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# NORTHERN Journal

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### Fort Smith man receives high medical honour

Paul Currie has been awarded the Venerable Order of St. John, one of the highest honours given for a lifetime of medical services. *See page 2.*



### Indigenous groups call for Arctic oil moratorium

Over 40 indigenous groups signed a declaration last week demanding a moratorium on Arctic oil development without their consent. *See page 3.*



### Fort Smith board opposes Slave hydro development

The Fort Smith Recreation Advisory Board presented a declaration to council to protect the Slave River rapids from industry. *See page 7.*



### Economic boosts drive Yellowknife housing boom

Anticipated economic growth in the city is sparking the rise of more cabins, houses and condominium projects. *See page 15.*



Kathleen Gon, 18, of Gameti gives the crimper a go during a plumbing workshop at the third annual youth symposium at Aurora College's Thebacha campus in Fort Smith last week. Over 70 high school students from 16 communities from across the NWT took part. *See pages 10-11 for more.*

## Sahtu board delays fracking decision *No environmental assessment for ConocoPhillips at this time*

By JACK DANYLCHUK

An application by ConocoPhillips to drill two horizontal wells and conduct hydraulic fracturing in the Canol shale near Norman Wells has been put on hold.

Instead of sending the application to environmental assessment, the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) issued draft terms and conditions and asked the National Energy Board for clarification of areas under its jurisdiction.

The public has until June 3 to comment. A decision will follow sometime later on whether the application will go to a full environmental review or ConocoPhillips will be allowed to drill next winter.

"It's good news," David Ramsay said. The minister of

Industry, Tourism and Investment interprets the board's decision to pause the process as a sign that there won't be an environmental review of the project.

ConocoPhillips declined comment, but Eric Hanson, the company's exploration supervisor in the Mackenzie Valley, said earlier that he did not think that the exploration stage is the appropriate time for an environmental review that could take 18 to 36 months to complete.

"We respect the regulatory process that is underway and consequently will not be commenting on our application until a decision has been made," the company issued in a statement on Friday.

Hanson's remarks echoed those of John Hogg,

vice-president of exploration for MGM Energy, which withdrew a similar application last October when the board referred it to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB).

The SLWB cited community concern about horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing as the main reason for the review, and noted that the MGM wells would be the first application of the controversial techniques in the Northwest Territories.

The fracking process pumps large quantities of fresh water mixed with chemicals into the underground shale bed to extract oil, causing worries of polluted groundwater.

"We were the lead caribou," Hogg told *The Journal*, but

adding that if ConocoPhillips' application was not sent to environmental review, MGM would not ask for a pass as well. "No, we'll start over with community consultations."

ConocoPhillips has refused to say what course it will take if the application is referred to the MVEIRB. The company invested heavily in community meetings where it explained its project and the drilling technology.

Its efforts were rewarded with numerous letters of support. Most of the writers expressed concern to the SLWB for a possible economic downturn if an environmental review was ordered.

ConocoPhillips holds the rights to explore an 87,000-hectare parcel of land known as EL

470, which it bought for \$66.7 million during the federal government's 2010-2011 land sale for the central Mackenzie Valley.

Husky, the other major player in the Canol shale deposit, which is thought to hold as much as three billion barrels of oil, completed two vertical wells, built an air strip and 20 km of road over the past two seasons. It will drill two more vertical wells before applying to drill horizontal wells.

Dene leaders passed a resolution to ban fracking in the NWT in late 2011.

There are currently moratoriums on fracking in Quebec and Nova Scotia as well as in France and Vermont.

*\*With files from Renée Francoeur*



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Funding formula for Alberta oilsands monitoring established

The Alberta government passed new legislation allowing the province to collect, hold and disburse funds from the oilsands industry to pay for environmental monitoring programs. Bill 21, the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Amendment Act, was passed by the Alberta Legislature on May 8. Collected funds will go towards the oilsands monitoring program, a joint plan from the Alberta and federal governments. The oilsands industry has agreed to provide up to \$50 million a year for three years to support the program, which monitors water and air quality, along with biodiversity.

### Submissions open for YKIFF 2013

Film submissions are now open for the 7th annual Yellowknife International Film Festival (YKIFF). YKIFF is looking for documentaries and dramatic, interactive and experimental films from the global polar regions, including Canada, Russia, Scandinavia, Greenland, Iceland and the US. Special consideration will be given to content from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. YKIFF gets underway Oct. 1-6 at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre in Yellowknife. For more details or to submit a film, visit [www.wamp.ca](http://www.wamp.ca).

### Province accepts recommendations on Slave Lake wildfires

All of the recommendations put forward in an external review of the May 2011 Lesser Slave Lake wildfires have been accepted by the Alberta government to improve its ability to respond to emergencies. The *Lessons Learned Report: Building on our Strengths* was requested by the government to learn from the unprecedented wildfires and to make the emergency response system stronger. The 237-page report catalogues and compares the actions taken against established protocols and best practices. For example, lessons learned from the Slave Lake experience for evacuation, reception centre coordination and re-entry can be used for best practices and were accessed during recent events, such as the 2012 Mackenzie County fires.

Northerners Award Winner

# Fort Smith man given Order of St. John for medical service

## Currie served as medic in international conflicts

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

One of the highest honours bestowed upon individuals for medical service throughout the world has been given to a Fort Smith man.

M-Cpl. (retired) Paul Currie, who served as a medic with the military from the First Gulf War in 1990 to Bosnia in 2000, has been named recipient of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, a royal order of chivalry established in 1831.

He will at sometime in the near future be presented the medal, either by the premier or the commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Currie, who began teaching first aid courses with St. John's Ambulance in 1991, said he was drawn into the world of emergency medical service (EMS) by his father, who was one of the founding members of the Fort Smith volunteer ambulance service.

"It was interesting...It's not a behind-the-desk job;



Photo: Paul Bannister

M-Cpl. (retired) Paul Currie displays some of his medals at last year's Remembrance Day ceremony in Fort Smith.

it's something new every-day. EMS and fire are probably one of the few jobs where people are actually happy to see you. You're seeing people at their lowest and you're trying to help them," he said.

"And I'm a bit of an adrenaline junkie," he added.

The Order of St. John is not the first recognition bestowed upon the highly decorated officer, whose uniform is adorned with medals from Kuwait, Croatia, Rwanda and Bosnia, along with the more recent award of a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, which was presented to Currie in March.

All of his military medals were received while serving 14 years with the Canadian Forces Medical Service.

Though he already has an impressive rack of medals, he said the Order of St. John is different, as it is specifically for individuals in the medical service.

"I'm proud that I was nominated because I was nominated by my peer group," he said. "They don't hand out very many...It came from my peer group; it came for recognition of hard work."

Currie said being a medic in conflicts like the Bosnian War and following the genocide in Rwanda was, at times, extremely difficult.

He said he started experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following his mission in Croatia in 1993 where he served in Operation Medak Pocket,

considered one of the most severe battles fought by Canadian Forces since the Korean War.

"It was the first time since Korea that Canadian forces had returned fire and acted as infanteers and

helpless to do anything," he said.

Nine months after he returned from Croatia, Currie was on a plane to Rwanda. There, he was faced with flooding water, which wiped out their canvas tent field hospital, and mass graves of bodies.

"I have pictures of us surfing on tables in the hospital because there's three feet of water. So how do you treat patients?" he said. "Latrines overflowed - cholera, dysentery - so you're standing literally in fecal matter."

Though he was already suffering, it wasn't until 2000 when he came back from Bosnia that he was finally diagnosed with PTSD resulting from some of the disturbing things he saw while abroad.

"At that point, I realized I couldn't be a medic any more. I just lost my empathy and compassion."

He enlisted as a firefighter for a number of years following, finally retiring from the military in 2008, but he couldn't stay out of the emergency medical world for long.

After he got out of the service, he joined Alberta Health Services in

You see that no matter how bad you think you might have it, there's usually someone out there that's a lot worse off than you are.

M-Cpl. (retired) Paul Currie

offensive soldiers as opposed to peacekeepers," Currie said. "And every time they found a dead anything, they'd call for the medics - dead people, dead sheep, dead cows."

He said all the transformers were shut down so there was no electricity, and dead bodies were used by both Croats and Serbs to poison each others' wells. Treatment was compromised by the fact that medevac services were only contracted for 8:00-4:00, Monday to Friday.

The Croatian War was characterized by war crimes, such as ethnic cleansing. Currie saw the Croatian army move from house to house killing Serbian civilians.

"The hardest part over there was we knew what was going on, and we were

Edmonton as an emergency medical technician. He then found his way into the Fort Smith ambulance service in 2011 when he moved back North.

"I found a way to come back," he said. "Some of the clients you get a little impatient with...but you do get a lot of good calls, and I think our service here does provide a good service to the community."

Currie said one of the most important things he's gained from his life of medical service is a sense of perspective.

"You see that no matter how bad you think you might have it, there's usually someone out there that's a lot worse off than you are...You see stuff that a lot of people just want to hide their heads in the sand and pretend doesn't exist. It does exist."

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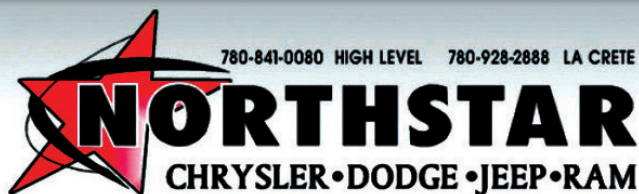
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# Battle begins over agenda as Canada assumes Arctic Council chairmanship

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

As Sweden moves over to let Canada in as chair of the Arctic Council, international voices are adding to the fray of national opinion on what direction new chairperson Leona Aglukkaq should take the intergovernmental body of eight Arctic states.

Aglukkaq reiterated last week that the theme of Canada's chairmanship for the next two years would be "development for the people of the North," with a focus on "responsible Arctic resource development, safe Arctic shipping and sustainable circumpolar communities."

Those priorities were reflected in the secretariat's official Kiruna Declaration made May 15 from Sweden, which begins with a focus on economic and social development before moving on to the other priorities of acting on climate change, protecting the Arctic environment and strengthening the Arctic Council.

Under Aglukkaq - the council's first indigenous chairperson - the Canadian chairmanship will include the



New Arctic Council chair Leona Aglukkaq signs the Kiruna Declaration on May 15 in Sweden.

establishment of a Circumpolar Business Forum to provide opportunities for business to engage with the council.

Work will also continue on oil pollution prevention and addressing short-lived climate pollutants, such as black carbon and methane. Last week, council states signed a new,

legally-binding agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, meant to improve procedures for combating oil spills in the Arctic.

Not everyone is supportive of the pro-development stance being taken by Aglukkaq. In a statement released last week,

Greenpeace accused Canada of using a forum meant to protect the environment and health of Arctic peoples to advance industrial activity.

"We will not stand by and let the Harper government use the next two years to advance its destructive industrial agenda at the Arctic Council,"

said Christy Ferguson, Arctic campaign coordinator with Greenpeace Canada.

"Decisions about what is safe and sustainable for this region should not be made by companies determined to profit off its destruction. The Arctic Council should be a forum for preventing environmental disasters like oil spills and fighting climate change - not facilitating them."

Canada's New Democrat opposition also contested bringing business into the mix, saying climate change and social development must remain top priorities for the Arctic Council.

"Canada must build on Arctic Council's successes in climate research, search and rescue coordination and oil spill prevention," said NDP Northern Development Critic Dennis Bevington, MP for the Western Arctic. "The Conservatives are moving away from that agenda to a business-only focus."

## Southern nations given observer status

Canada's new chairmanship is not the only thing to have changed at last week's Arctic Council meetings.

China, India, Japan, Singapore, Korea and Italy were given observer status to the council, becoming the first nations nowhere near the North to join.

Though the European Union has been tentatively granted observer status, there are concerns about its ban on Canadian seal exports.

Ministers of the council said the inclusion of countries interested in the energy resources available in the Arctic will not get a free ride by becoming observers to the council, which serves as a protector of the region's fragile environment and indigenous populations.

"There is no such thing as a free lunch," Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said at the meeting. "By becoming an observer, you're also signing up to the principles embodied by this organization."

Aglukkaq reiterated her concern with adding new parties to the council, saying the diplomatic body was established "by Northerners, for Northerners, before the Arctic was of interest to the rest of the world."

## Politics Aboriginal

# Indigenous peoples call for moratorium on Arctic oil drilling

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

More than 40 indigenous groups from the circumpolar world, including two permanent members of the Arctic Council, signed a declaration last week calling for a moratorium on Arctic oil development without their consent.

In a "Joint Statement of Indigenous Solidarity for Arctic Protection," individuals from organizations in every Arctic jurisdiction, from Scandinavia to Yamal, Alaska, Greenland and Northern Canada, called for a halt to exploration and extraction of both offshore and onshore oil in their territories without explicit consent from indigenous peoples.

"The Peoples of the North will no longer be bought with dimes and cents to stand silently by while the oil companies destroy our native land. Our culture and history cannot be bought off and replaced with pipelines and drill rigs," the statement reads.

"Our way of living defines who we are and we will stand up and fight for our nature and environment. Too many have been reduced to depend on the generosity of the oil companies."

The statement makes three demands: a ban on all offshore oil drilling in the Arctic shelf, a moratorium on onshore oil drilling in the Arctic and the need for consent from all indigenous peoples when developing industry in the North.

The declaration is signed by several individuals from the Northwest Territories and northern Alberta, including Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam and Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus, who also serves as international vice-chair of the Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), a permanent participant of the Arctic Council.

Along with the AAC, fellow Arctic Council participant, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, also signed the declaration.

Erasmus, along with others from Canada's North including elders Francois Paulette and Besha Blondin and young activists Kiera Kolson and Eriel Deranger, attended the Arctic Indigenous Peoples Conference organized by Greenpeace in Kiruna, Sweden before the start of the Arctic Council meetings on May 12-13.

The second such conference aimed to connect indigenous communities from around the Arctic.

Both the Inuvialuit Regional Corp. (IRC) and Gwich'in Tribal Council in the NWT said the agreement doesn't speak for them and that they are in favour of sustainable development.

The IRC is currently engaged with both the territorial and federal governments on an agreement for offshore and onshore oil and gas in the Beaufort region. The agreement will decide matters of resource royalties and rules oil and gas companies must follow.

## FSHSSA REHABILITATION SERVICES ARE MOVING BACK TO THE HEALTH CENTRE

With the completion of Phase 2 of Renovations to the Health Centre, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Services will be returning to the Health Centre and will NOT be offered in the Recreation & Community Centre.

**For EVERY VISIT to the Hospital and Medical Clinic, you should ALWAYS bring:**

- HEALTH CARE CARD
- ALL medications currently taken (including "over the counter" medications, herbal remedies, vitamins, etc.)
- List of medical history (ex: asthma, stroke, etc.)
- List of allergies and reactions

**People who show up at the Medical Clinic without a scheduled appointment will be:**

1. Asked to book an appointment and return at their scheduled appointment time;
2. Redirected to the Emergency Department at the Fort Smith Health Centre for CTAS assessment.

**Important Changes to the Fort Smith Medical Clinic:**

1. The Medical Clinic is moving to an offsite temporary location.
2. We will no longer be able to serve clients who do not have a scheduled appointment.

**Thank you for your continued patience**  
during the renovations to improve the Fort Smith Health Centre.







# Crime Prevention – Identity Theft and Cyber Safety

Identity theft has been in existence for some time, but given the advances of technology, such crime and other related crimes are more prevalent than before. Identity theft occurs when someone wrongfully obtains and uses the personal identifying information of another individual to commit a crime such as fraud or theft. By using an individual's basic information (name, address, social insurance number, date of birth, mother's maiden name) identity thieves may gain access to bank accounts, apply for loans/credit cards, lease/buy cars, rent property and/or engage in criminal activity that ultimately gets linked to an unsuspecting victim.

To curb the opportunity of would-be identity thieves, ensure that you are very careful with your personal information, regardless of the format it is in, especially when it comes time

to discard items. Earlier in May, the Wood Buffalo RCMP teamed up with Alberta Motor Association and Shred-it to provide residents the opportunity to bring in their identity sensitive waste for secure destruction.

Successful crime prevention, including identity theft, is also related to safe internet usage practices. The following are a few cyber-crime prevention tips that would apply to even the most basic internet user:

- Use Strong Passwords: Use different user ID/password combinations for different accounts and avoid writing them down. Make the passwords more complicated by combining letters, numbers and special characters, and change them on a regular basis.
- Secure Your Computer: Activate firewalls as they are the first line of defense and block connections to unknown or bogus sites that

may have harmful components. A secondary line of defense is to install and keep updated anti-virus software on your computer.

- Be Social-Media Savvy: Make sure your social networking profiles are set to private, and be careful of what you post online. Once posted or sent, it's out there forever!
- Secure your Mobile Devices: Be aware that your mobile device(s) is vulnerable to viruses and hackers just like a computer would be. Only download applications from trusted sources.
- Install the Latest Operating System Updates: Keep your application and operating system current with the latest system updates. Turn on automatic updates to prevent potential attacks on older software.
- Protect Your Data: Use encryption for your most sensitive files such as tax returns or other financial records. Make regular

back-ups of all your important data and store it in another location.

- Secure Your Wireless Network: Wi-Fi networks at home are vulnerable to intrusion if they are not properly secured. Review and modify the settings to ensure only authorized users have access. Public wi-fi, or "hot spots" are also vulnerable. Avoid conducting financial or corporate transactions on these networks.
- Protect Your e-Identity: Be cautious when giving out personal information or financial information on the internet. Make sure websites are secure (while making online purchases) or that you've enabled privacy settings (when accessing social media sites).

Personal and public safety is everyone's responsibility – play an active role in crime prevention!

*Cst. Christina Wilkins  
Wood Buffalo RCMP*

## Before you check your suitcase, check your health! *Plan for a pre-travel health consult*

When planning a trip for international travel, there's more to think about than what bathing suit to pack. All international travellers should plan ahead and have a pre-travel consult done with a health professional to ensure they stay safe and healthy during their trip.

The goal of a pre-travel consult is to educate and counsel the traveller on their destination of choice, past and current health status and any immunizations and/or medications recommended. A pre-travel consult should be done at least six weeks before travel as medications and immunizations take time to work properly in the body. Sometimes a consult appointment, medications and/or immunizations can cost

money, so make sure to include these in your travel budget.

Each destination's risks and recommendations to keep travellers safe and healthy are individual and unique. In order to decrease chance of illness or injury and increase preventative measures, travellers should become familiar with their destination of choice. Every traveller should make sure to know their country's embassy and consulate information and inform loved ones of travel plans in case of emergency situations during travel.

**Examples of factors that can affect a traveller's health include:**

- Age
- Gender
- Immunization status

- Medical history, including medications
- Allergies
- Pregnancy/breastfeeding
- Destination (urban versus rural)
- Reason for travel (business, vacation, visit family/friends)
- Length of stay
- Accommodations
- Activities while abroad
- Mode of transportation

**Examples of preventative measures can include:**

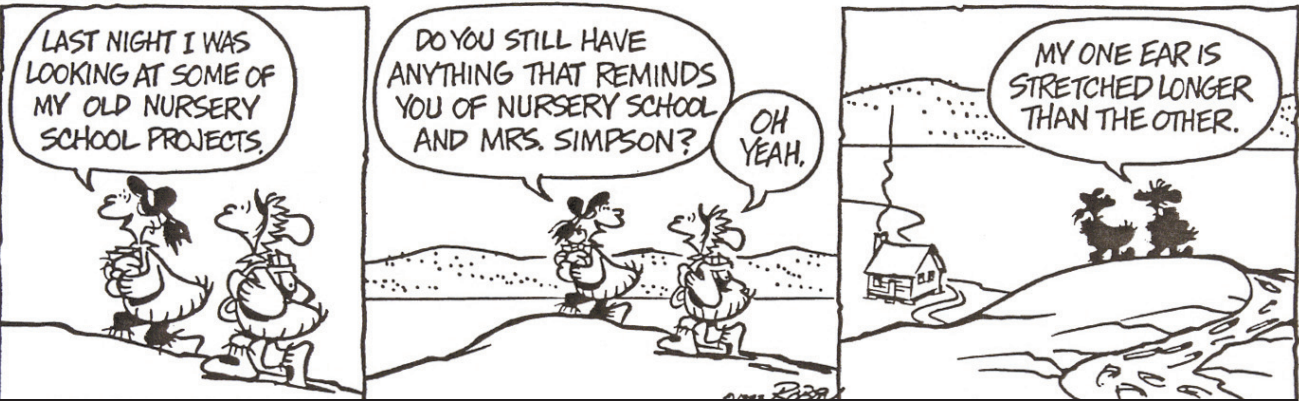
- Drinking bottled water
- Taking any medications or anti-malarial pills recommended
- Knowing the laws and customs of the destination of choice
- Getting vaccinated before travel

While a pre-travel consult is important, it is also important to protect your health post-travel. Travellers can become sick while abroad and can bring diseases back into Canada. Make sure you see a health care professional if you become sick or have a fever while travelling or after returning home, especially within the first three months after your trip.

For more information on how to stay safe and healthy during travel, you can visit the Government of Canada website for travel and living abroad at [travel.gc.ca](http://travel.gc.ca) or call Healthlink at 1-866-408-5465.

*Shannon McInnis  
Travel Health  
Alberta Health Services*

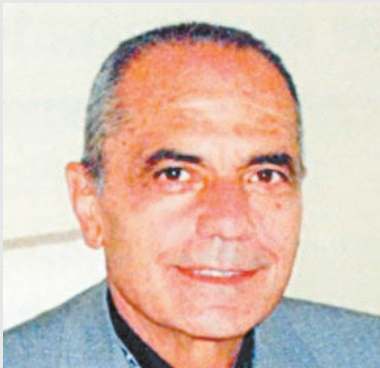
### MUKLUK



## FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

### Northern Journal 2013

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.



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



**Toni Heron:** He will never get this road !! People Residing within the park will have the last say about any road going through their tradition areas. Promises is all we got from Peter.

**Desiree Loutitt:** Untrue Toni.....because you all are annoyed with his wife is no reason to trash him. He has a pretty fair record as a mayor....whereas Mr. McLeod sat in my room with then Premier Handley as he promised me a house to replace the mistake made in 1996....I'll take Peter's word any day over Mr. McLeod, and Bob is family and friend!

### Join us online!

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## Forecast

### Inuvik Yellowknife

8 High	1 Low	Wednesday	11 High	2 Low
11 High	4 Low	Thursday	13 High	3 Low
11 High	1 Low	Friday	21 High	8 Low
16 High	2 Low	Saturday	21 High	10 Low
Norms: 19°C and 8°C			Norms: 21°C and 12°C	

### Hay River Fort Smith

9 High	2 Low	Wednesday	14 High	7 Low
15 High	4 Low	Thursday	18 High	4 Low
18 High	9 Low	Friday	21 High	8 Low
20 High	9 Low	Saturday	27 High	8 Low
Norms: 21°C and 11°C			Norms: 23°C and 10°C	



# GNWT begins sending medevacs to new Leduc base

## Alberta doctors call for reversal of decision to move medevac services

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

As the government of the Northwest Territories’ begins sending medevac patients to the new Edmonton air ambulance base, a group of Alberta doctors, air ambulance pilots and rural advocates warn patients they are in danger if services are not reinstated at the former, city centre location.

As of May 14, the government of the Northwest Territories’ medevac program is operating in collaboration with the new air operations centre at the Edmonton International Airport (EIA) based in Leduc instead of its previous base at the City Centre Airport in Edmonton, which is closer to the two downtown tertiary care hospitals.

“If we had a choice, physicians would not be allowing this to happen. If you have a choice, do not use the international airport. It’s at your peril,” Dr. Kerry Pawluski, the head of the Save Our Medevac Services Society, told *The Journal*.

The group alleges the transfer time it takes to receive

urgent care has doubled with the move.

“Already we’ve noticed our times are well in excess compared to what they used to be...The move adds 35 minutes to the back end and that’s 35 minutes in optimal conditions,” Pawluski said. “There’s two levels of medicine: urban and rural. Unfortunately your rural medicine is going from second rate to fourth rate. We’re going from the best transfer times to the worst.”

Alberta Health Services’ air ambulance base, servicing 12 fixed-wing air ambulances, moved from the city centre location to a new 3,600 square-metre hangar at EIA on March 15.

The hangar is beside the new STARS emergency helicopter facilities. The provincial government maintains this proximity means STARS will be able to transfer extreme emergency patients from fixed-wing flights arriving in Leduc directly to the city hospitals.

Any truth in that has so far been dismal, Pawluski said.

He gave an example from last week of a patient in critical condition with a lacerated heart from a motor vehicle collision in Fort McMurray. Staff at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre in Fort McMurray were able to save the patient in the operating room through open cardiac massage, but when they tried to send him down to one of the Edmonton hospitals from EIA using STARS, they were told the patient was “not acute enough,” Pawluski said.

“If ever there was case to be made for using STARS to quickly transport a patient to reduce the time in transferring him, this was it,” he said.

This isn’t an isolated incident either, Pawluski noted. He said STARS has not been used once since the relocation.

A report from the Health Quality Council of Alberta found that almost 4,000 patients arrived at Edmonton’s City Centre Airport in 2010 by air ambulance and that 1,779 of those were critical or time-dependent.

Save Our Medevac Services wants to see the decision

about the air ambulance base relocating to EIA reversed and is urging the public to contact their MLAs.

The GNWT doesn’t see the move in a negative light, however, saying in a recent press release that it worked closely with Alberta Health Services and sees the relocation as an improvement of services for NWT patients.

“Our government is committed to ensuring that our patients receive good medical care while being transported to Edmonton hospitals in a safe and timely manner,” Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu said in a recent press release. “We have worked in partnership with Alberta Health Services to develop procedures and plans so that our patients are able to get to the hospitals in a safe and timely way, while maintaining high standards for their medical care. I believe that we have achieved our goal and in fact have improved the quality of their care.”

Beaulieu’s statements were backed by Dr. Ian Phelps, senior medical director for

Alberta Health Services Emergency Medical Services, who said the air operations centre at EIA offers a greater level of patient care and “ensures timely, safe transport for Northern patients.”

“The new facility offers many advantages, such as the ability to transfer patients indoors in a controlled environment and dedicated ground transportation vehicles and crews to support the arriving air ambulance crews,” he said in the same release.

The facility has a six-bed patient transition room with paramedic staff to support inbound and outbound stable patients and help coordinated medevac flights. According to the release, it also has ground ambulance shuttles with paramedic staff that allow the medevac crew to transfer most patients at the airport, so that they can return to full service more quickly.

But Pawluski remains skeptical.

“We were told that the triage centre at the EIA would be manned 24/7, then it was

shaved down to 8:00-6:00 or something like that, and now I don’t think there’s anyone out there,” Pawluski said. “It’s strictly a holding area.”

Many of the 18 recommendations for the new medevac base made by the Health Quality Council of Alberta in its 2011 study have not been fulfilled, Pawluski said, such as the synchronization of lights, the standardization of equipment in the medevac planes, ground ambulances and STARS helicopters, and considering another airport in Edmonton as a backup option.

“You have to fly to Calgary if Edmonton is down because of weather or technical problems. So for someone coming from the Northwest Territories, that means you’re going to have to stop somewhere on route, refuel and then continue to Calgary,” he said. “The fact these recommendations have not been complied with is just criminal.”

Pawluski will be providing evidence as a witness in expropriation hearings beginning this week regarding the issue.

### Politics Municipal

## Council continues to debate support for Wood Buffalo park road

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The resurrected topic of building a road south through Wood Buffalo National Park from Peace Point to Garden River, Alta. has stirred the pot at recent town council meetings in Fort Smith.

A letter from former mayor Peter Martselos was first put on the table at the town’s corporate services committee meeting May 7, asking for support in the proposed road project. It will go before Fort Smith town council for a final decision on May 21.

Martselos was the main driver of the 118-km road, which runs across both Mikisew Cree and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation land, decades ago when he first proposed it as president of the defunct Thebacha Road Society.

The project was defeated in 2005 when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled the Mikisew had not been properly consulted.

According to Mayor Brad Brake, Martselos said both affected Alberta First Nations have been consulted

about the project and are now on board.

The recommendation to approve the letter of support was carried at the corporate services committee meeting with a tight 4-3 vote and subsequently slid through at the committee of the whole last Tuesday with another 4-3 vote in favour of the motion.

Councillors Lou Sebert, Don Webb, Al Dumont and Ron Holtorf supported the motion at the committee of the whole. Opposed were Kevin Smith, Bob McArthur and Lynn Napier-Buckley.

Councillor Chris Westwell was absent.

“I urge council extreme caution in supporting this. Letters of support create expectations,” Smith said. “I would prefer that we wait until the Thebacha Road Society is actually formed with a board and we have some kind of proof that both Mikisew Cree and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation are actually in favour of this...If

we continue down this road, council should make sure it has all its ducks lined up.”

Napier-Buckley brought up a number of negative points about the road, noting that Aboriginal hunting lands and traditional traplines would be impacted.

She also made reference to fact that the NWT premier denied making any promise of money to Martselos to kick-start road plans, as discovered recently by *The Journal*.

“Unless I see something from the Mikisew Cree that says, ‘Yes, we’re okay with this,’ I can’t support this,” Napier-Buckley said. “This is supposed to be a winter road. We already have a winter road. It will not speed anything up and I don’t see any reason why we should be supporting it.”

Others were not so quick to dismiss the proposal.

“A letter of support just gives the individuals involved the opportunity to try to proceed,” Dumont said.

“It’s really just asking: can we open this book again and take a look?” Holtorf added.

## Constituency Meeting

**Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger,**  
MLA Thebacha, will be hosting  
a **Constituency Meeting on**

**Tuesday, May 28, 2013**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**

at the Northern Life Museum.

Refreshments will be available.



**All residents welcome.**  
Please feel free to attend and  
raise any concerns or issues.



For further information call the  
Constituency Office at 872-5511.



# Smith board opposes industrial development on Slave

## Advisory Board presents declaration against hydro project to council

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

With talk of a dam on the Slave River resurfacing this year again from energy companies TransCanada and ATCO, members of the Recreation Advisory Board of the Town of Fort Smith want it known that there will be no such development without a fight.

Chair of the board, Jessica Cox, and fellow member Mike Vassal presented the Slave River Rapids Declaration, opposing any industrial development on the river, to Fort Smith town council last Tuesday.

“When ATCO was here last time a couple years ago, they went away with the feeling that there was strong support from Fort Smith for development on the Slave. The board feels that situation needs to be rectified. There is a lot of opposition, too,” Vassal told council.

“I’ve actually had a few people approach me and tell me they would move if the dam proposal went through,” he later told *The Journal*. “We would lose all three rapids



Jessica Cox unveils the Recreation Advisory Board’s petition to protect the Slave River at the Fort Smith environmental fair in April.

upstream of the Rapids of the Drowned.”

The board recognizes the issue falls outside of the town’s jurisdiction, as proposed plans for a dam locate it just south of the NWT’s border in Alberta.

However, the board is seeking recognition from mayor and council that not all support the project.

“We want it known that opposition goes beyond Smith’s Landing,” Cox said. The proposed flood area

covers a portion of Smith’s Landing First Nation reserve land, located within Treaty 8 territory – approximately 1 sq-km over a 20 km section of the river.

“We may not be in Alberta, but we’re a stakeholder and it would affect the quality of life here,” Cox said. “It is a divisive issue in the community, but it’s important to have a healthy discussion about what is in the community’s best interest, long term, not just thinking short term.”

The declaration outlines the “exceptional opportunities” the Slave River and its rapids provide for recreation, tourism and cultural activities, including sandy beaches, swiftwater rescue training and ideal paddling conditions for world class canoeing, kayaking and rafting.

It goes on to state the area should be protected in its natural state, highlighting how it is an “integral part of the daily lives of the people and communities both upstream and downstream of the rapids.”

Cox and Vassal presented the declaration as an informational item, choosing not to pursue a vote at the time.

The declaration came with an accompanying petition. Calling for the protection of the Slave, the petition has 127 signatures gathered from two public appearances - at the Earth Week fair and the Fort Smith trade show last month.

According to the NWT’s Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the board’s petition does not meet the parameters of submitting petitions to municipal governments.

“We later found out petitions must have a bylaw made or a bylaw repealed, and 25 per cent of the municipality’s voters need to sign the petition for council to consider it legitimate,” Cox said. “But the number still says something.”

Council remained on the fence about the issue of future hydro development.

“There are many people in trades who would benefit hugely from something like this, so I would like to hear from them, too,” Deputy

Mayor Lou Sebert said. “I am of two minds about it.”

Councillor Don Webb said he typically supports development.

“We’ve got to be very careful what we do as council, hearing from all sides before we make a statement. I can understand and appreciate the intent behind this,” he said. “I’ve always stated that any development on the Slave is not going to happen because the town of Fort Smith is in favour of it and it’s not going to be stopped if the town of Fort Smith is against it... We’ve got to handle it to the best of our ability for everyone.”

The next step for the recreation board is to make ATCO and TransCanada aware of the declaration, Vassal said.

“I’d like to make the Alberta Legislature aware of the declaration, as well. How we do that, I’m not sure yet. It will be discussed further, along with other means of garnering support for the river with the board,” he said.

### Sports & Recreation Arena Fire

## Fire hits Fort Smith Arena

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Firefighters in Fort Smith rushed to the arena early Monday morning to put out a fire, just weeks after getting called to a fire at the town’s rec centre.

The fire at the arena burned for a couple hours on Monday before anyone noticed.

Fort Smith’s volunteer fire department was onsite around 7:30 and had it put out before noon.

No one was injured or killed in the fire, the cause of which is still under investigation by the office of the fire marshal.

The cost of the damage has not yet been determined.

“Due to the process of inspection and determination of loss and repair costs, the arena is closed until further notice and will likely not be usable for the 2013/2014 ice season,” stated a press release from the town. “The Fort Smith Town Council recognizes the integral role that the arena plays within its community and will work diligently for its community members during this difficult time.”

The incident at the arena came just weeks after firefighters were called to the rec centre after a light in the main gym effectively exploded, dropping burning materials onto the floor.

The fire was put out, but repairs have to be made to the gym floor, the cost of which is still unknown.

The town is looking into replacing all the old lights with newer, more efficient ones in order to prevent the incident from recurring.

People are still able to use the gym at this time.

### A heartfelt thank you

to all who helped organize and contributed to the lovely community farewell: especially Jessica Cox.

We would like to thank the community of Fort Smith and all the people who have supported us over the years. We will miss you!

A special thank you to Lesley Paulette.

Gisela Becker and John Plowman



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Photo: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Increasing amounts of fresh water to the Arctic reduces the ocean's capacity to neutralize acidification, according to a new study by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme.



Photo: Carsten Egevang

Climate change, overharvest, habitat destruction and pollution are threatening already-weakened Arctic plants and animals, such as the arctic fox, according to a report from the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna.

Environment Arctic

# Grim reports mark first day of Arctic Council meetings

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Canada barely had a day to assume the chair position of the Arctic Council before it was bombarded by doom and gloom reports of polar meltdown, extensive ocean acidification and loss of biodiversity last week. Three separate reports sounded alarms on the state of the Arctic environment on the first day of Arctic Council meetings in Kiruna, Sweden last Wednesday, pressuring the international body to quickly address the growing issue of climate change. "As climate belts move north, large parts of the Arctic may lose their specific

Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity," said Hans Meltotte, chief scientist for the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, one of the reports released May 15. "The Arctic is home to thousands of unique cold-adapted species, many of which are found only there. But with climate change and increased interest in the region, if we do not act now we may lose the incredible assets and fascination that Arctic biodiversity offers us all." The assessment, done by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), presented key findings

showing that Arctic biodiversity is being degraded by climate change, overharvest,

Arctic biodiversity and exacerbates all other threats," the report states.

Climate change is by far the most serious threat to Arctic biodiversity and exacerbates all other threats.

## Arctic Biodiversity Assessment

habitat destruction and pollution, and calls for international cooperation to find comprehensive solutions. "Climate change is by far the most serious threat to

A second report on the extensive acidification of the Arctic Ocean by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) shows the average acidity of the

world's oceans has increased by 30 per cent over the last 200 years, and the Arctic is particularly vulnerable. The study shows Arctic water is rapidly absorbing CO2 from human activity, which is decreasing the pH of the ocean and affecting marine ecosystems in the Arctic - populations already weakened by increasing temperatures and melting sea ice. The second phase of the Arctic Ocean Review by the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group of the Arctic Council was also up for review last week. The report provides an analysis of the legal and


regulatory instruments relevant to the Arctic Ocean and identifies gaps and opportunities for further cooperation. Along with the three reports, the opening of the Arctic Council meetings was marked by an alarming piece of data from a monitoring station in Mauna Loa, Hawaii, which reported carbon dioxide readings in the atmosphere of over 400 parts per million (ppm) for an entire day - the first time in probably three million years. CO2 readings over 400 ppm were seen in the Arctic last year, but did not last for the entire 24-hour period.

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# First Nations, Norwegian groups tell government to pull Statoil out of oilsands

## Statoil implicated in ongoing Beaver Lake Cree court case

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Over 30 political, religious and environmental groups in Norway are requesting that their government instruct state-owned energy company Statoil to pull out of Alberta's oilsands in time with another visit by northern Dene activist Francois Paulette and Tina Lameman of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation (BLCN) in Alberta.

The groups, which include two political parties, the Church of Norway, the Sami Church Council and Greenpeace Norway, made the demand last week in an open letter to Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.

"We find Statoil's tar sands exploitation incompatible with the company's own guidelines for sustainable development and environment. We do not believe that it is in the interest of the Norwegian government, and accordingly the Norwegian society, to be co-responsible for an operation with so many negative aspects," the letter reads.

"In addition to the substantial negative impact on the Canadian nature and peoples of the First Nations, the exploitation involves a considerable economical risk, both for Statoil and for Norway. As the government is majority shareholder in Statoil, Norwegian citizens consequently share the responsibility, both for the likely financial losses on a long term, and for the failed ethical considerations of today."

The letter speaks to recently published scientific reports on the environmental impacts of oilsands development, data on greenhouse gas emissions from oilsands production and ongoing court cases by First Nations opposing industrial development on their territories, including the BLCN suit against Canada and the province of Alberta for authorizing oilsands development on its lands.

BLCN's court case names over 15,000 individual authorizations linked to some 300 industrial projects on its

traditional territory, which the First Nation alleges have infringed upon its members' treaty rights.

One of those is Statoil's Kai Kos Dehseh oilsands project. The letter argues

Paulette, an elder from Smith's Landing First Nation near Fort Smith, NWT, was in Norway for two weeks on a speaking and meeting tour. The anti-oilsands activist met with government

shareholders as he did the previous years on the environmental impacts of oilsands development in support of a Greenpeace campaign to have them vote to pull out of Alberta.

"We say that when you speak twice about a matter, that's it. When you speak a third time, there's something wrong," Paulette told Statoil's board and shareholders from the auditorium's podium. "The Canadian government has dismantled environmental protection legislation. Why is it that the people from Norway put up with Statoil in our country?"

Last year, Statoil's board of directors maintained the company's plans to stay in the oilsands region for 30 to 40 more years.

This year, Paulette said many more people were present, including a pre-AGM protest outside, to voice their opposition to the oilsands. He said the upcoming election in Norway could see an end to Statoil's involvement in

Canada if the right party is elected.

Statoil entered the oilsands through its acquisition of North American Oil Sands Corp. in 2007. The company produces over 10,000 barrels of oil per day from Kai Kos Dehseh, covering approximately 1,100 square-km north of Fort McMurray.

The company maintains it is at the environmental fore of companies in the oilsands.

"The board remains convinced that Statoil has in place the necessary environmental and operational ambitions and are investing significant capital in extensive heavy oil research and development in order to develop the resource in a sustainable manner," the board stated, noting that the company's carbon emission reduction target of over 40 per cent by 2025 is "industry leading."

"On this basis, the board recommends that the shareholders vote against the proposal," it concluded.

We say that when you speak twice about a matter, that's it. When you speak a third time, there's something wrong.

Elder Francois Paulette

that permits for the project could be considered invalid if determined so by the court, "thus forcing Statoil to close its controversial engagement in the tar sands of Alberta.

"In that case, the Norwegian state will, as majority shareholder, bear responsibility for having contributed to juridically documented violations of Canadian First Nations' rights," the letter states.

ministers, the Sami Parliament and Church of Norway officials and attended, for the third time, Statoil's annual general assembly on May 14.

He was joined there by Lameman, both telling Statoil at the AGM in Stavanger to end its involvement in Canada's oilsands.

Paulette made a similar presentation to Statoil

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High school students from 16 communities across the NWT celebrate the final day of the third annual youth symposium at Aurora College's Thebacha campus.



Students recreation

Education Youth Symposium

# Students take College Life 101 at youth symposium

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR  
It was all about snakes, bird houses, the Amazing Race and preparing for post-secondary education at the third annual Northwest Territories Youth Symposium at Aurora College's Thebacha campus.  
More than 70 high school students from 16 communities across the NWT flocked

to Fort Smith last week to learn more about opportunities at Aurora College and take part in a number of hands-on activities.  
They built birdhouses and cut copper plumbing pipes in carpentry and plumbing workshops while learning about the school of Trades, Apprenticeship and Industrial Training and took part

in a geocaching field trip modelled after the hit show *The Amazing Race* with the school of Education.  
There was also an on-the-land exercise involving the snake pit in Wood Buffalo National park, giving students a glimpse of what the longstanding Environment and Natural Resources Technology Program is like.

"It's all been fun," Delany Harley, 15, from Norman Wells said. "I learned how to perform CPR on a baby, make jewellery and smoothies...We're meeting lots of people. It's just interesting."  
Peter Kikkert, an instructor in the school of Education, organized the symposium this year and was impressed with the outcome.  
"There were 76 students and about 16 chaperones - much larger than last year," he said. "A lot of high school students don't know what to expect when they go off to college and university, but with something like this they are getting the whole college experience. They're seeing the town, talking to instructors. They're really seeing everything the campus and Fort Smith has to offer."

is a great opportunity for students to get to know more about subject areas they'd maybe like to pursue and get a better sense of residence, which can be intimidating for students from smaller communities."

still big enough for what a student needs. I like them," she said. "I definitely plan on going to college; I'm not sure where yet, but I'm going."  
In addition to the experiential learning activities,

A lot of high school students don't know what to expect when they go off to college and university but with something like this they are getting the whole college experience.

*Peter Kikkert  
Youth Symposium organizer*

The residences were exactly what Julie Loomis, 16, from Sir John Franklin high school in Yellowknife, was most keen to check out.  
"We're staying in them so that's even better. You can really imagine what it'd be like living there - they are smaller than I expected but students received a tour of Fort Smith and participated in a hand games demonstration. They also heard about the NWT's Student Financial Assistance Program and other student support systems in place to help ease the transition from high school to postsecondary institutions.

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Vee Faria, a nursing instructor at Aurora College in Yellowknife, helps Keith Kataoyak of Ulukhaktok find a heartbeat on a dummy during the "How to Save a Life" workshop.



Alicia Nickson, 16, left, and Karen Benoit, 15, of Aklavik prepare to cut copper pipes during a plumbing workshop.



Simon Kudlak of Ulukhaktok, centre, isn't too sure about getting cozy with a slithering friend from the snake pit in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Photos: Jayne Murray, Renée Francoeur



The Norman Wells group takes a break from answering trivia questions as part of a scavenger hunt modelled after The Amazing Race television show.

to learn more? The proposed NWT  
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# Doctor recruitment to be centralized, minister says

## New plan underway to help attract more doctors to permanent positions

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

It's an age-old story in the Northwest Territories: Northerners left with no option but to report their health and medical narratives over and over again to a slew of passing-through locum doctors.

It's no secret securing long-term doctors in the NWT is a challenge, says Health Minister Tom Beaulieu, and it's not something the department of Health and Social Services is turning a blind eye to.

Department staff are currently in the process of developing a health and social services human resources plan to "centralize" the doctor recruitment process with all NWT health authorities.

"This will be developed this fiscal year. We have already selected who will head this plan...In it, we'll be looking for options to ensure a coordinated recruitment of physicians right across the NWT rather than having all authorities competing with each other for doctors, which has been happening in the past," he said in an interview with *The Journal*.

"We have 4.5 positions in Fort Smith with only two filled. We're actively trying to fill those other two.... There are a total of seven positions in Hay River, with one filled now, two open in Norman Wells, two in Fort Simpson...We do have an additional five doctors out of nine positions filled in Inuvik in the last year," he said. "I'm hoping next year,



Photo courtesy of GNWT

Health Minister Tom Beaulieu

with the help of this plan, even more are filled."

While Beaulieu could not release specific details of the plan, he said further discussion on it and better ways to recruit doctors will occur at the end of this month during a joint leadership conference in Yellowknife. The conference will include the NWT's newest doctor, Dr. Coralie Boudreau, who started a three-year contract in Hay River

last month. The Hay River Health and Social Services Authority spent almost six years in its quest for a permanent doctor.

A number of different and innovative recruitment strategies are being brainstormed for the plan, including more coordinated partnerships with medical associations as well as tapping into groups of physicians interested in the outdoors, Beaulieu said.

"We want to find doctors that are interested in being closer to nature because we can offer that in the NWT. For example, one of the authorities went and talked to some of the local tour operators...and found a lot of doctors came up to do canoeing...We could try to look in those areas for recruits, take a more streamlined approach," he said.

The plan also speaks to incorporating flexibility when it comes to the living arrangements of permanent doctors.

Doctors who recoil at the idea of working in a remote and isolated community for a long period of time will have the option of making their main home base in Yellowknife, according to the new plan, Beaulieu said.

"One of the key things we plan on doing is offering individual doctors who feel like they don't want to be outside of a major centre the option of living in Yellowknife but still be flying in and working as a designated Fort Smith doctor or Norman Wells doctor," he explained.

While that option is also not ideal and the details would have to be further worked out, it is better than having a slew of locums passing through each year, Beaulieu noted.

So far, the Northern health authorities have responded positively to the plan underway to centralize and boost recruitment.

"They'd like to see a change and see the same doctors over and over in their communities. People in Hay River were seeing on average 37 different doctors in a year. Everyone recognizes this is not an efficient system. Plus, it's costly," Beaulieu said.

have a competitive salary package," he said.

The NWT also offers a medical student bursary to Northern students enrolled full time in a faculty of medicine at a Canadian university and two years of residency worth up to \$70,000 over five years.

We want to find doctors that are interested in being closer to nature because we can offer that in the NWT.

*Health Minister Tom Beaulieu*

British Columbia recently unveiled a new incentive to attract more long-term doctors to remote communities.

In March, the BC government and the BC Medical Association partnered to offer the new Rural Physicians for British Columbia incentive, where doctors receive a one-time payment of \$100,000 when they commit to a three-year return of service in 17 designated rural communities.

Participating physicians receive \$50,000 when they begin working in the community and the remaining \$50,000 will be paid once they have completed one year of service.

According to Beaulieu, the NWT isn't looking to bring in a similar incentive - at least not yet.

"I'm not sure we're looking at paying huge bonuses for people to come here...We

Qualifying students will then commit to fulfilling a Return of Service contract as a physician in the NWT at a location to be negotiated between the student, the department and the health authority.

"I think we have 24 NWT residents being supported through this program as medical students currently," Beaulieu said. "I think we've missed out on some opportunity here...Some students were missed that should have been brought back up here. Somehow it fell through the cracks and we missed out on a couple of doctors that were from the NWT, so I'm asking the department to really step up this program and stay in touch with our medical students and push for these guys to come back to the NWT to practice when they're finished."

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# NWTAC shines spotlight on Northern volunteers at AGM

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A select handful of Northern do-gooders was honoured last week with the 2013 Outstanding Volunteer Awards, presented annually by the department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

Recipients in four categories received the awards during a ceremony in Hay River on May 10, as part of the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) annual general meeting, May 9-12.

The Outstanding Elder Award went to Ron Ogilvie of Yellowknife. Ogilvie has been an active volunteer with the Yellowknife Seniors' Society for numerous years and the YK2HR, the annual bike ride from Yellowknife to Hay River.

For the last two years, Ron has also volunteered with the Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation. Ogilvie does the bulk of his volunteering through driving, offering rides to seniors whenever they need them and picking up event supplies and dropping them off for the hospital.



Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Robert McLeod presents the winners with Outstanding Volunteer Award certificates. Left to right: McLeod, Paula Guy, Melinda Gillis, Alannis McKee and George Koe Jr.

Alannis McKee, 16, of Yellowknife took home the Outstanding Youth award. McKee has worked extensively as a youth volunteer with the NWT Disabilities Council and a volunteer coach with Special Olympics NWT among other volunteer commitments with St. Patrick high school.

She is also the founder and president of the Best Buddies Chapter in the North, a friendship program for youth with intellectual disabilities in the NWT.

The Outstanding Individual Award went to George Koe Jr. from Aklavik.

According to the nomination

notes MACA received, Koe can be found on most days shovelling snow from the steps of houses and boardwalks around Aklavik. His work shovelling snow has been recognized by community members for making Aklavik safer during the winter months. He is also active within the church

community, where he plays musical instruments and helps out during events. Koe is also a frequent Health Centre volunteer, assisting staff in multiple tasks.

The volunteer-run Children's First Society, which has worked for over a decade to establish a permanent child care and childhood development centre in Inuvik, was recognized with the Outstanding Group Award.

The fruit of the society's efforts, the Children's First Centre, is slated to open next month, combining four of Inuvik's early childhood centres and providing 120 child care spaces.

According to the organization, volunteers have put in countless hours to reach agreements between service providers, design a building and fundraise for the new centre, raising \$5.8 million through various events, funding proposals and dinners.

"We were just floored by this; it is such an honour and great timing. Right now we're hoping to open our doors on Aug. 12 and a grand opening is being planned for September," Melinda Gillis, chair of

the Children's First Society, told *The Journal*.

Hundreds of volunteers helped make the idea of one, state-of-the-art centre into a reality, she said.

Gillis and Paula Guy, vice chair of the society, were in Hay River to accept the award on behalf of all the organization's volunteers.

"The people we recognize with the Outstanding Volunteer Awards selflessly devote their time to making our communities a better place," MACA Minister Robert C. McLeod said in a press release. "MACA and our partner, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, are grateful to these outstanding volunteers who add so much to our communities. The people nominated for these awards always lead by example and inspire others to take action and make our territory a better place for everybody."

MACA presents the awards annually to individuals and groups who have helped improve the quality of life in the NWT through volunteerism.

## PWK Graduation 2013

The **June 4** issue of the *Northern Journal* will feature PWK Graduation messages from local business, organizations and community leaders. Join our salute to the future leaders of the North by contacting the *Journal's* office at 867-872-3000 ext. 15 or [ads@norj.ca](mailto:ads@norj.ca)



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- May 8, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm: How Do You Know You're Making Any Money?
- May 9, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm: How to Increase Client Referrals and Sales
- May 14, 9:30 am – 11:30 am: Accounting and Tax for Small Business
- May 15, 9:30 am – 11:30 am: Creating and Sustaining More Raving Fans
- May 16, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm: Promotions: Creating Buzz for Your Biz
- May 22, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm: Small Business Bookkeeping and Payroll
- May 23, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm: Advertising Dos and Don'ts
- May 28, 9:30 am – 11:30 am: Creating Engaging Online Content
- May 29, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm: Low-Cost Strategies for Powerhouse Profits
- May 30, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm: Building Your Business on Customer Referrals

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Yellowknife architect Wayne Guy plans to turn this building he owns on the Yellowknife dock into an 81-seat pub and brewery.

Politics Municipal

# Council approves brew pub on Yellowknife dock

By JACK DANYLCHUK

It may open too late in the season for patrons to lounge on the patio and enjoy the view of Yellowknife Bay, but NWT Brewing Company’s plan for a pub in Old Town has been approved by Yellowknife City Council.

The 100-seat pub and restaurant – 80 seats inside and 20 on the patio – still must come up with a dozen parking spaces. Fletcher Stevens, one of the owners, doesn’t think that will present a problem, especially in winter when patrons can leave their vehicles on the ice.

In summer months, customers will be encouraged to cycle, walk or use public transportation, said architect Wayne Guy,

It will compliment festivals such as Ramble and Ride and provide a lovely amenity for Yellowknifers and tourists who want to enjoy the water and the view.

*Brew pub owner Wayne Guy*

who owns the waterfront building that will undergo extensive renovations this summer to accommodate the new business.

“It’s a drinking establishment,” Guy said. “I don’t think customers should be encouraged to drive.”

The brew pub will be the fourth restaurant in Old Town, but the developers think its location on the dock will create

a draw for boaters, tourists and people who attend special events and weekend markets.

“It will compliment festivals such as Ramble and Ride and provide a lovely amenity for Yellowknifers and tourists who want to enjoy the water and the view,” Guy said. “We’re located on one of the world’s 10 biggest lakes, and it’s very difficult at times to remember that.”

Politics Municipal

# Yellowknife changing street lights to cut costs, save energy

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

More Yellowknifers will notice a difference in light beaming down on them along city streets over the next three years.

The City of Yellowknife is working with Northland Utilities to reduce the energy impact of its street lights by converting from high pressure sodium street lights to more efficient LED bulbs.

To date, 178 street lights have been changed since the joint partnership began in 2010. Yellowknife and Northland plan to replace an additional 1,500 bulbs by the end of 2016.

“This will be pretty well every single light in the city,” said Carl Bird, director of corporate services at the city. “There are some difficult decorative lamps that they are still looking at for the right LED technology, but we expect they will find this within the next three years.”

When completed, the project will conserve enough electricity to power 108 homes for an entire year, saving the city over 975,000 kilowatt-hours in electricity annually.

Additional benefits from the switch could also include a reduction in maintenance expenses.

“We’re confident the city will save some money too, but we can’t define or quantify it yet,” Bird said. “We can do that after we’ve installed them all and monitored them.”

The city’s Community Energy Plan aims to reduce the energy use of municipal operations by 10 per cent by 2014. The streetlight replacement project represents an estimated reduction of 4 per cent.



A Northland Utilities worker installs a set of new LED bulbs on one of Yellowknife’s many street lights.

“This is the kind of project where cooperation between private and public entities makes a lot of sense; achieving both financial and energy conservation goals at the same time,” Mayor Mark Heyck said in a press release. “Working cooperatively with our electrical utility is a win-win for both the city and Northland Utilities.”

Bird said he noticed the change in the street lights after a few bulbs were changed in his neighbourhood.

“When I’m walking late at night, I find it better lit. I can tell I’m walking under a LED light compared to old

technology. I don’t know if I’d say it’s brighter; it’s just better and, apparently, from the technical perspective, there is less light pollution, too,” he said.

According to Duane Morgan, Northland manager, the high pressure sodium street lights give off a “yellowish” hue and the new bulbs are more white.

“The LEDs are also more directional so they direct the light downwards more than the older bulbs,” Morgan said. “There has been no negative feedback so far and the city is very encouraged by the results so far.”

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# SPECTACULAR

Northwest Territories Parks | [nwt-parks.ca](http://nwt-parks.ca)



# Giant remediation, devolution and expanding military build housing boom in Yellowknife

By JACK DANYLCHUK

From Old Town through Niven Lake to Kam Lake, cabins, houses and condominium projects are popping up across Yellowknife to meet anticipated economic growth.

“There are jobs as a result of devolution, Giant Mine remediation, and the military is increasing its presence here and in the North,” Mayor Mark Heyck said in an interview after breaking ground Tuesday on a condominium project in the Niven Lake subdivision.

Giant remediation is expected to create 300 long-term jobs, and the transfer of federal responsibilities to the Northwest Territories will bring another 200 people to Yellowknife, Heyck said, so “we feel that we can sustain this housing market for a few years to come.”

The first phase of Summit Circle Developments’ Cavo project in Niven Lake will add 36 prefabricated bachelor, one and two-bedroom condominiums to the city’s housing stock. It is 80 per cent sold, and another 40 units will go in later this year.

Architect Wayne Guy, president of Summit Circle, said the prefabricated units will be finished inside and out at a factory in Edmonton and trucked 1,500 km to waiting foundations on the site this summer.

“All that remains is to hook them up to municipal services; it’s plug and play,” said Guy, who experimented with prefabricated technology on a housing project in Old Town and found “it allowed us to make best use of the construction season and put in the units when the weather is good.”

The day before the ground-breaking, city council gave Homes North president Les Rocher permission to add 10 one-room cabins to a site on Breztlaff Drive in Old Town.

The cabins will house workers who will be busy throughout the summer at Kam Lake, where Homes North is putting in 170 housing units for what Rocher describes as “repeat buyers; people who are upgrading to three and four-bedroom homes.”

Cavo is just up the street from where Redcliff Developments has sold half of the 16 town homes it is building on the site of the former Bayview Estates, a project that failed in the 2008 recession.

“The future is very bright for Yellowknife,” Guy said. “The key is affordable entry-level housing. People will stay and become part

of the community for the long term.

“Our population has stayed the same for the past 10 years and now I think it will start to grow in a significant way. We’ve broken the bubble of housing price and cost and value.”

One project that was scheduled for construction this summer but won’t go ahead until next year is a 24-unit, eco-housing project that developer Tony Chang planned for 48th Street, beside Boston Pizza.

Guy, who is the lead architect on the project, said it ran into scheduling problems. Unveiled a year ago, it got \$1.2 million for design work from CanNor and the city. Guy described it as a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity” to find a homemade answer to the high cost of Northern house construction and operation.



Summit Developments president Wayne Guy (left) and Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck break ground on the Cavo condominium project in the Niven Lake sub-division.



The Old Town “House of Horrors” is set to be demolished for more parking at Pilot’s Monument.

Politics Municipal

## A piece of Yellowknife’s past slated for demolition

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Proposed changes to Old Town landmarks will eliminate a heritage building linked to Yellowknife’s raucous past as a frontier gold mining, prospecting and aviation centre.

The “House of Horrors,” a one time rooming house known for gambling and wild parties, will be swept aside in the move to expand the parking lot below Pilot’s Monument.

The city bought the property and the house will be demolished this summer to make way for the redevelopment of Pilot’s Monument, Mayor Mark Heyck said.

“Given a few years, it would probably come down on its

We are looking at commemorating the building. There has been a suggestion that a wall be preserved. We’ll look at some way of letting residents know what was once there.

*Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck*

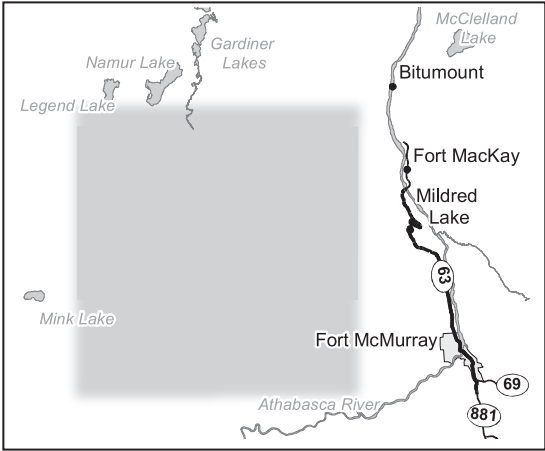
own,” Heyck said. “We are looking at commemorating the building. There has been a suggestion that a wall be preserved. We’ll look at some way of letting residents know what was once there.”

The Pilot’s Monument redevelopment will be phased in over several years. It includes a ramp for wheelchair access, expanded parking and more picnic tables in Racine Park.

### Notification of AESO Regulatory Filing of an Amendment to the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Approval

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) advises you of its intention to file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to amend the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document (NW FMM NID) Approval U2012-271, on or after June 4, 2013.

The amendment will seek approval from the AUC to replace the previously approved 240 kV double-circuit transmission line with a single-circuit strung between the proposed Birchwood Creek 960S and Ells River 2079S with a single-circuit transmission line. The AESO will also be providing an updated development sequence.



The shaded area indicates the approximate area where the proposed transmission development is needed. In separate applications called Facility Applications, ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO), the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Fort McMurray area, will describe the specific routes and sites for the proposed transmission development, and request AUC approval to construct and operate these transmission facilities. The specific substation sites and transmission line routes applied for by ATCO may extend beyond the area shown.

The AESO and ATCO provided notification of the proposed NW FMM NID Approval amendment to stakeholders, including residents, occupants and landowners, from March to May 2013. The AESO has considered feedback gathered from stakeholders, and technical and cost considerations, and will apply to the AUC for approval of the amendment. Once filed, the NW FMM NID Approval amendment will be posted on the AESO website at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/23414.html>

Please visit our website, [www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca) for more information, or contact the AESO at 1-888-866-2959 or [stakeholder.relations@aes0.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aes0.ca)





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### Announcements

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### Auctions

**MEIER GUN AUCTION.** Saturday, June 1, 11 a.m., 6016 - 72A Ave., Edmonton. Over 150 guns

- handguns, rifles, shotguns, miscellaneous. Call to consign 780-440-1860.

**WELL ESTABLISHED** campground & RV Park. High Level, Alberta, July 6, 2013. Offers 12 acres with 42 sites and additional room for approximately 30 more. Immediate revenue. Team Auctioneers on www.globalauction-guide.com; 780-927-4060.

**CENTRAL PLUMBING & Heating,** Slave Lake, Alberta. Tuesday May 28, 10 a.m. Selling truck & forklift, compactor, river boat, snowmobile, seacan, sheet metal equipment, power threaders, shop & specialty tools, wood working & drywall equipment, plumbing & heating inventory. See www.montgomeryauctions.com or 1-800-371-6963.

**75 QUARTERS LAND,** Oyen, Alberta - Ritchie Bros Unreserved Auction. 1HQ, 30 Parcels Farmland, 6 Parcels Grazing Lease, \$37,300 Surface Lease Revenue. Jerry Hodge 780-706-6652; rbauction.com/realestate.

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**61ST Annual International Oilmen's Golf Tournament,** Edmonton, June 18 - 21, 2013, Highlands Golf Club & Belvedere Golf & Country Club. Enter online at www.iogt.ca.

### Employment Opportunities

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723-7383 or email: esuter@sundanceforestindustries.ca.

**UNITED HOMES CANADA** hiring Warranty Coordinator. Detail oriented, organized candidates need apply. Customer service experience required, warranty experience is an asset. ron@unitedhomescanada.com or fax 403-948-5240.

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**CENTRAL PEACE NATURAL Gas Co-op Ltd.** requires full-time Gas Utility Operator. Experience, safety tickets an asset. Clean valid driver's licence required. Forward resume: cpngc@telusplanet.net. Fax 780-864-2044. Mail: Box 119, Spirit River, T0H 3G0.

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## Safe Travels





# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



## 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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**STANTON  
TERRITORIAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

## REQUEST FOR TENDERS Ground Transportation Services Reference No. 13123

– Fort Resolution, NT –

The Stanton Territorial Health Authority is requesting tenders from Contractors interested in establishing a non-exclusive Standing Offer Agreement for the provision of Ground Transportation services on an "As and When" required basis in the community of Fort Resolution.

Tenders will be received until:

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MAY 31, 2013.**

at the following location:

Stanton Territorial Health Authority  
Materials Management Department  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Stanton Territorial Hospital  
550 Byrne Road, Yellowknife, NT  
Phone: (867) 669-4173, Fax: (867) 669-4132.

Request for Tender documents may be obtained from the above address.

The Government of the Northwest Territories Business Incentive Policy will apply to this tender.

Lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

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



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Fort Smith, NT

Indeterminate

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Fax: (867) 872-3298, E-mail: [jobsfortsmith@gov.nt.ca](mailto:jobsfortsmith@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 this competition to fill future term or indeterminate positions.
- Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.
- For copies of the job description please visit [www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment](http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment).



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Application Deadline - June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

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online at: [www.metisemployment.ca](http://www.metisemployment.ca)



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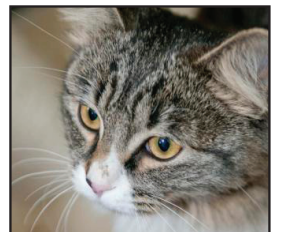


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## MÉTIS YOUTH SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM

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## FUN FACT

All Canadians have access to free healthcare with the exception of dental service. Most people over the age of 65 receive their prescriptions for free.



# Luminaries chair ups ante for 2013 Relay for Life

Committee hoping to sell 1,250 honorary lights for cancer victims, survivors

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Lorraine Mabbitt is hoping this year's Relay for Life in Fort Smith will be the brightest yet.

The committee member responsible for selling Relay's trademark luminaries - paper lanterns dedicated to honouring those who have passed, those who are battling and those who have survived cancer - wants to see a record number of 1,250 sold this year for the Canadian Cancer Society.

"Two years ago I did 1,146," Mabbitt said, adding that she wanted to up it "just a little bit - not to get too greedy."

At \$5 a piece, individuals are able to customize their luminaries with names and messages at the June 15 event. Each lantern is placed around the track where Relay participants spend 24 hours walking as a cancer fundraiser, and at 11:00 p.m. they are lit up ceremonially.

"It's for people who miss their loved ones. They put comments on the luminary as just a way of remembering them, either way if they're fighting or are passed away," Mabbitt said.



Relay for Life's trademark luminaries line the track at Fort Smith's Queen Elizabeth park.

She said many people buy luminaries even if they don't have a relative or friend who's passed away from cancer.

"Thankfully, some people still don't have cancer in their family and they want to buy them, so that's okay," she said.

People who want to purchase a luminary can do so online to the Canadian Cancer Society website or find Mabbitt at Kaeser's on



People can customize luminaries to honour their loved ones.

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Every second year when Relay is held in Hay River, Mabbitt still sells luminaries in Fort Smith. Last year, she sold around 400.

"Fort Smith is awesome with the luminaries; they love them."

Lorraine is part of a family team called the Mabbitt Bunch, known around town not only for their efforts in

Relay, but at the food bank, animal shelter and many other volunteer organizations in the community.

"We're kind of a happy, out in your face kind of bunch," she said. "We like to give back to the community, so this was another way."

The team started a couple years ago when their Grandma Mabbitt, who had breast cancer, passed away.

Lorraine said her mom had cancer also, but has been a survivor for several decades. Two years ago, her aunt, who also had breast cancer, had a breast removed but is now in remission and on the team.

Now, her uncle is fighting cancer, so the issue continues to hit close to home.

"We just know so many people who have cancer or have passed away in families, so we just like to contribute," she said. "I grew up in Fort Smith, so I just know a lot of people who have passed away...It's just a great cause."

*This is the fourth in a series on the South Slave's Relay for Life, which will be held in Fort Smith on June 15.*

Photos: Paul Bannister

# Fort Smith Car Seat Clinic



## Saturday, May 25, 2013

at the Four Way Intersection from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Come by and get your child's car seat inspected for FREE.**

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For more information call 867 872- 6203

# HEY CANCER, WE HAVE MORE SURVIVORS ON OUR SIDE EVERY DAY.

Relay For Life is the biggest fundraiser of the year, making sure we fund the best cancer research. Thanks to that research, more than 62% of those diagnosed with cancer will survive. That's nearly double the survival rate of 40 years ago.

Join the fight and celebrate cancer survivors at this year's Relay For Life.

Sign up now at [relayforlife.ca](http://relayforlife.ca).



## Fort Smith Relay For Life

June 15, 2013

For more information, please contact Claudette James at (867) 872-0168 or at [fortsmith.relayforlife@cancer.nt.ca](mailto:fortsmith.relayforlife@cancer.nt.ca).

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photo credit: photos 1-3 Michael Ericsson photos 3-6 Christine Hopaluk



# Fort Smith paddlers jump on Little Buffalo River for first run of spring

By DON JAQUE

The ice has been pushed away and water is rushing over the falls at Little Buffalo Falls Territorial Park near Fort Smith - an early spring draw for local paddlers.

The first run of the season on the Little Buffalo River has become a tradition for Fort Smith kayakers during the few days when the river is high and the water is pumping over the falls. Seven stalwart paddlers took advantage and enjoyed their first springtime run down the winding, picturesque river mid-last week.

The most difficult part of the adventure is carrying kayaks down the steep and somewhat muddy bank to put in at the large pool below the falls. Water was thundering over the falls, the pool was surging, there was a cool rain-like mist and foam piles collected all along the shoreline as the six launched their little plastic boats. The water in the narrow channel is a bit “pushy” at this level, cold but not icy, and the river is unusually wide, lapping into the willows along the shore.

The crew picked its way gingerly down the river, with two experienced paddlers in the lead, scouting, especially careful at blind turns. These



Photo: Don Jaque

Paddlers (from left) Chris Williams, Saskia van Mourik, Genevieve Coté (in boat), Rick James, Jason Panter and Karl Cox brave the chilly water to take advantage of the Little Buffalo River while water levels are high enough for kayaking.

springtime ventures down small rivers can be dangerous due to “sweepers” – trees that have fallen across the river. Kayakers can usually roll up if they are flipped by a wave, but if a sweeper is involved they can be held against it upside down, pinned by the rushing water, or get their gear hooked on a branch as they struggle vainly to get out.

Caution and smart paddling is the best defense. There were no sweepers in this case and the high water actually made the run safer and easier, washing over two beaver dams. The swift current created standing waves and tight corners, and a worry free and easy run all the way. The Little Buffalo is a pretty river winding through

limestone hills. There were water fowl, including a big white loon. A bear having a drink was frightened off by the sudden appearance of these strange creatures on his river. The paddle lasted about 40 minutes to the takeout, the end of the road from the campground, and the adventure was over. “That was fun. Let’s do it again,” was the enthusiastic

cry as the boats were pulled out of the water. Off they went, back to the campground in the shuttle vehicle and down the bank below the falls again. The second time, with the way known and safe, was much faster, and the little boats bobbed swiftly through the standing waves with confidence.

## SPORTS

## BRIEFS

### NWT squash player heads to Pan Americans

Devin Hinchey of Yellowknife has been selected by Squash Canada to join the Canadian junior men’s team for the upcoming Pan American Junior Championships in Belo Horizonte, Brazil from June 17-23. Hinchey is a member of the Yellowknife Racquet Club and is currently ranked 7th in Canada in the under 19 division. He has been training at the National Squash Academy in Toronto.

### Registration begins for soccer camps

Registration is now open for the 2013 NWT Challenger Soccer Camps. The Fort Smith camp runs July 1-5 and in Hay River from July 8-12. Yellowknife’s camp takes place Aug. 12-16. Coaching staff are selected and trained in the UK exclusively to work in the camps. To register, visit [www.registration.challengersports.com](http://www.registration.challengersports.com) and click on “British Soccer,” selecting the appropriate territory.

5



# PWK Convocation

PAUL WILLIAM KAESER  
MAY 30, 7:00 P.M.  
FORT SMITH RECREATION CENTER

# Grand March

MAY 31, 10:00 P.M.  
FORT SMITH RECREATION CENTRE

ON BEHALF OF ALL THE STAFF AT PWK,  
WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE  
ALL OF THE FORT SMITH GRADUATES  
ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT.

*Keep up the good work!*



## KCFA Summer Camp

K’atl’odeeche First Nation  
Chief Lamallice Centre  
Hay River Reserve  
July 2 – 5, 2013

## Come to our 11th Annual Fiddle Camp!

Classes begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 2 and run to 8 p.m. each evening through to the Friday evening closing concert.

Classes are available for first-time fiddle levels to advanced levels. Art instruction by qualified artists, orchestra classes, guitar, pennywhistle, bucket drumming, theory and dance classes are included in the daily schedule. Daily concerts and jam sessions every evening.

### Enjoy music and art with people of all ages!

#### Early Registration Rate

\$300 (if paid before June 1)

#### Regular Fee

\$350 for participants  
\$100 for chaperones (to cover meals)

#### Three meals and snacks are included with the registration fee.

One class for five and six year olds will be offered as well. A parent must remain with their child at all times. This class will run from breakfast through to the break at 2 p.m. and will include homeroom rhythm/fiddle classes, art and an option class. The fee will be \$275 for the early bird or \$325 after May 31. Space will be limited so register early!

### For further information, please contact:

Gerda Hazenberg at [gerdahazenberg@theedge.ca](mailto:gerdahazenberg@theedge.ca)  
Linda Duford at [ljtd58@yahoo.ca](mailto:ljtd58@yahoo.ca)

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

NORTHERN  
Journal

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# Driving Safety Home

At Shell Albion Sands, safety doesn't stop at the gate. We believe our safety mindset must go beyond our operations to educate and protect the youth in our community.

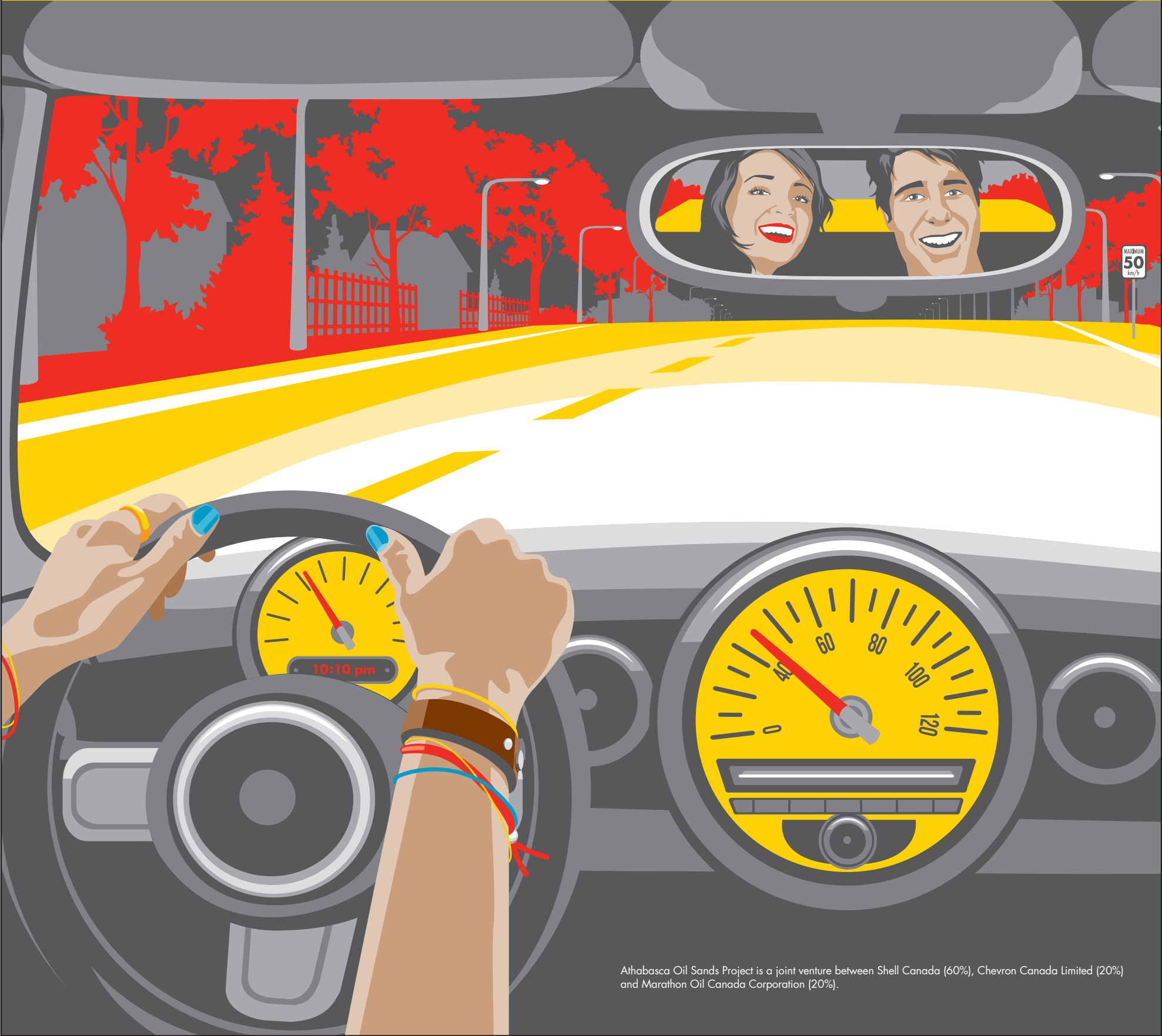
That's why we're proud to renew our sponsorship for three youth safety programs with Safe Community Wood Buffalo. These programs help our local students in Grades 8-12 get home safely by making smarter choices.

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