



**On Your Marks!** Fort Smith broke in the new track on the weekend with its first invitational meet. See page 16.



**Police find no foul play in death of Fort Res woman**

The death of 23 year-old Melissa Payne of Fort Resolution, who went missing May 19, is not being considered suspicious. See page 7.



**Scientists test out new ways to control anthrax**

Territorial government scientists are testing out new methods of controlling anthrax in the NWT's wood bison population. See page 8.



**Nighthawk! book begins migration to readers**

Yellowknife author Jamie Bastedo's new novel *Nighthawk!* is for the birds, and people of all ages. See page 13.



**Preparing for the worst**

Outdoorsy folks in Fort Smith learned how to deal with worst case scenarios at a wilderness first aid workshop out in the bush. See page 20.

Tuesday, May 28, 2013  
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# NORTHERN Journal

2011 national award winner - "Best Community Newspaper"

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Mackynnen MacDonald-Taylor, Hazel Marta and Arianna Hansen of Fort Smith fish for minnows from the Salt River in Wood Buffalo National Park during Water Day celebrations held by JBT School in collaboration with the Aurora Research Institute and Parks Canada on May 24. See page 11 for more.

## Devolution deal only open to changes for Aboriginal, treaty rights Premier says still no room for renegotiating agreement

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Though in his words the devolution deal may be "essentially done," NWT Premier Bob McLeod wants the world to know there is room to make accommodations, but only if Aboriginal governments say the deal impacts treaty or Aboriginal rights.

McLeod responded last week to what he said was incorrect information being spouted by Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington in a recent conversation with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Bernard Valcourt during a meeting in Ottawa.

Bevington said residents of the NWT had been told

by the premier that devolution was a "done deal" and that no changes would be made when Valcourt said

in actual fact I said that the negotiators had completed their negotiations and reached the end of their

I didn't want to raise the public's expectation that we were going to go and get a shopping list of all the things that we wanted to go back and renegotiate, because there's no appetite to do that.

*NWT Premier Bob McLeod*

consultation – and the potential for accommodation – was still taking place with First Nations.

"He's saying that I said the deal was done, when

mandate, so it was unlikely that we would change anything unless we missed something that was major or significant," McLeod said in an interview.

"If an Aboriginal government comes back and points out something that would significantly affect their Aboriginal or treaty rights, that we didn't take into consideration, and show that we were wrong in taking the approach that devolution would not negatively impact their treaty or Aboriginal rights, then we would look at that," he said.

McLeod recently told *The Journal* that changes to the devolution agreement could be made if "significant issues" had arisen during these consultations with Aboriginal governments, as is legally required within the Crown's duty to consult.

He said though neither government expected changes to be made, they are covering their legal bases.

"We don't think devolution will negatively impact or affect treaty or Aboriginal rights in any way, and the Aboriginal governments have been involved in devolution discussions for over 12 years," McLeod said. "We have written to every Aboriginal government to ask them if they feel that devolution is negatively impacting their treaty rights, if they would tell us what their concerns are, tell us what they believe is infringing on their rights."

See Premier on page 2.

*The best little newspaper in Canada*

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Charges laid in Hay River stabbing**

A man is recovering in an Edmonton hospital after a stabbing in Hay River early in the morning of May 18. A 26 year-old Hay River resident was stabbed with a knife while walking on a trail near the Rooster Gas Bar at about 3:45 a.m. He sustained a non-life threatening injury and was transported to Edmonton. Ryan Christopher Heron, 35, of Hay River has been arrested and charged with aggravated assault. He is currently remanded in custody and has a first court appearance on May 28 at 9:30 a.m. Police are releasing few details at this moment as the investigation is ongoing.

**Wildfire burning in Wood Buffalo**

A wildfire started burning within Wood Buffalo National Park, southeast of Lake Claire and about 75 km northeast of Fort McMurray, last week. Alberta's Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) staff are actively monitoring and holding the fire, about 6 hectares in size. The department had four helicopters and 70 personnel handling the fire as of Friday. ESRD is warning the fire may cause smoky conditions in the area.

**Métis and Alberta sign agreement on development**

A new development agreement between the Métis Settlements General Council and the Alberta government means more benefits and greater control for the province's Métis, according to the provincial government. The new co-management agreement gives Métis Settlements the authority to require companies bidding on resource rights beneath settlement lands to submit benefits proposals in areas, such as local employment, training or infrastructure improvements. Also, a company wholly owned by a settlement council may choose to purchase a right under its land at a preset price. Alberta is the only Canadian province with a land base dedicated specifically to Métis. The first rights under settlement lands will be available for bidding at the June 3 biweekly sale.

# Former NWT premier wants plebiscite on devolution

## Stephen Kakfwi shares harsh words for Premier McLeod at devolution forum

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Former premier Stephen Kakfwi is challenging the territorial government to take its devolution deal to the people.

Speaking at a public forum in Yellowknife, Kakfwi cited the votes in 1982 to divide the Northwest Territories and ratify the new boundary with Nunavut to support his challenge to Premier Bob McLeod.

"The premier said he doesn't want to govern by plebiscite, but we took division to the communities across the Northwest Territories in 1982; we held another plebiscite, to accept the negotiated boundary," Kakfwi said.

"Nobody said it would cost too much; nobody said it was too difficult," he told an audience of about 40 people who turned out for one in a series of forums on devolution sponsored by Alternatives North.

"This is the last transfer of responsibility that we have, and what I see is a real lack of confidence in our leadership in the people of the North; I see a lack of confidence in our leaders in dealing with Ottawa and in dealing with industry," he said.

majority of people support devolution, but want a vote on the deal that the territorial government signed in March.

"If I was premier, I would jump at the chance to say I am so confident, so sure of myself, that of course I

think that will change," said Hamre, who will nevertheless send a package of questions to legislators expressing the concerns of people who attended the forums.

"Support for devolution is widespread, but the government needs to know that this is not (territorial negotiator) Martin Goldney's devolution deal, this is our devolution deal," Hamre said.

Kakfwi said he's never accepted that the devolution deal is a good one, "but I've accepted that it is the only deal possible. This is a pig's ear, but it can be turned into a silk purse. It will take years of work. It's fundamental that we start right. We need the buy-in of everybody in the Northwest Territories."

Kakfwi is proposing a series of conferences to examine the impact of devolution, "so that we can assess how to make the best deal of what we have today.

"I don't think the financial deal will get better. Ottawa has said 'take it or leave it' and that's what you heard from the premier," he said. "He's so conditioned, he has no sense of confidence to say 'I'm going to stand up.' That's scary. If our leaders lose confidence, then where are we?"

This is the last transfer of responsibility that we have, and what I see is a real lack of confidence in our leadership in the people of the North; I see a lack of confidence in our leaders in dealing with Ottawa and in dealing with industry.

*Former NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi*

"It is not a good feeling to have, especially when leaders isolate themselves and say 'we have a mandate; we got this mandate from the people' and I don't see it," Kakfwi said.

"I never gave an MLA a mandate in the last election to negotiate a deal on devolution. No one gave it to the premier; no one gave it to the cabinet."

Based on the results of a public opinion survey conducted for Alternatives North, Kakfwi said a

will put it to a vote to dispel the critics, but mostly to say, for better or worse, we're all in it together," Kakfwi said.

"This way, less than 20 people will make the decision. That is fundamentally and morally wrong."

Speaking for Alternatives North, Gordon Hamre said in an interview that he has little hope that the territorial government will change its mind.

"The MLAs have voted not to hold a plebiscite; I don't

## Politics Devolution

# Premier 'didn't want to raise expectations'

Continued from page 1.

McLeod had previously referred to the deal as "take it or leave it" during debate in the Legislative Assembly over whether or not a plebiscite or referendum should be held to give all residents of the territory a chance to vote on the consensus draft version of the agreement.

He said those words were meant to convey the government's lack of intention to renegotiate the terms of the deal rather than frame it as final.

"When I said those words, it was on the basis of there's no appetite to go back and start re-negotiating a deal. I didn't want to raise the public's expectation that we were going to go and

If the MLAs, with the feedback that they're getting, feel it's significant enough that we shouldn't go ahead with devolution, then the deal is off.

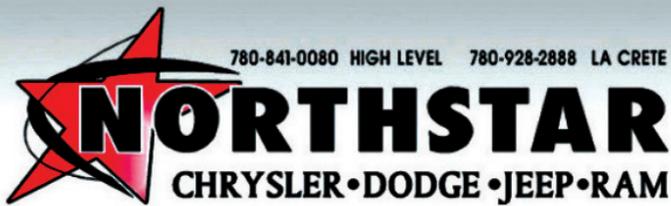
*NWT Premier Bob McLeod*

get a shopping list of all the things that we wanted to go back and renegotiate, because there's no appetite to do that," he said.

Issues raised by the rest of NWT residents during the ongoing public information sessions on devolution being held across the territory will not directly change the agreement.

"That's what we're doing

through the Legislative Assembly," he said. "If the MLAs, with the feedback that they're getting, feel it's significant enough that we shouldn't go ahead with devolution, then the deal is off. We're filing a report of what we heard, and I understand that probably some of the MLAs will be using whatever they believe will contribute to the process."



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# Akaiicho chiefs and GNWT sign MOU

## Negotiations challenged by devolution, ongoing legislative changes

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Akaiicho First Nations chiefs and members of the executive council of the territorial government signed an intergovernmental memorandum of understanding (MOU) last week, detailing areas where the two governments will work together.

Chiefs from Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Deninu Kue First Nation and the government of the Northwest Territories signed the four-year agreement, which lays out guidelines for collaboration on issues of shared interest, last Thursday at the Legislature.

The signing coincided with a government-to-government meeting discussing a range of topics, including funding for the community of N'Dilo, cases of trespassing on Commissioner's and Crown land, abandoned fuel lines in Fort Resolution, Lutsel K'e Dene School renovation and the Dettah Access Road.

The MOU sets out a commitment to meet twice a year. The next one takes place in an Akaiicho community this fall.



Premier Bob McLeod, surrounded by Yellowknives Dene Chief Edward Sangris (from left), Deninu Kue Chief Louis Balsillie, acting chief of N'Dilo Roy Erasmus, and Dora Enzoe, chief of Lutsel K'e First Nation, sign a memorandum of understanding Thursday in Yellowknife.

"It's a big to-do list," noted Don Balsillie, chief negotiator for the Akaiicho. "What we're currently doing is identifying the resource people, both in the GNWT and from the First Nations, to grapple with...the important issues gleaming in front of us at this point, with necessity for some sort of action. Now, the worker bees on the ground, so to speak, will start to grapple with how they're going to deal

with that, and I think over the next couple of months they'll be working in the ground with the First Nations to try to get some successes and hopefully in the fall when we do meet again, we can have a good report."

Apart from specific infrastructure needs, devolution was also a topic discussed at Thursday's meeting. The Akaiicho is one of two regional Aboriginal governments who have yet to

sign on to the NWT devolution agreement, which would see authority over lands, water and resources swap hands from the federal level to the territorial one.

"In terms of devolution, the only thing that can be seen as progress, I guess, is...the GNWT is coordinating with the First Nations in the communities with a dispersal of information to community members as it relates to the

content of the devolution agreement to date," Balsillie said, referring to ongoing public information sessions taking place throughout the territory.

"Hopefully, by bringing the information and coordinating the effort of advising folks, that will bring the chiefs to a conclusion as to how they and councils are going to deal with devolution...In terms of its final agreement to be implemented, there's still a little bit of time in front of us for people to consider," he added.

Government-to-government meetings and MOUs with Aboriginal governments are commitments outlined in the GNWT's Aboriginal government "Respect, Recognition, Responsibility" engagement strategy.

The Sahtu and Tlicho have recently signed similar agreements with the territorial government.

### Negotiations challenged by legislative changes, devolution

Though Balsillie said the Akaiicho claim continues to see progress, negotiations are challenged by ongoing changes

to legislation, both at the territorial and federal levels.

"The subject matters that are being dealt with, as you're well aware, don't get any simpler, meaning basically as opposed to 10 years ago when claimant groups settled their comprehensive claims and regional claims, devolution wasn't a matter on the table," he said.

"Now that we have devolution on the table, as well as other initiatives that have been taken by Canada as well as the GNWT on changes to legislation - on the Mackenzie Valley (Resource Management Act), as an example, surface rights legislation, changes to how the boards are going to be structured in the North, as well as lands, resources and management of those particular issues - creates much more thought and possible new approaches that we have to consider in terms of how we deal with those matters."

Still, Balsillie said negotiations are moving forward in the right direction.

"Hopefully within the next year we're going to see more substantial progress, moving us closer to an agreement in principle," he said.

# ACFN crashes Shell meeting in Netherlands



ACFN member and spokesperson Eriel Deranger speaks against oilsands development in a May 2013 online video.

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Members of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) of Fort Chipewyan confronted the chair and board of energy giant Royal Dutch Shell on the company's home turf last Tuesday in the Netherlands.

Joined by members of the Native Village of Point Hope, Alaska, the First Nation from

northeastern Alberta challenged the company on its oilsands projects and offshore drilling, which both groups claim have been undertaken without adequate consultation or accommodation of indigenous communities.

"Our leadership has repeatedly tried exploring amenable agreements and options with Shell regarding their current

tar sands proposals for the Jackpine expansion and the Pierre River mine projects. We want to work directly with the company to adequately identify direct impacts and solutions," said ACFN spokesperson Eriel Deranger. "However, Shell has repeatedly denied our requests and we have been disappointed by their inability to make concessions to work with us."

Deranger, who also attended last year's AGM in The Hague, again brought the First Nation's concerns about consultation to Shell's board.

ACFN opposes Shell's proposed Jackpine open pit oilsands mine expansion project, which is awaiting a review board's decision, set to be announced May 31. The First Nation says the company did not adequately consult ACFN on the project, which falls within the First Nation's traditional territory.

The expansion would see bitumen production increase by 100,000 barrels per day and disturb over 12,000 hectares of land, including 21 km of the Muskeg River.

The First Nation is also concerned with Shell's proposed Pierre River mine, which will enter the public hearings

process this fall. The proposed open pit mine would produce 200,000 barrels of bitumen per day from a previously undeveloped site 90 km north of Fort McMurray.

In addition to its concerns over Shell's projects, ACFN has ongoing lawsuits against the company for alleged failed funding agreements.

ACFN filed suit against Shell in November 2011,

citing breaches of past agreements and suing for \$1.5 million in damages.

Deranger said further legal action will follow if the company does not start working directly with the First Nation.

"I sincerely hope the board keeps its word to speak with their Canadian president to address our concerns and potentially adjust the environmental impact assessment process,"

she said. "If Shell continues to move forward in project development without working directly with our community, it will continue to lead toward more delays in project approvals, litigation and severe financial risk for Shell."

Shell has been operating in Alberta's oilsands since 1956 and accounts for approximately 20 per cent of overall operations in the region.

## Fort Smith Seniors' Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, 2013  
Senior's Room - Rec. Centre

### Agenda:

Reports / Finances  
By-Laws / Election of Officers

Coffee will be on!

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## Letters to the Editor Policy

The Northern Journal welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a phone number so the author can be verified. Names will be withheld on request in special circumstances where the reasons are determined to be valid. The Journal reserves the right to edit letters for length, libel, clarity and taste. Opinions expressed in letters and columns are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor.



The Northern Journal is available in the following NWT communities:

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Colville Lake	Fort Smith	Trout Lake
Deline	Gameti	Tsiigehtchic
Eagle Plains	Hay River	Tuktoyaktuk
Ekatie Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Tulita
Enterprise	Jean Marie River	Uluksaktok
Fort Good Hope	Lutsel K'e	Wekweti
Fort Liard	Nahanni Butte	Wha Ti
Fort McPherson	Norman Wells	Wrigley
Fort Providence	Paulatuk	Yellowknife

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Cheteh	Glenevis	Red Earth Creek
Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Saddle Lake
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Driftpile	Grouard	St. Paul
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Edmonton	High Prairie	Wabasca
Enilda	Hythe	
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# How the North badly needs competition

Remember when Air Canada spun off its new "sub-airline" called Jazz a short decade ago?

It was when Westjet started coming on as a competitor – you know, with young, friendly, joke-telling agents and a refreshingly relaxed style? They made flying fun, but most importantly connected with customers. The eroding business made old, big, complacent Air Canada - with its not very friendly corporate approach - take action.

Jazz offered a new, urban, upbeat corporate persona. Unfortunately, in spite of the sexy veneer, the message to customers was still that, well, they were just not important. That, in part at least, is why today Westjet is an amazing success story.

At least Air Canada tried. Jazz fares were lower and the service did improve and the corporate attitude did gradually change. There is a much stronger message from Air Canada staff today that they do indeed care. They had to do that to survive.

Bell Canada has a similar story. Around the time Jazz was born, Bell cut a deal with famed Brit entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson to buy part of Virgin Mobile cellular phones. Then in 2009, after a bad sales year, Bell added another \$145 million to Branson's considerable wealth and purchased the remaining shares and its "with-it" brand. All that to have a new "cool" image to compete with Sprint, Fido and the hoard of other new competitors as the industry was opened to competition. Check out Virgin cellular rates and packages now (please, you won't regret it) and they are much more competitive. Call them and their people are friendly and nice. If you have ever

had a Bell experience, you may notice the difference.

Isn't competition a wonderful thing?

It's unfortunate that we do not have that going on in the NWT. The NWT Power Corporation (NTPC) has a blank cheque mandate to carry out its operations, guaranteed that they are the only player in the marketplace. That is why they can get away with so much they shouldn't, with no accountability. Thank you taxpayers and ratepayers for giving them an unlimited bank account to draw from.

Bell and its subsidiary NorthwestTel are similar, but they have it even better. They are a private sector company with no accountability, and few restrictions. At least the Power Corporation has the Public Utility Board as a watchdog to say "tut, tut," when it gets too greedy. The government will change leadership of the board of directors once every couple of decades if they are outlandishly ineffective. A private company with a monopoly is typically a worst case scenario. They will take as much as they can, but give as little as possible. It is all about profit.

NWT residents get quality service from both the NWT Power Corp. and Bell/ NorthwestTel. Of course they do, for the two corporations need to offer quality service to have access to the trough. They also pay high rates in a system that lacks innovation and is replete with poor service, in both cases.

Both desperately need competitive environments to make them accountable in the marketplace. Then, if poor service or too-high rates were offered, as is often the case now, they would be held accountable by competitive forces. People who did not

like the service or rates would have another option. Improvements invariably result across the board: creative management, innovation, improved performance, better customer service and cheaper rates. The companies would be better and stronger for it - they would have to be, or they would die. That is how competition works.

The people of the NWT deserve that. The reason they do not have it is thanks to the NWT government. The GNWT is locked into thinking the power utility must be a protected, cloistered, over-funded Crown corporation. At least open the market so NTPC has to be competitive. De-regulate, open it up and watch things improve.

Bell/NorthwestTel with telephone services alone is hugely profitable. Now, with the advent of the internet, it is reaping the whirlwind. Northern residents pay, with far higher rates than are warranted, especially given the level of service.

Eighty per cent of the economy in the NWT is government, our most productive growth industry. Yes, indeed, we are one of the most governed people on the planet. That means the GNWT, with all those staff, in all those offices, at all those desks, each with telephone and internet, is by far the biggest NorthwestTel customer. The GNWT is so important to the survival of NWTel, it has power to make any demand, and it will be listened to. It should use that power to insist on better services and lower rates for all NWT residents. The fact it does not is a travesty. Better still, compel the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to foster more competition in the North. Create a competitive environment and everyone will win.



This flock of tundra swans was seen on both the ice and water of Pine Lake in Wood Buffalo National Park on May 18. Visitors saw at least 50 of the majestic birds having a noisy bath on their way to the Arctic - the end of their summer migration. The ice disappeared on May 19.

## ARCHIVES

### 15 Years Ago...

*Fort Smith martial artists claim 28 medals at first tournament*

Twenty-eight trophies were clinking in the bags of 16 Fort Smith athletes when they returned from Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia and their first ever Tae kwon-do tournament.

The Fort Smith team of 14 kids and two adults won more medals per athlete than any other five clubs at the 110-person competition.

Issue: May 28, 1998

### 20 Years Ago...

*Suzuki coming to Smith*

David Suzuki, a renowned Canadian environmentalist, will be coming to Fort Smith to interview Francois Paulette about diseased bison for his CBC television series *The Nature of Things*. Suzuki wants to interview him because of his anti-slaughter stand.

"I'm looking forward to it because David Suzuki is an internationally-renowned environmentalist," Paulette said.

Issue: May 29, 1993

### 30 Years Ago...

*Swains slain*

The senseless killing of a mating pair of swans sent shock waves through Fort Smith early this week.

On a Monday morning, Bill Van Limbeck was driving a bus load of school kids to Pine Lake. They stopped to see the birds at the slough and found the carcasses floating in the water.

"It looks like someone was driving along the road and shot them for the hell of it."

Issue: May 28, 1983

# GMO, control over seed stock and the future of farming

Focused on the debacle over Senators expenses May 23 2013, the last day of Public Input on Regulations Amending the Seeds Regulations, Canada Gazette Part 1 VOL. 147, NO. 10 passed without media comment and without the public at large being aware significant alteration may be made facilitating new varieties of seed coming on the market and subsequent removal from the market of existing varieties. If proposed changes in regulations are made, precedent is established for the loosening of controls over varieties of seed being brought to market.

The prime rationale is seed producing corporations will be able to bring new varieties on the market more rapidly and with less cost to them. New varieties have an 18-year period of royalties to the producer. There are several concerns. With no testing as before qualities stated may not be accurate in practice - and there may be GMO varieties placed on the market. If the seed does not live up to its untested specifications, the farmers planting them will suffer the negative effects with no compensation.

Corporations may focus on producing new varieties to replace those that have been in use, are approaching the end of the royalty period and which can be withdrawn from the market.

Corporate producers benefit - farmers are placed at risk in several ways.

May 23 was the last day the public voice will be heard. There is no necessity of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency or the minister to report the weight of opinion expressed nor the rationale behind what the decision will be - for corporate or farmer interest.

Both in Europe and in the United States there is more rigorous testing. It is important to note that the alteration, should it be made, will have the effect of maintaining what was written in 2007 in a work entitled "What are some of the differences between the EU and Canadian systems?": "Canada has been an early adopter of GM technology."

The proposed change in regulation will also allow companies that have registered a variety to de-register it without giving reasons or notice.

The implications of these regulatory changes for farmers are far-reaching. If adopted, the regulation will:

- Permit companies to take varieties off the market whenever they like, which will increasingly force farmers to use only varieties subject to royalties under the Plant Breeders Rights Act or varieties with gene patents, and thereby pay more for seed.

- Empower companies to introduce new varieties of soybeans and forage crops - including alfalfa - that have not been field-tested for merit and which therefore may not provide any benefit to farmers.

- Allow seed companies to transfer to farmers' shoulders all risks of poor seed/crop performance when planting varieties that have not been field-tested by independent third parties.

- Transfer decision-making about which new varieties are introduced, and when, from a transparent,

publicly accountable process based on expert advice offered by Recommending Committees to a behind-closed-door process controlled by private seed companies.

- Letting companies de-register varieties will permit companies to unilaterally stop farmers from accessing and using perfectly good varieties developed through long-term collaboration among farmers, public plant breeders and international seed collections.

*Joe Hueglin is a former Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament.*

More information on this can be found at these websites:

<http://www.nfu.ca/story/action-alert-changes-seeds-regulations-deadline-may-23-2013>

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_propagation/material/review\\_eu\\_rules/docs/canadian\\_food\\_insp\\_agency.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_propagation/material/review_eu_rules/docs/canadian_food_insp_agency.pdf)

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-03-09/html/reg1-eng.html#rias>

## FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

### Northern Journal 2013

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



Fort Smith to host 'dry' grad for first time in decade - launches new novel



**Lewis Beck:** I recall being at an Aurora College dry grad hosted in 2006 by my wife Louise's Alcohol and Drug program. It was kind of sparsely attended but fun nonetheless!



**Morgan Jones:** I can't believe that the grad bash has evolved into something that ate away at the dance itself. That's really sad. The only irony here, however, is that they are hoping to have a "youth event that guarantees no drugs or alcohol" but yet "volunteer chaperones will be on duty inside the dance and in the ENCLOSED SMOKING AREA". What?

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# The Baby-Friendly Initiative

When having a baby, one of the most important things to be informed about is infant feeding.

It is Public Health's responsibility to ensure that families receive accurate information before and after the birth of their baby. It isn't a small job with more than 6,000 babies born per year across the North Zone.

Public Health has committed to improving care for families through the implementation of the Baby-Friendly Initiative, a global program that promotes, protects and supports breastfeeding.

With the initiative, exclusive breastmilk (i.e. nothing except breastmilk) is recommended until six

months of age, with continued breastfeeding and solid foods until two years of age and beyond. This recommendation is supported by the World Health Organization, Health Canada, the Dietitians of Canada and the Canadian Pediatric Society.

Human milk is designed for human babies, while the smallest amount of infant formula puts infants at higher risk of childhood cancers, diabetes, obesity, allergies, gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses.

Breastfeeding is protective for mothers, too. The risk for osteoporosis, postpartum depression, breast and ovarian cancer is decreased.

In a 2010 study, it was estimated that if 90 per cent of babies in the US were exclusively

breastfed for six months, more than \$13 billion in health care dollars would be saved per year.

Breastfeeding saves money for families, too. At times, infant formula may be medically necessary, but it can cost more than \$200 per month - even more if the infant requires special formula for sensitivities or allergies.

Improvement in care will happen through change in Public Health's practices and policies. Staff education, prenatal education, skin-to-skin contact and assistance for mothers facing breastfeeding challenges will be strongly supported. Public Health is also collaborating with maternity departments, the community and other health centres

within the North Zone to ensure continuity of care.

Breastfeeding clinics across the North Zone are also integral to breastfeeding care. Breastfeeding isn't always easy. A breastfeeding clinic has trained lactation consultants and/or public health nurses to help families achieve their breastfeeding goals. If your community does not have a breastfeeding clinic, seek help from your local Public Health Centre. Visit [www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca) to find prenatal classes or a breastfeeding clinic in your community.

*Stephanie Harries, RN, BScN  
Baby-Friendly Initiative  
Co-ordinator  
Alberta Health Services*

## MUKLUK



## Forecast

Inuvik		Yellowknife	
Wednesday			
13 High	3 Low	18 High	9 Low
Thursday			
11 High	2 Low	18 High	9 Low
Friday			
17 High	7 Low	20 High	9 Low
Saturday			
12 High	1 Low	23 High	11 Low
Norms: 11°C and 2°C		Norms: 15°C and 5°C	

Hay River		Fort Smith	
Wednesday			
18 High	8 Low	21 High	10 Low
Thursday			
16 High	8 Low	21 High	7 Low
Friday			
18 High	9 Low	23 High	9 Low
Saturday			
21 High	10 Low	27 High	10 Low
Norms: 15°C and 4°C		Norms: 18°C and 5°C	

# Controversial proposal to put limits on man's best friend

## *Yellowknifers have their say on how many dogs allowed in city limits*

By JACK DANYLCHUK

There may be no subject that excites Yellowknifers more than dogs – be it their own or their neighbour's.

Hundreds have logged on to the city's website to say how many dogs they think should be allowed to live at one address, and an engagement session on proposed changes to the dog bylaw drew 30 people to city hall.

The most contentious feature, a possible limit on the number of dogs per household, isn't in the bylaw proposing to banish dog teams from areas not approved by the city.

City councillors have weighed in on the question, and pamphlets questioning "animal limit laws" have been widely distributed in the city.

"In reality, limit laws cause more problems than they solve," states an anonymous pamphlet left in a stack at a popular coffee shop.

"Responsible owners should be allowed to use their own discretion in determining the number of dogs they can keep on their own property," it asserts.

Officially, there are just 1,200 dogs in the city, a number Councillor Cory Vathuyne questions. Doug Gillard, manager of municipal enforcement, explained that the number accounts only for licensed animals, and estimated there could



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

*Terry Woolfruns his team on Back Bay in late April. Under changes proposed in Yellowknife's Dog Bylaw, amateur mushers like Woolf may not be allowed to keep their teams in residential neighbourhoods.*

be as many as 6,000 more.

Vanthuyne, owner of a Malamute, thinks both the size of the animals and the property are factors that could be considered if council decides to add a limiting rule to the bylaw.

"The challenge for council is: should there be a limit, and what should it be?" Vanthuyne said. "If the limit was four and you want more, then we could review the file to see if you

are a responsible owner, (and) you might get a special license."

The bylaw proposes rules and penalties for treatment, transport and protection of dogs, with fines of up to \$10,000 and six months in jail for owners who repeatedly flout the rules.

Fines for first offences range from \$50 for an untagged dog to \$100 for failing to clean up after your dog, or allowing it to run at

large, to \$250 if your dog bites your neighbour.

Under the bylaw, dog waste can't be allowed to accumulate or be left behind on public walkways or parks, where all dogs must be leashed and licensed. Dogs can't ride in an open truck unless they are secured.

Barking, howling and whining dogs could bring a visit from a bylaw officer, who can enter a property

without a warrant if an animal is in distress.

Veterinarian Tom Pisz said some of the proposed changes make the bylaw more strict, which is "a step in the right direction, but it would be good if there was an animal control officer to enforce the law."

Limiting dogs in residential areas "is not the greatest approach," Pisz said. "It should be oriented more toward the welfare of the

dogs and the peace of the people living in the neighbourhood. But if someone has 10 dogs in a residential area, there is no way they can take care of them. It will cause a problem; it won't be good for the dogs, or the neighbours. Common sense is needed, and trying to put a number to it is not a great idea."

Jo Kelly owns a dog team and runs a dog boarding business in Kam Lake. For her, the most pressing issue is the potential ban of dog teams from the city.

"Many friends have small teams and they live in urban areas. They are responsible and deserve to keep their dogs as they have, if they have the blessings of their neighbours, which is most often the case," she said.

She said the possible limit on dog numbers "is a frivolous idea. It will punish a lot of innocent people, and not the guy with a poodle that barks incessantly and makes everyone in the neighbourhood crazy," she said.

"It's a people problem, not a problem of dog numbers. It's better looked at case by case."

The city continues to collect comments on its website and will incorporate suggestions into the bylaw, which will go back to the municipal services committee before it goes to council later this year.

### Health & Wellness Workplace Safety

## Safety board lays 14 charges in hydro site fall

BY RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has laid charges for alleged breaches of the Northwest Territories' Safety Act and General Safety Regulations linked to an incident at a hydro site in May 2012.

The commission issued 14 charges in total against North American Construction Ltd., supervisor Dave Magnuson and Chris Labelle, the individual responsible for inspecting scaffolding.

The alleged charges link back to an incident where a North American Construction worker fell from scaffolding at the Northwest

Territories Power Corp.'s Bluefish Hydro site.

According to a press release from the commission, there was a failure to "take all reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of persons on a worksite, specifically failing to ensure scaffolding was properly built and maintained, in compliance with the regulations."

The act requires that both employees and workers follow the regulations and proper safety guidelines to maintain safe work environments.

The matter will go before the territorial court on June 4 in Yellowknife.

# Put It Out

Last summer the Government of the Northwest Territories spent **almost \$1 million** to deal with **person-caused fires**.

Help us conserve our forests. Be **careful** when dealing with fire while travelling on the land, camping or cleaning up around your home or cabin. Make sure you put every campfire completely out before leaving it.

Remember, wildfire season runs from May 1 to September 30 in the Northwest Territories. Make sure you **Put It Out** this summer.

For more information on wildlife fire in the NWT or making your home, cabin or community FireSmart, visit [www.nwtfire.com](http://www.nwtfire.com) or contact your **local ENR office** at:

**South Slave Region – Fort Smith, NT**  
**Phone: (867) 872-6400**  
**Duty Officer: (867) 872-6422**

**To report a wildfire, call 1-877-NWT-FIRE**  
**(1-877-698-3473)**




# Police rule death in Fort Resolution not suspicious



Photo: Jenall McKay Balsillie

Melissa Payne went missing May 19.

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR  
Fort Resolution RCMP have determined no foul play was involved in a young woman's death after her body was found in a wooded area just outside the community last Wednesday afternoon.

Melissa Payne, 23, of Trout Lake was last seen the evening of May 19 around 6:30 p.m.

Police located her body three days later.

"She was seen in the community with a number

of people," Staff Sgt. Brad Kaeding told *The Journal*. Kaeding could not

Major Crimes Unit with assistance from the Fort Resolution, Hay River and

She was seen in the community with a number of people.

*Staff Sgt. Brad Kaeding  
Yellowknife RCMP*

comment on what condition the body was found in.

After a forensic investigation by the "G" Division

Fort Smith detachments, a number of support units and the Office of the Chief Coroner of the Northwest

Territories, police determined no foul play was involved in Payne's death.

The 15 investigators on the case, based on the evidence and information gathered, have turned the matter over to the NWT's Chief Coroner for further investigation, with assistance from the Major Crimes Unit and Fort Resolution detachment.

The autopsy results and exact cause of death are not being released out of respect for the family.

## Justice Boating Accident

# Fatal Trout Lake boat collision kills one

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR  
A woman is dead following a boat collision outside of Trout Lake last Wednesday afternoon.

According to RCMP, two boats, a Lund and a jet boat, were travelling towards each other on Island River when they crashed around 4:30 p.m.

Three people were aboard the 18-foot, 60 horsepower

motor Lund boat. A 46 year-old man was driving the jet boat. All passengers were residents of Trout Lake.

A 77 year-old woman travelling on the Lund was revived by CPR at the scene and transported back to Trout Lake where she succumbed to her injuries at the medical clinic.

The other two passengers, an 83 year-old man

and an 8 year-old girl, were unharmed.

The jet boat driver was medevaced to Yellowknife with non life-threatening injuries.

RCMP are investigating the incident for any violations of the Criminal Code or Small Vessel Regulations.

It is not known if the occupants of the vessels were

wearing life jackets or if alcohol was involved.

The name of the deceased is not being released until the next of kin have been informed.

The Fort Simpson RCMP Detachment is reminding

community members during the boating season to ensure all boats carry safety equipment on board as per the Small Vessel Regulations.

All safety equipment must be Canadian-approved. Everyone on

board must have a life jacket that fits properly and that is in good condition with enough buoyancy.

Police also remind the public that alcohol and drugs don't mix with operating any pleasure craft.



Photo courtesy of MACA

The community of Trout Lake is mourning the loss of a 77 year-old woman after a boating accident on Island River.



**Fluffy**  
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WOOD BUFFALO      OCTOBER 10, 2012

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REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO



An ENR employee prepares the traditional treatment for disposing of anthrax-infected bison, using coal and green wood to incinerate the carcass. Scientists are hoping a new, easier method that tarps dead bison will naturally break down anthrax through decomposition effectively.

## Anthrax Outbreaks in the NWT

Mackenzie Bison Range	Slave River Lowlands	Wood Buffalo National Park
1993 - 172	1962 - 281	1963 - 47
2010 - 9	1963 - 257	1964 - 60
2012 - 440	1964 - 303	1967 - 120
	1971 - 33	1968 - 1
	1978 - 39	1978 - 47
	2001 - 12	1991 - 32
	2006 - 26	2000 - 106
	2010 - 46	2001 - 91
		2007 - 64
		2010 - 7

Images courtesy of ENR

While traditionally anthrax outbreaks are most common in the South Slave and Wood Buffalo National Park areas, last year's outbreak in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary was the worst on record in the Northwest Territories.

### Environment Wildlife

# Mackenzie vets test new methods of anthrax control

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Veterinary scientists with the department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) are looking at new innovations for killing and controlling the spread of anthrax in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary to cut down on labour and resource costs while effectively stopping another outbreak.

The new approach involves tarping infected

carcasses to allow the natural decomposition process to break down the anthrax bacteria rather than burning the dead animals using wood and coal, which can be expensive and labour intensive to bring into the affected areas.

During last year's devastating outbreak in the Mackenzie area, when over 400 bison were killed in the

largest case of anthrax in the territory's history, scientists with ENR tarped eight carcasses located well away from potential human contact to test their theory that anthrax can be broken down naturally.

"It should provide you both time and financial savings, because it's the time and money of hauling in fuels and all the work it

takes to set up a carcass to burn it," said Brett Elkin, disease and contaminants specialist with the Wildlife Division of ENR. "For each carcass now, we're using a thousand pounds of coal, two to three cords of wood, which we often have to sling in by helicopter, so it's very labour intensive, very expensive to haul in."

Anthrax is unlike most diseases in that it does not remain in the animal long after it's been killed and is not spread from animal to animal. Instead, anthrax spores living in the soil become ingested by the animal, using its body to multiply before going back out into the soil – the only way the bacteria is capable of reproducing.

"The spores are these very long-lived things with these hard, calcium-rich walls. When they go in the body, they germinate into bacteria, which is actually a lot more vulnerable to other things. Its vegetative stage as bacteria is not that hardy," Elkin said. "The thinking is, if it stays in the body and you keep the body intact - no scavenging - the breakdown process of the body will kill (the organism)."

While going out and finding anthrax in the soil of the bison range is extremely difficult, Elkin said both the way it reproduces and stays localized around the carcass makes it vulnerable and possible to manage.

"They're long-lived, but they don't last forever, so basically for the population to survive, you need bursts of new spores...They will die on their own over time, or they'll get flushed away off meadows into trees where bison maybe won't pick them up. So the only way the population survives, if you will, is when outbreaks happen: the spores use the

host as a way to reproduce," he said.

"If we can cut down the bursts - we may not cut them down to zero - but if we can get most of the new ones so there are less new ones coming in than old ones dying, it'll clean it out."

Currently, the department incinerates infected carcasses by elevating them over burning coal. Burning is also used

we started with 150 carcasses. It's a slow process to incinerate them, so if you can tarp them it buys you time to catch up before the scavengers get on them," Elkin said.

"We're not certain yet this is going to be 100 per cent effective, and until we have that evidence, we will do it as a stage thing: you can tarp it until you have

It's worth looking at...Being one of the guys out there hauling logs – I'm getting a bit old to be hauling logs – you hope for something that's just as effective and easier and cheaper...But the proof will be in the pudding.

*Brett Elkin*

*NWT Environment and Natural Resources*

to disinfect the surrounding area a couple metres around the animal.

Last year's tarped animals were found to have decomposed completely by mid-September when they were checked. After taking 15 samples from each carcass and another 15 from the surrounding area, those bison were incinerated to ensure the anthrax was killed.

Now the department is waiting to get its lab results back to see if the bacteria was successfully broken down through putrefaction. While they likely won't have the news until later this summer, they are planning to do additional tarping this year alongside incineration because of the additional time it gives workers to address an outbreak.

"(Last year's) outbreak was so large and happened so quickly that on the very first day we found them,

time and then get in there and burn them."

If the tarping technique is proven successful, Elkin said the area around the bison – up to five metres around and 10 cm deep – will still need to be chemically disinfected, as the decomposition process will not take care of that naturally.

Though the new method hasn't been proven yet, Elkin is hopeful it will turn out to be another tool to add to the department's arsenal.

"It's worth looking at... Being one of the guys out there hauling logs – I'm getting a bit old to be hauling logs – you hope for something that's just as effective and easier and cheaper... But the proof will be in the pudding. At the end of the day, we want to make sure we're controlling spores so that we're reducing impact on bison, so if it works, it's great; if it doesn't, we'll continue the way we do."

## We would like to thank everyone

who donated and helped make easier our grieving during this difficult time of our mother **Maggie Beaulieu's** passing.

Fort Smith Métis Council  
Smith's Landing First Nation  
Salt River First Nation  
Kaeser's Store  
Field's Store  
Wally's Drug Store  
Métis Fire Fighting Crew  
Fort Smith Health Centre  
(Doctors and Nurses)  
Home Care (Linda Mason and Sue Fry)  
Stanton Territorial Hospital  
(Doctors and Nurses)  
Father Paul (for prayers)  
Anita Dube and Choir  
Fran Funk  
Darlene Powder  
Elizabeth Bourke  
Edna Woodward  
Archie "Bear" Beaulieu  
Harold Beaulieu  
Liz and Leonard Tuckey  
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Donna Mercerdi  
Joan Delorme  
Dorothy Desjarlais  
Martha Poitras

Sandy Poitras  
Howard Benwell  
Larry Benwell Jr.  
David Bourke (April Wasylyshyn)  
Timothy Nadary  
Ruth White (Butch)  
Lorraine Foye  
Don MacDonald  
Cathy Houle  
Gabe and Adeline Wanderingspirit  
Nora Evans and friend  
Bev Mabbitt  
Freddy Beaulieu  
Maggie Sikyea  
Debbie Sikyea  
Victor Marie Sr.  
Emily Smith (Archie)  
Louie Beaulieu  
Shirley Tourangeau  
Sylvia Beaver (Randy) for the flowers  
Sandy and Jimmy  
Ruby Courtoreille  
Beatrice Cardinal  
Wilma and Johnny Laboucan  
Harry "Bulldog"

*All the phone calls from people who couldn't be here.*

Sorry if we have missed anybody.

**Thanks from the bottom of our hearts,**

The Cardinal Family (Mary, Leonard & Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren),  
The Desjarlais Family (Charlie, Lucy & Grandchildren), Emily Desjarlais,  
The Beaulieu Family (Louise, Stu Sr, Stu Jr, Robin Beaulieu, Claire Antoine  
& Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren)

# Inuvik targeted as international satellite hotspot

## European space agencies want Inuvik to become hub for remote sensing

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Space agencies in Europe are pushing for construction of the proposed NWT fibre-optic link in order to transform Inuvik into an international hotspot for satellite remote sensing technology.

Representatives from the territorial government along with potential partners in the fibre-optic line project, including representatives from the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu regions, recently returned from a visit to Kiruna, Sweden and Munich, Germany where they met with various groups involved with remote sensing in the High Arctic.

"We met with all the people who run the space agencies... and there is enormous interest in Inuvik, but it's all predicated on the fibre-optic line being put in because they need to have near time access to that information – near time being within 15 minutes," Environment and Natural Resources Minister Michael Miltenberger told *The Journal*.

Remote sensing allows satellites and aircraft to acquire images and information about the surface of the earth, the atmosphere and oceans through electromagnetic signals. The



The NWT delegation meets with officials of the German Space Agency in Munich in May.

technology is considered crucial for everything from air traffic control to national defence, atmospheric science, topographic mapping and environmental management.

Both the Swedish Space Corp. and German Space Corp. have satellite dishes installed in Inuvik, but because there's no fibre-optic infrastructure, information downloaded from satellites must be put on discs and sent through the mail, a process that can take weeks.

"Now, with the new level of technology, the new expectation is that they want to be able to download the information and be able to ship it by fibre-optic line, by internet, to wherever it has to go so it can get there literally within minutes," Miltenberger said. "A lot of it's very topical, it's very important, and

they can't wait weeks to get the information that they need."

Miltenberger said Inuvik is the coveted hotspot for remote sensing technologies because of its political and geographic location. Though Europe was contemplating setting up a station in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, space agencies are reticent because of American laws that allow the US government to access information and turn off equipment if deemed to be in the national interest.

Inuvik is also considered to be "geographically gifted," Miltenberger said.

"They've looked all around in the North, the high altitude places... and Inuvik is almost in the middle (of the area of interest). It's a high altitude, it has good plane access, it has road access and with fibre-optic, it

will have the best cutting-edge communications technology in the world," he said.

"If the fibre-optic line goes in, then Inuvik will be the ground station for remote sensing in North America," Miltenberger said he was told in Munich. "They're very keen to see Inuvik go ahead."

### Stabilizing economic benefits

Miltenberger said community government officials in Kiruna reported close to 500 new jobs in the city of 18,000, created over the last 50 years by the knowledge-based industry of remote sensing.

He said the community of Inuvik could similarly benefit from an economic driver that

does not rely on resource extraction. Like Inuvik, Kiruna is a resource town. Its iron ore mine – one of the biggest in the world – is a major source of jobs in the area, but economically unstable.

"They started very small, and as the technology improved in terms of satellites and remote sensing and all that type of thing, they've grown over time, whereas they were very concerned about the mine there, the ups and downs of the resource sector," Miltenberger said.

"It's the same in Inuvik with the oil and gas: they've been through those major downturns and recovery and concerns that the recovery may not last. So they've been

focusing a lot on the mine, but the reality is the same thing we're anticipating in Inuvik. They have all that remote sensing industry there, and the whole community is set up so that it provides an enormously levelling and stabilizing effect on the economy."

### 'Full speed ahead'

Miltenberger said the territorial government is now moving "full speed ahead" on the fibre-optic line project, not only to spark economic growth in Inuvik, but to open up the whole Mackenzie Valley to better government services, educational opportunities and industrial development.

"The trip was an eye-opener for myself, for sure, and all the folks that were on the trip representing us from the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu are of the same mind that this has enormous potential," he said, noting that the industry could generate \$100-150 million a year in the NWT.

"Inuvik will have an opportunity to, over time, grow into the same type of operation that they have in Kiruna, if not exceed it."

Photo: DLR German Aerospace Centre

## 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:

**867-872-3000 ext. 15 or ads@norj.ca**



in Community

## Keeping you informed.

Suncor Energy would like to notify Wood Buffalo community members that planned maintenance work on one of its upgraders begins in mid-April.

Over approximately seven weeks, there may be periods of increased flaring and the potential for odours in the Fort McMurray area during the shutdown and startup of the unit. Suncor will work to minimize these. Alberta Environment and regional stakeholders have been informed.

For more information, please contact the Suncor Stakeholder Relations Group at 780-792-9545. Regional air quality information is available from the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association at [www.wbea.org](http://www.wbea.org)

[www.suncor.com](http://www.suncor.com)

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Photo courtesy of AANDC

Two field team members hike toward a sample site in the Stony Creek watershed of the Peel Plateau, where a stream is being disturbed by an active permafrost slump.

**Environment Watersheds**

# Permafrost melt linked to fewer bugs in Peel system

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
 Researchers in the Peel Plateau are finding direct correlations between permafrost disturbance and lower numbers of invertebrate organisms in the river system, an indication that all may not be right with respect to ecosystem health.

Scientists with the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP), a program run through the federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC), have discovered an obvious trend in the benthic populations - the small

bugs that live at the bottom of rivers - in relation to their proximity to sites where permafrost degradation is occurring. "What we found so far in our study is that when we sample impacted locations and locations that aren't

impacted, there's a difference in the abundance of benthic invertebrates. Specifically, there's less invertebrates - less bugs - in the sites that have been impacted when you compare them to the sites that aren't impacted by sediments in the water," Marc Lange, director of Renewable Resources and Environment with AANDC, told *The Journal*.

The results show that invertebrates are as much as 10 times less plentiful in areas near permafrost slumping - a landscape disturbance caused by the melting of permafrost ice - as they are in areas where there has been no disturbance.

Researchers sampled 34 sites in 2010 - 24 of which were near disturbances - and 30 in 2012 in the Stony Creek area, west of Fort McPherson and north of the Dempster Highway within the Peel Plateau, an area extending south along the Yukon border all the way to the Mountain River.

Water quality, the presence of vegetation, the size of rocks and sand at the bottom of the river, along with stream width, depth and velocity have been noted, plus components of water chemistry, such as pH, as part of the monitoring work.

Though the researchers are unsure what exactly is causing the difference, Lange said turbidity - or the amount of undissolved sediments present in the water - seems to be the main factor.

"Other studies have cited that invertebrates can get irritated by turbidity...so it might be that they're displaced, that they move away," he said.

While other studies on permafrost in the area are looking at increased concentrations of ions, such as

sulphates and calcium, being leached into the river system via the melting of ancient ice, Lange said the presence of those ions in relation to the bug population hasn't been looked at yet, as data on that is still being collected and analyzed.

While one study is looking more directly at the landscape changes, the research on invertebrates began as a way to measure whether or not those disturbances were having an impact on the health of the river ecosystems.

There's less invertebrates - less bugs - in the sites that have been impacted when you compare them to the sites that aren't impacted by sediments in the water.

*Marc Lange  
 Aboriginal Affairs and Northern  
 Development Canada*

"This year, we'll be analyzing some of the information we collected last summer... basically some additional sites to confirm some of the trends, and then this summer we'll be working with grad students to revisit some of the sites we've already been to, to see if there's a change in time, to see if the sites are remaining the same or getting better or getting worse," Lange said.

The study emerged out of community concerns in Fort McPherson where land users complained that the hills in the plateau region were starting to look "messy." Researchers worked closely with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, as well as community members, on the study.

Also involved were the department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing.

"I think the concern first emerged from landscape changes...but then the question of 'so what?' emerged, like what does that mean? So basically we started looking at invertebrates because they're a good indicator of ecosystem health. They're certainly something that fish feed on, so it gives an indication of how the system as a whole is functioning," Lange said.

Further research on fish health in the Peel system, incorporating data from this and other studies in the area involving impacts of permafrost, is also being done by scientists from Wilfrid Laurier University with funding from CIMP.

CIMP was founded in 1999 with the purpose of collecting, analyzing and making information from environmental monitoring efforts available to Northerners, decision makers and industry up and down the Mackenzie Valley. The program has funded approximately 250 projects since its inception.

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June 15, 2013

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



French immersion students Chloe Daniels (left) and Claire MacMillan make bubble snakes with sock covered water bottles in Wood Buffalo National Park.



Angela Marie (centre) of the Aurora Research Institute gets tangled up in the food web game.



Angelina Nickolson, 5, represents the bald eagle in the food web game.



Parks Canada employee Lucas Brown talks about snakes and sinkholes along the Karst Loop trail.



A handful of Joseph B. Tyrrell elementary students from kindergarten to Grade 3 paint wooden fish for a mural to be displayed at Slave River Day in Fort Smith on June 8.

Photos: Renée Francoeur, Gabrielle Vienneau



Helen Panter of Parks Canada gives students the 101 on catching minnows along the Salt Meadow Loop.

#### Environment Watersheds

## Students celebrate H2O in Wood Buffalo Park

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Over 80 students from kindergarten to Grade 3 at Joseph B. Tyrrell (JBT) elementary school in Fort Smith burst from buses into the Salt River day use area on Friday to celebrate the school's annual water day.

"May is water month at JBT, so we've spent all month discussing the resource and things that depend on it in the classrooms," Cora America, JBT's vice principal, said. "This is kind of like the culminating activity for it."

The school partnered with Wood Buffalo National Park and the Aurora Research Institute (ARI) for a full day of water-related activities.

This is the first year ARI was involved, America said.

Park employees took students on a nature walk along the Karst Loop trail to talk about the effect of water on landscapes. They also learned how to spot specific plants during a flora and fauna activity along the Salt Meadow Loop path.

Sarah Rosolen, manager of ARI's South Slave Research Centre, ran a water race for the children and discussed water's traditional role as a vital life vein. Students also painted fish with Rosolen for a mural to be presented at the Slave River Day festival in Fort Smith on June 8.

Other activities involved water stories and songs and an H2O experiment session with plenty of bubble blowing.

A food web game with ARI's Angela Marie illustrated with strings how water, the vegetation living in rivers and lakes, and animals are all interdependent in the food chain.

"I'm an eagle and I need fish to eat and they're in the water," Angelina Nickolson, 5, observed.

"It's a great day for the kids to really take away how important water is and how it affects the land and animals," America said. "I think we really show that there needs to be a respect for water."

# FIRE BAN

The Town of Fort Smith would like to advise that a fire ban is in effect until further notice.



Thank you for your cooperation.

# Voting opens for new Northern history film contest

## NWT students among finalists in national 'Expedition North' program

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Two Northwest Territories students are going head to head with over 20 other young Canadians in a new short film competition aimed at celebrating Northern history.

Kayla Sanderson of Yellowknife and Julienne Chipesia from Inuvik have been selected to represent the NWT in a special version of the Young Citizens program, called Expedition North, presented by the national charity Canada's History.

Students in Grades 4-11 who participated in



Kayla Sanderson



Julienne Chipesia

Photos courtesy of Canada's History

regional, provincial and territorial heritage fairs were invited to submit a video

about their heritage projects to the program, now in its second year.

Content had to have an Aboriginal or Northern history component this year, said Joanna Dawson, the Community Engagement Coordinator at Canada's History.

Sanderson's project focused on the life and times of one of the NWT's first dentists, Ian Calder.

"I was curious about the name because I live on Calder Street, so I wanted to know more," Sanderson, 12, said.

She interviewed Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley who partook in a canoe trip on the Back River with Calder and a family member, Peter Bromley, when he was 16 to retrace the steps of George Black, an adventurer in the early 20th century who set out for the Klondike.

"That was one of the most interesting things I learned," Sanderson said.

She learned the group ended up stranded without food or dry clothing for 10 days after the canoe capsized.

"We're all very proud of her and all the students, really," mom Juanetta Sanderson said. "It was a steep learning curve, putting a video together."

Chipesia, 12, sought to explain the Gwich'in Land

Claim Agreement, a modern treaty signed in 1992, for her project.

"I wanted to learn more about the topic and teach others about it because it's something very important... It gives the Gwich'in a voice," Chipesia said. "I got to talk to (Dene National Chief) Bill Erasmus and (past president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council) Fred Carmichael...I think I did a good job. I learned a lot. It would be nice to win, but it was just a good experience."

The Young Citizens program is designed to increase the visibility of heritage fairs across the country, Dawson said.

"There is no national heritage fair, so this runs in conjunction with all the regional ones," she said. "It allows the students to really showcase their work and connect their histories. Canadians can see how strong history is in the classrooms...We really encourage the students to become ambassadors of their projects and make the case of why this history is important and why we should all care. The film aspect makes it that much more engaging and creative."

Over 200 students participated in the program in 2012.

This year, Young Citizens decided to be more selective and add a theme to the contest.

"The program is still fairly new, so we're trying different things out to see what works best," Dawson said.

Expedition North was chosen as the theme to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Canadian Arctic Expedition when 14 scientists, several captains and their crew set sail on a mission to explore lands in the Beaufort Sea from 1913-1918.

Four winners will be selected from the group of finalists after a public online vote, followed by a review from a panel of judges.

Featured prizes are a trip for two to Ottawa in November to watch the winning films screened at the Canada's History Forum, held annually in conjunction with the Governor General's History Awards.

Canadians have until June 3 to view, comment on and vote for their favourite student video.

To watch the students' videos and cast a ballot, visit [www.youngcitizens.ca](http://www.youngcitizens.ca).



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# For the birds: Jamie Bastedo launches new novel *Nighthawk!* reveals the perils of winged migrations to all ages

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

What happens when a young nocturnal hawk can't read the stars to help him find his way during one of the longest migration distances of any bird species in North America?

Scientist turned storyteller Jamie Bastedo of Yellowknife invites readers from "ages nine to 99" to find out in his newest adventure novel, *Nighthawk!*

"This is very much a family book," said Bastedo, an ecologist and educator.

It's also his first book written from the point of view of an animal, a nighthawk named Wisp.

"You are the bird in this book. It was a challenge and very new for me because it is my first talking animal book," he said. "I asked the neighbourhood kids in Old Town, who I teach guitar to, if these birds should talk and unanimously they said yes... Our oldest stories involve animals and in a way I think this touches an ancient chord in the human heart...Talking animals isn't so weird; we have a longing to get inside their heads."

*Nighthawk!*, at 245 pages, follows the long, black wings of Wisp, who leaves his flock to embark on a forbidden migratory journey alone from the depths of the Amazon to the Arctic.



Jamie Bastedo, Yellowknife author and ecologist, has released a new novel from a bird's point of view.

Bastedo takes Wisp over jaw-dropping landscapes, including Mexico's largest volcano, Popocatepetl, and the Sonoran Desert down into jagged, Grand Canyon-like chasms and Yellowstone National Park.

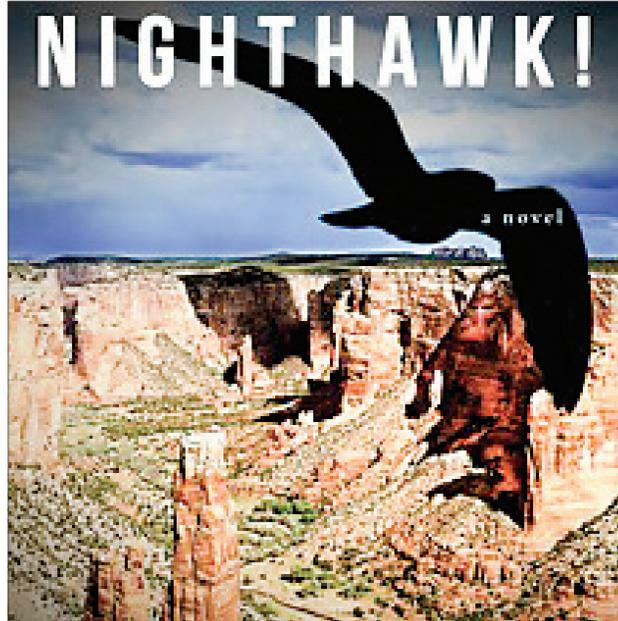
"I take my bird right over Fort Smith and down the Slave River, too. He flies across Great Slave Lake and ends up - well you'll have to read the book to see where he ends up," Bastedo said.

According to the author, *Nighthawk!* is a celebration

of landscape diversity as well as the incredibly dangerous process of bird migration.

"There's a mystery to migration and it's very messy business...Wisp goes through Calgary at night during a chinook and has to navigate around these illuminated towers of glass. Towers like these, cell and radio towers, kill millions of birds," he said.

One radio tower took out 20,000 birds in the span of just 48 hours in a northeastern part of the US, Bastedo said.



Photos courtesy of Jamie Bastedo

*Nighthawk!* takes readers on a gripping migration journey.

"The bird biologist and the story spinner in me both have to be satisfied so when you put down the book, these birds need to be conveyed in a way that is true to their natural history, highlighting how dangerous migration is. It's an adventure story, but it's also about things I'm concerned about."

Without a doubt, human structures are the greatest hazard when it comes to completing natural migrations, Bastedo said.

Common nighthawk numbers have dwindled in Canada by 50 per cent over the past 40 years.

Data from the Canadian Breeding Bird Survey indicate a significant long-term decline of 4.2 per cent per year in population numbers from 1968-2005 and a 6.6 per cent decline from 1995-2005 alone, according to findings in a 2007 report by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

There was another reason Bastedo wanted to write about

the nighthawk: its sheer mystery as a feathered friend.

"The very name evokes mystery, adventure and story. It's a strange, misunderstood bird. It has so many names; one of them in French translates into 'flying toad.' Another refers to the luminous, ghost-like, spontaneous flashes you see in wetlands, bogs and spooky places at night. It's a spooky bird. Not much is known about them scientifically...They're amazing flyers that do this sonic boom dive when doing their mating dance. I just fell in love with them," he said.

"As I wrote this book, I often dreamt of flying. These characters are very real and dear to me and I hope they become so for the reader as well."

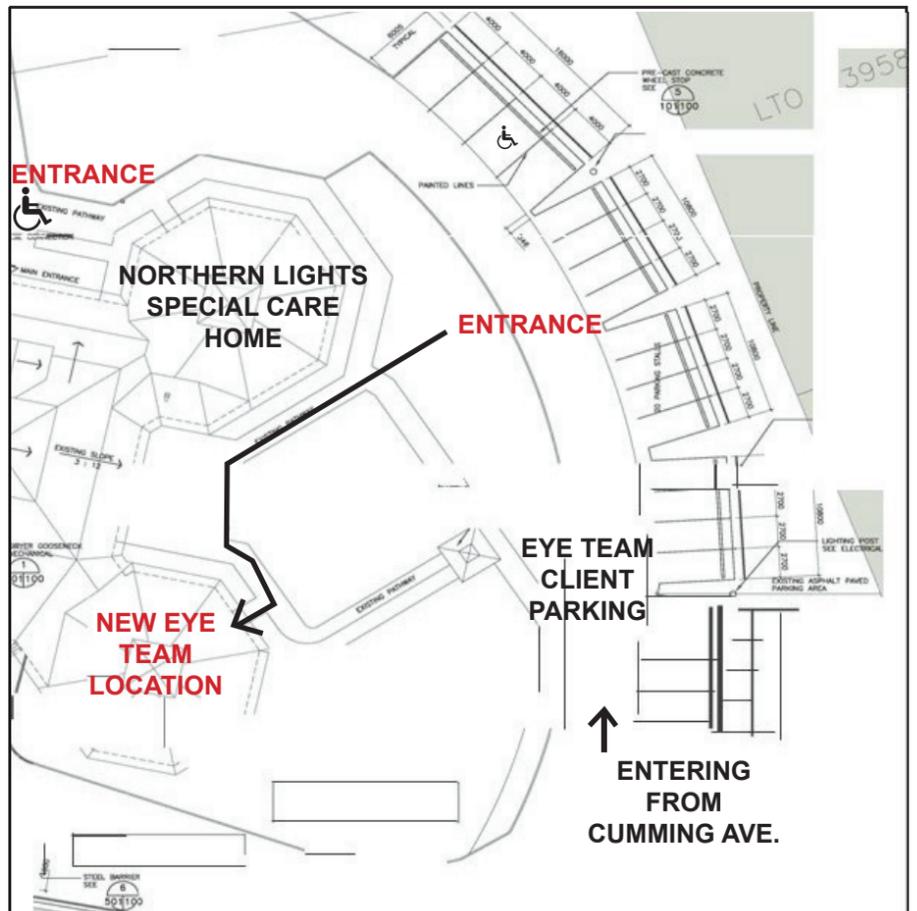
Bastedo was in Fort Smith Monday promoting the recent release of *Nighthawk!* at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre. He also made a historical presentation, "Tales from the Trading Post," to elementary students on Tuesday at the museum.

After receiving a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, Bastedo is already in the thick of planning his next novel, which will detail how one teenage cyber addict begins an intensive rehabilitation process through a wilderness excursion in the Mackenzie Mountains.

## Eye Team Services Are Moving

The Eye Team Services will be offered at the Northern Light Special Care Home Building beginning June 25.

Eye Team Parking and Entrance are indicated on the map. Hours and Services remain the same.



(867) 872 - 6200

# Fort Chip students learn native flute for mental well being

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Soft whistles from hand-crafted Native American flutes filled the Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) in Fort Chipewyan for the first time on May 14-16 as part of a student health and wellness program.

Self-taught flutist Jacob Handel from Calgary gave a workshop to about 20 Grade 4 students on how to play the Native American flute as part of the school's Helping Hands to Success program.

Now in its fifth year, the program strives to improve recreational activities in the community and promote mental health, prevention and early intervention services to students from kindergarten through Grade 12.

"What we're trying to do is introduce children to a lot of different things. When you live in a Northern community, you don't always have these opportunities. So we've brought in the guitar, fiddle, the native drum and now we have yet



Photo: Donna Cyprien

ADCS students and teacher aide Lynda Marten, centre, are entertained by a workshop on how to play the Native American flute with Jacob Handel, back centre.

another opportunity with the flute. Not many people play it, so it's special," said Donna Cyprien, the Helping Hands project coordinator.

"Playing the flute or any musical instrument

reduces stress. It's calming and overall it's good for your mental health to have something like this to go to when things are not so positive," she said. "The students loved it. Our

staff loved it. It's not hard to learn; it's actually easier to play than a recorder."

Handel, who travels to Fort Chip multiple times a year to visit friends, brought a number of A-minor starter

flutes from Butch Hall, a traditional woodworker who makes precision tuned flutes out of Weatherford, Texas.

Each student purchased a flute at the end of the workshop, Handel said, for a discounted price.

"I tried telling them about the flute's history, but they really just wanted to play," he said with a laugh. "We went over a few basic songs and added our own 'embellishments' to the music. That's the thing about the flute: it brings out students' creativity and you don't need a whole lot of formal training to do that."

Handel last visited ADCS in January, performing flute solos for students and staff.

"The students calmed right down. They just stopped and listened to him. It was moving," Cyprien said.

The enthusiasm was so overwhelming that he returned this month to host his first workshop. He said

he hopes to do more in the future.

"It's very therapeutic," he said. "People have even started using them in yoga classes."

Handel has been playing the Native American flute for just over 10 years.

"I was on a road trip and had just reached Montana or North Dakota and I heard someone playing the Native American flute for the first time and it was just so different and beautiful. That was when my flute journey began," he said.

Overshadowed by the drum, the flute is slowly gaining popularity again, Handel said.

"People hear it on television or in the movies and get it mixed up with the pan flute...Back in the day it was prevalent in many indigenous tribes. They found a 5,000 year-old flute in Ontario...I can see that interest growing again with things like flute circles - there was just one in Cold Lake, actually."

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

The Property Assessment Notices for the **2013** tax year were mailed on **Friday March 1, 2013** to all Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo property owners.

If you have any concerns regarding any information on the Property Assessment Notice, or you have not received your Assessment Notice, please call **780.743.7900** or **1.800.973.9663** and arrange to speak with an Assessor. Assessors will be available during regular business hours - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

If a discussion with an Assessor does not resolve your concern, an Assessment Review Board Complaint Form (accompanied by the appropriate filing fee) may be filed with the Clerk of the Assessment Review Board. For more information regarding the complaint process please call **780.743.7001** or **1.800.973.9663** or visit [www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/arb](http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/arb). The deadline to submit an Assessment Review Board Complaint Form is 4:30 p.m. on **April 30, 2013**.

Council will set the **2013** tax rates in May. This rate will be applied to the assessed value of your property, as noted on the Property Assessment Notice. Tax Notices will be mailed in late May.

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## Health & Wellness Violence Against Women

# New project fights violence against women in Alberta

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A new project striving to end violence against women in northern Alberta has received a substantial boost from the federal government to help it get started.

The federal minister responsible for the Status of Women, Rona Ambrose, announced \$200,000 in funding for an upcoming community-driven project in the province's Wabasca-Desmarais region, home to approximately 3,000 people, on May 16.

"The Harper government is committed to ending violence against women and girls in communities across Canada," Ambrose said in a press release. "I am pleased that we are supporting this new project to ensure the safety and security of Aboriginal girls in northern Alberta."

The Edmonton-based non-profit Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities will use the grant money to work with community partners, including Bigstone Cree Nation, Bigstone's women's shelter and the RCMP, to "develop and implement community strategies to address the issue," Marni Pearce, the society's executive director, said in an email.

The project will entail specific programming initiatives over a two-year period, striving to build healthy relationships between community partners and "identify promising strategies" to address violence against women and girls, Pearce said.

Project details are still being worked out, she said.

approximately 48 young women, aged 8-14, and their families for an estimated direct impact of 240 people during the two years, Pearce said.

"However, it is expected that reach will also involve the young men in the community who need to be aware of better relationship strategies in order to change

We know that violence is a learned behaviour and that positive, non-violent behaviours must be taught and reinforced consistently by all of the adults in a child's life.

*Marni Pearce  
Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities*

The project will also be supported by the area schools: St. Theresa School, Mistassiniy School and Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik.

"One of the things that is really critical to us is ensuring that there is sustainability. So we will be looking at how we work with the community to develop the capacity of the adults to support the young people, particularly the girls," Pearce told *The Journal*.

They expect to involve

attitudes towards and prevent violence against women," she added. "We know that violence is a learned behaviour and that positive, non-violent behaviours must be taught and reinforced consistently by all of the adults in a child's life."

The federal government has nearly doubled its support for community-based projects like this one since 2006, contributing to over 6,000 projects through grants from Status of Women Canada.

# Fort Smith forms committee to take on arena closure

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Winter won't be the same for ice enthusiasts in Fort Smith this year with no useable arena in the community.

The Fort Smith Centennial Arena will be closed for the 2013-2014 ice season after a fire burned through part of the stands for a few hours before anyone noticed on May 13.

The closure and its impact on recreational activities is a concern and top priority for the town, according to council, who voted unanimously last Tuesday to form an ice strategy committee to tackle the problem.

The committee meets for the first time on Tuesday to begin brainstorming ideas about alternative ice surfaces.

"We certainly recognize the importance of the arena. It's the centre of many family lives in the winter and a real community hub, so we don't want to sit around and wait to see what might happen or not with regards to the final report on damage and repairs," Jim Hood, Fort Smith's senior administrative officer, said. "We want to be proactive and be

ready for the worst case scenario so we have a back up plan to provide recreation opportunities in town this winter."

The cause of the fire and the extent of the damage have yet to be determined, he said.

how much heat they were exposed to in the fire, so we're taking every precaution," he said.

In the meantime, the 12-person committee is responsible for making recommendations to council after

damaged during the fire.

"Most likely we'd be looking at a natural ice option," Hood said.

While talk of a new arena for the town has resurfaced over the past few years, the current

mechanically sound, or can we live with this one for more years to come?"

The committee will be chaired by Councillor Kevin Smith, chair of the community services committee.

Other members include councillors Don Webb and Chris Westwell and three members of the Recreation Advisory Board, including its chair, Jessica Cox.

One member from each of the six main arena user groups, including speed skating, figure skating, minor hockey, rec hockey, women's hockey and old timers hockey, will also be on the committee.

"We're looking for the community's input, so if anyone has ideas, bring it through the councillors or one of the user groups. No option is off the table right now," Hood said.

## Council approves letter of support for road south

In addition to moving forward with backup plans for the arena, council also passed a motion to provide a letter of support to former mayor Peter Martselos for his

resurrected proposal to start talks of a controversial road south through Wood Buffalo National Park.

The 118-km road, which cuts across both Mikisew Cree and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation land, would run from Peace Point to Garden River.

Martselos first proposed the road decades ago when he was president of the now-defunct Thebacha Road Society.

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

The vote was 4-4 with councillors Lou Sebert, Don Webb, Al Dumont and Ron Holtorf supporting the motion. Opposed were Chris Westwell, Kevin Smith, Bob McArthur and Lynn Napier-Buckley.

Mayor Brad Brake broke the tie in support of the motion.

"We do these letters quite often," Brake said. "We'll see what happens after that, once he gets his Thebacha Road Society on the go."

No further steps will be taken at this time in regards to the road, Brake said.

We're looking for the community's input, so if anyone has ideas, bring it through the councillors or one of the user groups. No option is off the table right now.

*Jim Hood  
Town of Fort Smith*

"It's still in the early stages of the investigation. We had our insurance adjustors in this week and will soon expect a report from them. Structural and electrical engineers from Edmonton are coming in next week to assess the beams."

The arena is built with glue laminated beams that, when exposed to heat, can delaminate, melting the glue that holds the strips together, Hood explained.

"We don't know if they have to be repaired or replaced yet or

investigating alternative ice options, such as an outdoor rink or temporary structure, Hood said.

While a tentative budget for alternative ice surface options has not been determined, some of the money typically set aside for the arena's operating costs could be put towards it, Hood noted.

Equipment at the arena, however, cannot be moved, such as the stationary ice plant, which was not

arena's temporary closure won't be accelerating any new building plans, Hood said.

"We would like to have the pool debenture paid off before going into debt again for another facility," he said. "When we determine the extent of the damages, plans for a new arena may be pushed ahead or pushed back. It all depends on the investigation's findings. It may be a case of...does it make sense to rebuild a new arena if we repair this one and it's structurally,

## Northerners Celebrations

# North Country Rock gets up close and personal

By DON JAQUE

North Country Rock's signature country music has had toes tapping in dance halls across the North for over a decade, including regular stints in the Gold Range bar in Yellowknife, but last weekend in Fort Smith, things got personal with the popular band.

Gerald Poitras, the band leader, drummer and lead vocalist, and his wife Sandy celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by inviting an extended group of their friends and relatives, hundreds of them, including many musicians who had played with Gerald in his career.

Outdoors, under the full moon deep into Saturday night, and what a party it was! Well wishers from Valleyview to Inuvik and a lot of places in between showed up and the pool of musical talent ran deep.

The event began with a beautiful sunny afternoon, a relaxed mellow mood and a sumptuous steak and rib dinner for the hundreds of guests under a huge tent. To start the activities, Gerald strolled onto the large plywood dance floor with a wireless mic, thanked the organizers and helpers, before calling on his wife to join him. To celebrate their anniversary



Sandy and Gerald Poitras share a dance at their 25th wedding anniversary party.

Photo: Lisa Saunders

he crooned a love song (*Look at Us* by Vince Gill) while the two danced. It was a touching moment that got the Kleenex flying for the girls and set an unreachable bar for all the other husbands.

Following that, Gerald took over the drums and anchored the band, supported by his brother Norbert Poitras on bass and lead guitarist Shane Daniels as other featured musicians stepped up. Fiddlers, singers and country music filled the humid night air. The audience routinely rallied on the large dance floor, jiggling and

two-stepping the night away.

The event was scheduled to be held in the Fort Smith arena, but the fire there two weeks earlier forced a change of plans. The local curling rink was busy being decorated for the high school graduation, so a plan for an outdoor event at the ball diamond emerged. A large stage was set up for the musicians and a giant tent offered shade and shelter. The ball diamond was decorated as an old time ranching town and guests dressed to the western theme. Stetsons and cowboy boots were common and a few six shooters were seen. Beyond the food and music, there were games and the prizes were bags of gold (dry-meat).

"Look at all the people having fun and dancing and carrying on. What a party, and what a way to celebrate an anniversary!" was a common observation by the revelers.

"It was a joint effort by family and friends. It was great," noted Sandy on Monday, after the cleanup was all done and the good memories lingered.

She said, "it was a memorable night," but the best part was Gerald singing her that song as they danced. "Boy, can my husband sing."



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**6TH CALGARY Antique Show & Sale.** June 1 & 2. Saturday 10 - 5:30 and Sunday 10 - 4. Garrison Curling Rink, 2288 - 47 Ave. SW. Over 40 vendors. Free parking! Carswell's 403-343-1614.

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Northwest Territories Transportation

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

For contract opportunities visit  
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## Portland loses Memorial Cup to Halifax

The Portland Winterhawks' winning streak came to an end Sunday with a 4-6 loss to the Halifax Mooseheads during the Memorial Cup championship game in Saskatoon. The Hawks, Western Hockey League champions, were down 3-0 after a messy first period but came back in the second to score twice and outshot Halifax, the top ranked team in the Canadian Hockey League, 18-6. Defenceman Shaun MacPherson, 19, of Fort Smith plays for the Hawks after being signed in January. The Hawks beat the London Knights, Ontario Hockey League champions, Friday 2-1 to advance to the finals.

## Yellowknife teams take Arctic Shootout

Winning titles for the largest open basketball tournament in the NWT went to two Yellowknife teams last weekend. Eleven adult teams competed in the annual Arctic Shootout Tournament in Yellowknife from May 24-26. The Ragged Ass Barbers beat the Monkey Tree team (both from Yellowknife) in the men's division to take the tournament. In the women's division, Yellowknife's Lady Aces won gold. A men's team from Cambridge Bay competed in the Shootout for the first time, making it to the semifinals. Other participating communities included Fort Simpson and Hay River.

## Parks season begins

The 2013 NWT parks season officially began May 15 with all North and South Slave regional parks opening their gates. Parks in the Inuvik region open June 1. For more information on the NWT's 34 parks, visit [www.nwtparks.ca](http://www.nwtparks.ca).



Peewee boys get ready to sprint in the 400m race during the Fort Smith 5000 on Saturday.



Anaïs Aubrey-Smith (left) pushes to catch Finnlay Rutherford-Simon in the tyke female 400m event.



Left to right: Kezia McDonald, 11, Kiah Vail, 12, and Luke James, 16, catch some rays as they wait for their turn to race.

### Sports & Recreation Track & Field

# Fort Smith 5000 breaks in new track

## Trailblazing event for NWT women in 5,000m

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Runners of all ages laced up under a scorching sun Saturday to test out Fort Smith's new, rubberized running track during the Fort Smith 5000, the first track and field invitational meet held at the facility.

Over 100 athletes from Fort Smith and Hay River, aged 5-50, took their starting positions and flew to the finish line, vying for gold medals and record-breaking times. Distances included the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, 3,000m and 5,000m.

Sandra Robichaud of Fort Smith broke a Northwest Territories record, racing among the first women in the 5,000m

master event and inspiring her son to also compete in the race.

Other athletes came within seconds of breaking NWT records in the 400m events.

According to Joe LeBlanc, president of the NWT Track and Field Society, podium results from the recent Nike Grand Prix in Toronto proved Northern athletes can compete with the best in the country, and participating in new opportunities like the Fort Smith 5000 will help them do that.

"It was a tremendously rewarding day," Patti-Kay Hamilton, one of the event organizers, said.

"Exhausting, but worth it."

Advice from track experts in Hay River, where the territorial championships are held, made the day a success, Hamilton noted.

"I had Bob White with Hay River Track and Field on speed dial, and Pat Bobinski, a longtime timer for the territorials, was here and trained our timers. That made such a difference," Hamilton said. "Timing is difficult in track and our timers were nervous. But there were no mistakes made and Pat had only good things to say about our team of volunteers. That meant a lot to us, coming from someone

with that level of experience at meets."

The event was the brainchild of Denise Yuhas, president of the Fort Smith Track and Field Society.

Yuhas said she plans to make the event an annual occurrence.

Hamilton would like to see participants come from Fort Resolution, the Hay River Reserve and Fort Providence in coming years.

There is also talk of making the event a two-day affair, she said.

"There was a committee of about five of us for this, all from different backgrounds, and we all agreed we need

someone with more experience in track as a technical director or something like that," Hamilton said. "But I was so impressed with all our volunteers and how it went... The kids from Hay River said they just loved the track and that it was like running on a cushion."

Janeya Edgi, 8, of Fort Smith said the event was "really fun" after competing in the 100m in the morning.

"I like running because I like playing tag," she said. "I came in last, but that's okay."

The NWT's outdoor track and field season continues with the territorial championships kicking off June 5 in Hay River.

# Devolution

of Lands and Resources in the Northwest Territories

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



# Elementary school joins efforts to conquer cancer

## JBT school latest team to sign up for South Slave Relay for Life

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Teachers at Joseph B. Tyrrell (JBT) elementary school in Fort Smith hope bringing Relay for Life's cancer fundraising through the school's doors will enact similarly altruistic action among their students and spread awareness of the cause.

"We decided just to go with it and encourage the kids to support the cause," said JBT Cubs team captain Gabrielle Vienneau, the Grades 2-3 French immersion teacher.

The team of 11, composed mostly of staff members at the school with a few stragglers thrown in, was late out of the starting blocks as the last team to sign up for this year's event, but is already carrying out fundraising activities both at the school and in the community at large.

Each member is tasked with raising \$175 for a grand total of \$1,925, although all members agree, "the more, the better."

Though the Cubs aren't dedicating their fundraising to any person in particular, each member has someone they're walking for.

"I think we all have relatives or close friends who've



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

From left: Allison McArthur, Janet Bell, Lori Robinson, Moriah Hoyles, Gabrielle Vienneau, Jo-Ann McLaren and Amy Turner. Missing: Christine Sivret, Chelsea Van Tol, Lora Sinclair and Mathieu Doucet.

been affected by cancer," said Lori Robinson, also a teacher at JBT. "So we'll keep them in our minds during the walk."

"I have my people I'm always thinking of, and I think everybody does," Vienneau added.

While students are not on the team, they are part of the fundraising. Last week they held a cupcake sale at the school, and an upcoming toonie-walk will see students collect \$2 coins for their own mini-relay around town. They'll also be holding a second cupcake sale this week.

The team is also doing a 50/50 raffle fundraiser. Prizes include 50 per cent of ticket sales - to a maximum total of \$1,500 - along with a \$200 gift certificate for the Harokiti Salon and a \$120 print of the Northern Lights over Four Mile Lake by Fort Smith photographer Patrick Pennycook are up for grabs in the draw, which will take place at 10:00 p.m. on the day of the relay, June 15.

People interested in buying tickets are invited to contact Vienneau by email at [gvienneau@ssdec.nt.ca](mailto:gvienneau@ssdec.nt.ca).



NWT SENIORS' SOCIETY  
nwtseiorsociety.ca



## SENIOR CITIZENS' WEEK 2013

&

## WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY JUNE 15

I call upon everyone in our communities to join in the celebration of Senior Citizens' Week and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 to recognize the valuable contributions of seniors and elders.

### SENIORS HELPING SENIORS

Now, therefore, I, the President of NWT Seniors' Society in the Northwest Territories, do hereby Proclaim the week of June 9 through 15, 2013, to be Senior Citizens' Week and the special day World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.

### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, more seniors and elders are independent and active, and by challenging the stereotypes of aging, are leading the way for future seniors and elders;

**WHEREAS**, a more positive attitude toward aging is creating new opportunities for seniors and elders;

**WHEREAS**, seniors and elders are a vital part of our families, giving generously of their wisdom, experience, time, leadership and love;

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that seniors and elders have made, and continue to make, many contributions to strengthen our communities and throughout our daily lives;

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that some seniors and elders have the right to feel secure and safe in this community;

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate that a special week be set aside to recognize and show respect to seniors and elders.

Leon Peterson  
President  
NWT Seniors' Society

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# Bush school teaches medical treatment, hands-on

By DON JAQUE

While most people celebrated spring by relaxing on the Victoria Day long weekend, a small group of Fort Smith adventurers and sport leaders spent four grueling days dealing with mayhem and tragic accidents – all simulated – as part of an intense four-day wilderness first aid course.

There were classroom sessions each day, but a good portion of the course was spent on “scenarios” in the bush – a variety of simulated accidents with multiple victims sporting complex injuries.

Typically, a pleasant group walk down a forest trail would be interrupted by the banshee wail of someone running to them, often dripping (fake) blood in a desperate state, demanding immediate assistance. The erstwhile saviours would rush to the scene to find people draped over logs in various states of agony, broken, bleeding and with “conditions.”

Each day ended with the body of students tired and amazed at what they had experienced, and hungry to learn more.

Saturday, which involved a camp-out in tents, was most intense, by far. An emergency



Blair Doyle (centre) instructs wilderness first aid students on how to treat severe breaks using just the tools available, such as trees and camping gear.

ensued in the late Northern twilight. Unconscious, broken, hypothermic bodies had to be hauled from an icy stream, and after gaping wounds were treated, they were undressed, re-clothed, warmed and then maneuvered up a steep bank on makeshift stretchers to safety and (hopefully) eventual rescue. First thing the next morning, of course, tragedy struck again.

“It was an incredible experience. I learned a lot,” said

Patti-Kay Hamilton, who coaches youth biathlon each winter. “I like the experiential way of teaching. It will stay in your head.”

The course instructor, Blair Doyle, owner of the company Adventure and Safety Atlantic, is also certified to teach canoe, sea and river kayak, and is a scuba divemaster and an active Search and Rescue responder in Nova Scotia. His explanations of body functions, treatments and how to deal

with medical problems were presented in a practical, often humorous way that made the students think not just about what might happen, but how to deal with it when it does.

“It was sobering to realize how unprepared we are when going into the wilderness. Something like spilling hot tea on your leg can result in infection and go south in a hurry,” noted John Blyth, an organizer-instructor with the Fort Smith Paddling Club.



Helen Panter and Geneviève Côté have fun with their fake head injuries during the wilderness first aid camp.

Injuries and life-threatening medical situations in a remote wilderness setting – and how that differs from “urban” medical emergencies – was Doyle’s focus. Normally, you need only maintain an emergency situation as best you can after calling an expert first-responder who you hand it off to. Doyle demonstrated how in the bush, it may be you alone who can deal with a situation, and what you must do about it.

Doyle also reminded the class a number of times that you can only do your best, and sometimes “it will be a bad day.”

“I gained confidence in the fact that (in an emergency in the bush), in spite of your best efforts, things may not work out, and in a case like that you can’t blame yourself,” Hamilton said.

Along with the skills to handle wilderness medical emergencies, the participants also earned their first aid certification from the course.

## Celebrating Emergency Medical Services Week

### The Town of Fort Smith

would like to thank all the members of our volunteer ambulance service.  
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