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Peel Permafrost Problem: Rapid thawing of permafrost on the Peel is impacting the watershed. See page 9.



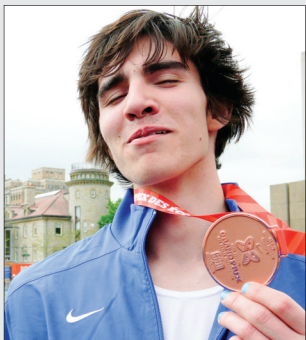
Federal minister says devolution deal not done
 Consultation could yield changes to the devolution agreement if "significant issues" arise, adds NWT Premier Bob McLeod. See page 2.



Owl surveyors hear a 'hoo' (of a barred owl)
 The rare sound of a barred owl was heard during Wood Buffalo National Park's annual owl survey this spring. See page 6.



Feds moving ahead with Giant roaster demolition
 The federal government is going forward with its plans to demolish the arsenic-contaminated Giant Mine roaster complex. See page 7.



NWT takes Toronto track & field by 'storm'
 The NWT Storm track team brought home four medals and over 20 top-10 finishes at the Nike Grand Prix in Toronto over the weekend. See page 21.

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Aurora College student Agnes Noksana of Inuvik celebrates her graduation from the Office Administration Certificate program at Aurora Campus in Inuvik last Friday. Sixteen students graduated in the Business Administration and Office Administration programs. See page 11 for more.

NWT premier denies promising \$50,000 for road through Wood Buffalo park

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Former Fort Smith mayor Peter Martselos has renewed his efforts to, once again, try to finance a road south through Wood Buffalo National Park from Peace Point to Garden River, Alta., claiming this time he has \$50,000 from NWT Premier Bob McLeod to get talks restarted.

Except the premier's office is denying making any promise of money.

Martselos, the original proponent of the road starting decades ago, told Fort Smith town council in a letter dated Apr. 30 that he was in discussion with McLeod regarding the proposed road and that the premier had "agreed

to provide funding for meetings to be held in Fort Smith and other surrounding communities in order to update information on the proposed road."

He said the premier agreed to \$50,000, but first required a letter of support from the Town of Fort Smith to dole out the money. Martselos also asked that the town act as a flow-through agency for the money so it would meet GNWT requirements for contribution agreements.

But the premier's office said the telephone conversation between Martselos and McLeod gave no specific details on GNWT support for the project, monetary or otherwise.

"I think there's some misunderstanding here," McLeod's executive assistant Katherine Robinson told *The Journal*, adding that she had "no clue" where the \$50,000 number came from.

"My understanding of the conversation on the phone was this is something we'll look at, but it's like anything: we can't proceed in a community unless there's support across all the appropriate organizations," Robinson said.

"There was no direction that if you go do this x, y and z, then the following will happen. For these types of projects you need community support and, in particular, you would need town council's support for something like this. If Mr.

Martselos interpreted that as go forth and get a letter, that's his interpretation."

Robinson said McLeod had sent a letter to Salt River First Nation (SRFN) Chief Frieda Martselos - Peter's wife - in response to one received from the chief in early May.

The chief had sent a letter of support to the GNWT signed by council saying the First Nation wanted the \$50,000 provided to the project.

Robinson said the premier's response did not indicate any funding would be given.

"The letter is just saying that we're reviewing what Alberta's doing; we're just looking at it. So that doesn't indicate anything other than just keeping an eye on the file," she said.

Parks Canada not contacted

Superintendent of Wood Buffalo National Park Rob Kent said Parks Canada had not been officially contacted by any parties about the proposal and therefore would not be able to provide comment.

"Should Parks Canada receive an official request for this proposal, it would be treated as any other development proposal, and would be subject to environmental assessment and consultation requirements, including effective and meaningful consultation with all 11 Wood Buffalo National Park Aboriginal groups," he said.

See Fort Smith on page 3.

The best little newspaper in Canada

GNWT seeks meat wasting culprits

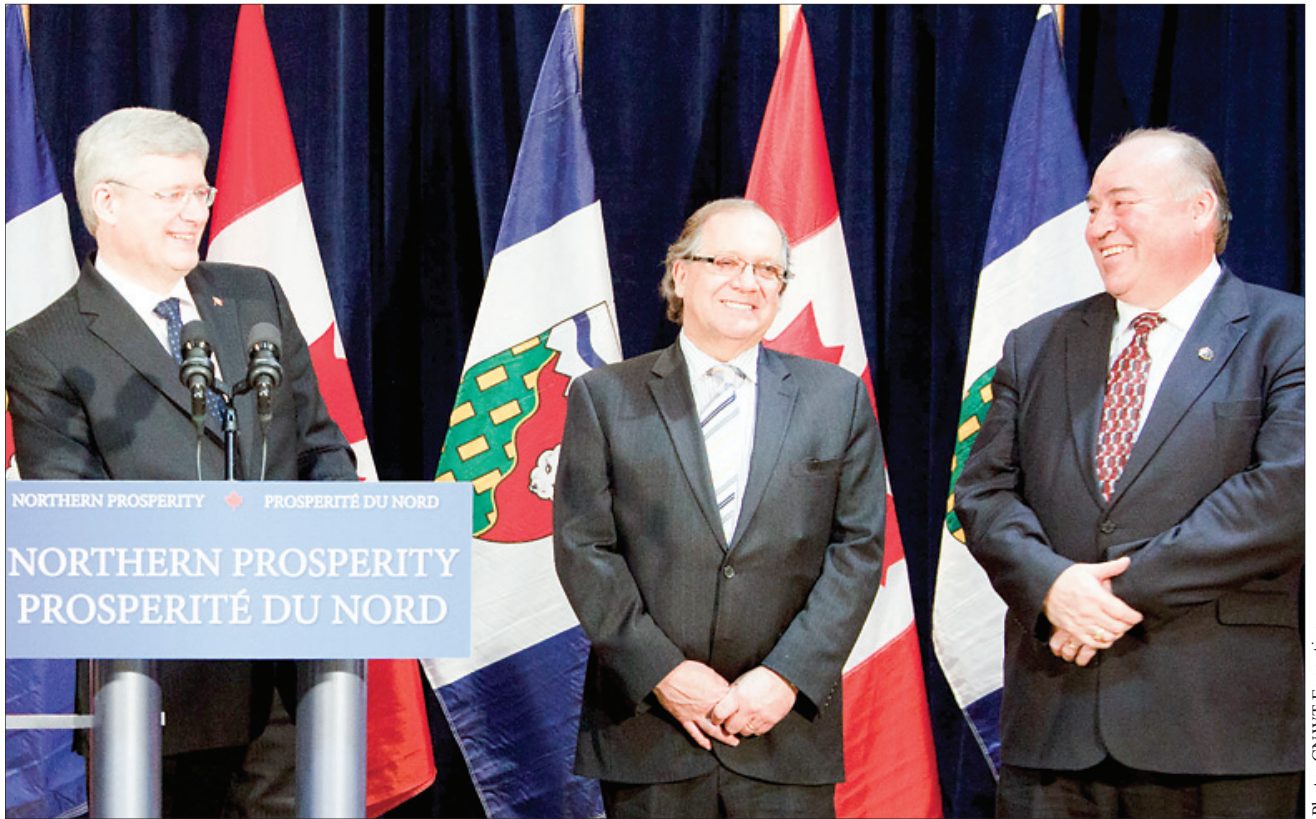
The NWT department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is seeking the public's help in identifying those responsible for 12 instances of meat wastage after parts of more than 50 caribou were found left on Hottah Lake near Gameti between Apr. 23 and 27. It is likely that the animals were harvested earlier in the month. Hottah Lake is approximately 90 km northwest of Gameti and is a popular caribou hunting area. ENR officers found backstraps, ribs, legs above the knee and rump, all suitable for food. Anyone with information is asked to call ENR's North Slave office at 873-7181 or the anonymous Report a Poacher 24-hour toll-free line at 1-866-762-2437.

Yellowknife cocaine bust nets two

A 21 year-old woman and a 32 year-old man have been charged following a raid on an apartment early in the morning on Wednesday, May 8. Investigators assisted by G Division Federal Enforcement Unit members as well as the police service dog executed a search warrant on a unit in the Norseman Apartment building on 52nd Ave where they found approximately 35 packages of cocaine, a significant quantity of cash and other items related to packaging and sale of drugs. Both of those arrested are from Yellowknife and are facing charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking and Possession of the Proceeds of Crime. They were released with conditions and will appear in Yellowknife Territorial Court on July 9.

Big oil, big time in Alberta

The Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) reported a 14 per cent increase in production in 2012 and 9.5 per cent increase in reserves over 2011 levels, the largest conventional crude oil production and reserves increase in decades. In 2012, Alberta's crude oil production totaled 88.4 thousand cubic metres (m3) (556 thousand barrels) of oil per day with a yearly total of 32.3 million m3 (204 million barrels). This increase is due to the higher production rates of horizontal wells. The ERCB forecasts Alberta's annual raw crude bitumen production will total 605.4 thousand m3 (3.8 million barrels) per day for a total of 221 million m3 (1.39 billion barrels) per year in 2022.



From left, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, AANDC Minister Bernard Valcourt and NWT Premier Bob McLeod answer questions on the devolution deal signed in Yellowknife on Mar. 11.

Politics Devolution

Federal minister says devolution deal with NWT not done

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

While the premier of the Northwest Territories is touting the devolution agreement signed in Yellowknife on Mar. 11 as a "done deal," federal Aboriginal Affairs

and Northern Development (AANDC) Minister Bernard Valcourt said last week the consensus draft is anything but final.

"No agreement has been reached yet. There is a consensus on the terms of the agreement. The consultation must take place, it is taking place and when this has been accomplished we will know what the conditions will be," Valcourt said during a special committee of the whole meeting that focused on AANDC Thursday evening in Ottawa.

Valcourt's words were in response to a question from Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington asking why the federal government did not consult all the First Nations in the territory prior to negotiating the devolution deal with the territorial government.

Valcourt said the consultation is being done now, and that changes could still be made to the agreement following its completion.

"Indeed there is a wide and substantial consultation process that is taking place as we speak. In March we announced that a general consensus had been reached, but we are in the process of consulting with all First Nations throughout in order to not only meet our obligations but to ensure the success of the devolution for the benefit of Northerners," Valcourt said.

"After those consultations have taken place and the accommodations that can be made have been made, there will then be an agreement. However, tonight I cannot talk about what the results would be

before these consultations take place. The member ought to know better," he added.

Bevington said he was confused by Valcourt's response, given remarks made by NWT Premier Bob

NWT open to change for 'significant issues'

When asked whether or not there was room for change within the devolution deal, the NWT premier's office said it was unlikely change would need to

If significant issues arise during the course of this engagement or Canada's consultations, we will certainly take a look at how those issues can be accommodated and addressed as the agreement is finalized.

NWT Premier's Office

McLeod referring to the devolution agreement as a "take it or leave it," "done deal" amid controversy over the territorial government's supposed "public engagement" sessions, which have since been relabelled informational sessions.

"I am sure this is news to everyone who is listening in the Northwest Territories," Bevington said to Valcourt.

Valcourt said the consultation was referred to by Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the devolution signing in Yellowknife.

"The Prime Minister was very clear. He said that the heavy lifting had been done and that there was a consensus reached on the terms for an agreement. I was present and he clearly said that consultations have to take place with the Aboriginal communities. Until that is done, there is no agreement."

be made, but that accommodations would be looked at if "significant issues" arise.

"NWT Aboriginal governments have significantly contributed to the development of the devolution agreement throughout the last 10 years and the GNWT does not believe that it will affect Aboriginal or treaty rights," stated the email received Friday afternoon.

"We do believe it is important that all NWT residents have the opportunity to learn more about devolution as we move towards implementation and have undertaken unprecedented public engagement in support of this. If significant issues arise during the course of this engagement or Canada's consultations, we will certainly take a look at how those issues can be accommodated and addressed as the agreement is finalized."

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Fort Smith council divided on proposed road south

Continued from page 1.

Martselos' request came to council's corporate services committee meeting on Tuesday evening where, after a close vote, the recommendation to support the proposal squeaked its way to the May 14 committee of the whole meeting by a count of one.

Supportive of the proposal were Mayor Brad Brake and councillors Don Webb, Al Dumont and Ron Holtorf. Opposed were Kevin Smith, Bob McArthur and Lynn Napier-Buckley.

Originally miscounting the vote to be a tie, committee chair Chris Westwell also voted in opposition to the proposal. The mishap was recognized later that evening after the meeting and the count was amended.

Martselos was not present at the meeting to offer support to the letter.

Though not included in the letter, additional details were provided by Brake from his conversations with Martselos about the proposed project. He said both affected



Former Fort Smith mayor Peter Martselos is re-proposing a second road south through Wood Buffalo National Park.

Alberta First Nations - the Mikisew Cree and Athabasca Chipewyan - had been consulted about the project and were now on board.

"He has lots of support from other communities and there's been some new information in regards to the Mikisew Cree and Athabasca First

Nation (ACFN) that they're interested in seeing that happen as well, so it seems like things are going to move forward on it. I think we should provide a letter of support," Brake told council.

The last time the 118-km winter road was on its way to being built, Mikisew contested

the project and won a precedent-setting case against the government of Canada over lack of consultation. Both First Nations would lose pieces of land, historic traplines and hunting areas through construction of the route.

Westwell said he was concerned that council, in supporting this initiative, would be operating solely on "hearsay" and should have copies of support letters from both Mikisew and ACFN before agreeing to support it.

"This is one of those situations where we would benefit off the backs of somebody else's loss, so I would like to see a letter of support of some sort from the people who would be affected on the Alberta side of things, as this would be built by them, funded by them and be through their land," he said.

Brake said that the funding from the premier was to be used to meet with the First Nations.

Attempts to reach either First Nation for comment were unsuccessful.

The fact that the letter was signed by Martselos alone was also of some concern to councillors.

Brake said he was informed by Martselos that the defunct Thebacha Road Society is on its way to securing renewed status and that the need to use the town as a flow-through agency - as stated in the letter - would no longer be required, nor would the money be going directly to Martselos.

Webb said he would be supportive of a road south if the town did not have to be involved in either the funding or administration of the project.

"Personally I'm in favour of this, as long as the Town of Fort Smith is not going to be become involved beyond a letter of support, that's it; we're not taking on any financial obligations or doing any paperwork," he said.

Smith, on the other hand, spoke out against the project, criticizing its claim to economic prosperity for the town,

along with the letter from Martselos, which he called "fishy" and "suspicious."

He said the community already has a winter road south and that it is unclear whether or not this road is intended to be all-weather. He also said it could see more people leaving the community to do their shopping, thus resulting in economic loss for Fort Smith.

"Mayor Martselos, in 2001 after the screening assessment was done, admitted there was no economic benefit to this road. They stated that publicly. I just don't see why we would be willing to be a flow-through agency without a lot more information on where the money is coming from," Smith said.

"I just think we've spent a lot of time and money and energy on this in the past and it hasn't gotten us anywhere, and I'd rather see our resources directed in a more useful way."

The issue will be discussed at the committee of the whole meeting on May 14.

Politics Territorial

Thebacha MLA, finance minister says road south 'not a priority'

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

With all the transportation infrastructure needs of the Northwest Territories under a tight budget, Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger said helping to finance a road south through Alberta is the last thing the territorial government should be focusing on.

"Spending money in Alberta at this time when we're hard at work to meet the hundreds of millions of dollars of unmet needs on the transportation side alone in the NWT is extremely problematic; it's just a non-starter," he said.

"We don't have a lot of money; we're practicing restraint, we're still managing our money. So no, there is no pot of money."

The issue of a road south was raised last week in a meeting of Fort Smith's town council after former mayor Peter Martselos requested the town's support in getting talks of the Peace Point to Garden River, Alta. route re-started.

The 118-km road would run through Wood Buffalo

National Park and across both Mikisew Cree and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation territory.

Miltenberger, also the Thebacha MLA, said his priority continues to be finishing the chip sealing of Hwy 5 to Fort Smith - an issue that was one of the main points of contention raised by Martselos and fellow candidate Jeannie Marie-Jewell in their race against Miltenberger during the 2011 territorial election.

He said if and when there is any free money, that's where it should go.

Miltenberger said it is a common occurrence for ministers to be asked for money, but that "back-door politics" haven't worked in the 20 years he's been in the Legislative Assembly.

"There is no free money floating around, and the premier gets approached every day with requests for money. He's a very astute, capable politician who's been around a long time; he knows how to manage those kind of requests. They're the same kind of requests I get," the finance minister said.

"But no minister or member of the cabinet has a chequebook in their back pocket or a pot of discretionary funding that they can, at will, just tap into and not be accountable for... Since I've been here, if you want to spend public money, there's a process and lots of scrutiny."

Miltenberger said the Town of Fort Smith is free to contribute \$50,000 in support of the project if they so choose, but said it is important to be certain of the validity of the information they are being given considering the proposed road's history, which led to a major legal defeat after coming into conflict with First Nations in Alberta.

"After the nine years and the failed attempt and the Supreme Court where they got their lunch eaten, they should want to have band council resolutions - a whole number of very formal things," Miltenberger said.

The issue of the road will be discussed at town council's committee of the whole meeting on May 14.

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Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Ulukhaktok
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Failing the kids of the North

The argument over the six sports that have to be excised from the 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland demonstrates how imperfect the AWG phenomenon is. It is time for the Northwest Territories to re-think the way it participates in those Northern games, along with its approach to sport and recreation programs generally.

Dog mushing, curling, gymnastics, speed skating, midget hockey and figure skating - all important Northern sports - will not be included because Nuuk, the capital of Greenland with a population over 15,000, does not have the capacity.

In Yukon, NWT and Nunavut, only the capital cities have the capacity to host a games. No other community in those three territories will ever get the chance.

The AWGs are by design rather exclusive, benefitting the bigger cities and leaving out the smaller communities. If an effort is made to develop sport in the small communities as well, it should not matter. At least all kids, no matter where they live, would have an equal chance to participate. Unfortunately, that does not happen.

The small communities, at least in the NWT, do not have the capacity to organize and coach sports, so they lose out that way as well. In the last Arctic Winter Games, by far the majority of participants from the NWT were from Yellowknife. In fact, the dominance of the territorial capital in sending participants from the NWT to the AWGs would have been much higher, were it not for Hay River, which generated respectable numbers of hockey players and biathletes. Except for a few bright lights from the rest of the NWT, pretty much everywhere else was shut out. If you take away Arctic Sports and the Dene Games team members, which between them only sent 34 athletes, you might

as well say Team Yellowknife attended the AWGs in Whitehorse in 2012.

The problem in this is not big, bad Yellowknife. The reason why it sent so many kids to the games was due to the efforts of dedicated volunteers who live there. They organized and managed and applied for grants and coached - the tremendous amount of work that is required to bring youth together in a positive environment, refine skills and develop athletic abilities. The difference is, Yellowknife has capacity.

On a rare occasion, a small community may rise to the fore with a team or a group of athletes who shine. That invariably stems from some adult volunteer who themselves has good skills in a sport, has a knowledge of coaching and, most importantly, has a burning desire to work with a group of youth and strive for excellence. People like that are rare. When it happens, it is more an accident of good luck. The rest of the time, well, it just does not happen. Nothing does, because there is no capacity in small communities.

There are other people out there who could do some of that. If they had support, good things, sometimes wonderful things, could come of it. That won't happen, unfortunately, for support is not there.

In fact, for over a decade the NWT department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), responsible for funding and managing sport and recreation in the NWT, has failed the youth of the North. Instead there is a bureaucracy-driven, cobbled-together model that spends far too much money on growing more bureaucrats and very little, effectively, on the youth of the NWT.

There are currently four separate sport and recreation organizations in the NWT orchestrated by the government, each with

its own bureaucracy, all trying to achieve very similar things. That count does not include MACA, which also runs programs.

All that organization, all that money spent, in a population less than 50,000 people, is ridiculous. Worst of all, little of it reaches the kids.

What is needed are paid coaches, working through NWT sport organizations, actively assisting local volunteers, coordinating and facilitating programs in the small communities. Build capacity. It is as simple as that.

Instead, not only do they not get support, sport and recreation volunteers are overwhelmed with administrative burdens. Volunteers, who want to and should be working with kids, should not be shuffling reams of paper so a bureaucracy can justify itself.

Good things happen when kids are involved with a caring coach and become happily engaged in a sport. Self esteem, discipline, focus, organizational skills, desire to achieve, working well with others, fitness and good health are all by-products. There is more: families are strengthened and communities enhanced.

Detriments to our society: health costs that chew up one third of our budgets, social costs that include such tragedies as teen incarceration and suicide, systemic education failures - all are proven to diminish when youth are engaged in sport.

What of the problem with the AWGs where they can only be held in large cities? If kids in small communities had access to coaching so they, too, could develop skills, become athletes and have a chance to participate, their communities would become engaged. A shift in thinking would take place. Change to the system would naturally evolve, from the ground up. They just need the chance.



Yellowknife filmmaker Terry Woolf and his team are a common sight on Back Bay, where he makes his home. This photo captures Woolf and his team as they race along the shore of Latham Island. They were out for a run Friday when they went through the ice near Mosher Island on Yellowknife Bay. Emergency crews were called, but by the time they arrived, a passersby had pulled Woolf and his seven dogs from the icy water. Woolf was treated for minor injuries, but two of his dogs died in the mishap. Woolf said "words are inadequate to try to thank the many people who helped me and my dogs. My heartfelt appreciation goes to the individuals who called for help and assisted me, as well as the Yellowknife Fire Department, Stanton Regional Hospital emergency staff, Qimmiq Kennels and Great Slave Animal Hospital. I want to thank all the friends and members of the community for their support following the loss of two of my team members, Django, a big-hearted, 13-year veteran, and Foxy, the team clown.

Photo: Jack Danylechuk

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Cash for Rocks

The territorial government will make a contribution of \$15,000 to the 1983 Folk on the Rocks Festival. Minister of Culture James WahShee announced the contribution to the Society for the Encouragement of Northern Talent, the organizers of Folk on the Rocks, for the cost of staging the annual music festival. The festival has been held each year in Yellowknife since 1980.

Issue: May 10, 1983

20 Years Ago...

Cuts leave Northerners out in the cold

The federal government's pull out from funding new subsidized social housing will have a devastating effect on the NWT, which already faces a severe shortage in adequate and affordable housing, says the territorial housing minister.

"They're stacked up like cordwood," said Don Morin of Northern Families.

Issue: May 12, 1993

30 Years Ago...

Bad News Bear-er

Canadian Regional's director of Sales and Customer Service, Liam Hawkins, is not the Grim Reaper. However, each time he comes to Fort Smith he bears bad news. That was the case when Hawkins visited Fort Smith to meet with the two Canadian Regional employees to advise them what the sale of Canadian North's air routes to NorTerra Inc. would mean for them.

Issue: April 28, 1998

From the House: *Devolution complexity issues yet to be understood*

Last session, a vote in the Legislative Assembly refusing a plebiscite on the devolution draft agreement has left little doubt that, short of a snap federal election or a successful court challenge by the First Nations not yet signatories, this particular deal is done. Premier McLeod has indicated that no changes will be allowed, that it is a take it or leave it proposition and that most of the MLAs and cabinet are onside.

The pattern is set and negotiations continue for the transfer of government positions. There are millions of dollars in the 2013 federal budget to manage the change. For most NWT residents, the changes to our authority structures will be not easily be apparent, until the agreement is fully functioning. For unless the GNWT decentralizes some of the federal positions being transferred, devolution may start off as a non-event for over 80 per cent of our communities.

The people of the Northwest Territories need these

processes to be transparent and not coated with bureaucratic wordsmithing. All of the information must be provided so that there is a meaningful dialogue to understand what is going to happen, or not happen, with the transfer of public responsibility.

Take for instance the responsibilities for the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) that are simply being delegated, not transferred by law. As a member of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board from its beginning until 2001, I have a great interest in how this will function in its new configuration.

The MVRMA is a unique document in Canada. It has the responsibility to look at the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of the people of the NWT. It was designed to ensure that the things provinces should do automatically, in the provincial self-interest, would be given

consideration by the federal government.

When one looks at the final agreement, the roles are laid out in legislative language that would defy 99 per cent of the population from understanding. Simply put, the federal minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development has delegated some of his powers and responsibilities and held others back. The contentious issue of appointments to the boards remains in federal control, as do the purse-strings for these boards.

Also, when it comes to the approval of the terms of resource development, like mines, pipelines and oil and gas wells, the situation is less clear. The minister of Environment (or perhaps the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment?) will assume the role of the federal minister in assessing the projects along with the relevant other federal ministers.

This is what the agreement says. So it appears as



Dennis Bevington
MP Western Arctic

if the decision making will now be shared between two governments. This should set off some alarm bells!

The changes to the MVRMA are just one issue of many that need to be clearly understood. I encourage all Northerners to take an active interest in what is happening through this agreement. By understanding what is possible and needed for our future, we are more likely to be successful.

As the sole representative from the NWT in Parliament, where devolution will be studied and debated within the year, I welcome any knowledge and information that can guide my efforts on your behalf.

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

When, after many battles, the war was finally won and midwifery became accepted, it seemed the doors had finally opened. Now there seems to be a new form of intransigence that has inhibited the evolution. It is seemingly stuck in the mud.



Is the NWT birthing program dying?
norj.ca



Joanne Barnaby: Too many men in power bent on investing in industrial development that require big toys and tons of energy, shame on our government!



Francois Thibault: I don't know what the prob is with the GNWT.....midwifery was a natural occurrence in the past. I was born on the trapline with two old grannies as midwives. It always was such a pleasure to meet those grannies on my way to school. They treated me as someone special to them. their joy warmed my heart.

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OPINION

What's really in your pet's food?

If the package of dog food that you regularly purchase for your dog had a picture of a dead dog on the front accompanied by the words, "Fortified with 100 per cent natural dog meat!" would you still buy it?

Probably not. And yet this might very well be what you are scanning at the grocery store checkout and scooping into your dog's bowl.

Dog food is made from many strange things, only a few of which are evident in the list of ingredients. The packaging tends to depict fat, healthy chickens; vegetables that look like they

ought to win a ribbon at the county fair; and either thick, juicy steaks or sedate-looking cows. But at around \$15 for a 15-pound bag of dry food, nobody is spending enough money to turn a T-bone into dog food. The stuff that ends up in dog food is material that can't be sold as food for humans.

We have different standards for what our animals eat than for what we would put in our own mouths, but where should we draw the line?

Under Food and Drug Administration regulations, only about 50 per cent of a cow can

be sold for human consumption. The hide, bones, digestive system and its contents, brain, feces, udders and various other undesirable parts are all left over after a cow is slaughtered and butchered. The stuff that cannot even go into hotdogs gets consolidated and shipped to rendering plants. Slaughterhouses that handle pigs and chickens also send their leftovers to rendering plants. So do many other facilities that find themselves with large volumes of otherwise unusable dead animal parts, including animal shelters and veterinary clinics that euthanize a lot of animals.

A rendering plant has a huge grinder that is filled up with whatever comes in. Some rendering plants are pickier than others, and some process ingredients in different batches to comply with state or local laws. But on the whole, most tend to dump in whatever they receive and start the grinder when it is full: parts from slaughterhouses, whole carcasses of diseased animals, cats and dogs from shelters, zoo animals, road kill and expired meat from grocery store shelves.

Jeff Crilley
Real News PR
The Hartford Courant

MUKLUK



Forecast

Inuvik		Yellowknife	
Wednesday			
0 High	-10 Low	15 High	2 Low
Thursday			
6 High	-8 Low	15 High	4 Low
Friday			
9 High	-4 Low	13 High	3 Low
Saturday			
12 High	1 Low	15 High	2 Low
Norms: 5°C and -4°C		Norms: 11°C and 1°C	
Hay River		Fort Smith	
Wednesday			
14 High	2 Low	16 High	6 Low
Thursday			
12 High	5 Low	19 High	7 Low
Friday			
12 High	2 Low	14 High	5 Low
Saturday			
15 High	3 Low	19 High	2 Low
Norms: 12°C and 1°C		Norms: 15°C and 2°C	

Owl surveyors hear a 'hoo' (of a rare barred owl)

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

For just the second time since starting the annual owl survey, Wood Buffalo National Park's own night-owls had their ears prick up at the sound of a rare barred owl.

The bird is not typically found within the park's survey area, which stretches just south of Fort Smith into Alberta, but according to the survey lead for Wood Buffalo, Sharon Irwin, "this species has been expanding its range north and west in the boreal forest in the 20th century."

The last time one was heard was in early 2011.

Barred owls are fairly large (16-25 inches long) and have a pale face with dark eyes and yellow beak. They are easily identifiable by their sound, which mimics the question "Who cooks for you?" The repetition of this four-syllable call has the bird nicknamed the "eight hooter."

The first recorded barred owl in Alberta was located in 1932, and the first nest found in 1966.

Wood Buffalo has been participating in the Alberta Nocturnal Owl Survey, run by the Beaverhill Bird Observatory,



Photo: MDF

Barred owls are expanding their range further north and west.

since 2010. Each year, a handful of Parks Canada employees and feather-friendly community volunteers split up over eight to 11 routes, depending

on the year, stopping every 1.6 km to listen for owls in the vicinity.

Calls for owls are played from a CD out into the night

and data on how many owls, their approximate locations and elements like wind, noise, temperature and snow cover are all documented.

We usually hear other birds and frogs during the second survey, but there wasn't a peep until the last couple of surveys on May 3 and 5.

Sharon Irwin
Wood Buffalo National Park

The timing of the owl call - whether it comes before or after the recorded sound is played - is also noted.

The survey is done over two periods, from Mar. 20 to Apr. 10, with the second following until May 5.

A total of 63 owls were heard this year compared to 49 in 2012. The highest count to date was in 2011 when 75 owls were heard.

As usual, this year's survey was dominated by the melodic calls of boreal owls, with the majority heard during the second period. Forty-four boreal owls were heard this year - one up from 2012.

While only one great horned owl was heard last year, surveyors came across 12 this survey, the majority of which were

heard in the first three weeks. Surveyors eavesdropped upon five great grey owls, as well.

There was no sound of last year's northern saw-whet owl, whose tiny call surprised listeners in 2012 with its presence far out of normal range. The petite owl is usually found much further south.

Irwin said the cold, late spring this year kept some surveys pretty quiet.

"We usually hear other birds and frogs during the second survey, but there wasn't a peep until the last couple of surveys on May 3 and 5," she said.

On the last evening of the survey, volunteers heard a mix of nearby sandhill cranes, ruffed grouse, boreal chorus and wood frogs, as well as plenty of ducks and geese.

Bison calf's 'First Steps' captured in Wood Buffalo Baby bison video launched in time for Mother's Day

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

"I was telling it, you need to stand up little guy, this

is a bad neighbourhood!" exclaimed Tony Trudeau as the footage of his precious

encounter with a newborn bison calf drew oohs and ahs from visitors at the

Wood Buffalo National Park office in Fort Smith last Friday.

On screen, the bison calf stumbled and fell several times before making it to its mother's side in an area known as a prime spot for wolves and wolverines, between the Sass and Little Buffalo Rivers.

First Steps, a four-minute film depicting the baby bison's struggle to stand and

clean by its mama, could not have been more than five minutes old when the camera started rolling.

"I feel the same watching it now as I did when I saw it," Trudeau remarked. "I knew I had something. It didn't matter who, I was sharing it with everybody."

Trudeau donated the footage to Parks Canada, who then turned it into a video just in time for Mother's Day. As of Monday, the video had over 1,800 hits on Youtube.

Parks did a screening of the video on Friday afternoon with Trudeau in attendance. He was presented with a tiny toy bison as a gift, which he named "First Steps" - the same name he has since given the calf.

Trudeau said he watched the cow fill her mouth with snow to clean the baby and push it to get moving.

"She wasn't even concerned with me; she was taking care of baby," Trudeau said. "I wanted to stay, but I didn't want to stress the mom out."

He said he saw the same cow/calf pair a week later and was relieved to see it alive and doing just fine.

"She's a really good mom," he said.

You can watch the video in English at <http://youtube/Hf3OUrZmqBM> and in French at <http://youtu.be/R4AXeJe3dfk>.

I feel the same watching it now as I did when I saw it. I knew I had something.

Tony Trudeau

walk for the first time, was captured by Trudeau, a resident of Fort Smith, while traveling on Hwy 5 two weeks ago.

It shows the adorable, awkward and awe-inspiring first moments of a confused baby's life and its mother's nurturing and protective encouragement as she nuzzles the calf and helps it over to nurse.

Though he did not see the birth, Trudeau noted the bison, who was being licked

SAFETY IN BEAR COUNTRY

Spring is here! With the melting snow and warmer weather bears are starting to come out of hibernation.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources advises the public to treat bears with respect and take precautions when travelling or camping in bear country.

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Government presses ahead with plans to demolish Giant Mine roaster complex

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Government officials worked overtime last week to persuade skeptical audiences that the most contaminated buildings on Canada's most toxic industrial site can be demolished with little risk to the public.

The Giant Mine roaster complex – decaying hulks clad in crumbling asbestos sheets where gold was extracted from ore and left behind a residue of arsenic trioxide – is to be dismantled over the next two years, bagged and stored underground.

A \$25.7-million contract for the job was awarded last month to Parsons Canada Ltd. before completion of an environmental review into remediation of the site because government officials contend there is an immediate risk to the environment.

Parsons will work with Det'on Cho Corp. and Deton'Cho Nahanni. The labour component is to be 33 per cent Aboriginal, and 10 per cent contract costs are marked for Aboriginal companies and suppliers.



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

Government officials lead a media tour of the Giant Mine roaster complex in Yellowknife. Every building pictured is to be deconstructed over the next two years.

A Deton'Cho-Nuna joint venture secured the care and maintenance contract worth \$9.6 million in the first year.

Although the seven buildings and 50-metre high brick chimney appear structurally sound, Adrian Paradis, acting project manager

for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), said metal pipes caked with arsenic are collapsing.

“The site is not in good shape,” Paradis said.

Jane Amphlett, operations manager for the deconstruction project, said AANDC and the government of the Northwest Territories, partners in the remediation project, “are not trying to avoid regulatory boards. This is an emergency. We need to go in and address this.”

At sparsely attended meetings in Yellowknife and N'dilo, Phil Nixon, project manager for Parsons, said the company's approach is to “plan every step in the process diligently, and then work the plan to control and contain” hazardous waste.

The buildings will be cooed in plastic wrap. Negative air pressure will prevent contaminants from escaping into the environment while workers protected by disposable jumpsuits and respirators clean all surfaces prior to demolition. All water and air used will be captured and cleaned.

But officials were momentarily stumped when asked what would happen

if there was an emergency, such as a fire, that could send a plume of contaminated dust and smoke to Old Town, just minutes away across from the former mine site across Back Bay.

“The chance of getting a huge dust problem is a very unlikely scenario,” Amphlett said. “The emergency response from the city fire department and police would be triggered and there would be warnings by radio broadcasts.”

Paradis didn't know how much time might elapse before the warning went out, or how they could be certain that all residents would be alerted to the danger, but said emergency responders could be sent door-to-door to warn the public.

“I'm as comfortable as I can be,” Paradis said before it was conceded that the remediation team has yet to develop a public education program for such an emergency.

Craig Yeo, a resident of Old Town, said he was looking forward to receiving a pamphlet in the mail.

Environment Monitoring

Fort Chip students begin water monitoring work

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Students in the intensive five-week environmental monitoring training program in Fort Chipewyan moved on to the second stage of their studies last week with a look into water quality monitoring.

From May 6-17, the group of 14 students comprised of members from Mikisew Cree First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and the Metis local will be out on the water and in the classroom, learning the essentials of water monitoring from Aurora College instructors, Environment Canada scientists and the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute.

Students had a break between their lessons on snow and air quality monitoring back in March, but were

hardly idle over the last month. Through Keyano College in Fort Chip, the group completed three weeks of upgrading in math, science and computers, along with a week-long first aid and wilderness first aid course.

Now that the ice is starting to break up, students will soon be out on the water learning how to do the necessary sampling for a variety of water quality monitoring initiatives.

“Students are looking at water chemistry, water quality in general such as laboratory analysis and protocols for proper collection,” Bruce Maclean, research coordinator for Mikisew's Government and Industry Relations (GIR) department, said in an email.

“They will look at sediment sampling, and likely invertebrate and fish sampling protocols, also,” he added.

The course uses the Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources curriculum to

integrate traditional knowledge with practical field experience in order to equip Aboriginal people with the skills to become involved in existing scientific studies, or even design their own monitoring programs.

All students who

complete the course and the subsequent field work - the course gives students 200 hours of the required 2,000 - will become certified to participate in all types of environmental monitoring programs, whether community-based,

industry-funded or government-led.

The program is funded under the auspices of the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program, with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and Environment Canada providing support.

Students are looking at water chemistry, water quality in general such as laboratory analysis and protocols for proper collection. They will look at sediment sampling, and likely invertebrate and fish sampling protocols, also.

*Bruce Maclean,
Mikisew Government and Industry
Relations (GIR)*

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'Significant' shale gas find declared in Liard Basin

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A "very significant" discovery of shale gas in the Liard Basin of the Northwest Territories holds promise for Calgary company Lone Pine Resources to carry out hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," on 100 per cent of its 52,000-acre stake in the area.

The National Energy Board of Canada (NEB) approved a "commercial discovery declaration" for the company last Tuesday, stating "it is reasonable that all of Lone Pine's 66 sections are developable by the use of hydraulic fracturing," further adding that "there are reasonable grounds to believe the commercial discovery extends at least throughout the applied-for frontier lands."

Lone Pine president and CEO Tim Granger told *The Journal* the company is feeling optimistic about the find.

"It's very significant; it would be significant for almost any company," he said. "The size of the resource there is quite large."

Lone Pine tested out its existing vertical well, known as L-68, in the last half of 2011 to gauge results from



A fracking project drills for shale gas in northeastern BC's Horn River Basin, a formation adjacent to the shale play located in NWT's Liard Basin where a large find was recently declared.

Photo: Kitimat LNG

two underground shale formations. The well produced a sweet gas flow rate supporting a potential delivery of 12 million cubic feet per day from a multi-fractured horizontal well.

According to the NEB, the shale gas intervals in the Lone Pine lease area also "appear to be thicker" than those in the adjacent Horn River Basin of northeastern BC, which is promising for the developer.

"The thicker intervals combined with good reservoir parameters contribute to large original gas-in-place resource estimates," the board stated.

Though the discovery pertains to the resource potential of the area rather than actual numbered volumes of proven natural gas, both Granger and the NEB said Lone Pine's sections will likely yield results similar to highly productive wells nearby.

In particular, a well located around 100 km from L-68 had a 30-day gas flow rate of over 21 million cubic feet per day.

"There are a lot of analogies that would lead us and, indeed, the Canadian government to say this is a discovery," Granger said.

An independent assessment done in September 2012 further estimated the undiscovered shale gas contained within the company's leases could add up to anywhere between 14.4 and 28.4 trillion cubic feet.

With the granted declaration from the NEB, the company is now looking for a 21-year lease extension from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on its 52,202 acres in the Pointed Mountain area of the Liard Basin.

That last bit of regulatory approval, plus a slight improvement in the trade value of natural gas, are all that's left for the company to start getting serious about developing the area, Granger said.

"The question for Lone Pine right now is commodity prices, obviously, because it's natural gas; the ability to move the product away, but there are pipelines close by, so that's not as big an issue; and then the way to fund the project," he said.

Besides roads, the area includes access to the Spectra Fort Nelson gathering system via the Pointed Mountain/Beaver River sour gas pipeline that intersects Lone Pine's acreage.

While not quite economically feasible today, Granger said he expects the project to become more viable in late 2014 or early 2015, based on current market predictions for natural gas.

"We are quite optimistic," he said. "We still need one more level of approval and then we can start to get a little bit more serious about planning."

To date, there has been no approval granted for horizontal fracking in the NWT. The controversial drilling extraction method uses large amounts of fresh water combined with chemicals to crack the underground shale bed and access the gas trapped within. The polluted water is then stored underground.

Fracking is vehemently opposed in many jurisdictions due to its purported impacts on groundwater and alleged link to earthquakes. Some, like France and Vermont, have all-out bans on the unconventional practice. Dene leaders passed a resolution to ban fracking in the NWT in late 2011.

Companies have also expressed interest in fracking in the Norman Wells area of the Sahtu, which sits upon the Canol shale play where an estimated one billion barrels of oil could be extracted through fracking.

The NEB is responsible for carrying out any assessments as no regulations for fracking currently exist in the territory.

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The Colour Experts

Permafrost thaw changing chemistry of Peel River

Ancient sediments deposited for the first time affecting streams

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Permafrost degradation in the Peel Plateau is having far-reaching effects on the chemistry of water downstream as the river system becomes exposed to ancient sediments, deposited for the first time in high concentrations via melting ice.

A new study by the NWT's foremost expert on permafrost, Steven Kokelj, who works out of the NWT Geoscience Office, shows a very noticeable increase in the presence of certain ions over the last forty years as the area becomes more and more affected by permafrost thaw.

In his study, Kokelj states that warming temperatures resulting from climate change are causing ice that has been preserved within permafrost for millions of years to rapidly melt as it is exposed by erosion.

The result has been massive landscape disturbance across the region known as "slumping," which sees giant, gradual landslide-type formations build up over time and move into the river system, filling the water with ions that, though naturally occurring, are in much higher



An aerial photo shows a massive, 1-km wide permafrost "slump" on the Peel River system.

concentrations than is normal for the water because the sediments have never been leached of their ions before.

"What we're able to do is look at water that runs from these slumps and compare it to just normal surface water, and the concentrations can be ten, 100 times greater, and in some cases even 1,000 times greater," Kokelj said.

Chemically speaking, the results are being felt further downstream in the Peel River. Despite its size, a definite increase in the most popular permafrost-related ions, such as sulphate and calcium, has been recorded in the river over the last 40 years thanks to Environment Canada water quality monitoring data.

"We can look at sulphate - which is sort of the main ion in the Peel River - and the amounts of sulphate have almost tripled over the period of record. So to see an increase like that in a system that's as big as the Peel, it really kind of highlights the fact that the change is actually quite substantial on a landscape scale," Kokelj said.

While sulphates only start to negatively impact drinking water in the thousands of milligrams per litre range - in the Peel, concentrations are still below 100 mg/litre - Kokelj said the data is noteworthy.

"The fact that they've increased that much in a river that has water coming from - I think it drains like 70,000 square-kilometres - is pretty significant."

Slumping is also affecting streams on a local scale, sometimes by blocking them or forming lakes upstream.

"Normally after a heavy rain all the creeks get turbid and full of sediment and as the water goes down, they clear up...but because these slumps tend to melt more when it's hot and dry, normally as the streams would clear up, that's when these big slumps are thawing more, so the streams never really clear up," Kokelj explained. "As the water goes down in the summer when it's hot and dry, these streams that are impacted are actually even muddier."

Kokelj's data is being used to provide context to other studies on the impacts of permafrost melt in the Lower

Peel Basin. Researchers from Wilfrid Laurier University are studying how sediment levels are affecting the physiology of northern fish species, while scientists from the University of New Brunswick and the Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program are looking at benthic communities - the organisms that live at the bottom of the river - near permafrost slumps.

Though results have yet to be released from either study, Kokelj said preliminary results on the benthics research show it's having an impact.

"There's huge differences in the abundance of benthics in association with disturbance. Once these disturbances occur, the abundance of benthics decreases substantially," he said.

Kokelj is now working on establishing an inventory of permafrost in the Northwest Territories in order to track these disturbances on a broader level. This summer, he and a team will be mapping the entire NWT using aerial photographs.

He said the maps will help scientists decipher the extent of permafrost disturbance and what types of ecosystems - coastal, streams, rivers - may be getting impacted.

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Ian Bourke receives one of the first-ever pre-apprenticeship carpentry certificates at Fort Chip's Keyano campus from Dr. Kevin Nagel, president and CEO of Keyano, alongside Kara Flynn, chair of Keyano College's board of governors.



Photo: Sean McLennan

Back row, from left: Ian Bourke, Eddie McDonald, Rodney Marten, Stephanie Courtoreille, Vanessa Whitehead. Front row, from left: Shelby Gibot, Josh Cardinal, Cody Decoine, Katelyn Courtoreille, Sharon Bruno.

Education Keyano Grad

Keyano celebrates pre-apprenticeship carpentry grads

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Pre-apprenticeship carpentry graduates walked across the stage for the first time at Keyano College in Fort Chipewyan on May 3.

Ian Bourke and Eddie McDonald, carpentry students who are currently writing their provincials, joined 11 others at Keyano Fort Chip's second convocation.

Shelby Gibot, Josh Cardinal, Cody Decoine, Katelyn Courtoreille and Alanna Voyageur

received their certificates for the academic foundations entry program and Sharon Bruno and Vanessa Whitehead received theirs for the advanced program in academic foundations.

Roberta Courtoreille, Rodney Marten, Stephanie Courtoreille and Sara Voyageur also graduated from the college preparation program, bringing the total number of graduates to 13.

There were only five graduates last year for the first graduation of Keyano's newest campus,

which opened its doors in 2011.

Convocation is a special time for the entire Fort Chipewyan community, campus chair Margo Vermillion said.

Community members who have contributed to the college in any small way are recognized along with the graduates at the convocation ceremonies at Mawawi Hall.

"I can't thank and acknowledge enough the First Nation leadership in our community. They have been 100 per cent

behind these students and anyone in education," Vermillion said.

Stephanie Courtoreille, a college prep student, spoke on behalf of the students as valedictorian. She thanked the Fort Chipewyan staff and her fellow students, as well as Mikisew Cree First Nation Chief Steve Courtoreille, for their support.

"Thank you Chief Courtoreille for supporting our efforts to prepare for graduation. We are grateful," she said.

The chief donated a signed Edmonton Oilers jersey to be raffled off in support of the graduates.

Catherine Koch, academic vice president at Keyano College, congratulated the graduates personally and encouraged them to reach for the stars.

"You have been told by many this is the beginning of a new chapter in your life, but it is also an opportunity to write a new book on your life. Now is the time to go out in the world and

be what you've always wanted to be. Don't let hurdles stop you. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it, because you can, and today is a proof of that," she said.

The 2012-2013 school year also marked the first time the campus offered online courses, an overall success, Vermillion noted.

"The students have worked extra hard and the teaching staff is excellent - instructors teaching from the heart - and I'm so proud," she said.



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Katelyn Courtoreille is presented with a certificate for the academic foundations entry program from Dr. Kevin Nagel, president and CEO of Keyano, and Keyano's board chair Kara Flynn.



Photos: George Poitras

Vanessa Whitehead receives her certificate in the advanced program in academic foundations from Kara Flynn, chair of Keyano College's board of governors.



A small group of 16 graduated from both the Office Administration and Business Administration programs at Inuvik's Aurora Campus on Friday, May 10.

Education Aurora College Grad

Inuvik's Aurora campus celebrates small grad

BY RENEE FRANCOEUR

Sixteen beaming students from the Inuvik campus of Aurora College donned their caps and gowns on Friday.

It's a far cry from the 42 graduates last year, but that isn't a surprise or reason to be concerned, Aurora Campus director Doug Robertson told *The Journal*.

"It speaks to the way our programs finish this year. We have another

program in its access year so it will be a couple years before those students graduate, and we have students finishing their second year of a three-year program."

Three business administration students received their diplomas and 13 others were handed their office administration certificates.

Office administration graduate Lauren Ruben from Paulatuk made the valedictorian address.

The keynote speaker, as nominated by the graduating class, was Fort McPherson's Robert Alexie Jr., Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) president.

Alexie has written numerous books, including *The Pale Indian* and *Porcupines and China Dolls*. He was also a Tetlit Gwich'in band manager, chief and the chief negotiator for the Gwich'in land claim.

Other special guests included Legislative Assembly

Speaker Jackie Jacobson, Deputy Commissioner of the NWT Gerald Kisoun and Inuvik-Boot Lake MLA Alfred Moses.

An Environment and Natural Resources Technology Program (ENRTP) graduate from last year, David Sonneveld, was also awarded a Governor General's medal at the ceremony.

"He had the highest average across all Aurora campuses ever," Robertson said.

"We were able to get him on the phone and give him the medal that way."

The Aurora Cup award went to Patrick Wolki, an office administration graduate. Nominations for this award are made by instructors and go to a student who has worked through difficult times and has managed to succeed, demonstrating excellence in improving their own educational standards.

After the convocation ceremony, graduates and their

family members always return to the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex for a 6:00 p.m. banquet where scholarships are presented and "students receive gifts typically from the Aboriginal organization that represents them," Robertson said.

"This campus has tremendous community support from the Aboriginal organizations, IRC (Inuvialuit Regional Corp.), GTC...So grad is a really festive occasion," he said.




Esther Ipana of Inuvik beams as she is given her certificate in Office Administration.




Valedictorian Lauren Ruben, an Office Administration student from Paulatuk, shakes the hand of Speaker of the House Jackie Jacobson as she crosses the stage before college officials, department of Education employees and members of legislature.

Photos: Jayne Murray

Fort Smith Mission Historic Park Community Garden



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Tina_Schwanzenberger@gov.nt.ca
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Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism & Investment



Melissa Pascua-Matte of Fort Simpson won the Minister's Cultural Award for the Dehcho region for her project on the historic McPherson House.



Nicolas Bennett of Yellowknife won the Award of Excellence, the Fair Showcase, for his research on "Les casseurs de code".

Education Heritage

Territorial Heritage Fair held in South Slave

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
About 50 students set up their regional winning heritage projects at Joseph Burr Tyrrell elementary school in Fort Smith on Friday for the final round of judging in the Northwest Territories Heritage Fair Territorial Showcase.

the territorial showcase has been held in the South Slave area, running in Yellowknife last year and previous years in Inuvik and Fort Simpson. "One of the overall goals of the heritage fairs is to learn about our collective Northern identities, so here they learn about each other, where they come from, their language groups, their communities," Willett said.

The fairs also help bridge the gap between schools and communities. "The students often pick a topic on Northern heritage close to their families and history so the knowledge holders aren't the teachers in this case; they're the community members... We're finding heritage fairs are an amazing way to encourage elders, community

leaders and everyone really to come into the school," Willett said. Participating students also took part in a "cultural day" on Saturday with a series of workshops at the Northern Life museum in Fort Smith on fur trapping with Mary Schaefer, jigging and medicine bag making. They finished the night with stories from local yarn

spinner Jim Green around a campfire. The Award of Excellence, handed out to one person based on the highest score by the judges, went to Nicolas Bennett for his project on *Les casseurs de code*, or code-breakers. The Primary Research Award went to Fort Resolution's Laney Beaulieu for research on indigenous

plants called "My Backyard Medicine Cabinet." Samantha King won the Use of Technology Award for her project on trapping. Kiah Vail of Fort Smith won the Peer Choice Award for her work on Apartheid. A winner from each region in the NWT also took home a cultural award. From the Tlicho, Rollden Eyakfwo won for a project on

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award presented for the highest score overall at the Heri-
," or the code breakers of World War II.



Jasmine Bailes of Norman Wells took home the cultural award for the Sahtu region with her project on Dene culture.

ive for first time

Tlichon hunting methods. Andrea Carmichael won for the Beaufort Delta region from her work on the Anderson River. Melissa Pascua-Matte won for the Dehcho with a presentation on McPherson House.

In the Sahtu, Jasmine Bailes won for her work on Dene culture, and Aurora Nind of Yellowknife was awarded for her project on

D'Arcy Moses. The South Slave award went to Jomei Newkirk for his project on mouth music.

The territorial showcase is the last leg for the students' projects as the federal government cancelled all funding for national heritage fairs years ago, Willett said.

"Every few years we are trying to have a pan-territorial

fair on our own," she said. "Two years ago we did that and we hosted kids from all over Nunavut and Yukon. Nunavut has shown an interest in collaborating again for something next year but nothing has been confirmed yet... The desire is there, but it's just a matter of whether we can secure the funding partners."

This year's event was sponsored by De Beers Canada.



Photos: Paul Bannister

Laney Beaulieu of Fort Resolution gives a student a sniff of one of the plants in her "Backyard Medicine Cabinet." The project snagged her the Primary Research Award at the fair.

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Mother and son face off in fight against cancer

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Andrea Steed and her son Connor may be on opposing Relay for Life teams this year, but they still share a common enemy in the fight against cancer.

The mother-son duo is battling it out to see who can raise the most money, each with a goal of \$3,000, for this year's South Slave relay event in Fort Smith on June 15.

Though Connor was originally on his mom's team, he changed it up two years ago - the last time the event was in Fort Smith - at the age of 10.

"I wanted to have more freedom in what we did," he said. "And I thought if I had my own team, I could raise more money than if I was on my mom's team."

Connor, now 12, said he's relaying for several survivors in his family: his nanny, his grandpa and most recently his aunt, who passed away just this year.

"We just have had so many people in our lives who have either died from cancer or are battling it," Andrea said.

A corrections worker, Andrea has been part of the Relay seven times. Her



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

Mom Andrea Steed (centre) and her son Connor (right) have competing teams in this year's Relay for Life. Connor is joined here by his assistant captain, Mackenzie Villeneuve.

team was originally formed to honour coworker Theresa Beaulieu, a cancer survivor who is now retired. This year, their walk will also honour their co-worker Greg

Heron, who passed away last year.

"Each individual has personal reasons, as well," she added.

Andrea said she likes to

participate in Relay more than some other cancer fundraising initiatives because she likes its tone.

"It's about celebrating survivors and standing up

and doing something more. It also has an educational piece, where we're actually doing things and getting the word out there," she said.

As a fundraiser, Andrea's

team is hoping to do a "jail and bail," where people pay money to put warrants out for people's arrest. In order to get bailed out, those arrested also have to pay some money.

Connor on the other hand is having a draw for an iPad and selling \$5 bags of candy for a chance to win the honour of shaving his head at Relay for Life.

Also a member of the event's organizing committee as the entertainment chair, Connor said he's trying to line up recreational events to take place alongside the relay, such as music and ball hockey.

"We want to shake it up a little," Connor said.

Andrea said she has no doubt he'll pull it off without a hitch.

"He's always been a pretty independent, do-what-he-wants kind of kid, so I just kind of watch from the sidelines and keep it rallied in so it doesn't get too out of hand," she said with a laugh.

This is the third in a series of profiles on the South Slave's Relay for Life teams. This year's Relay for Life will be held in Fort Smith on June 15.

Well done. Congrats! Awesome. Great job. We're so proud of you. Wow! Way to go. Fantastic! You did it! Super. Hats off to you. Amazing! Shine on. Take a bow. Hurrah! Hip, hip hooray! Let's celebrate. Yeah! Reach for the stars. Superb! You rock! I knew you could do it. Woo-hoo! Right on. What an accomplishment. The future's yours. OMG. No way! Bravo!

You've made a community proud. It's moments like these that make all those late nights worthwhile. Congratulations Keyano College graduates. Show the future what you're made of. An occasion like this is why we continue to support the college and the many dreams of the people of Fort Chipewyan and Wood Buffalo.



Fort Smith to host 'dry' grad for first time in decade

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Adam Brunner of Fort Smith wanted something different for his graduation from Paul W. Kaeser high school this year.

"Every year, everyone goes out after the traditional grand march and drinks and gets crazy. We thought we'd try something more safe and appropriate," Brunner, 17, said.

The idea for resurrecting a chaperoned, alcohol-free prom dance was born.

"The plan is to do something bigger than just the walk, something where we all stay together and make good memories," Brunner said. "A lot of students are for it because they don't like to drink and this is a different type of grad event."

The dance, planned completely by Brunner for the past four months and boosted by the local, anti-drug Not Us campaign, will be open to anyone in Grade 11 and 12 as well as past graduates up to the age of 24 or so, as long as they have bought tickets, Brunner said.

Educator Pam Walsh, who chairs the Not Us committee along with Sheila Kindred, was thrilled when Brunner approached her with the idea.



Pam Walsh, program coordinator for SSDEC, and Grade 12 student Adam Brunner are organizing an alcohol-free grad dance this year, bringing prom back for the first time in a decade.

According to Walsh, there hasn't been a prom-style grad dance for at least a decade.

"There used to be a dance afterwards for grad, but what was found was that all this

work would go into the dance, the grads would come, have a few dances, go home to change and not return. It ended up being the younger grades who were the main attendees, so

that kind of defeats the purpose, and it was decided to just have a grad dinner and march instead," she said.

The dance will feature a DJ, professional photographer and

I think with something like this we'll make a lot of awesome memories and we'll all be together and nobody has to worry.

Student Adam Brunner

a table full of snacks and funky mocktails to add to the overall "party" atmosphere, Walsh said.

"Speaking from my experience at my own grad, my best memories are from the dance," she said.

A drug dog from the Hay River RCMP detachment will be patrolling outside to ensure everyone is on their best behaviour. Volunteer chaperones will be on duty inside the dance and in the enclosed smoking area.

"Are we going to prevent kids from going out and drinking completely? I don't think so and I think that's realistic, to expect not everyone will make the same choice. But at least this provides an opportunity to promote a healthy choice. The whole, overall purpose is just to make grad as safe as possible," Walsh said.

Having a venue for a youth event that guarantees no drugs or alcohol is important, especially in a small community, Brunner added.

"Every weekend, someone is going out drinking and partying. Last year's grad was really big, but it still wasn't all of us. I think with something like this we'll make a lot of awesome memories and we'll all be together and nobody has to worry," he said.

Walsh hopes to see the dry dance continue for years to come.

The dance will take place at the Fort Smith curling rink on May 31 from 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

To volunteer or make a contribution to the grad dance, contact Walsh or Kindred at 867-872-5701.

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Congratulations Keyano College Graduates


On behalf of Regional Council and the residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, I would like to extend my congratulations to the 2013 graduating class at Fort Chipewyan's Keyano College campus.

It is an exciting time for you as you begin the next phase of your life. I am hopeful that each of you, in your own way, will contribute to our region and make Wood Buffalo a better place to live. We are a land of opportunity, and you are our greatest resource.

I wish each of you the very best in your future endeavours. I am confident that the hard work and dedication that has brought you to this point, will continue to bring you much success.

Mayor Melissa Blake

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Vehicles, parking issues dog plans for Old Town

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Cars, parking and conventional approaches to transportation are exerting too much influence on plans to redevelop Yellowknife's historic Old Town, says architect Wayne Guy.

"It's like the song says, 'We paved paradise and put up a parking lot,'" Guy told attendees of a municipal services committee meeting that was debating his request for an unprecedented break on parking regulations for a proposed brew pub on the public dock.

Guy wants to provide just three parking spaces for an 81-seat pub and brewery that he hopes to open in the building he owns on the government dock. The city is suggesting a dozen stalls, eight fewer than the zoning bylaw requires.

Two apartments occupy the top floor of Guy's building, which is almost dead centre on the dock and flanked by parking stalls that he rents out to house-boaters and his tenants. It once housed a dinosaur museum and most recently provided space for a small restaurant and coffee shop.



Yellowknife architect Wayne Guy stands in front of his proposed 81-seat brew pub on the Yellowknife dock, where he wants to provide just three parking spaces instead of the required 12.

space that is available on that property."

The committee also got a look at plans for redevelopment of the dock, Pilot's Monument and Racine Park, a green space on a small plateau below the summit of the rock.

"We're focusing on making the spaces useable and functional for Yellowknifers to enjoy," Heyck said. "The positive comment we hear most frequently about what we've done on the dock is that it has ceased to be a parking lot, and we don't want to see that re-emerge."

A limited number of metered stalls will be provided, but houseboat residents and a mechanic who made extensive use of the dock must look elsewhere to store their vehicles.

"Parking is a potential business opportunity for property owners in Old Town, but not something the city is contemplating at this time," Heyck said.

Heyck noted free parking is available at School Draw and Franklin Ave, a short walk from the dock, Pilot's Monument and restaurants in Old Town.

"The city is also contemplating changes to the bus service

and there are opportunities to promote destinations that can be reached with public transit," he said.

There has been a great deal of public engagement in designing these spaces, Heyck said. "There is one more round of public consultation and I think Yellowknifers will be happy with what they see."

Community consultation on a float plane dock proposed for Back Bay, the most controversial of the projects recommended by the city's harbour committee, has been sequenced for later this spring and likely won't be built in time for the July fly-in that attracts aviators from across North America.

Hal Logsdon, president of the NWT Float Plane Association, was philosophical about the latest delay.

"We formed the association six years ago for purpose of getting parking for float planes, so I suppose we can wait a bit longer," he said. "We're patient folks, but the city is missing out on the chance to grow tourism. People who come here for the float plane fly-in say they would visit more often, if there was parking."

Dan Wong was the only councillor supporting the request for the easement, which amounts to an 85 per cent variance from bylaw requirements.

Guy said they are "missing an opportunity to do things differently. Large cities in Europe are increasingly banning personal vehicles from

areas to promote alternative transportation modes."

Mayor Mark Heyck said parking emerged as the primary concern during neighbourhood consultations, "so the notion of an 85 per cent variance wasn't on. Everyone feels we're being fairly flexible in providing a 40 per cent variance."

Guy said the requirement for a dozen parking stalls will cost the brew pub \$10,000 a year and could make the business un-economic.

Heyck was unsympathetic: "It's the bare minimum for what should be provided for a city of that size. It allows the owner to take advantage of parking



in Community

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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



Government of the Northwest Territories

For copies of the job description please visit
www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment

Stationary Engineer Trainee (Amended)

Public Works and Services Fort Smith, NT
South Slave Region

Two Year Term Position

This is a non-traditional occupation. Limited to candidates residing in Fort Smith and Deh Cho Regions Only.

Salary starts at \$24.55 per hour (approximately \$51,064 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$7,059.

Job Opening ID#: 10478 **Closing Date:** May 24, 2013

Apply Online: 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

Senior Financial Management Board Analyst

Finance Yellowknife, NT
Management Board Secretariat

Indeterminate

Salary starts at \$50.67 per hour (approximately \$98,807 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$3,450.

Job Opening ID#: 10489 **Closing Date:** May 17, 2013

Apply Online: www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment

Inquiries Only: Department of Human Resources, Management and Recruitment Services, P.O. Box 1320, Laing Building 3rd Floor, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, Fax: (867) 873-0281, E-mail: 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.



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Vancouver, BC V7X 1L3 / Attention: Human Resources Manager

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre

Fort Smith, NT

Assistant Administration & Event Coordinator

Full time term: May 27, 2013 – March 31, 2014
 Application deadline: May 17, 2013 at 5:00 PM
 Salary under review

For more information and a job description contact us at: admin@nlmcc.ca or 872-2859



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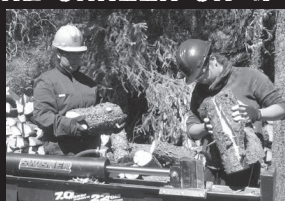


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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES

INVITATION TO TENDER

The Fort Smith Housing Authority
is accepting tenders for the following:

Project #2013-01a
Shingle Replacement – 1 Unit

Project #2013-03
Exterior Retrofit – 8 Units (4 Duplexes)

Project #2013-06
Roof Repairs/Shingle Replacement – East Wing
Sunset Chalet Senior Citizen Home

Project #2013-07
Boiler Room Retrofit – 2 Units

Project #2013-013
Foundation Repairs – 2 Units (1 Duplex)

Sealed tenders for the above projects will be accepted at the Fort Smith Housing Authority Office at 89 King Street, Fort Smith, NT **until May 27, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Local time.**

Tender documents are available at the Fort Smith Housing Authority Office at 89 King Street, Fort Smith, NT.

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Higgins
Maintenance Foreman
Telephone: (867) 872-2311
Fax: (867) 872-4083

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

The Business Incentive Policy of the GNWT shall be in effect for all the above projects. Local, for these projects refers to the community of Fort Smith.



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Culvert Replacement
CT101313**

– Highway 1, Km 521.7, NT –

Replace existing 4 meter culvert with new 4.610 meter multi-plate culvert.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Transportation Office in Fort Simpson, Hay River, or Yellowknife NT under the conditions contained within the tender documents, will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MAY 23, 2013.

Tender documents are available as of May 8, 2013, at the locations noted above.

Pre-tender meeting: 10:15 am, May 15, 2013, 1st floor boardroom, 4510 Franklin Avenue, Highways Building, Yellowknife, NT

General inquiries to: Charlene Lloyd
Phone: (867) 920-8001

Technical inquiries to: Sean Smiley
Phone: (867) 920-6470

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*



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Bridge Construction
CT101247**

– Mackenzie Highway (No. 1) - Km 64.7, NT –

Remove three (3) existing 1 meter diameter culverts and replace with a 14 meter pre-cast concrete girder bridge.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Transportation Office in Hay River or Yellowknife under the conditions contained within the tender documents, will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from either of the above addresses as of May 6, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 10:00 am, May 15, 2013, 1st Floor Boardroom, 4510 Franklin Avenue Highways Building, Yellowknife, NT.

General inquiries to: Charlene Lloyd
Phone: (867) 920-8001

Technical inquiries to: Sean Smiley
Phone: (867) 920-6470

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

*For contract opportunities visit
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Click our links in our online flipbook editon weekly at: www.norj.ca/flipbooks

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Regional ECE Service Centres
are now accepting applications for the
Community Literacy Development Fund**

The Community Literacy Development Fund provides financial assistance to community organizations to develop and deliver local programs that increase literacy skills.

Programs eligible for funding include:

- Literacy outreach services, intergenerational family literacy activities
- Workplace literacy
- Individual or small group tutoring, classroom literacy activities
- Development of official language literacy resources
- Literacy components in youth centres and programs
- Transitional support for youth in correctional facilities to develop literacy skills
- Alternative literacy programs for out-of-school youth
- Development of community literacy plans
- Job search skills: resume writing, interviews, career planning
- Certifiable skills that help participants become more employable
- Literacy and numeracy skills applied to work situations
- Basic technological literacy
- Literacy and health: assistance accessing health information
- Literacy supports to promote active, independent living for Seniors

To apply for funding, applicants must complete and submit the 2013 Community Literacy Development Fund package by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2013.

To request an application package contact your Regional ECE Service Centre:

**Beaufort-Delta
ECE Service Centre**
Phone: (867) 777-7365

Sahtu ECE Service Centre
Phone: (867) 587-7157

North Slave ECE Service Centre
Phone: (867) 766-5100

Dehcho ECE Service Centre
Phone: (867) 695-7338

**South Slave - Hay River
ECE Service Centre**
Phone: (867) 874-5050

**South Slave - Fort Smith
ECE Service Centre**
Phone: (867) 872-7425



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Regional ECE Service Centres are now
accepting applications for the Small
Community Employment Support program**

The Small Community Employment Support program provides wage subsidies and financial assistance to organizations in small communities that help youth and adults secure jobs and gain workplace essential skills.

For further information on the Small Community Employment Support program and for an application package, please contact your Regional ECE Service Centre.

Application packages received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2013 will be given priority for funding. Applications received after this date may be considered.

Eligible communities by region:

Dehcho ECE Service Centre

Phone: (867) 695-7338
Fort Liard
Fort Providence
Jean Marie River
Kakisa
Nahanni Butte
Trout Lake
Wrigley

North Slave ECE Service Centre

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Kutselk'e
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Whatì

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Tulita

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ECE Service Centre
Phone: (867) 777-7365
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Fort McPherson
Paulatuk
Sachs Harbour
Tsiigehtchic
Tuktoyaktuk
Ulukhaktok

South Slave - Hay River ECE Service Centre

Phone: (867) 874-5050
Enterprise
Fort Resolution
K'atl'odeeche First Nation
(Hay River Reserve)



EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Law Clerk RFP
LA435590**

- Yellowknife, NT -

The Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories invites proposals from qualified proponents to perform the duties of Law Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Submissions will be accepted until:

5:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013.

Lowest or any proposal not necessarily accepted.

Proposal packages will be available at the Legislative Assembly building effective **April 30, 2013.**

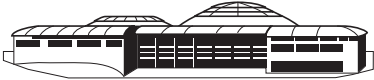
Please quote RFP **LA435590** when inquiring on or submitting proposal documents.

Address your submission in confidence to:

Legislative Assembly
Attention: Gail Bennett
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Management
4570 48th Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Phone: (867) 669-2343
Fax: (867) 920-4735
Email: gail_bennett@gov.nt.ca

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



INVITATION TO TENDER

The Fort Smith Housing Authority
is accepting tenders for the following:

Project #2013-04
Interior Retrofit – 2 units

Sealed tenders for the above projects will be accepted at the Fort Smith Housing Authority Office at 89 King Street, Fort Smith, NT **until June 3, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Local time.**

Tender documents are available at the Fort Smith Housing Authority Office at 89 King Street, Fort Smith, NT.

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Higgins
Maintenance Foreman
Telephone: (867) 872-2311
Fax: (867) 872-4083

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

The Business Incentive Policy of the GNWT shall be in effect for all the above projects. Local, for these projects refers to the community of Fort Smith.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Summer Camp Visitor Services Assistants

The Town of Fort Smith is currently seeking qualified applicants for a number of summer opportunities.

Deadline: May 24, 2013

Please forward applications to Jim Hood, SAO
P.O. Box 147 / Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0
townoffortsmith@fortsmith.ca

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**SPORTS
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Fort Smith hockey player vying for Memorial Cup

Some of the best young hockey players in the world, including Shaun McPherson from Fort Smith, will vie for the Memorial Cup in a four team round robin series in Saskatoon, Sask. starting Saturday. McPherson and the rest of the league-leading Portland Winterhawks made their mothers happy on Sunday when they took out the Edmonton Oil Kings in the WHL playoffs, winning 5-1 to stun the hometown crowd at Rexall Place in Edmonton.

Fort Smith track hosting first ever invitational event

The Fort Smith Track & Field Society is hosting an invitational track meet on May 25, the first ever at its new facility. All individual athletes and communities are welcome to participate. Running distances include: 400m, 800m, 1,000m, 1,500m, 3,000m and 5,000m. It is an opportunity to be the first to set a record on the community's new state-of-the-art track. Register online at: <https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=4843>

Lake canoe instructor course

All you need is canoeing experience or previous paddling certification to be eligible for a two-day, flat-water canoe skills instruction certification course in Yellowknife in June. You will learn to teach basic paddling strokes, maneuvers, rescues, canoe safety, lifts and carries. The four sessions take place from June 10-13 in the evenings. Contact Wendy at NWT Recreation and Parks Association (wlahay@nwtrpa.org) for details.



Team NWT Storm, made up of students from Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River, meets up at the Yellowknife airport before taking off to Toronto.



Alex Keefe (left) of St. Pat's high school in Yellowknife take off during the 100m sprint.

Sports & Recreation Track & Field

NWT Storm snags four medals at Toronto track

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Four athletes on the NWT Storm track and field team brought home medals from the Nike Grand Prix in Toronto over the weekend.

"One silver, three bronze and 22 top-10 finishes...The boys' team finished fifth and the girls' team finished seventh overall. Our NWT students can compete with any in the country," exclaimed Hilary Turko, coach from PW Kaeser (PWK) high school in Fort Smith.

Christopher Lirette of Hay River's Diamond Jenness

school took the highest place on the podium with a silver in the 4 x 100 cross-provincial relay, while Angeline Magtibay, also of Diamond Jenness, won bronze in the girls' relay.

Desiree Brown of Sir John Franklin in Yellowknife took home bronze in the girls' 1,500m race and Josh Gauthier of PWK in Fort Smith won a bronze in shot put.

The NWT team made many other top 10 finishes. Logan Tourangeau came in fifth in the 400m, Julianna

Neudorf placed seventh in the 800m, Veronica McDonald got seventh in high jump, Ian Keefe placed sixth in the 1,500m and Skylar Horton came in fifth in long jump.

The co-ed team competed against 23 other teams from across Canada in the first national invitational track event for high school athletes in the country, now in its second year.

Over 280 students participated in the event from May 9-12 at the University of Toronto's Varsity Stadium.



Josh Gauthier of Fort Smith shows off his bronze in shot put.



Desiree Brown celebrates her bronze in the 1,500m with Olympic athletes Damian Warner (decathlon) and 400m hurdler Sarah Wells.



Julianna Neudorf (right) of St. Pat's school in Yellowknife runs the 800m, placing seventh overall.



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



Northern Farm Training school already bearing fruit

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Students in the new farming school in Hay River are not wasting any time in sharing what they're learning about local food security and the power of gardening.

That is exactly what Jackie Milne, president of the non-profit Territorial Farmers' Association (TFA) and the school's main instructor, said she was hoping for.

The Northern Farm Training Institute held its first workshop on seed selection and care from Apr. 26-28, followed by the second workshop, planting and garden prep, from May 3-5.

The trailblazing school is geared towards Northerners who are serious about growing their own food and offers valuable lessons through monthly workshops in food harvesting and storage, garden maintenance and marketing, and even an introduction to small animal husbandry.

The classroom is at capacity, with 15 students from communities across the NWT, Milne said.

Two of the participants are from Fort Good Hope and went home during the four days in between workshops to host informational



Instructor Jackie Milne (bottom right) instructs farm school students on transplanting.



Viviane Edgi-Manuel of Fort Good Hope tries her hand at transplanting.

gardening sessions of their own.

"They organized it and taught what they'd learned in the seed course with just those four days when they went back to Fort Good Hope. So, see, they're

already teaching other people in their communities," Milne said. "This is exactly what we want. Everyone in these workshops is passionate and wants to inspire others. They are aware this isn't just about the individual,

but about changing how we eat and live as a whole community."

The workshops, which run for one weekend per month until October, are in high demand with over 40 people already on the waiting list for next year and more names rolling in on a regular basis, Milne said.

With adequate funding, Milne plans to expand the workshops for the 2014 season.

The GNWT confirmed its contribution of \$40,000 to the institute at the end of January, the startup portion of the total \$350,000 Milne originally requested.

To date, \$140,000 has been allocated to the school, but Milne said she needs about \$50,000 more to cover all the student airfares.

"We could have just had the workshops open to those in the South Slave region and it wouldn't be so expensive, but the idea is to mentor people from all the NWT regions and then a couple years from now, we'll have satellite teaching centres

so people in, let's say, Norman Wells, can get together and have workshops and there will be permanent resource people there."

Milne said it's time for the North to "get smart," and start "flying people, not food" into the remote communities.

"Everyone has concerns about food, whether that be health, costs, access, variety, selection and taste...There's many reasons to want to take more charge of our food supply," she said.

Students have so far gained valuable hands-on experience in Milne's own greenhouse, planting seeds, learning what has to be planted ahead of time inside and why, how to know when to transplant and to do so effectively, and how to develop organic soil fertility.

"What if the rototiller breaks down? You have to know what to do," Milne said.

The class also dedicated an entire day to the discussion of rainwater harvesting.

"Lots of people are on trucked-in, delivered water and they can't afford to water

gardens, so we looked at different ways of storing rain water, getting water from the river, how to use non-electric pumps," Milne said. "We made self-watering buckets out of recycled five gallon pails. That's what it's about: real, practical stuff. And that makes the students so gung-ho. They'll all have gardens for sure."

The participants range in age from 14 to 60, Milne said, and include men and women.

"We have one 14 year-old Aboriginal boy who wants to build his own greenhouse...Another woman is from the Philippines, and everyone brings their own unique perspectives to the table," she said.

The next workshop, set for June 7-9, will explore various garden construction designs and feature a tour of a market garden in Hay River.

"Spring comes in many ways and this is spring for a food transformation in the NWT," Milne said. "One young student told me he was doing this because it was about changing the world."

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Sachs Harbour nurse wins award of excellence

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A Sachs Harbour woman is one of three nurses who received the annual award of excellence in nursing from Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in Ottawa last week.

Marie McPherson, the nurse in charge at the Sachs Harbour Health Centre, was nominated for the award by the community, which she has been working in for the past 10 years.

"I feel very humbled," McPherson said. "Just being nominated by my community was enough for me. It's the great people here that make this place special...I never expected to win."

She was officially handed a certificate of excellence plus a \$2,500 bursary to be put towards career development training at a ceremony in Ottawa last Monday.

"The ceremony was so wonderful and very touching and so many important people were there - the deputy minister of health, the head of the CNA (Canadian Nurses Association). I'm retiring next year and I thought, wow, what a way to go out," McPherson said.

The two other winners are Gail Nahmabin, who has



Marie McPherson, the nurse in charge at Sachs Harbour, was recognized along with two others from across Canada.

Photo courtesy of Marie McPherson

worked as a community health nurse for the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Ontario since 1995, and Joan Belanger, the nurse in charge at the Bearskin Lake First Nation Nursing Station, also in Ontario.

"Nurses provide a crucial service, delivering direct

healthcare services in First Nations and Inuit communities," federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq said in a press release. "I am honoured to recognize Joan Belanger, Gail Nahmabin and Marie McPherson for improving the health of

Aboriginal communities. Advanced knowledge, practical experience and unwavering compassion in the nursing field contribute greatly to the overall health of First Nations and Inuit."

The release went on to detail how nurses in rural and remote

communities play an important role as the only front line providers in areas where doctors are not always available.

"This comes with tremendous responsibility, and they often encounter unique and difficult challenges in delivering health care," the release stated.

To honour this demanding undertaking, the Award of Excellence in Nursing was created in 2003, acknowledging the hard work, devotion and commitment of three nominated nurses in First Nations and Inuit communities.

McPherson, originally from Nova Scotia, has been a nurse since 1970 and moved to the North in 1997. Through the years, she made it a priority to continue to advance her education and knowledge, through such efforts as attending a six month outpost nursing program while working in Yellowknife. She also has extensive experience in coronary and intensive care from various positions across the country, as well as internationally.

According to the residents of Sachs Harbour, McPherson is "known for going above and beyond as she delivers excellent nursing care to her community."

"She's extremely knowledgeable, personable, funny and deeply committed to nursing in the North," Andrea Donovan, a community health nurse in Sachs Harbour, told *The Journal*. "I'm so happy for her...I know she is very touched."

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