyer X4-P, a small, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), for \$23,000 last year to assist in investigations, and the mini helicopter-like machine has now officially taken to the NWT skies, already lending a helping hand - or rotor - in two vehicle collisions.

The remote controlled Draganflyer, released by the Saskatoon-based company Draganfly Innovations Inc. last spring, features an onboard computer and 11 sensors to keep the helicopter level and pointed in the right direction.

Its main role is to take video and photos from the dangerous or hard-to-reach positions officers cannot access.

"It basically allows us greater flexibility in terms of evidence gathering. When you're locked in on-ground, you really don't get the full perspective as to what a collision scene really looked like," Staff Sgt. Brad Kaeding said. "In terms of search and rescue, with one of these you have a lot more movability capacity and can cover greater terrain on a much shorter time scale."

Yellowknife RCMP used the Draganflyer two weeks ago for a collision on Hwy 3 as well as in February during the fatal collision that left two dead after two semi trailer trucks crashed about 80 km north of Fort Providence, Kaeding noted.

"It was used to great success there because there were explosives involved in that, so this little helicopter could get a lot closer than what was safe for any of us to go," he explained. "It had good high resolution photos of what the scene looked like and allowed for a safe

response...(And it) helped us decide course of action to follow."

In addition to highway accidents, the UAV is also a useful tool for crime scene photos, search and rescue operations and training exercises, such as the annual Canadian military training exercise for emergency response in the Arctic, Operation Nanook, where it was on hand last summer.

Made of high quality carbon fiber and injection molded components, the Draganflyer is classified as "aircraft" and is regulated by the Aeronautics Act and Transport Canada regulations.

It measures 87 cm long and weighs 1.8 kg. It is powered by lithium batteries which allow for 10 to 20 minutes of flying time per charge and can fly up to 120 m high, guided by a custom handheld controller with a 2.8-inch touch screen displaying flight data such as GPS position, altitude,

bearing and helicopter battery voltage. The controller also features a built-in dual video receiver that takes the video transmitted from the helicopter and displays what the camera is seeing in real-time on a pair of video goggles.

Two RCMP officers have been specially trained to handle the new piece of equipment and monitor its flight path.

While aerial vehicles

such as the Draganflyer have been used by police across the country for the past couple of years, this is the first time one has flown in NWT skies.

"I know they've been used for quite a while in BC and Saskatchewan and that they have experienced success with them. So it's expanding and now we have one," Kaeding told *The Journal*.

Kaeding doesn't foresee more Draganflyers making

their way into forces based in smaller Northern communities, however.

"I don't know how much they cost, but I know they're not inexpensive and I think this is one piece of equipment that could be used to cover the entire NWT because it is so easy to fold up and transport anywhere just by popping it into a suitcase and onto a plane if it was needed in another community," he said.

The Draganflyer made an appearance at its first public demonstration last Wednesday at the sand pits off Deh Cho Blvd. in Yellowknife.

"We have had it in for several months, but now we're just getting the news out there and making people aware that it's not something people are going to see flying over their homes because it's not for general surveillance; it is for specialized purposes," Kaeding said.

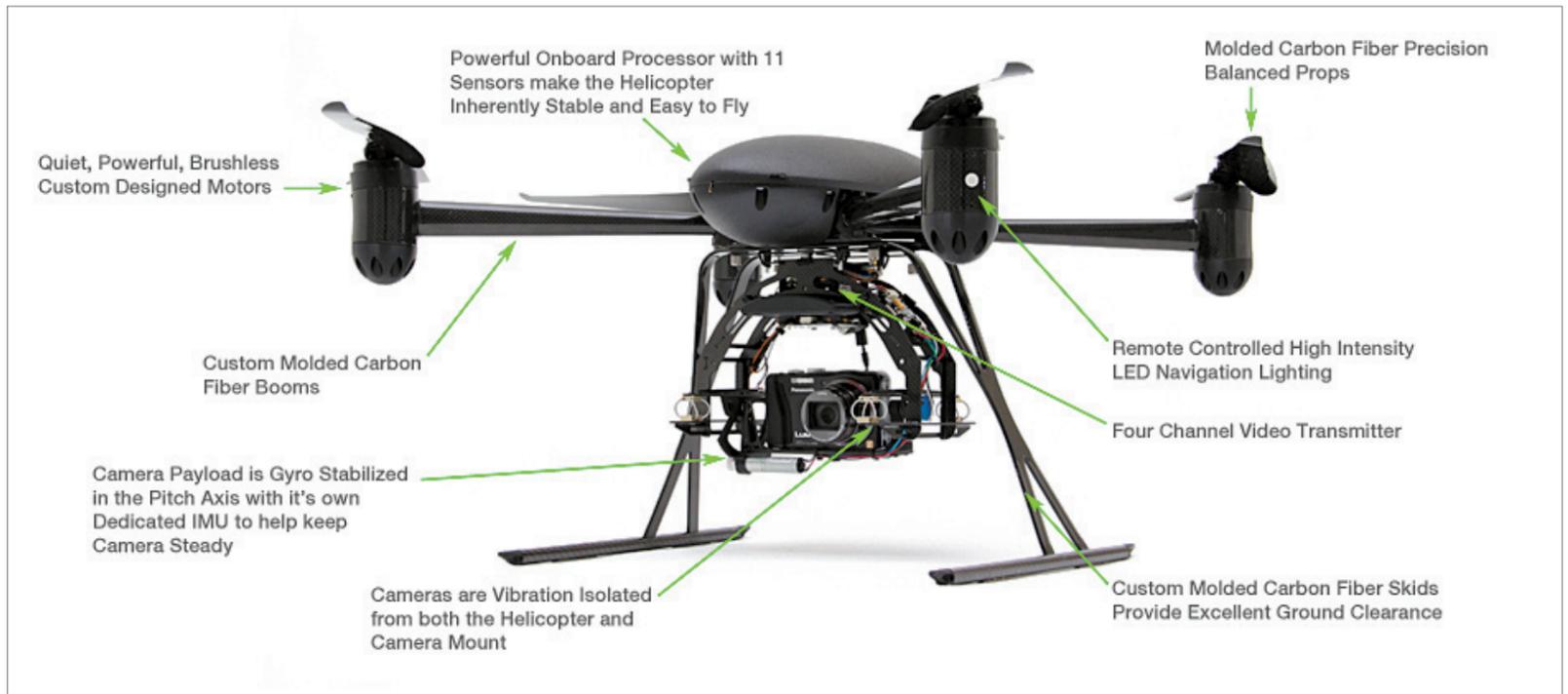


Photo courtesy of Draganfly Innovations Inc.

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# Yellowknives case to protect Drybones Bay enters courts

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) is asking the courts to overturn a 2012 review board decision that claimed exploration on the culturally and environmentally sensitive Drybones Bay territory posed no significant threat to the environment or cause for public concern.

A judge heard the request for judicial review, launched in February 2012, for the first time last week in Yellowknife.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board ruled in January of last year that a proposal by Alex Debogorski to do exploratory drilling for diamonds in the area on the north shore of Great Slave Lake did not warrant mitigative conditions and could go ahead without binding recommendations.

The First Nation, which has opposed all eight applications to do exploratory work in the area over the last two decades, is now seeking a court ruling that will put Drybones Bay under permanent protection from development.

"The YKDFN is asking for two things," spokesperson Shannon Gault said. "We



The Yellowknives Dene First Nation is requesting a moratorium on exploration in the Drybones Bay area, which contains archaeological and other culturally significant sites.

would like the court to consider whether or not there was adequate consultation on the file before the decision was made and the recommendations were passed on to the minister. And the second ruling that YKDFN is seeking is we're looking for consistency with a past ruling of the board."

In a 2003-2004 decision approving exploration in the bay, the review board recommended that a land use plan be

completed for the Drybones Bay area, including "provisions for protecting sensitive environmental, cultural and spiritual sites."

The board asked the land use plan to be done within five years, but it has yet to be completed.

"So the fact that that decision was made in the past and the same kind of consideration wasn't reflected in this more recent ruling for, again, the same

Drybones Bay area, geographically speaking, YKDFN would like the Crown to consider making a ruling that would require land use planning for the area and ultimately protect it against future development," Gault said.

The First Nation is no stranger - or opponent - to development on its land, Gault said. All three operating diamond mines in the Northwest Territories are located on

YKDFN's asserted traditional lands known as Chief Drygeese territory, which stretches east of Yellowknife halfway to the end of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and north to the Nunavut border.

De Beers' Gahcho Kue diamond mine, which just completed the environmental assessment (EA) process, as well as Avalon's proposed Nechalacho rare earth metals mine, are also in YKDFN territory.

But when it comes to Drybones Bay, a cherished area for traditional land use activities and the home of archaeological and sacred sites like cemeteries, the First Nation isn't budging.

"For the rest of our territory, we will engage with you and we want responsible development; for the Drybones Bay area, it's a no go," Gault said.

Previous exploratory work has had negative impacts on the bay already, she said, the effects of which have yet to be dealt with, such as a forest fire that destroyed a cemetery and cost taxpayers \$330,000 in 2007, followed by a fuel tanker that went off the road in 2008.

Five years later, that truck remains partially submerged in the bay. While the territorial

government claims moving the truck would cause more environmental damage than leaving it in place, Gault said the sight does little to instill trust in the First Nation's membership when it comes to development.

"YKDFN can appreciate it may be better for the ecosystem, but the company and the government hasn't done anything to satisfy the concerns of the people, who still go out in their fishing boats there and see the half-submerged truck," she said.

Gault said a recommendation for approval by the review board that contained certain conditions for the developer would have been better received than saying there was no significant impact at all.

"Given the reality of limited capacity to deal with all the pushing paper that's part of these EAs, we do our best to engage, and we provide recommendations and make suggestions of what we'd like to see these types of rulings include, and it's our opinion that those recommendations and that input was generally ignored by the review board in this recommendation," she said.

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# NTPC employee found dead in Bluefish dam house

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
A NT Power Corp. (NTPC) employee from Yellowknife was found dead in the staff house of the Bluefish hydro site last Wednesday afternoon.

Michael Dunn, 42, was working alone as a hydro plant operator at the site. He was employed with the company for two and a half years. A contractor dropping materials off found the deceased in the house. An ambulance was called to the scene along with the RCMP and coroner.

“The cause is unknown at this point,” NTPC spokesperson Bob Kelly said. “It’s not being treated as suspicious or work related.” RCMP Staff Sgt. Brad Kaeding said they are still waiting on the coroner’s autopsy and toxicology reports.

“Because of his age and the unknown circumstances, the RCMP did attend to secure evidence and conduct an investigation. At this point we are satisfied that it was not suspicious in nature; however, remaining evidence needs to be

determined from autopsy results and toxicology results, as well. Neither one of those is available at this point,” he told *The Journal*. “If they don’t point to anything different than what we know at this point, then our investigation will

be concluded to the coroner’s office. If something shows up that was unexpected, then our investigation will continue,” Kaeding added. The Bluefish dam is located about 50 km northeast of Yellowknife.

## Martselos voted in as chief of Salt River First Nation

*Don Matthews Jr. elected to fill open councillor position*



*Frieda Martselos was elected as chief of Salt River First Nation for the third time last week during the by-election. She replaces David Poitras, who resigned in January.*



*Don Matthews Jr.*

### Salt River election results

Votes for Chief:  
Frieda Martselos - 95  
Warren Gagnon - 62  
Brad Laviolette - 46  
Henry Beaver Jr. - 43

Votes for Councillor:  
Don Matthews Jr. - 84  
Debbie Sikyea - 80  
Gabriel Mabry - 76

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
Frieda Martselos is chief of Salt River First Nation once more. The former chief who resigned in September 2011 over allegations that council was not “working together” was elected in as the new leader in Tuesday’s by-election with a total of 95 votes. She replaces David Poitras,

who resigned as chief in January after council challenged him on his leadership, wielding claims of funding misuse. Don Matthews Jr. was elected for the open councillor position with 84 votes. He replaces Olga Mansbridge, who passed away in January. Approximately 270 members voted in the by-election, including the advance polls

on Mar. 12, which electoral officer Lynda Martin called a good turnout. Warren Gagnon received the second highest number of votes for chief, at 62. Brad Laviolette received 46 votes and Henry Beaver Jr. got 43. Councillor candidates Debbie Sikyea and Gabriel Mabry received 80 and 76 votes, respectively.



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Photo: MCpl Kevin Paul

Pitisulaq Ukuqtunnuaq flies the Canadian Ranger flag on his snowmobile at Eureka, Nunavut during Operation Nunaliut 2008.



Members of the Port Inspection Dive Team get a dive site ready on the Dumbbell Bay sea ice during Operation Nunaliut 2010.



Photos: Cpl Shilo Adamson, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

Chief Petty Officer 2nd class Glenn Parsons, Camp Sergeant-Major of Operation Nunaliut 10, assists the Danish military's SIRIUS Dog Sledge patrol in the set-up of their team in preparation for a familiarization patrol during Operation Nunaliut in 2010.

**Politics Military**

# Canadian Forces begin Arctic 'sovereignty operation'

## Annual operation brings Rangers, personnel together from across North

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Canadian Rangers and a myriad of armed forces personnel are teaming up in the High Arctic this month for Operation Nunaliut, an exercise designed to collect and report information relevant to protecting Canada's Arctic sovereignty while training personnel to operate in the harsh weather and terrain.

The annual exercise, coordinated by Joint Task Force North since 2006, began in Resolute Bay, Nunavut on Apr. 2 and will continue until the end of the month.

Participants will go out on the land and by air to conduct patrols and report back to the headquarters in Yellowknife, who will in turn contact Ottawa with their findings.

Lt-Col. Glen MacNeil, commanding officer for the operation, said the exercise assists in providing reassurance to the Canadian public that the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) are ready and able to address a threat in the North.

"What this shows is that we can go up and operate in the Canadian High Arctic at any time of the year in any type of conditions and really go wherever we need to, and that should tell the people of the North and the people of Canada that if there ever is a safety or security situation in the North, that the Canadian Armed Forces are prepared to respond to it," he told *The Journal* from Yellowknife before heading off to Nunavut.

Around 120 Rangers and members of the CAF from all three territories will be placed throughout the Arctic Archipelago throughout the month, from Resolute Bay north to Isachsen, Nunavut

and as far west as Mould Bay in the Northwest Territories.

Most of the participants will be coming from Yellowknife, where both the Joint Task Force North and

"We conduct Operation Nunaliut in this time of year because it coincides with the time of year that you'll see the highest level of adventure activity in the North," he said.

said the Rangers also benefit from the exercise, both in terms of collecting up-to-date knowledge on the region and working with military personnel.

"That's a two-way learning street, because the Rangers get to learn more about our Canadian Forces personnel and exchange information, and that's always a positive experience," he said.

Participants in Operation Nunaliut will head out on their first patrol mid week. A closing ceremony and parade will mark the end of the operation on Apr. 24 in Resolute Bay.

Rangers are experts on living and surviving in these types of conditions. People from the south just aren't.

*Lt-Col. Glen MacNeil*

1st Canadian Rangers Patrol Group headquarters are stationed, along with the Royal Canadian Air Force CC-138 twin otter squadron, which will be joining the operation.

Search and rescue technicians, cooks and other operators from the army, navy and air force will also be added to the mix.

MacNeil said patrols will be done by air and by foot on land and sea ice, and will head out to inspect existing infrastructure, like airstrips and Environment Canada stations, in various locations to see the state they're in and report back any "anomalies" out on the land.

"This enables us to have a good understanding of what is out there across our area of operations, across the North, if we ever need to use these facilities in the event of a safety or security emergency, for instance," he said.

While the operation is more focused on reconnaissance than presence, MacNeil said there is an element of search and rescue involved in the exercise each year.

"Because we know they're there, we conduct our operation at the same time, and if we need to provide assistance in a search and rescue operation, then we've got some members of the Canadian Armed Forces already pre-positioned in the High Arctic...During past Operation Nunaliut's we have done just that."

MacNeil said it's a challenge working in the huge, barren region - located 1,000-1,500 km north of the Arctic Circle and spanning several hundred kilometres across in distance - in temperatures between -20 and -40C, where weather can change without notice, which is why it's so essential to have Rangers on board for the exercise.

"Rangers are experts on living and surviving in these types of conditions. People from the south just aren't. They're smart and they're trained to do this, but the Rangers just have this extra bit of added knowledge, and of course they have very detailed knowledge of the area that they operate in," MacNeil said.

Despite their familiarity with the Arctic, MacNeil



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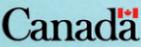


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The harpoon throw event on Sunday during the community games challenged competitors to hone in on their aiming skills.



Donovan Archie of Inuvik pulls ahead of another snowmobiler in the 600 track race on Sunday.



Northerners dig into the ground during a hard-fought tug-of-war battle for \$300 on Sunday.

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### Arts & Culture Festivals

## ‘Some serious playtime’ at 56th Muskrat Jamboree

Northerners snowmobile, jig, skin and more to usher in spring

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Spirits were high at Inuvik's 56th annual Muskrat Jamboree from Apr. 5-8 even with icy temperatures dipping below -20C throughout the weekend.

This year's spring festival, which sees Northerners from across the territories gather in Inuvik, was dedicated to the NWT Council for Disabilities and featured a number of cultural events and competitions down at the river site along the Mackenzie.

Events kicked off Friday evening with the crowning of the Muskrat Jamboree king and queen. Richard Ross Jr. and Lorraine Greenland beat out four other pairs vying for festival royalty. The coronation was followed by a traditional community feast, Inuvialuit drum dancing, a jiving contest with cash prizes and, finally, a well-attended old time dance

featuring the Delta Good Time Band.

Saturday's activities started early at Ingamo Hall with a pancake breakfast followed by a festival parade. The 14th annual Muskrat Jamboree Masters Open Dog Race, a 10-mile race with any type of sled, opened up the afternoon. First prize in the race was \$1,250; \$1,000 for second, \$800 for third, \$500 for fourth and \$300 for fifth.

The jamboree offers "some serious playtime for us Northerners," Floyd Roland, Inuvik mayor, said on his twitter feed Saturday during the slew of ongoing community games, including plank walk, log sawing, nail driving, and egg, spoon and foot races. A number of snowmobile races also took place Saturday.

Sunday brought more pancakes at the Anglican church followed by the 16th Annual 10-mile Mary Firth Women's Dog Team Race,

which is undertaken with toboggans. Prizes were also awarded later in the day for the best in the traditional dress parade. More community games commenced, from tug of war to harpoon throw, honey bag hockey, gunny sack relay races and toboggan pulls.

Music was also a defining feature of the weekend with jigging contests, fiddling, duets, singing and a talent show at East Three Elementary School Sunday night.

Things showed no sign of slowing down Monday as the 16th Annual 10-mile Isaac Simon Memorial Dog Race with toboggans kicked off, with cash prizes for the first five across the finish line. The popular Trapper Skills event saw a number of spectators this year after having to forgo the muskrat skinning portion of the event in 2013 because organizers could not find any muskrats - too



A honey bag hockey player goes in for the kill on Sunday at the River Site.



A snowshoe racer gallops across the track.



Muskrat Jamboree queen Lorraine Greenland of Inuvik volunteers in the food tent.



Each team had to have three men and three women.



A family braves the frigid weather to take in the jamboree sights.



Contestants hop to the finish line during the gunny sack relay race.

# Inuvik's muskrats

much snowfall had blocked the push-ups, where muskrats break through the ice.

The skills event involves teams of one man and one woman collecting wood, making a fire, chiseling ice, boiling tea, making bannock and skinning and stretching the muskrat. The bannock must be cooked thoroughly and the winning team, based on time, taste and quality, will be decided by three judges from the crowd. Weather permitting, there are only 10 matchsticks given to each team.

In the muskrat skinning component, rules include: no pulling the skin off by hand, it must be a clean job, the muskrat must be stretched and teams need their own knives.

Big event prizes were distributed and raffle tickets drawn at the closing ceremonies Monday following the final round of open class track snowmobile races.



A woman shows off her traditional dress for the traditional dress costume parade open to all cultures age 16 and up.

Photos: Floyd Roland, Jackie Challis, Hugo Millan, Jennifer Tetlich



## The Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority (FSHSSA) facilities

have been under renovation for some time and changes have occurred. The FSHSSA strives to deliver safe, high-quality care to our community.

### We would like to notify you of the following

The Fort Smith Medical Clinic will be moving to a temporary location during the next phase of renovations to the Fort Smith Health Centre. Our hours of operation and our telephone number will remain unchanged. If you wish to see a doctor or nurse practitioner and you do not have a scheduled appointment please call ahead and book your appointment.

### We make every effort to ensure wait times are as short as possible.

#### Please be aware of the following changes to the Fort Smith Medical Clinic:

1. We will no longer be able to serve clients who do not have a scheduled appointment.
2. People who show-up at the Medical Clinic without a scheduled appointment:
  - a. will be asked to book an appointment and return at their scheduled appointment time; or,
  - b. will be redirected to the Emergency Department at the Fort Smith Health Centre.

#### Please be aware of the following changes at the Fort Smith Health Centre Emergency Dept:

1. Every client will be assessed according to the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS).
2. Clients will be prioritized according to their CTAS score.
3. Services rendered will be determined by CTAS score.

**We want to make sure the community is aware of current and future changes to our programs and services and we will be providing further updates in the coming weeks.**

# Wood Buffalo close to becoming Dark Sky Preserve

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Astronomical Society (TAWBAS) is preparing for an exciting year as they near the end of the nearly two-year long process of establishing Wood Buffalo National Park as an official Dark Sky Preserve (DSP) site.

"Everything has been submitted; things look good, and now we're just waiting to hear back whether or not we've been accepted," Mike Couvrette, newly elected for his second term as TAWBAS chair, told *The Journal*.

He plans to have the official news within a couple months.

According to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, a DSP is "an area in which no



Left to right, Janie Hobart, Mike Couvrette, Tim Gauthier and Larry Nixon are the new TAWBAS board of directors. Missing is Bruce Buckley.

artificial lighting is visible and active measures are in place to educate and promote the reduction of light pollution to the public and nearby municipalities... and sky glow from beyond the borders of the preserve will be of comparable intensity, or less, to that of natural sky glow."

"For us it's a big deal," Couvrette said. "There are 14 of

these sites in Canada, but none this far North...There's also an international designation for dark sky preserves, which we will probably start to seek as well down the road."

The official designation is slated to arrive just before the society hosts its second annual Dark Sky Festival at Pine Lake on Aug. 24-26.

## Stargazing activities abound in 2013

TAWBAS is also gearing up to celebrate its own Sun-Earth Day (NASA's Sun-Earth day was Mar. 21) in conjunction with Parks Canada's Earth Day festivities on Apr. 21 at Mission Park in Fort Smith.

"We'll have our telescopes out, point out some sunspots, just explore the sun close up, as we're told it is the peak of the solar activity cycle around this time," Larry Nixon, TAWBAS vice chair, said.

TAWBAS recently acquired two new telescopes to help garner more participation at its community events. A Celestron 85C telescope was donated by Astronomy

North and a 10-inch, manually-operated Dobsonian telescope was purchased with the society's own funds. TAWBAS also owns a four-inch Meade star navigator instrument for the public to use.

In recognition of Astronomy Week, beginning Apr. 15, TAWBAS will host a star gazing night in Fort Smith on Apr. 20 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Parks Canada office. Weather depending, the group will head out to a designated spot after a short, universe-focused video to check out Jupiter, Saturn, Andromeda and maybe even Comet Panstarrs, the first of two bright comets expected this year. The event is free and open to the public.

Photo: Renée Francoeur



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A **NEW Wildlife Act** is in the works

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, chaired by Mr. Robert Hawkins, is reviewing the government's proposal and will be travelling through the territory holding public hearings (full schedule on the Assembly's website under Upcoming Meetings).

**We want to hear from you**

### Public Hearings

7pm Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Melnyk Hall, Royal Canadian Legion in Norman Wells

7pm Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Board Room, Gwichya Gwich'in Band Council in Tsiigehtchic

7pm Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Council Chamber, Yellowknives Dene First Nation in Dettah

7:30pm Thursday, April 18, 2013

Banquet Room, Ptarmigan Inn in Hay River

For a copy of Bill 3, *Wildlife Act* visit our website [www.assembly.gov.nt.ca](http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca) and look under House Business, Bills/Legislation.

To make a written submission, to speak at a hearing, or if you have any questions please contact:  
Jennifer Knowlan, Committee Clerk  
Telephone: (867) 669-2241 | Toll Free: 1-800-661-0784,  
Fax: (867) 873-0432 | Email: [jennifer\\_knowlan@gov.nt.ca](mailto:jennifer_knowlan@gov.nt.ca)

**Submissions must be received by 5pm June 14, 2013.**



## Environment Wildlife

# Ottawa funds whooping crane breeding program

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A captive breeding program for the endangered whooping crane at the Calgary Zoo has received a boost from the federal government to help revive the species that is slowly increasing in numbers after being on the brink of extinction in the 1940s.

A one-year funding arrangement of \$20,000 for the program was announced last Thursday by Environment Minister Peter Kent.

"Efforts to establish flocks of captive-bred whooping cranes like the program here at the Calgary Zoo are critical to help ensure the persistence of the species," Kent said in a press release. "We are pleased to work with the zoo to bring back this iconic species."

The Calgary Zoo's Centre for Conservation Research, established in 1999 to develop conservation initiatives and to protect and restore endangered species and their ecosystems, in partnership with veterinary experts from the zoo's Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre, is one of only three North American groups devoted to whooping crane conservation-breeding efforts.

"As the only breeding facility in Canada participating in the reintroduction efforts for these amazing birds, we are proud of the contribution the Calgary Zoo has made over the past two decades towards securing a future for whooping cranes in North America," Clément Lanthier, zoo president and CEO, said

in the release. "This support from the federal government will help continue this important work."

Low egg hatching success is a major obstacle the centre routinely encounters, its website states.

These new federal funds will go towards continued research in developing ways to improve hatching success.

Researchers are currently gathering reproductive data and other information by using specially-developed telemetric eggs, or eggs with sensors placed in the mother's nest to measure temperature.

They are also focused on studying how to optimize the incubation process by looking at eggshell characteristics and microclimates (the environment inside the egg) experienced by whooping crane fetuses in artificial versus natural incubation environments. The behaviour of parenting and non-parenting captive, adult breeding pairs in both large and small enclosures is also being probed at the zoo.

Whooping crane eggs bred at the Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre, known as the "zoo ranch" in Calgary, are put into one of two programs, the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) or the Direct Autumn Release (DAR), if the eggs are identified as "eligible."

WCEP eggs are shipped to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland where they are hatched and reared until they are 45 days

old. Here they are taught to "imprint" on an ultralight aircraft that will lead them in their migration. They are then sent to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin and, when migration time arrives, the adolescent whooping cranes follow the aircraft to their wintering grounds at either the St. Marks Refuge or the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, learning the migratory route so they can do it on their own the next year.

DAR eggs are sent directly to Necedah and then individually released into existing WCEP flocks. According to the Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre, "this way, the existing populations of whooping cranes are continually supplemented by new arrivals."

Canada is home to the world's largest migratory population of whooping cranes. The flock winters in the Aransas Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico in Texas and summers in Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories.

According to Environment Canada, there are almost 300 birds in the migratory Wood Buffalo National Park flock.

It was estimated by the International Crane Foundation that only 16 whooping cranes were left on the entire planet in 1941-1942.

Whooping cranes were designated as endangered in Canada in the year 2000. The birds are protected in the United States by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act.

# Live pine beetle larvae found in NWT

## *Pest that has devastated BC's timber survives Northern winter*

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Larvae of the devastating mountain pine beetle that has destroyed BC forests for the past two decades survived the winter in a handful of trees in the Northwest Territories, just north of the area where the NWT, Alberta and BC borders meet.

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) department staff discovered the beetle in a small cluster of NWT jack pine trees last September, territorial forest ecologist Mike Gravel told *The Journal*.

There was doubt the pest would survive the harsh Northern winter, Gravel noted, but the beetle, black and typically as small as a grain of rice, hasn't given up on the NWT yet.

"There was a very small number of trees affected last fall, less than a dozen I'd say, in the area around the Kakisa River that runs out of Alberta, north of the junction of all three borders," Gravel said. "Alberta found them (mountain pine beetles) in 2011 and were surprised at how far north the species had got, so last year we wanted to monitor our forests and check things out."

It is not an infestation by any means, he noted.

"There are about three to four sites, with a few affected trees in each site," Gravel said. "The most we found on one tree was, I believe, around 60 and now for us that may sound like a lot, but when we talk to people from BC they tell us to not even worry about that because it's so low compared to what they're seeing on their trees."

That being said, the department is keeping a close eye on the beetle, especially after the Alberta government's 2011-2012 mountain pine beetle mortality survey demonstrated high rates of beetle survival in the Peace River region. The report also highlighted a larger number of infested trees just south of Grande Prairie, "posing a high risk of beetle spread," and stated the probability of additional spread deeper into northwest Alberta from nearby infested areas in BC remains moderate to high.

According to a recent documentary, *The Beetles are Coming*, the beetle, native to BC, is expected to march east across the country over the next 20 years, wreaking havoc on pines as far away as the Maritimes.

"One of our objectives was to see if the beetle had survived the winter, as our cold weather is one of the reasons insects like that have been kept out of the North, and so with the recent warming they've managed to come this far north, but we don't know if they will be able to



Photo: Natural Resources Canada

The mountain pine beetle is dark coloured and roughly the size of a grain of rice, about 4 to 7.5 mm in length.

establish themselves long-term," Gravel said.

On Mar. 20, ENR forestry officers returned to the affected area to take puck samples (small discs) out of the trees that include the bark and inner rings where the beetle larvae live.

The pucks were then slowly warmed to room temperature at a Canadian Forest Service laboratory in BC. Any living larvae on the pucks will start to reactivate and metabolize.

"There were a few larvae - not very many - that did show signs of life, so now we know that the beetles can survive in our Northern climate, at least in the southern part of the NWT and at least for this one season," Gravel said.

The battle isn't anywhere near over, however, Gravel noted.

"There are still possibilities. It was -20C in Fort Smith recently, so a cold spring snap could kill the beetles. Once they start warming up in the spring and they're metabolizing, they're losing some of their internal anti-freeze, if you will, so even though there were live larvae a few weeks ago, a cold spring could inflict more damage on them, taking care of them completely," he said. "We will continue to monitor the beetles and will be heading back to the site in a few months."

### ENR starting full pest risk analysis

The number one concern for ENR now that the beetle has made its way North of 60 and survived the winter is ensuring the overall health of NWT forests and wildlife, Gravel said.

The department is currently beginning a "full pest risk analysis," expected to last throughout the summer, to determine the scope of the situation and what course of action to take should beetle numbers escalate.

Talks have started with experts in BC, where an estimated 710 million cubic metres of lodgepole pine timber has been affected by the bug since the outbreak in the early 1990s.

"They were just recently discovered here and they're not in any great number that they are going to take over our forest or anything like that," Gravel said. "We have time to work with specialists in southern Canada who have more experience than us dealing with these beetles and start collecting more data."

For example, ENR does not have a complete and accurate forest inventory in the affected area, as it's "off the beaten track, not close to any areas of harvest or communities," Gravel said. It is also not known how many pine trees are in the NWT in total. This will be one of the first things done as part of the analysis, Gravel said.

"If the pine trees are small, young and sparse, there is really little risk of them being impacted, but if we have areas where there are large, mature, over-mature pine trees, those are ones we want to focus on."

Aerial surveys of other areas that could be at risk have already begun.

By fall, Gravel expects to have a more clear idea of the beetle problem and what control mechanism, such as cutting or burning, ENR will use to manage the pest.

"Those beetles may have just flown in this past summer under extreme warm conditions with winds from BC and Alberta and just happened to land there. Maybe next summer, they'll no longer be there. We're at the beginning stage of all these and trying to determine if this is just an isolated incident."



Photo courtesy of Mike Gravel

An adult beetle prepares to lay its eggs under the bark as it mines its way further up a NWT pine tree.

### Killing pine, the beetle way

The beetle, about 4 to 7.5 mm in length, is only harmful to pine trees and attacks by laying its eggs under the bark. Hatched larvae infiltrate the phloem area beneath the bark, eventually choking off the tree's nutrient supply. The beetles also

carry a blue stain fungi, which further dehydrates the tree.

NWT's affected areas are currently in the "green attack" phase, Gravel said, which means you cannot tell by looking at them that they have become infested.

By the end of summer, they will slowly start to

turn red, which means they have been hosting the pest for about a year, Gravel said.

After a couple years, all the needles fall off the tree and branches also begin to drop off, he said.

Infested wood is still useable for firewood and quality products.

**Annual General Meeting**

**The Fort Smith Golf Club**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 18th**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Downstairs at the Legion**

# Douglas Coupland to headline 2013 NorthWords

## *Festival aims to promote rise of 'Generation North' in literary world*



Douglas Coupland is the author of nearly 20 books, including the bestselling novel *Generation X*.

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
Canada's favourite Generation X-er will be headlining the North's foremost literary festival this spring in Yellowknife.

Douglas Coupland, whose hyper-contemporary takes on modern society, technology and human relationships in landmark books like *Generation X*, *Microserfs* and *Life After God* made him an icon in the '90s, will be making his first trip to the NWT for this year's NorthWords festival, May 30-June 2.

Photo courtesy of NorthWords

"We're pretty excited about Douglas. He's an amazingly talented and

that Coupland has always been on the festival committee's wishlist.

by Northerners Heather MacLeod, an author of three volumes of poetry, and Renel

We're trying to build a Northern literary culture, and it's one of the reasons we have our theme for this year's festival as 'Generation North'...We really, really believe that the North and the NWT is starting to come of age as a literary culture.

*Annelies Pool*

*NorthWords executive director*

multifaceted artist," said NorthWords executive director Annelies Pool, adding

"He's a premier Canadian writer, but also he speaks for our modern culture and the way it is now...He made his breakout of course in 1991 with *Generation X*, which has become a part of the Canadian consciousness - that term, itself, has become part of our lingo, not only in Canada, but in the English-speaking world. He has defined something that was very tangible."

So tangible, in fact, that NorthWords has decided to play on the lingo with this year's theme: Generation North.

While quite obviously an homage to Douglas, the theme also seeks to celebrate the North's place in contemporary Canadian literature.

"We're trying to build a Northern literary culture, and it's one of the reasons we have our theme for this year's festival as 'Generation North,'" Pool said. "There are more books being published by Northerners all the time and we really, really believe that the North and the NWT are starting to come of age as a literary culture. The Northern story is being told more and more, and we are making a place...on the literary map of Canada."

Apart from Coupland, this year's lineup includes an element of mystery, with well-known crime fiction writer Giles Blunt making an appearance along with Vicki Delany and Barbara Fradkin. The trio will form a special "Whodunnit?" panel on writing crime fiction.

Unlike last year, the 2013 festival will also offer poetry

Arluk, who published her first book last year.

Celebrated author and storyteller for all ages, Sylvia Olsen, is also on the lineup and, for the first time, will be extending NorthWords outside of the territorial capital with a day-long appearance in Fort Smith on May 30, where she will do a variety of readings and presentations.

"We're really excited about that because one of the things that we're always struggling with is how to reach and work with writers that are not in Yellowknife," Pool said.

As well, this year's festival will include a panel of published academic authors whose works bring up similar questions around cultural representation and appropriation.

"It's going to be about non-Aboriginal people writing Aboriginal stories, and I think that will be a very interesting discussion, because I know that all of these writers go through this whole process where they really have to struggle to be sensitive and respectful," Pool said. "There's the whole issue of appropriation of voice."

Apart from the new additions, the festival will also feature its familiar - and well-loved - Blush Open Mic erotica night, sure to rouse giggles and rosy cheeks from its audience and authors.

"Every year I invite all the authors to do a reading at erotica night, because it's something they don't often do, and I'm always amazed at how many people jump at the chance - including children's authors," Pool said with a laugh.

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### NorthWords 2013 Lineup

Renel	Marcus Jackson
Jamie Bastedo	Cathy Jewison
Myranda Bolstad	Allice Legat
Giles Blunt	Cara Loverock
Douglas Coupland	Heather MacLeod
Gail Cyr	David Malcolm
Vicki Delany	Keavy Martin
Batiste Foisy	Judy McClinton
Barbara Fradkin	Sylvia Olsen
January Go	Annelies Pool
Patti-Kay Hamilton	Patrick Scott
Colin Henderson	Richard Van Camp
Fran Hurcomb	Mindy Willett
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# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES

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## Government of the Northwest Territories

For copies of the job description please visit [www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment](http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment)

### Assistant Local Librarian

**Education, Culture and Employment Library Services** Fort Smith, NT

Part-Time Position (12 hours per week)

Salary starts at \$26.42 per hour, plus an annual pro-rated Northern Allowance of \$7,059.

**Job Opening ID#:** 10386 **Closing Date:** April 19, 2013

**Apply Online:** [www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment](http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment)  
**Inquiries Only:** Fort Smith Human Resource Service Centre, P.O. Box 876, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0, Fax: (867) 872-3298, E-mail: [jobsfortsmith@gov.nt.ca](mailto:jobsfortsmith@gov.nt.ca)

### Technical Advisor

**NWT Housing Corporation** Fort Smith, NT

Indeterminate

Salary is currently under review, plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$7,059.

**Job Opening ID#:** 10370 **Closing Date:** April 12, 2013

### Technical Advisor

**NWT Housing Corporation** Hay River, NT

Indeterminate

Salary is currently under review, plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$5,410.

**Job Opening ID#:** 10368 **Closing Date:** April 12, 2013

**Apply Online:** [www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment](http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment)  
**Inquiries Only:** Department of Human Resources, Hay River Client Service Centre, #209, 62 Woodland Drive, Hay River, NT X0E 1G1, Fax: (867) 874-5095, E-mail: [jobshayriver@gov.nt.ca](mailto:jobshayriver@gov.nt.ca)

### Corporate ICT Policy Analyst

**Finance Office of the CIO** Yellowknife, NT

Indeterminate

Salary is currently under review, plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$3,450.

**Job Opening ID#:** 10376 **Closing Date:** April 12, 2013

**Apply Online:** [www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment](http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment)  
**Inquiries Only:** Department of Human Resources, Management and Recruitment Services, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Laing Building, P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, Fax: (867) 873-0281, E-mail: [jobsyk@gov.nt.ca](mailto:jobsyk@gov.nt.ca)

- Applicants must clearly identify eligibility under the Affirmative Action Policy in order to receive priority consideration.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace, and seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities, as required. If you have a disability and you require support, you are encouraged to identify your needs if you are contacted for an interview or assignment, so that you may be accommodated.
- Equivalencies may be considered. • Eligibility lists may be created from these competitions to fill future term or indeterminate positions. • Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### HEALTH DIRECTOR Nunee Health Board Society Fort Chipewyan, Alberta

The Nunee Health Board Society is seeking a Health Director. The successful candidate will report to the Board of Directors and will be responsible for the overall development, implementation, administration, and evaluation of all organizational and program activities as carried out by the Society. The Health Director is: ultimately responsible for all staff and program functions within the organization; prepares and/or reviews and approves all budget and financial reports before they are submitted to the Board; manages and oversees the community health services function to ensure effective and efficient delivery of services.

#### The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications and experience:

- Degree from a recognized university or college in health or the social sciences, management, nursing or education;
- Minimum five years experience at a senior level of a health organization or agency;
- Knowledge of Aboriginal health and health related concerns, issues and programming, along with previous experience working in an Aboriginal community and/or with Aboriginal peoples;
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal, including First Nation and Métis, cultures, organizations, and communities;
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of financial, administrative, planning, supervisory and evaluation techniques and principals;
- Must have a proven track record and must be very resourceful;
- Demonstrated ability to organize, plan and supervise;
- Working knowledge of computers and computer applications;
- Excellent community relations, networking and communication skills;
- The ability to develop and maintain a strong relationship based on trust, excellent communication(s), and mutual respect with the Board of Directors, our managers, our staff, the leadership, our external partners and funding bodies, and the community at large;
- Ability to speak the Cree and/or Chipewyan language is desirable.

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Candidates are requested to state their expectations in their letter of application.

Please submit your resume in writing, and in confidence, complete with three references and contact information, to:

Attention: Board of Directors  
Nunee Health Board Society  
P.O. Box 476  
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta T0P 1B0

**Closing Date: Until a suitable candidate is found.**

Please direct any questions you may have to:  
Lorraine Cardinal, Human Resource Coordinator  
Nunee Health Board Society  
T: (780) 697-3900  
Email: [lorrainec@nunee.org](mailto:lorrainec@nunee.org)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Concession staff

Pelican Rapids Golf & Country Club requires summer concession staff. Resumes can be dropped off at Lou's Small Engines in Fort Smith.



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**RESIDENT FIELD MECHANIC** – responsible for the repair and maintenance of construction and forestry based equipment and attachments. Positions will be located in Brooks/Hanna, Bonnyville/Cold Lake, Drayton Valley, Edson, Whitecourt, Peace River, High Prairie, AB and Yellowknife, NWT.

**HDD FIELD MECHANIC** – dedicated to Horizontal Directional Drilling, this position is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Ditch Witch product lines. Position will be located in Edmonton, AB.

**FOREMEN** – responsible for scheduling and supervising the work of Service Mechanics to repair and maintain construction equipment and attachments. Previous leadership and mechanical experience in a heavy equipment environment is considered an asset. Positions will be located in Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie, AB.

Applicants will require a minimum of 3 to 5 years experience and wages vary depending on qualifications and experience. Premiums are available for shift and field work.



Please visit [www.brandtjobs.com](http://www.brandtjobs.com) to apply for a career opportunity or call (306) 791-8923 for more information.

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- Crane & Picker operation** – well established, owners wish to retire sales 800,000.
- Wholesale Business** – Cremation Urns – land & building sales \$160K Price \$349,900.
- Retail** – Sales 2.4M 2 locations price \$950,000.
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Call Bill Conroy or Keith Acheson @ 403-346-6655
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- Seasonal Fun Business** – EARN net \$82,000 May 15-Sep 30 specializing in family/school gatherings, kid's parties/entertainment play gym equipment
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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### PROPERTY MANAGER

Cree Chip Development Corporation (CCDC) is seeking a full-time on-site Property Manager for a term position of one year. This position may lead to a permanent employment opportunity after the first year.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- Oversee all business activities of CCDC in a timely manner;
- Develop, plan, and implement the annual budget to control the overall financial performance of the company;
- Oversee and maintain all new leases and lease renewal contracts;
- Scheduling all repairs and maintenance with vendors and ensuring the proper care of the properties;
- Monitoring the work of contractors and others on site;
- Resolving client complaints and any conflicts;
- Providing updates and management reports to the Board of Directors and Shareholders on a timely basis and as required;
- Other duties as assigned.

#### Education, Qualifications & Experience

- Degree, Diploma, Certificate in business administration, finance or real estate accreditation. Equivalent combination of training and experience will be considered;
- Must have at least 1 – 3 years experience as a property manager in a commercial building, or equivalent;
- Knowledge of business practices and principles;
- Experience with property financials, budgeting, and reporting as required;

**Compensation:** Salary will commensurate based on qualifications and experience.

Please submit your resume in confidence to Board of Directors, Cree Chip Development Corporation, P.O. Box 346, Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0. Please call Margaret Whiteknife at 780-697-3684 for more information.

**Deadline for Applications is 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 26, 2013.**

We thank all applicants for your interest and application; however only those selected for interviews will be contacted.



## REQUEST FOR TENDERS

### Health Centre CT101292

**- Fort Providence, NT -**

Design-Build and Construction of a new Health Centre.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, Suite 301, 76 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT (delivered to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, B&R Rowe Centre) or the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, North Slave Regional Office, 5015-44<sup>th</sup> Street, Yellowknife, NT will be received before:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013.**

Tender Documents are available as of March 28, 2013 from the Electronic Plansroom at the NWT Construction Association [www.nwtca.ca](http://www.nwtca.ca) or (867) 873-3949.

To be considered each tender must be submitted on the forms provided and be accompanied by the security stated in the tender documents.

Pre-tender meeting: 9:00 AM, April 11 2013, Stuart M. Hodgson Building, 5009 - 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Yellowknife, NT.

**General inquiries to:** Audrey Mabbitt, Contracts Administrator, Government of the NWT, Phone: (867) 874-7003

**Technical inquiries to:** Floyd Daniels, Project Officer, Government of the NWT, Phone: (867) 874-7006

The GNWT Business Incentive Policy and Chapter 5 of the Agreement on Internal Trade will apply to this procurement.

For contract opportunities visit [www.contractregistry.nt.ca](http://www.contractregistry.nt.ca)

## INVITATION TO TENDER

### AS AND WHEN CONTRACT SERVICES

The Fort Smith Housing Authority is accepting Tender prices for **As and When Janitorial Services** for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.

Tender packages are available at the Fort Smith Housing Authority office, 89 King St., Fort Smith, NT.

**Closing Date**  
April 17, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Local time.

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Higgins  
Fort Smith Housing Authority  
89 King Street, P.O. Box 1287  
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0  
Telephone: (867)872-2311  
Fax: (867)872-4450

A satisfactory criminal record check of selected Contractor may be required.

*Lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.*

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Northwestern Air LEASE LTD.

#### Cargo/Reservations Agent

Northwestern Air Lease Ltd. is looking for a Cargo/Reservations Agent for Fort Smith. Candidate must have Grade 12 and computer experience with Word and Excel preferred. Salary starts at \$17/hour with travel and health benefits. This is a full time position.

Send resume to [ifraser@nwal.ca](mailto:ifraser@nwal.ca) or drop off at the Fort Smith Airport terminal

*Closing date April 12/2013.*

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### INUVIK

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 NWT Legislative Assembly Cafeteria  
 Yellowknives Dene First Nation N'dilo

*By telling the stories of Northerners, we're making our communities stronger!*



**Catch that clown!** Rhonda Buckland of Yellowknife, one of the Ptub racers, was seriously hard to keep up with despite her silly attire.



It was cold for the 30th anniversary Ptub ski races on the weekend, but the sun helped on Sunday, shining bright and warm on the biathletes as they took off in a mass start Sunday afternoon.

**Sports & Recreation Skiing**

# Ptub celebrates 30 years with solid, snow-loving turnout

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Hay River Ski Club's Ptub Ski Races celebrated a successful 30th anniversary on the weekend with 75 skiers of all ages taking part in the classic, freestyle and sprint races.

"We had a very good Ptub turnout...with skiers from Fort Smith, Fort Providence, K'at'l'odeeche, Hay River and Yellowknife," Bob White, one of the main Ptub organizers, said. "The Ptarmigan Inn Banquet hosted 135 Saturday night, our best crowd ever."

It was Fort Providence's first Ptub in many years and Wyatt Causa took away a bronze medal for the team in the mini midget boys' 3 km classic race. Fort Providence coach Teresa Vandell and team captain Aisha Sabourin promised

they'd be back with a bigger squad next year, White said.

Despite temperatures plummeting to -30C at night, Saturday and Sunday were full of clear blue skies and the cold

weather cancellation this winter, the energy around the biathlon range was electric," White said.

Fort Smith's Amelie Aubrey-Smith shot a clean 10 out of 10

The energy around the biathlon range was electric.

*Bob White*

didn't scare away participants, White said, though the biathlon event had to be postponed from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon due to cold weather.

Biathlon was a first time event for Ptub this year.

"Because biathletes lost so many weekends to cold

to take top spot in the midget girls' 1.5 km biathlon sprint. Yellowknife's Ella Kokelj took second, followed by Tenielle Patterson of Hay River.

In 1983, Chuck Davidge, the original Ptarmigan Inn owner, and Chris Brodeur, who owned the *Hay River Hub*

at the time, partnered to form the original sponsorship team for the Ptub races.

The event's name comes from a combination of the two businesses.

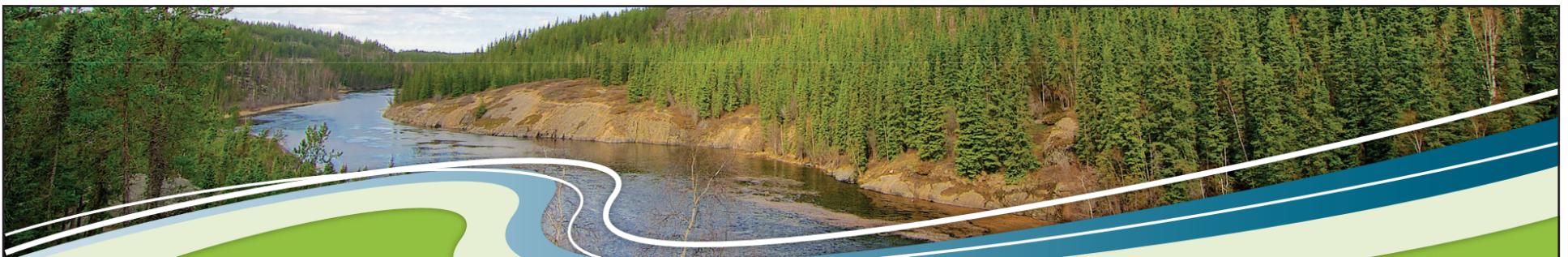
Davidge, Brodeur and Pat Bobinski, Hay River ski coach and "boss of the trails," were all recognized with an engraved cowbell at the annual banquet Saturday night, commemorating their 30 years of support and sponsorship.

"Ptub weekend has become a classic traditional spring skiing event for NWT skiers. It is both a stage for all the exciting young up-and-coming Northern ski talent and a homecoming for athletes, organizers and ski enthusiasts who take great pride in overseeing the continued growth of this sport," White said.



The thrill of the race!

Photos: Don Jaque



**Devolution**  
of Lands and Resources in the Northwest Territories

Want to learn more? The proposed NWT Devolution of Lands and Resources Agreement is now online. Visit [devolution.gov.nt.ca](http://devolution.gov.nt.ca)



# TUKTOYAKTUK Beluga Jamboree

April 19, 20, 21 & 22, 2013

## Friday, April 19

- 7 p.m.....\$2,500 TV Bingo
- 8:30 p.m.....Opening Ceremonies (Kitti Hall)  
Opening Prayer  
Opening Address  
Crowning of King & Queen
- 10 p.m.....Square Dance (Kitti Hall)  
Jiving Competition  
Spot Dances & Limbo

## Saturday, April 20

- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.....Pancake Breakfast (Mangilaluk School)
- 1 p.m.....Outdoor Events (Harbour)
- 7 p.m.....\$5,000 TV Bingo
- 9 p.m. ....Bobby Gruben Memorial Square Dance  
Jigging Contest (Kitti Hall)

## Sunday, April 21

- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.....Pancake Breakfast (Mangilaluk School)
- 1 p.m.....Outdoor Events (Harbour)
- 8 p.m.....Adult Talent Show (Kitti Hall)

## Monday, April 22

- 1 p.m.....Outdoor Events (Harbour)
- 7 p.m.....Closing Ceremonies (Kitti Hall)  
Cross Country & Track Race Prizes  
King & Queen Ticket Raffle  
Polaris Snowmobile Ticket Raffle

## Outdoor Events Start at 1 p.m.

### Saturday April 20

- Needle & Thread
- Obstacle Relay
- Mixed Three-legged
- Men's Open Class Cross Country
- Cross Country 600cc & Under
- Long Track 550 Co-ed Cross Country
- Log Sawing
- Piggy Back Race
- Toboggan Pull
- 2x4 Skid Race
- Jigging Contest

### Sunday April 21

- Dizzy Stick
- Egg Throw
- Nail Drive
- Open Ice Drag
- Men's Open Class Oval
- Harpoon Throw
- Women's 75 Mile Open Class
- Talent Show
- Ptarmigan Calling

### Monday, April 22

- Ice Chiseling
- Oval Race 600cc & under
- Track Race 600cc & under

- Rope Wrestling
- Men's 100 Mile Open Class

Some events  
require entry fees.

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Thanks to all the 2013 Beluga Jamboree volunteers.



The Yellowknife team, ecstatic in their hard fought victory over the Hay River Huskies, will represent the Western Arctic in the First Air hockey event dubbed the Northern Hockey Challenge. It includes teams from all regions in the NWT, Nunavut and northern Quebec that First Air flies into.



The only sound in the Hay River arena Saturday after the overtime goal was the cheering of the victorious Yellowknife players.



It was a hard fought series with crowd-pleasing, back and forth play. Yellowknife goalie Ivan Gloeden faced 40 shots to lead his team to victory.

Photos: Don Jaque

**First Delta Ski from Aklavik to Inuvik**

A group of 10 spent the weekend skiing from Aklavik to Inuvik, approximately 80 km on an ungroomed snowmobile trail as part of the first-time Delta Ski Tour. Eight completed the entire route, including one of the youngest participants, a 13 year-old boy from Aklavik. The group started at the school in Aklavik on Friday and skied 40 km the first day, following the ice road for the first 7 km before heading into the delta. They spent the night in a cabin before heading out for the last length of the trek. Delta Ski organizer David Halpine hopes to make the ski tour an annual event.

**35th YK Loppet sees largest turnout**

Over 300 cross country skiers participated in the 35th annual Northwestel Yellowknife Ski Loppet hosted by the Yellowknife Ski Club at the Vee Lake landing on Sunday. With a total of 312 people registered, it was the largest loppet yet, coordinator Shannon Haszard said. Skiers could choose from the 4, 15 or 25 km trails and enjoy complimentary chili afterwards. The shortest trail, the Vee Lake route, is mostly flat and ideal for beginners. The Jackson Lake route of 15 km has a gentle terrain and the 25 km Banting Lake trail is more of a challenge, with some narrow and steep sections. The route to Banting Lake was first explored for the YK Ski Loppet and named the "Mockford Trail" after Bert Mockford, Yellowknife Ski Club president from 1976-1980. There is no skijoring on the loppet.

**New team wins Fort Smith Rec Hockey League**

The Blackouts, a new Rec Hockey League team in Fort Smith this year, slaughtered the Kaeser's Bisons to take the championship title with a 11-2 win on Mar. 22 during game two of the finals. The Blackouts also swept away a 6-2 win in game one. The TDC Ducks came in third after defeating Wally's Whalers. Blackouts team members include Rob Laviolette, Geronimo Paulette, Gerald Tutcho, Thaidene Paulette, Vance Sanderson, Mike Krutko, Anthony Sylte, Curtis Sinclair and Dylan Desjarlais.

**Sports & Recreation Hockey**

# Yellowknife narrowly wins western title in Hockey Challenge

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Yellowknife Flyers are the champions of the western division after one of the Northern Hockey Challenge's most riveting set of games in Hay River this past weekend.

The Flyers narrowly beat out the Hay River Huskies with a score of 2-1 just two and a half minutes into overtime during the division's final playoff game on Saturday evening with a goal by Peter Mercredi, assisted by Brad Mueller, that left the rambunctious crowd stunned.

The crowd was going wild all weekend at Hay River's Don Stewart Recreation Centre arena, chanting "Let's Go Huskies," blowing air horns, banging on cowbells, whistling and coming together to form a human wave throughout the stands.

Their bellowing enthusiasm was rewarded Friday with the Huskies overthrowing the Flyers 4-3 after a delayed start due to the zamboni damaging the Huskies' entrance door. Both teams played hard to keep

the puck out of their zones, but neither scored during the first period.

By the second period, the Huskies started pressuring the Flyers, pushing hard to successfully block the Flyers' stream of attacks.

With 4:12 remaining on the clock and the Flyers leading 3-2, both teams noticeably shortened their shifts. Hay River's Adam Chapman slipped in a goal to tie the score 3-3 with 22.3 seconds left.

The Huskies took control right away during the 20-minute sudden death overtime period. With 19:24 left on the clock, Daniel Basque passed the puck to Sean Poitras who scored the deciding goal for a narrow 4-3 win.

Saturday the Flyers started out with a 1-0 lead at the end of the first period, taking only four shots to the Huskies' 12. The final moments of the second period saw the teams tied up 1-1 with the Flyers outshot by 20. The Huskies continued to work the outside perimeter into the third period, but

couldn't get any shots past the Flyers' solid goaltending.

It was a hard fought battle during the short overtime period before the Flyers walked off with the championship title. Husky Christian Brideau was unyielding in his efforts to fight for the puck and Lance Lennie did his best to cover after multiple face-offs near the Huskies' net during the final moments.

In both games, the Flyers were extensively outshot, with the Huskies taking 40 shots to the Flyers' 20 by the end of the game Saturday, keeping Yellowknife's quick-reflexed goalie Ivan Gloeden constantly on his toes.

Playoff games in the eastern division between Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit were cancelled on the weekend due to weather issues in Nunavut's Kivalliq region. They have yet to be rescheduled.

The Flyers will take on the eastern champions for their chance to compete in the 2013 North American Championships in Calgary in May.

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