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Home in the Hub: This week's special section highlights Hay River. See pages 13-20.



Métis in battle with Parks over Thaidene Nene
NWT Métis Nation president Garry Bailey says Parks Canada has not consulted them on the proposed Thaidene Nene park reserve. See page 7.



Tlicho Imbe program teaches youth language
The award-winning Tlicho Imbe program for youth is making more of an effort to teach youth the Tlicho language this summer. See page 10.



Fort Smith raises over \$107,000 to fight cancer
Fort Smith proved its generosity once again at this year's Relay for Life cancer fundraiser at Queen Elizabeth Park. See page 28.



Forest ecology camp helps NWT youth build skills
Students from Fort Providence and Fort McPherson spent a week with forest and fire experts out on the land. See page 31.

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Students and teachers from Fort Resolution, Fort Providence, Lutsel K'e and the Hay River Reserve celebrate a life-changing week rafting on the Nahanni River just below Virginia Falls. The annual trip allows students from isolated communities to get to know each other on an intense journey. See page 11.

Photo: Dan Summers

Fort Chipewyan residents start curfew to respond to string of arsons

Youth suspected of starting three fires in 24-hour period

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Concerned residents of Fort Chipewyan have formed a citizens patrol and are trying to impose a curfew to address several incidents of arson within the last two weeks that have people worried about public safety and criminal behaviour by youth in the community.
Wood Buffalo RCMP in Fort Chipewyan were called to investigate several fires this month that appeared to be suspicious in nature, including a house fire on June 6 that caused significant structural damage on Ladouceur Crescent.

According to RCMP, the investigation revealed several individuals had entered

the abandoned property and lit a piece of furniture on fire, causing the flames to spread.

The RCMP encourages parents to ensure the whereabouts of their children after 6:00 p.m. and educate their children on what behaviours are appropriate, and if their kids are not home, to discuss with their children that kind of behaviour.

*Sgt. Rodney Klenk
Fort Chipewyan RCMP*

Edward Courtoreille, 19, has been arrested in relation to the incident and charged with

arson. He is scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 1.

Other related suspicious fire calls were received over

a period of two days mid-last week. Police reported that small fires are being set by

an unknown individual or individuals near structures in and around Fort Chip between midnight and 6:00 a.m.

No injuries have been reported as a result of the fires.

A community meeting was held last Friday in response. People from the Mikisew Cree First Nation packed Mamawi Hall along with teachers from the Athabasca Delta Community School, members of the Fort Chipewyan Fire Department, local business owners, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo councillors and employees, elders, the local RCMP and members from Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and the local Métis.

Attendees reportedly gave a "resounding yes" to the creation

of a citizens patrol beginning immediately last Friday night, along with the establishment of a curfew in the community and on both Doghead and Allison Bay reserves, according to a release from Mikisew.

Though no exact time has been mentioned for the curfew, complaints stem from youth roaming the community in the late hours of the morning.

"There is a high suspicion that the fires are being caused by children," Mikisew Chief Steve Courtoreille said. "This is where our appeal is aiming, to parents of any suspected under-age children who may be out at all hours of the night leading to the cause of these unfortunate incidents."

See RCMP on page 2.

N'Dilo votes in new chief

Ernest Betsina is the new chief of N'Dilo after an extremely tight vote last week. Betsina won the election by one vote against Shirley Tsetta. Acting Chief Roy Erasmus Jr. pulled in third, only 14 votes behind Bestina. Though there was an immediate recount, Tsetta said she believes something was done incorrectly and is writing a complaint to council.

Ferry services extended for Beaufort Delta communities

The Abraham Francis ferry, which crosses the Peel River, and the Louis Cardinal Ferry, which crosses the Mackenzie River, will operate past the fall freeze-up period for the first time this October. The government hopes to maintain ferry operations until ice crossings are in place that can support commercial traffic. According to the GNWT, residents of Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik will see greater energy security and reduced costs for businesses with these ferry service extensions. The annual cost of for the new plan is expected to be \$1.4 million plus a one-time upgrading cost for the Louis Cardinal ferry of \$400,000.

Deh Cho Bridge honoured

The Deh Cho Bridge Project has been recognized for its innovative design at the 30th annual International Bridge Conference in Pittsburgh. The project received the Gustav Lindenthal Medal, which is awarded annually for a recent outstanding achievement in bridge engineering. Matthias Schueller of Infinity Engineering, the project's design engineer, accepted the award on behalf of the team. The Deh Cho Bridge also recently received the Award of Merit for Soft Engineering at the 2013 Awards for Engineering Excellence sponsored by the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of British Columbia. It was also recognized for its innovative steel construction by winning the 2013 CISC British Columbia Steel Design Award of Excellence.



Photo courtesy of Town of Norman Wells

The business community in Norman Wells is pleased that plans to do exploratory hydraulic fracturing near town are going through.

Industry Oil & Gas

ConocoPhillips fracking plan gets free pass in the Sahtu

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Months of listening and responding to community concerns were key to bypassing an environmental review of plans to conduct hydraulic fracturing on two exploratory horizontal wells near Tulita, according to the company.

"We put in a lot of hard work talking to the land corporations and local beneficiaries," Eric Hanson, supervisor of operations in the Central Mackenzie

for ConocoPhillips Canada, said last week after the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) gave the company the green light.

ConocoPhillips must get approval from the National Energy Board and post \$1.5 million in performance bonds with the federal and territorial governments. It has five years to complete the wells and will start work this summer on baseline environmental studies, Hanson said.

Paul Dixon, executive director, Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB), said the board concluded that the mitigation proposed by ConocoPhillips answered concerns raised about water use, fracking and cumulative impacts.

The company must report the existence of any geologic faults in the area. If they present a risk in relation to hydraulic fracturing, the company will not be allowed to proceed without approved plans for prevention and mitigation of seismic events.

It also helped that ConocoPhillips' application was preceded by one from MGM Energy, which the board

referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

"ConocoPhillips benefited from that," Dixon said. "It informed ConocoPhillips where it needed to do advance work. There was no significant expression of public concern as seen with the MGM application."

MGM Energy withdrew its application and suspended operations after its application to drill an exploratory well was sent to environmental assessment, prompting fears of an economic downturn in Norman Wells if ConocoPhillips took the same course. The business community sent a volley of letters to the SLWB, urging it not to order a review. Last week they applauded the board's decision.

"I don't see anything wrong with letting the board know what the public is thinking," said Norman Wells Mayor Harold McGregor, who called the board's decision "far-sighted."

"I believe that there are safeguards that will protect the land and environment," McGregor said.

Chris Buist, president of the NWT Chamber of Commerce, said it "sends a positive message to industry and will promote exploration and provide significant economic and employment opportunities" in the Sahtu.

The board ignored Weledh MLA Bob Bromley, who reminded them that they sent the MGM plan to a review because it was the first to propose use of hydraulic fracturing, which caused concern among community members.

The Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council withdrew a letter urging a full environmental review, but Norman Wells resident Ruby McDonald, writing on behalf of several family members, did not.

In a letter to the board, McDonald said her family was concerned about the company's plans to use water from two small lakes where they fished.

"It seems that water is free for anyone and everyone to use without any consequences," she wrote. "This needs to change."

RCMP taking 'hard stance' on trespassing

Continued from page 1.

"We are urging all parents to take some action and responsibility in ensuring that your child or children are home at a responsible hour and that you are aware of their whereabouts at all times," he said on behalf of council.

The goal is to have parents enforce the curfew until it is made legal through a bylaw at the municipal level. Miki-sew can establish a curfew for its reserves.

Other ideas presented at the community meeting included installing video surveillance cameras around town, hiring

more bylaw officers and establishing parent support groups for dealing with problem youth, among others.

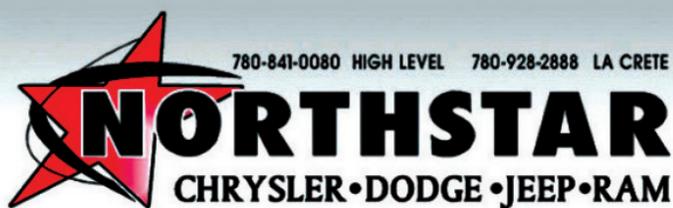
They also agreed to have more community meetings, more frequently, to address the challenges at hand.

"From a police perspective, the RCMP encourages parents to ensure the whereabouts of their children after 6:00 p.m. and educate their children on what behaviours are appropriate, and if their kids are not home, to discuss with their children that kind of behaviour," Sgt. Rodney Klenk of the Fort Chipewyan RCMP told *The Journal*.

He also said the RCMP would be strictly enforcing existing laws, including offenses of trespassing by night.

"RCMP will be looking at laying charges if people are found in people's yards between 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.," he said. "If we do get complaints, we will charge people for being in people's yards without permission. We'll take a hard stance on that."

The RCMP continue to investigate the incidents and are asking people with information to report the crime to the Wood Buffalo RCMP at (780) 788-4000.



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Edmonton MP tables bill to protect Slave River

Councillor looks for Town of Fort Smith support for bill

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

An Edmonton MP tabled a bill last week that could reinstate protection of the Slave River under the recently-amended Navigable Waters Protection Act.

Edmonton-Strathcona MP Linda Duncan's Bill C-529, introduced last Monday, would return the Slave River to the list of navigable waterways protected under the act which saw most of Canada's lakes, rivers and streams removed through omnibus Bill C-45 last winter.

Currently, the only bodies of water in the NWT that remain protected are Great Slave Lake, Great Bear Lake and the Mackenzie River. The Athabasca and Peace Rivers are also protected.

"It will add the mighty Slave River, flowing from Alberta to the NWT, to the substantially diminished list of rivers this government has deemed worthy of protection," Duncan told the House.

"The decision to remove any remaining protective measures for the Slave River was made absent of any consultation with



Photo: John Blyth

Kayaker Jen Eddie paddles on the Slave River rapids. The Slave was recently removed from the list of waterways protected by the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

the Aboriginal peoples who have a long-standing connection to the river," she said. "In doing so, the government violated its overriding constitutional duty of prior consultation with and accommodation of Aboriginal rights and title."

In introducing the bill, which was seconded by fellow New Democrat and Western

Arctic MP Dennis Bevington, Duncan spoke to the river's heritage, use by First Nations "since time immemorial" and the fact that it houses Canada's northernmost flock of pelicans.

"The river has for centuries provided a major transportation route between Fort Fitzgerald in the NWT and

Fort Chipewyan in Alberta," she said.

Supporting the bill is Smith's Landing First Nation (SLFN), located just south of the NWT border near Fort Smith.

SLFN elder Francois Paulette spoke of the bill at Fort Smith's Slave River Day celebrations on June 8, asking other people to support Duncan's efforts by

the time the piece of legislation is discussed in the fall.

"I think that's very important. We need to profile this river, we need to profile this water that comes beside us, that's of something much greater than what the tar sands will ever give us," Paulette said. "And it is such a huge struggle. It's not just here, now; it's global. It's everywhere."

One Fort Smith town councillor is also hoping to get backing for the bill from the town, as well, at the June 18 council meeting.

Kevin Smith said the town should be concerned about any legislation that affects its drinking water.

"I think it is very strange that the act includes the Athabasca, Peace and Mackenzie Rivers along with Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake but does not include the Slave River," he said. "The Town of Fort Smith draws its drinking water from the Slave River, so any potential developments affecting the river should concern the town and its residents."

He said the Navigable Waters Protection Act does not stop

development, as the GNWT was still able to build a bridge over the Mackenzie River, for example. Instead, he said the act is important for triggering a federal review process that would apply to the Town of Fort Smith.

"Otherwise, most of the Slave River is under the jurisdiction of the government of Alberta, and I am quite skeptical about their environmental track record and their concern for our well-being - just look at the oilsands," he said. "Whether you support hydro development or not on the Slave River, if residents of Fort Smith want to have a say in what happens with the river, they should support Bill C-529. It's where we get our drinking water."

The Navigable Waters Protection Act has been in place since the 1880s. It functions as a trigger to the environmental assessment process for projects impacting lakes, rivers and coastlines.

Changes made to the act through the latest budget bill lowered protection to cover around two per cent of Canada's waterways.

Politics Devolution

Lease debacle embarrasses MACA minister

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Lawyers for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) are poring over law books to determine who's to blame for revealing the identities of federal lease holders.

The information is in the Northwest Territories devolution agreement - part of an inventory of sites that passed from AANDC to the territorial government - approved recently during the brief spring legislative session.

Protected by federal privacy laws, the identities of those who acquired hunting and fishing leases on coveted lakefront property near Yellowknife on the eve of devolution are now part of the public record and a source of embarrassment for the territorial government.

News that those leases continued to be granted surprised Robert C. McLeod, minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

The MACA minister thought he had achieved an agreement last December with John Duncan, then minister of AANDC, to work together on managing the area around Walsh and Banting lakes until devolution was complete.

McLeod told the legislature he "expressed disappointment"

to Bernard Valcourt, Duncan's successor, and (is) "eagerly waiting for the response" from the federal minister.

But employees in McLeod's department were among the small army of bureaucrats who had responsibility for approving or rejecting the leases. Some acquired leases under the little-known program for themselves.

Under the management plan developed by MACA, the leases would have been distributed by lottery. The plan was to be introduced during the legislative session, but that was shelved with the surprise news of the leases.

Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley said as many as 27 five-year leases were issued around Walsh and Banting Lakes. The document tabled in the legislature shows that two dozen were granted in the past 12 months, several this year and some as recently as June.

One newly-minted leaseholder, a territorial government employee who spoke to *The Journal* on condition of anonymity, said that although federal hunting and fishing leases have been available for decades, he only learned of the program last year.

"All I had to do was find a spot I liked, plot it on the map

and fill out the application," said the lease holder, who happily shared the information with friends. "There was no conspiracy; it just spread by word of mouth."

It was the approach of the transfer of control over land and resources to the territorial government, and frustration with the impunity of squatters, that prompted him to seek a lease, he said.

"The territorial government has frozen cabin leases, yet new squatters' shacks are popping up everywhere," he said. "I've lived here all my life, and I wanted a piece of ground to build a rest area, not a cabin, and I wanted to be legal, not a squat. The hunting and fishing lease is perfect and it costs just \$160 a year."

Stephen Traynor, special advisor to AANDC, told *The Journal* in an email that the Privacy Act restricts the department from identifying the lease holders without their consent.

Shaun Dean, press secretary for the GNWT, said the federal government "was fully aware that we were tabling the documents in the legislature." Finding an alternative to breaching privacy legislation was "up to them."

Happy Aboriginal Day!

In the Northwest Territories, our cultural diversity shines through everything we do.

We are proud of our heritage and traditions, our Aboriginal languages, our landscapes, and our talented and innovative people that work hard to reflect the North as a vibrant and exciting place to live.

On June 21st, I encourage everyone to share your culture, speak your language, and celebrate Aboriginal Day!

Masi,

Hon. Jackson Lafferty
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

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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	Ulukhaktok
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Conklin	Grande Prairie	Slave Lake
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What comes after Idle No More?

This week we celebrate National Aboriginal Day to recognize and honour First Nations, Métis and Inuit people across Canada - and their extraordinary contributions to the fabric of our nation.

Juxtaposed to that, the Idle No More (INM) movement is a proclaimed state of dissatisfaction by so many of those same honoured Canadians. It represents a pervasive resentment that the condition and treatment of far too many Aboriginal citizens is subpar. Far from run its course, it remains an undercurrent, latent, simmering. It would be unwise for the rest of Canada to ignore it.

INM is a call to action. Its mission statement calls for a "revolution" because of "a history of colonization which has resulted in outstanding land claims, lack of resources and unequal funding for services such as education and housing." (idlenomore.ca)

The treatment of Canada's Aboriginal citizens is the single most troubling aspect of our country's history. The historic apology by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in June 2008 on behalf of all Canadians for the harm done to Aboriginal children and families by the residential school system, promised a new beginning. The past was officially denounced, opening a new congenial, cooperative way to the future. Unfortunately, the anticipated turnaround never materialized.

INM targets the policies, even the philosophy, of the Harper Conservatives in promoting a resource-based economy as the primary basis for future prosperity. It points out that too few Aboriginal Canadians will benefit from that future wealth, and also expresses a fear that the sanctity of the land that is so fundamental to Aboriginal cultures is too often put at risk in its pursuit.

"Some of the poorest First Nations communities have mines or other developments on their land but do not get a share of the profit. The taking of resources has left many lands and waters poisoned - the animals and plants are dying in many areas in Canada," says the INM website.

Until now, passive demonstrations of concern and solidarity have characterized the movement. Since the problems remain with no solution in sight, and no credible move is being made by the federal government toward resolution, what will come next? Civil disobedience is the next logical stage. As we watch developments unfold in Turkey, a democracy not unlike ours, where a tough talking conservative prime minister has no patience for the tactics of protesters who simply occupy a city park, could that portend how things might evolve here? One would hope not, yet the possibility is real.

A serious signal must be given that anger and action is not necessary. Commitments to real progress must be seen on such basic social dilemmas as the lack of potable water and adequate housing that plague too many First Nation reserves - not to mention education, health and so many other areas of shortcomings among the Aboriginal population.

The current solution coming from Ottawa targets job creation and business opportunities for Aboriginal Canadians. Aboriginal entrepreneurship is promoted. The ability to start and run a successful business is not commonly held, but is in fact rare. A range of specialized skills are needed and often business acumen is derived from parents. Getting into business is not a ready solution for novices, or those who lack the required abilities.

The *Canadian Business* magazine, in its March edition, ran an article "How capitalism

might be the best chance Canadian natives have to escape poverty." They focused on Clarence Louie, chief and CEO of the Osoyoos, BC Indian band that has enjoyed great commercial success. Louie is obviously a tremendous leader, astute business person and a remarkable individual. But to suggest a one-person success story like that offers a potential solution to a plethora of social ills is naive; yet that is the way of thinking of many government leaders.

The promise of economic prosperity by working for large companies engaged in resource extraction is also held out as a solution. Communities that do benefit from large nearby resource projects often encounter new challenges, however. The two weeks in, two weeks out work life of mine employees is hard on families. Individuals with high-paying resource jobs who live in small communities enjoy material well being, replete with big houses, fancy trucks, snowmobiles and other 'toys' while many other residents who have comparatively little, look on enviously, creating a rich-poor gap. Additionally, when the best young people are drawn away to other locales with attractive jobs, a deficit results - a brain and skills drain that further weakens communities already burdened by social issues. Attempts to retain Aboriginal culture in that context are stymied. All that is seen by many in INM as neo-colonialism.

Those initiatives alone are not a fix for all the ills. Stephen Harper and his fellow Conservatives have suffered many distractions of late and the job of running the country has never been as challenging for them. They have to remember in the face of all that - for the sake of Aboriginal Canadians, for the sake of the country and in their own future best interests - that an imperative faces them regarding the needs of Aboriginal Canadians that must be addressed.



Dave Poitras (right) drums with Tracy Nadary (centre) at Trevor Nadary's grave during Fort Smith's first Walk for Youth last Thursday. About 30 youth and adults showed up to walk in support of Uncle Gabe's youth centre, celebrate the diversity of adolescents and remember those who have passed on, such as Trevor.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Getting to first base

The courtship between government and business in the North appears to be moving past the flirting stage and blossoming into a romance. Representatives of the government side were in Fort Smith last week to describe it. The relationship is expressed through the "P3" initiative, also known as "Public Private Partnerships" an agreement outlining how the private sector may take over the owning and construction of government infrastructure.

Issue: June 16, 1999

20 Years Ago...

Golfers galore at tourney

The winners of the championship flights at the third annual NWT Aboriginal Golf Tournament will be flying greener links sometime soon. Charlie Cassaway, winner of the men's championship flight and top Aboriginal, and Amanda Hood, winner of the ladies, were awarded return plane tickets to anywhere in Canada for their performances at the Pelican Rapids Golf Club this weekend.

Issue: June 16, 1993

30 Years Ago...

Kennedy goes on top

A wall of bureaucratic frustration won't stand in the way of a road through Wood Buffalo National Park, Fort Smith Councillor Charles Kennedy says. Kennedy has been the driving force behind the town's push to finally achieve a direct link to Alberta. He says three federal departments are involved in getting the process going, and all are somewhat in support of the project.

Issue: June 16, 1983

Town should support Paddlefest

Editor,

I am writing a letter in strong support of the Paddlefest organization here in Fort Smith. Now I must preface this by indicating I am not a paddler nor have I taken part in any activities with this organization due to physical obstacles that prevent me. However, if I was healthy enough to get on this river for their annual Paddlefest which I believe runs from July 28 – Aug. 5 this year, I would in a heartbeat, as our river is one of the crown jewel attractions for bringing tourists to town, and Paddlefest is a great and growing yearly event.

People come from all over the world to kayak the Slave River and last

year, Paddlefest had 226 registered paddlers with 52 paddlers being from out of town. They come from places like Germany, Colorado, Australia and beyond.

Now, the department of ITI changed their priorities and cut Paddlefest funding by nearly 50 per cent, resulting in a big hole of approximately \$10,000. Paddlefest spends over \$11,000 in publicity promoting Fort Smith and the NWT, and is featured in various new magazines this year. The Town uses their images to promote itself and Paddlefest has been supportive of this! So the Paddlefest people will be going to town

council June 18 to ask for \$5,000 to help support this wonderful event. I would encourage people to come out to the council meeting to support this request. I do not understand the rationale of ITI cutting their funding so severely and I would hope our town council can see that \$5,000 to Paddlefest is a very good investment.

In addition to the 226 registered paddlers last year (52 being from out of town, and they brought friends who watched in some cases), there were also 300 spectators in poor weather. Imagine if the weather was good?! Now if you factor in just the 52 out-of-town paddlers spending \$100 a day over seven days, well let's say eight days as

they need to get here before everything starts, then that is \$41,600 that just the out-of-town 52 paddlers spend, never mind all the people spending money on gas, food for Paddlefest BBQ's etc. So to the town of Fort Smith council, I ask, isn't \$5,000 an excellent investment on a conservative return of almost \$42,000 and a great event, and the spreading of the word about Paddlefest to the four corners of the world to other people when our visitors go back home to rave about this crown jewel event North of 60? I know I would vote yes in a heartbeat. I hope town council does too.

Grant Paziuk
Fort Smith

The caregiver to a cancer patient



Dr. Andre Corriveau

It is rare to find a cancer patient without a caregiver. In fact, for every cancer patient, there are multiple caregivers. One could argue there are more people caring for cancer patients than there are cancer patients.

Who are these caregivers? They are spouses, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other family members, friends, co-workers, neighbours and acquaintances of the patient. Doctors, nurses, social workers and therapists too, are caregivers. Do you know anyone who is living with cancer? Which of the above caregiver are you?

In the North, caregivers play an even greater role, where travel, geographic and social isolation are major stressors for cancer patients receiving treatment outside of their home community or at the

Cross Cancer Institute. This stress is even further magnified for patients living in smaller communities, where cancer patients are away from their family and friends for a long period of time. Many cancer patients receive care away from home, or at home with the support from their caregivers.

Some caregivers choose their roles, others have no choice. Those who live with the cancer patient or those who feel particularly close to the patient have no choice to take on a role that can consume their life, pushing all other matters aside. Those who are friends, family members or co-workers, who do not live with the patient, choose their role. Some may choose to visit regularly, others might choose to send an e-mail or Facebook message or make a phone call. Some may choose to stay away.

Cancer is a lonely and difficult journey. In smaller, more remote communities, there is an even greater need for support for cancer patients and their caregivers. In some cases, cancer is believed to be contagious or "taboo," further isolating the cancer patient, making an already difficult journey even harder.

Myths like this need to be dispelled in order for cancer patients and their caregivers receive the support they need.

Many cancer patients talk about a how lack of knowledge about cancer, as well as fear and apprehension, create a barrier to getting the help and support they need, whether it is in communities they live in or navigating the cancer system.

The role of the caregiver - the person who cares for someone living with cancer - cannot be adequately explored in one article. Caregivers play an important role for the cancer patients throughout the journey.

In the meantime, if you are not cancer patient yourself, take a moment right now and think of those people in your life closest to you. Close your eyes and see their faces. Now imagine you become seriously ill with a disease like cancer. Is it your expectation that these people, the people closest to you, will be there for you when you need them most?

Almost every cancer patient will tell you they were surprised to discover some people who they thought would be there for them through thick and thin evaporated from

their lives as they dealt with all that cancer throws at them, while some other people, who they hardly knew, or who they felt not particularly close to, actually stepped up and played a meaningful role in their complex cancer journey.

There many people who do not know what to say or do to be there for someone who is living with cancer. We will share stories of those caregivers who out of sheer love, poured their energy, their time, their compassion, and set aside the better part of their own lives to care for a treasured one with cancer. If you do not know someone like that, we will introduce you to some of them and you will then be able to say "I know the story of a hero, and I would like to share it with you." If you would like to tell us of somebody you know, we would like to hear your story. Please e-mail us at caringforsomeonewithcancer@gmail.com

Dr. Andre Corriveau
Chief Public Health
Officer for the NWT

For more information on supporting cancer patients, visit: www.virtualhospice.ca; www.StElizabeth.ca; www.cancerview.ca

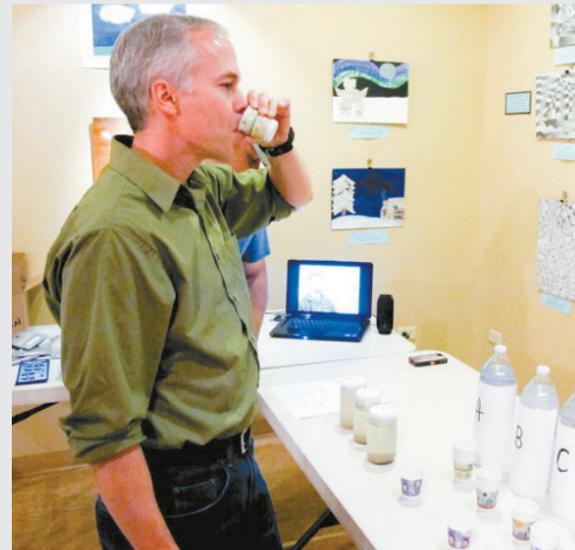
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FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

Dozens gathered on Saturday to celebrate the Slave River and mark two years of successful partnerships between researchers and community members in monitoring the health of the Slave River and delta at the Northern Life Museum in Fort Smith.



Slave River Day celebrates watershed and ongoing partnerships



James Christie: And all the while they knew a big spill was happening. I wonder if their smiles were forced?

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Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
18 High	10 Low	24 High	12 Low	30 High	16 Low	29 High	17 Low
21 High	11 Low	25 High	14 Low	27 High	16 Low	28 High	17 Low

Norms: 19°C and 8°C Norms: 19°C and 10°C

Hay River Fort Smith

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
18 High	9 Low	23 High	11 Low	24 High	13 Low	28 High	15 Low
23 High	10 Low	26 High	9 Low	28 High	10 Low	30 High	11 Low

Norms: 19°C and 8°C Norms: 21°C and 9°C

9.5 million litres of toxic wastewater spill near Zama

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The once-lush wetlands around Zama City in northern Alberta, about 100 km south of the Northwest Territories border, are slick with toxic wastewater after one of the largest spills in Alberta's history.

About 9.5 million litres of contaminated water from oil production soaked into 42 hectares of land, reaching within 1.5 km of the Zama River on June 1.

The cause of the leak remains under investigation.

Crews have shut down the affected water injection pipeline, contained the spill and begun cleanup and remediation operations, said a recent release from Apache Canada Ltd., the company running the Zama operations.

A fleet of "specialized equipment has been deployed to support environmental remediation efforts, which include wildlife, amphibian and vegetation studies," the company said.

According to Apache, the Zama River has not been impacted and there is no risk to the public.

The Dene Tha' First Nation, which has traditional traplines in the affected area, is worried the spill



Photo: Dene Tha' First Nation

The Dene Tha' First Nation of northern Alberta is worried about the effects of the recent toxic wastewater spill will have on wildlife in the band's traditional harvesting area.

may contain a number of materials, including hydrocarbons, sulphurous compounds, metals, radioactive materials and chemicals that have contaminated the water and may have killed fish, birds and wildlife, compromising the health of First

Nation members and their Treaty 8 rights to harvest in the area.

According to a press release, a Dene Tha' field technician visited the site on June 6 and noted all plants and trees affected by the spill had died, and that "the

contamination had saturated the muskeg in the area." He also found spill material in an uncontained culvert, prompting concerns that the spill may not be fully contained.

On June 13, another field technician advised that "fluid

is still being released from the pipe, but is now contained within in a storage pit that is pumped out into holding tanks. Given the amount of dead vegetation in the area - which was clearly visible from a helicopter - Dene Tha' worries that the spill may have been occurring for a long period of time, although Apache has advised the pipeline breach was reported on June 1."

According to the First Nation, the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) did not contact Dene Tha' to discuss details of the spill until 11 days after the date Apache believes the spill occurred.

They are calling for the Alberta government to require companies to implement more effective safety measures to help decrease the number of spills.

This is the second leak to affect the Dene Tha' First Nation in just over a year. Approximately 22,000 barrels of oil were released into the muskeg about 20 km southeast of Rainbow Lake in northern Alberta last May after Pace Oil and Gas discovered a pipeline leak.

A following spill last June near Sundre, Alta.

polluted the Red Deer River after about 475,000 litres of oil gushed out from a leak.

Similarly, a spill of 4.5 million litres in April 2011 near the community of Little Buffalo, Alberta charged Plains Midstream earlier this year for three counts of violating environmental protection laws.

"There have been discussions with the Dene and a meeting with the government is scheduled for this week, I believe," Nikki Booth, a communications representative from Alberta's Environment and Sustainable Resource Development department, told *The Journal* Monday.

"Obviously, these things are unfortunate, but we have a number of measures in place through EPEA (the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act) and the ERCB also has a number of things in place, and we have expectations of the company when it comes to cleanup and containment and we are on site to monitor those things and make sure they are done properly."

There was no delay in reporting the spill, Booth said.



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Public Health would like to thank the following for their contribution to the successful Commit to be Fit week:

MACA
Mary Kaesar Library
Cynthia White
Jessica Cox
Deloris Vail

Taylor Phillips
Gaylen Pischinger
Henry Beaver Jr.
JBT School
Town of Fort Smith
Recreation and Community Centre Staff

A BIG thank you to all JBT participants!



Métis demand consultation on Thaidene Nene park

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT Métis Nation (NWTMN) is crying foul over its alleged lack of inclusion in talks with Parks Canada over the proposed Thaidene Nene national park reserve near Lutsel K'e.

The park, currently under negotiation, is being planned in cooperation with the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) but also falls within the Métis' asserted traditional territory.

Métis Nation president Garry Bailey said the Métis have been left out of the engagement process, claiming their relationship with Parks Canada is at "an all-time low."

"All we want is to be treated equal to the First Nations, you know," he told *The Journal*. "Since 1982, the Constitution's been protecting Aboriginal rights and Métis are one of the Aboriginal people. We're hoping they would have started to honour the Crown, but it hasn't worked out that way yet."

Bailey said Parks Canada's former chief negotiator, Bob Gamble, promised NWTMN they would be full participants in the proposed Thaidene Nene park back in 2004, apologizing for Parks Canada's failure to involve NWTMN in the process.

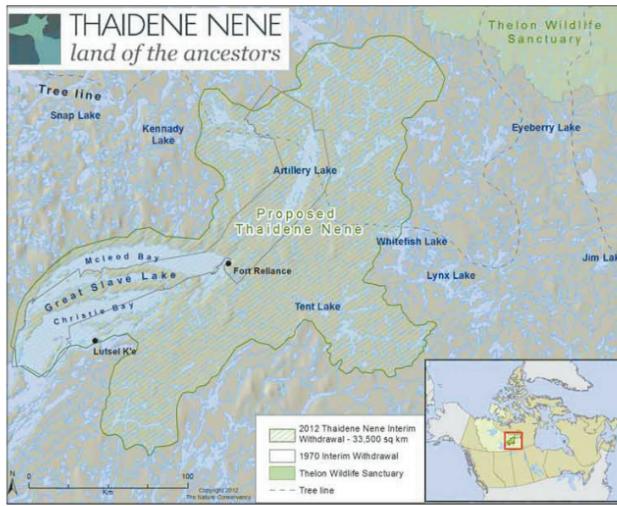
Though they began having

meetings with Parks in 2005, those stopped around 2010 when LKDFN signed a framework agreement with Parks Canada. The Métis were given a similar framework agreement to sign, which they did and sent back to the minister, but Bailey said the federal government never signed it.

"So for the last few years now, we've been trying to get a meeting with them to sign it. They haven't gotten around to it," he said. "They haven't come to us and talked to us about their plans, how we're going to be involved. The law nowadays is consult with all Aboriginal groups, especially those who are being affected by it, and that's in our traditional territory. Our people have used that area for hundreds of years."

A federal representative was recently appointed to manage the Métis portfolio for Thaidene Nene, but Bailey said the process has been stalled.

"It took us a long time to actually agree to that MOU that we originally had, and now it's like they want to restart everything," he said. "In the meantime, you see all the press releases on the East Arm park there, and they're moving forward with it, and we haven't even had a chance to see what they're talking about. We



NWT Métis Nation president Garry Bailey says the proposed park boundary is already affecting their ongoing negotiations.

haven't even been consulted on the boundaries, we don't know what type of rules are going to be there, how it's going to affect our Aboriginal rights - we just don't have a clue."

Bailey said NWTMN has already been affected by the formation of the park in their land claim negotiations with Canada.

"We're negotiating a lands and resources agreement right now, as you know, and we've been already told we can't select land within that boundary, so we've already been affected," he said. "And with no consultation on the boundary or anything like that, it's totally bad

faith as far as I'm concerned."

Parks Canada responded to *The Journal* Monday morning by email, stating consultations are not over and park boundaries are not established.

"The current land withdrawal is considered a study area, and is not a park boundary. There are many steps to the national park establishment process, including the completion of a consultation program with Aboriginal groups, stakeholders, interest groups and the general public. Only once all of these steps have been completed is a national park or park reserve brought into legislation under

the Canada National Parks Act," the email stated.

Parks said the NWTMN, along with other Aboriginal groups, would still be able to carry out their traditional activities in a national park reserve such as Thaidene Nene.

"In a national park reserve, local Aboriginal people may continue their traditional hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and spiritual activities. Parks Canada also involves these groups in management that may affect these activities. When outstanding Aboriginal claims have been settled and agreements are reached that provide for the park's establishment, these same activities may continue and the park reserve can then be brought forward as a national park under the Canadian National Parks Act. All relevant provisions of the claim agreements would be incorporated within the national park."

Bailey said the conflict harkens back to the historically negative relationship between Métis in the NWT and Parks Canada, starting with the formation of Wood Buffalo National Park in which the NWTMN is still struggling to get the option of lands selection.

Though NWTMN recently requested lands in the park as part of its lands and resources agreement, the minister said

the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development is unable to change the mandate for access to Parks land, which does not provide access to Métis.

Both Smith's Landing and Salt River First Nations have been given access to land in Wood Buffalo.

"The way Parks have treated us in the past, with Wood Buffalo, forced to get out of there, couldn't hunt, couldn't fish, couldn't trap, couldn't build a cabin. There's lots of rules - you couldn't even go get wood," he said. "They took it away, they took it all away, and now we're fighting for land within the park...It's really not fair, it's definitely not equitable treatment for Aboriginal Northerners. So it's always an uphill battle. We're hoping that the federal government will start taking us seriously."

If NWTMN is not given a framework agreement for Thaidene Nene from Parks Canada soon, Bailey said they will likely pursue legal action.

"If that's what we have to do, I guess that's what we'll do," he said. "We should be involved and Aboriginal people should be working together, especially for their lands. I don't know why we gotta be disagreeing with each other. It's ridiculous."

New Gwich'in Geographical Names Launched

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, is pleased to officially announce that 414 Gwich'in traditional geographic names in the Gwich'in Settlement Area have been made official under the *NWT Geographical and Community Names Policy*. The Government of the Northwest Territories works with cultural organizations to ensure traditional land and water names are officially recognized. The new names will come into effect on June 21, 2013.

In partnership with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre will be installing a new exhibit featuring the new names, locations and significance in the Gwich'in culture. **The exhibit will be open to the public on June 22, 2013.**

► Complete descriptions of the new names are available at www.pwnhc.ca/gwichin and www.ece.gov.nt.ca.

Jii dinjii iisrits'at chit Gè'tr'oonahntan eenjit guk'ägwaadhat nilii, Jackson Lafferty vääzhii, nakhwanankat zhik gweedì' geenjit jùk drin nan goovoozrì' 414 gòonlii gädatr'igwijiicheii geenjit shòh ìidàlii aii t'at zha' NWT gwizhìt tthak nan k'it dinìthàt'oo akòo diinch'ii gwizhìt natr'igwiheelyàa. Jii tthak tòo nihk'yùu tthak gwà'àn nan gòo chuu tthak geenjit gàhtr'iheedandaii geenjit akòo t'ägidi'ii, June 21, 2013 gwizhìt danh gädatr'igwiheech'yàa.

Jii kheh'tòk Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute kat gòonlii geenjit, aii Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre kat chan tòo jidii gògwidahcheii diiyeenjit gogwahah'tsya aii gwizhìt jidii oozrii tthak jidii gatr'igjikhii tòo hanoh'yaa t'agdonch'uu ts't'at gwiint'òo gwichil'ee gwiheelyàa. June 22, 2013 danh gwàndoo dinjii tthak geenjit gihtr'ìdinèechyaa gogwahnah'yaa geenjit.

► Jidii tthak geenjit gaviidandai' yinothnan jì' jii gwizhìt gwinoh'ii www.pwnhc.ca/gwichin.

www.ece.gov.nt.ca



2013 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT

Tax Notices were mailed to all property owners on Tuesday May 28, 2013. Payments are due Friday June 28, 2013.

A Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) is available for your convenience. You may find this an easy and cost-effective way of paying your annual tax bill.

If you have not received your Property Tax Notice, please contact the Taxation branch.

Information regarding your Property Tax Notice and the TIPP program are available on our website at www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca or by calling **780.743.7900** or toll free at **1.800.973.9663**.

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Inuvik RCMP report large number of calls

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Inuvik RCMP were kept on their toes during the weekend of June 7.

Police responded to over 60 calls for service from Friday to Sunday.

According to a news release, most calls were alcohol related, including mischief and disturbance incidents.

There were also two separate reports of impaired driving.

Police arrested a 55 year-old Inuvik man and charged him with driving under the influence on June 8.



Photo: Town of Inuvik

A large number of calls to Inuvik RCMP June 7-9 has to do with a new method of reporting.

On June 9, a 46 year-old woman was issued a 24-hour suspension after police received a tip about

an impaired driver on the roads.

A 30 year-old male from Tuktoyaktuk was also

arrested for causing a disturbance. The male was later released and issued a bylaw ticket for littering.

A number of fines under the Liquor Act for public intoxication and consuming liquor in public were handed out during the three-day period.

Floyd Roland, Inuvik's mayor, told *The Journal* he met with RCMP earlier last week to discuss the high number of calls.

"We typically met with RCMP once a month at council meetings and overall the number of people who spend nights in jail have dropped compared to last year. What they informed me is that it's a matter of writing tickets for every call now, which

isn't what they were doing before," Roland said. "This doesn't mean that a charge necessarily happens or anything goes beyond that, but a ticket is written."

Crime in Inuvik has been on a slight downward trend this year compared to reports in 2012, Roland noted.

"It looks like a higher number of incidents than usual but this is because they're accounting for things differently now," he said.

RCMP will make a formal report on Inuvik crime at the next council meeting in July.

Politics First Nations

Tlicho elections bring new faces on board with re-elected

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

It wasn't a total upset at the June 10 Tlicho elections, but a couple of new faces will be seen in the Tlicho government over the next four years as new chiefs of their communities.

It was a tight race in Gameti, where challenger David Wedawin beat out incumbent Edward Chocolate by one vote, receiving 82. A recount confirmed the results.

Chocolate has since

announced he's contesting the count, complaining there were voters from outside the community. He has until Aug. 9 to legally challenge the results.

The six councillors elected in Gameti include Alfred Arrowmaker, Jimmy Arrowmaker, Gary Bekale, Germaine Eyakfwo, Henry Gon and Jimmy B. Mantla.

In the community of Wekweeti, incumbent Charlie Football - attempting his third

term as chief - was voted out in favour of Johnny Arrowmaker, who won the election with 31 votes to Football's 20.

Gordon Judas, Joseph Judas, Robin Laboline and Patrick Tom were acclaimed as councillors.

Things have stayed the same on the chief front in both Whati and Behchoko, however. In Whati, Alfonz Nitsiza was elected for another term with 128 votes

over challenger Albert Nitsiza's 118.

For council, residents chose Alfred Flunkie, Michel Moosenose, Alex Nitsiza, George Nitsiza, Leo Nitsiza, Ted Nitsiza, Jimmy B. Rabesca and Sonny Zoe.

Clifford Daniels will be chief of Behchoko for another four years, as well, after receiving 543 votes over George Mackenzie's 309.

James Rabesca, Rosa H.

Mantla, Ernie Smith, Noel Bishop, Mabel Bohnet, Mabel Husky, Mary Zoe-Chocolate, Johnny Weyallon, Nora Doig and Giselle Marion were elected Behchoko's councillors.

Communities reported a healthy voter turnout, with the highest percentage in Gameti, where 91 per cent of the 188 eligible voters turned out to vote for chief and 89 per cent for council. Gameti also reported zero spoiled ballots.

In Whati, a total of seven ballots were spoiled or rejected. The community boasted a voter turnout rate of 87 per cent.

Out of approximately 1,300 eligible voters in Behchoko, about two thirds voted in the election and "a very low number of ballots were rejected or spoiled," reported David Steele, the chief electoral officer.

A turnout rate for Wekweeti was not reported.



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2012 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



Northerners voice concerns at Wildlife Act hearings

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

When it comes to the Northwest Territories' proposed new Wildlife Act, Northerners are concerned about governance, harvest reporting and hunters' residencies, as heard at recent public hearings.

The Wildlife Act, also known as Bill 3, includes major changes to the current piece of legislation, which was first drafted in 1988.

After being voted down at the eleventh hour at the end of the 16th Assembly, the bill received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on Mar. 5 before being handed over to the standing committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, chaired by Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins, to undergo a public hearing process.

Under the new act, people with Aboriginal and treaty rights in the NWT will require agreed-upon ID to hunt and harvest in their area. Existing General Hunting Licences will be grandfathered.

The new legislation sets out updated, acceptable harvesting methods and equipment for both big and small



Bob Bromley (right) and Robert Hawkins, chair of the standing committee, discuss the Wildlife Act with interested members of the public last Monday in Fort Smith.

game hunters, and increases fines and penalties for wildlife offences.

Additionally, the act establishes cooperative governance through an annual meeting of organizations responsible for wildlife management in the NWT. This meeting is limited to Aboriginal governments and treaty holders.

"I want to see all authorities in the NWT represented at that meeting," Paul McAdams, a Fort Smith resident, former president

of the Fort Smith Conservation Association and former vice president of the NWT Wildlife Federation, complained. "When a new Wildlife Act was pulled off the table in 2011, it was partly because the idea of a conference board was such a big issue - it didn't include any representation of resident hunters or really half of the population of the NWT."

McAdams was one of eight people who turned up at the hearing in Fort Smith last Monday.

Speaking to McAdam's concerns, Hawkins noted that the act does state that in addition to the annual governance meeting, "there will be an established process for other individuals and organizations to make submissions on wildlife management issues."

Committee member and Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley told McAdams he'd also like to see all voices at the table working together.

"Just because it's not prescribed in the legislation, doesn't

mean it can't happen," he said. "This act has very little to do with giving or taking away responsibility with respect to Aboriginal governments. That has to be clear. This act does not provide Aboriginal governments with any additional authority. It is one of the most complex pieces of legislation."

Other comments made during the hearing included thoughts on the scrapped mandatory harvest reporting piece initially drafted in the act.

The department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) decided that mandatory reporting cannot be tied to obtaining a hunting licence, as Aboriginal people do not require a licence to exercise their harvesting rights.

"We can't get people to report, but we'd like them then to do some sort of informal reporting, set up some informal mechanism, but this would have to be done internally," Hawkins said.

"Aboriginal governments recognize the importance of reporting...The (ENR) minister gave us assurance that this issue will be addressed."

Mandatory reporting will be dealt with in the regulations part of the process, if the bill

passes successfully through the House this fall.

According to Bromley, regulations would take one year to develop.

The act also reduces the length of residency required for a resident hunting license from two years to one, which has caused some debate in the hearings so far, the committee said.

"Some people want it to stay at two years; some want it to be one. It's kind of a 50/50 deal," said Robert Bouchard, committee member and MLA for Hay River North. "Some regions were concerned the reduction would bring in more people who are only here temporarily, but we have to remember we're dealing with a small number of resident hunters."

According to Hawkins, there are about 1,000 active non-Aboriginal hunters in the NWT and the change in residency will affect "less than a dozen of them."

The hearings, which began in Tsiigehtchic on Apr. 10, continue this week in Fort Providence and Fort Simpson.

The public has until June 24 to submit written comments on the act, after which the committee will make its report to the House.

Aboriginal Day 2013

On June 21st, we celebrate **National Aboriginal Day**. This is an opportunity for all Northerners to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of the Northwest Territories' Aboriginal people and the role they have played in shaping the territory we have today.

Our celebration of this national holiday continues to be unique as we remain the first and only jurisdiction in Canada to recognize National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday. For this we can be very proud as it demonstrates how strongly we feel about honouring the Dene, Inuvialuit and Métis people of the NWT.

On June 21st, enjoy National Aboriginal Day in your community and celebrate the wealth of traditions, lifestyles, and languages that make up the fabric of the NWT.

Robert R. McLeod
R. McLeod
 Premier of the Northwest Territories



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Respect, Recognition and Responsibility.

Imbe student program incorporates Tlicho language

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

They canoe, bead, hunt, fish, make dry meat and play hand games.

They also talk about fire-arms safety, first aid, personal finance, aspects of healthy relationships and how to create a resume.

But this year, the six students in the three-week Tlicho Imbe program won't stop there; they're also working to preserve the Tlicho language, taking lessons every day.

"There's been a real cry for focusing on language and making sure it doesn't die, so we're doing whatever we can to accommodate that and program it in now," said Paul Cressman, the program manager. "We have Mary Koyina Richardson, an elder, teaching the language out at camp right now."

In the two previous years the program has run, organizers hoped the select participants - two from each of the four Tlicho communities - would pick up the language here and there from being out on the land with elders.

It turned out, with the feedback from former participants, that wasn't enough, Cressman said.



Gleadia Nitsiza hangs dry fish she caught in the morning during the Tlicho Imbe Program last week at a camp outside of Gameti.

Rekindling the language is now a new focus of the Tlicho government-run program for post secondary students returning to their home communities for the summer. Imbe is also open

to graduated high school students about to embark on a university or college experience in September.

Unlike many other culture camps, Imbe - which means "summer" in Tlicho - is about

finding the balance between tradition and keeping up with the wider, modern world.

"The program is all about a philosophy Chief Jimmy Bruneau handed down years ago, which basically said the Tlicho people should be strong like two people. This means that in order to survive in the modern world, the Tlicho should go out and pursue higher education, but also maintain their traditions and language," Cressman told *The Journal*.

Imbe was jump-started after the First Nation government found more young Tlicho people were leaving the region for post secondary education and not returning in the summers due to the challenge of finding seasonal employment.

"The program provides an opportunity for them to come back home and earn money while working with their elders to learn the language, traditional, on-the-land skills and participate in community cultural events," Cressman said.

The program operates in two phases, the first of which is currently underway at Louis and Therace Zoe's camp just outside of Gameti.

Group leaders spend three weeks on the land with a handful of elders and program administrators. Afterward, they go back to their homes in either Behchoko, Gameti, Wekweeti or Whati to begin programs of their own, which will include designated language lessons for the first time this year, with 30 high school students in Grade 10 and up for six weeks.

Cressman said there has been talk of expanding the program into younger grades, but nothing has been confirmed yet.

"The most heartwarming part of my job is reading the evaluations afterwards... We've had people say things like, 'Before this program, I didn't think there was hope for my culture and now I see there is and that I know I can make a difference,'" Cressman said. "The importance of connecting with elders and learning about history and culture really can't be overstated. We hear again and again the young people love it and the elders love it... It is possible to be strong like two people."

Photo: Paul Cressman

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You are invited to attend one of the following sessions in your area:

- June 14 - Fort McMurray**
- June 24 - Lloydminster**
- June 26 - Grande Prairie**

Media are invited to attend one of two separate media stakeholder sessions:

- June 20 - Calgary**
- June 25 - Edmonton**

Visit alberta.ca/FOIPReview or call 310-0000 for the times and venues for the public and media sessions. You can also visit the website to participate in an online consultation until **July 31, 2013**.

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Students build life skills on the Nahanni River

Schools join together to send young leaders on epic adventure

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

What happens when students from four communities come together on a week-long epic river adventure? According to the principal of the Chief Sunrise Educational Centre on the Hay River Reserve, lives are changed.

Eighteen students and teachers from the K'at'l'odeeche school, Deh Gah School in Fort Providence, Deninu School in Fort Resolution and the Lutsel K'e Dene School spent the first week of June rafting the Nahanni River, learning about its history, geography and wildlife while overcoming challenges through teamwork.

"It was high water, so demanding in terms of the risk taking that students needed to do," said Ian Patterson, the Chief Sunrise principal. "They were sort of outside of their comfort zone, which led to a spirit of camaraderie. They had to come together and face that adversity together. Most of them hadn't known each other prior to this trip, so very quickly they had to go from strangers to paddle partners and campmates."

For seven days, the group of students aged 13 and over was responsible for setting up and taking down camp and cooking



Photo: Dan Summers

Students celebrate a beautiful day rafting on the Nahanni.

their own food and paddling between six and seven hours a day. Patterson said it was hard work, but taught important lessons.

"Because you're in a remote setting, it's not like if you forgot your sleeping bag or didn't have enough food for seven days you

could run out to the Northern and get another one," he said. "So it was a matter of building teamwork through hands on, challenging activities. The kids were put into a challenging situation in a beautiful setting and it was a wonderful activity. Through that, they learned

the importance of working together, of working hard and getting rewards from it."

The camaraderie was undeniable, said Dan Summers, principal of Deninu School and founder of the annual cross-schools trip that has seen students canoeing NWT rivers

was a national park from Parks Canada staff in Fort Simpson and learned about the natural history, geographical features and wildlife from Nahanni Wilderness Adventure guides.

"You could see the different rock formations, the different water hydraulics; we saw dall

they're just like everyone else... There are a lot of similarities."

Next year, Summers is hoping the program continues, this time back in canoes, on the Coppermine River en route to Kugluktuk now that the students have practice being on difficult water. The idea is to invite other schools potentially, as well, like Trout Lake.

Though the schools have made similar trips in the past, it was the first time all four schools came together on such an elaborate voyage. Participants were selected for their leadership qualities and commitment to school with the hope that they would build lasting friendships with like-minded people outside their community.

"At times, we do get isolated from other areas," Patterson said. "Lutsel K'e, Hay River Reserve, Fort Providence and Fort Resolution geographically are quite separate. But the opportunity to bring these small communities together around an outdoor adventure activity was sort of the plan, to have them connect and potentially network down the road. It's not a one-off trip where we bring them together just for this event expecting them to come out of it as leaders; it's more or less initiating an opportunity that they can build on."

They had to come together and face that adversity together.

Ian Patterson
Chief Sunrise Educational Centre

since 2011. He said one of the youngest participants, a 13 year-old boy, was exhausted after the first day. Two other boys he had just met helped carry him from his kayak to sit down.

"You just know it was a team effort," he said. "When the trip ended, we even had some tears, and they had only known each other for seven days."

Apart from the life skills and friendships garnered throughout the excursion, the field trip also included a major educational component in terms of local history and nature. Students heard about the traditional Dene use of the land before it

sheep, we saw moose, we saw black bear, osprey, eagles; as well as the flowers, the lady slippers, the wild orchids, the mountain avens, the unique vegetation in the area. So they all learned about that as well," Patterson said.

Summers said he started the program with the intent to break stereotypes students had about other communities in the North.

"A lot of the students knew of Fort Providence and the other communities, and they had impressions of them, some good, but mostly bad," he said. "What better way to teach them than being together and seeing that

National
Aboriginal Day

June 21, 2013

Nehiyawin Kisikaw
Cikeyihten

Brought to you by
The NWT Métis Nation

Competition and bad weather hammer Discovery Air

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Bad weather, reduced demand from the military, a slump in mining exploration and increased competition in the North have combined to produce dismal first quarter results for Discovery Air.

The Yellowknife-headquartered specialty aviation company rang up an \$8.8-million loss, compared to a \$1.3-million profit for the first quarter of 2012, a result Jacob Shavit, Discovery's new president and CEO, calls "disappointing."

Shavit said in a conference call with investment analysts that he expects revenue from Discovery Air Defence Services to rebound in coming months, "but there has been a meaningful decline in resource-based activity which could continue to affect a number of our businesses."

Revenue was down from Great Slave Helicopters, Discovery Mining Services and Air Tindi, which faces increased competition from companies with fixed-wing aircraft flying in the North.

"More than a third of the company's customers are in the resources sector, so when activity is down, we are affected," Shavit said.

Discovery is cutting costs, Shavit said, through across



Air Tindi, owned by Discovery Air, has a float base in Yellowknife's Old Town neighbourhood.

the board hiring and salary freezes, and is examining aircraft use, "but (we) are also entering our busiest time of the year, so must be staffed and ready."

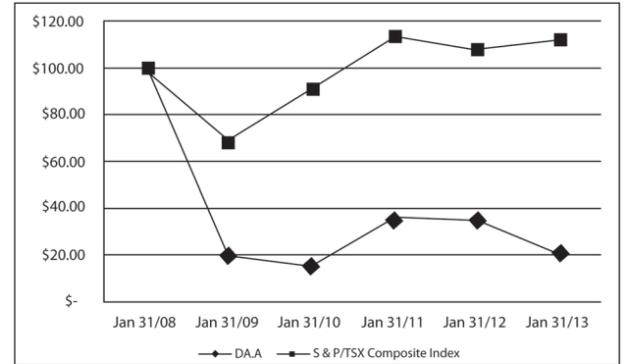
Overall, Shavit said, "we need to reduce the volatility of

our business. We must increase operations outside the harsh weather conditions of the North and reduce dependence on the resource sector."

Discovery is carrying \$163 million in debt, a "significant amount with a complicated

structure," Shavit said. "We are very aware of constraints this places on our business and are committed to finding ways to simplify our debt structure."

Discovery Air moved to Yellowknife as a condition of



Discovery Air stock performance versus the S&P/TSX Composite Index since 2008.

Executive Compensation, 2013

Jacob Shavit, President, CEO	\$633,124
Brian Semkowski, Board Chair	\$297,671
David Jennings, Consultant	\$634,575
William Martin, Chief Financial Officer	\$240,066
Andrien Min, VP, Corp Accounting	\$270,320
Adam Bembridge, Group Pres. Northern Services	\$423,375
Paul Bouchard, Pres. Air Defence Services	\$453,390
Didier Toussaint, Group Pres. Gov. Services	\$453,013

Photo: Jack Danylchuk

Image: May 2013 Shareholders' Report

obtaining a \$34-million loan from the Northwest Territories immigrant investment fund. The loan was repaid last year, and the company's presence in the city has diminished.

"There are significant opportunities in the global

combat services market. In times of global defence budget cuts, outsourcing defence service is an optimal solution. We are well positioned to capture a growing share of that market," he said.

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Aboriginal Day

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National Aboriginal Day
June 21, 2013

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Photo: Adam Hill

HUB OF THE NORTH

HAY RIVER HAS A VIBRANT SPIRIT, SHAPED BY THE LAKE IT BORDERS

Hay River is called the Hub of the North for good reason. Much of the freight that flows to the NWT comes by truck up the Mackenzie Highway and for 55 years, Hay River has served as the Northern terminus of much of that traffic. Additionally, it is a staging area and launch point for barges that serve communities throughout the length of the Mackenzie Valley and the Arctic Coast. Tugs and barges come and go from the largest operation and main offices of the Northern Transportation Company with its shipping and dry dock facilities.

A growing community, situated where the Hay River flows north into Great Slave lake, the community has been defined by the lake, attributing to its character and industry. It has a long history of commercial fishing, but it is also

a great jumping off point for tourism, adventure, lodges and sailing the massive inland sea. Visit the beaches of Great Slave lake and you may see jet boats tuning up for the annual jet boat races that race upriver in one of the most exciting events anywhere.

Hay River has its fair share of government offices, including three separate NWT government departmental head offices, as well as the headquarters of the Northwest Territories Power Corp. Its heart, however, is filled with entrepreneurial spirit and it is renowned for its vibrant, engaged and long-serving business community.

Two First Nation communities add depth and character, history and culture to Hay River. The K'at'l'odeeche First Nation is on reserve land across the river from the main town site; nearby when the

river is frozen, and a bit of a longer drive around and over the bridge in summer. The West Point First Nation is on the lake shore adjacent to the oldest part of Hay River, known affectionately as "Old Town."

One cannot talk of Hay River without mentioning the volunteers who foster so many amazing events throughout the year. Cross country skiing and biathlon have enthusiastic organizers and coaches with groups of young athletes to show for it.

The lives of many in the community revolve around the arena in winter as well, for Hay River is a serious hockey town. In summer there is the annual NWT track meet, Hay Days and other activities to heighten the spirit and warm the soul. This is a place where people are welcome and will find friends.

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HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

HAY DAYS SCHEDULE 2013

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Art Show at the Curling Club

Sponsored by GNWT ITI
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Come check out the beautiful works of art by both local and Northern artists.

FREE Summer Solstice BBQ

Sponsored by Northland Utilities

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Rear of Arena

Come celebrate Aboriginal Day and Summer Solstice with us! FREE Food! Live music, too!

Aboriginal Day Fish Fry

Hosted by the Hay River Métis Government Council at the HRMGC Building – Industrial Area! Live Music!

Jam at Fisherman's Wharf

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Hosted by the French Association
Fun for the whole family!

Music Night at the Sports Pub

Sponsored by Ptarmigan Inn, Buffalo Air and the French Association

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music Starts at 8:30 p.m.

Come out to the Ptarmigan for a kick off to the weekend. We promise an awesome lineup of musicians with Canadian folk singer Craig Cardiff of Ottawa headlining the night.

Entry - \$10 - All proceeds go to the Hay River Music, Arts and Culture Society.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Art Show at the Curling Club

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Local and Northern artists continue to display and sell their art.

Outdoor Market Vendors

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Food and market vendors are welcome to set up and sell their offerings.

Live Music by Local and Northern Artists

All day from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Outdoor Stage, Rear of Arena and the parking lot.

Kids' Game Tent

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Kids' games, activities and bouncy house.
All proceeds go to the Lights On program!

HAY DAYS BIG BASH!

9:00 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. at the Hay River Arena
The party everyone's waiting for with the best bands of the weekend ready to rock!

Entry - \$10 - All proceeds go to the Hay River Music, Arts and Culture Society.

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**NORTHERN
Journal**



Photo: Adam Hill

Dynamic, entrepreneurial and a hotbed of community spirit, the town of Hay River is perched on the banks of its river namesake and anchors the south shore of Great Slave Lake.

HAY RIVER PREPARES FOR FIRST TOWN HOMECOMING

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Hay River is inviting anyone with a past or present connection to the community to take a walk down memory lane from June 28 to July 1 during the town's official first homecoming celebration.

"If you've ever been a resident of Hay River, for any period of time, you're welcome to come back ...and reconnect with the town and your Hay River memories," said Kande Froese, chairperson of the Homecoming 2013

organizing committee. "We've been planning this for about a year now. Sandra Lester - she's now the committee's event coordinator - really got it going. She was the one who first posted on Facebook, 'Let's do this.'"

Three years ago, the town celebrated a reunion of students who attended the Hay River Federal Day School between 1949 and 1971 to mark the school's 60th anniversary. Over 100 former students showed up and its success sparked the

idea for a larger homecoming event.

"That reunion was so much fun that they were going to do another school reunion in three years, but this time it was decided it would be a whole town reunion," Froese said. "So many people wanted to come in 2009 but they didn't go to the school and so they felt they couldn't crash it, which they could have. But this one is more clear: it's open to everyone."

Froese said she also hopes the homecoming draws in

people who have never been to Hay River.

"Maybe you didn't grow up here, but your parents did or your friends did - this is for you, too," she said.

Froese expects about 650 people to attend the festivities, which include a meet and greet at the curling club, community fish fry, pancake breakfast, public dance and pig roast.

Hay River's Canada Day events will also coincide with homecoming, such as the parade, a street fair, high tea at the museum and

a market down at Fisherman's Wharf.

"I hope this becomes something that happens

again in years to come, that it becomes sort of a regular thing for Hay River," Froese said.

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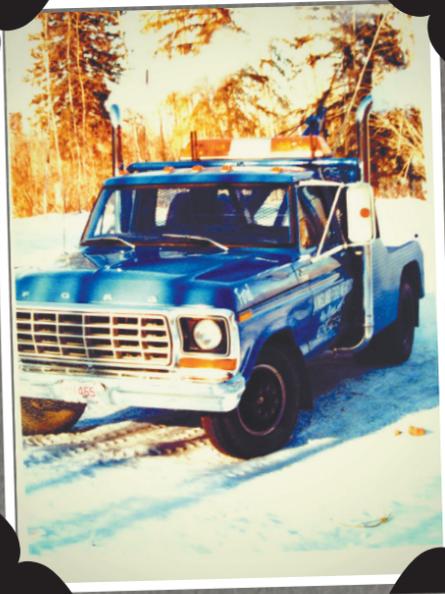
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FRIENDLY TOWN SUPPORTS HAY RIVER PHOTOGRAPHY

By SCOTT CLOUTHIER

The success behind Hay River's burgeoning photography scene has a lot to do with the chemistry among local artists, photographers say.

Adam Hill and Sean Pinnington both credit community support for helping them advance their photography careers.

Pinnington said he has been surprised at the level of camaraderie amongst photographers and other artists in town.

"Everyone gets on here," he said. "Within different arts, too, which doesn't happen in a lot of places I don't think."

A few months ago, a group of Hay River photographers began having regular meetings to discuss all things related and unrelated to photography. At the same time, casual acquaintances in the local photography scene become good friends. Hill said one of the benefits of a close-knit group is an increased sense of community and wanting to see other photographers do well.

"We could be competing for the same market," he said. "I would rather keep a good relationship than get the business."

Hill and Pinnington's photography careers have both benefited from community support of another kind, they say. They are both recipients



Photographer Adam Hill



Photographer Sean Pinnington



Pinnington's photo titled Sandy Lake.

Photos: Scott Clouthier

of micro business grants through the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Policy (SEED) administered through the GNWT department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI).

"ITI was fantastic for me," Hill said. "I went from a very small business, which is what I want it to be, but now I'm a much larger small business.

I'm doing a lot more business than I ever thought I would do. I think it's a great example of what SEED can do."

Pinnington agrees. "Without ITI, I wouldn't have my website now and I wouldn't be on Facebook and I wouldn't be shooting anywhere near (as well)."

Pinnington, who grew up on the coast of Wales, moved

north with his wife Emma Harper in 2011. The couple first met in Patagonia, on the southernmost tip of South America, and came to Hay River after spending time in southern Africa.

Of all the places he's lived, Pinnington said Hay River is the first to really make him want to pick up a camera and take photographs.

"I just liked it. I just wanted to be doing it," he said. "It's that evening light—that magic hour that lasts like three hours a day."

Magic hour is photographic jargon for the waning moments of sunset, when sunlight takes on a magical golden glow. It is a favourite shooting time for budding photographers and Hollywood cinematographers-alike. Thanks to Hay River's geographic position, it lasts longer than down south.

Hill, himself a transplant from Cape Breton on Canada's east coast, said the longer sunsets allow more time for photographic experimentation. Since he always previsualizes the perfect shot he wants to get beforehand, he said he appreciates the extra time to get it right.

"Back home, you get maybe 10 minutes of golden light," he said. "Here you get at least 40 minutes of it. It just presents itself to more opportunity."

Hill and his wife Shannon came to Hay River in 2009. Since training his lens on the sights of nature North of 60, he has amassed enough images to publish two photography books—one titled *Hay River Through the Seasons* and another, *Northern Nights Under Northern Lights*, focused on the aurora borealis—and earn over 1,600 likes on his Facebook page.

His newfound recognition caught him by surprise last year when students in Tuktoyaktuk, whom he met while visiting on a business trip, asked if he was "Adam Hill, the photographer."

Hill attributes this to the power of social media. "If you're presenting a solid portfolio, it'll really get around," he said.

Further recognition was earned when one of Hill's aurora photos was selected as an honorary mention in *Outdoor Photographer* magazine. Its placing could well have been higher, but as a Canadian, Hill was ineligible to win the prizes associated with a first, second or third place finish.

"For me it was a big moment," he said, noting the magazine as one of his favourite places to go for inspiration for nature photography.

Always willing to help foster the talents of other photographers in Hay River, Hill hosts a series of free aurora photography workshops during the winter months at the Hay River Public Library. He gives a short presentation on the best techniques for capturing the lights, and then he, with the help of Pinnington and other experienced local photographers, takes the participants out into the wild to put to test what they've learned.



HAY DAYS 2013 CELEBRATING LOCAL ARTISTS

Every year Hay Days showcases the diverse and unique talents of our northern artists. Be sure to attend the festival and celebrate your support for this important industry.

The festival is a great place to purchase locally made arts and crafts. Or sign up for a beading, moosehair tufting or painting workshop and experience first hand the joy of creating artwork.

Friday, June 21 and
Saturday, June 22, 2013
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
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Left to Right: Marnie Hilash, Inuvik | Jennifer Walden, Yellowknife
Maryjane Nigiyoq, Ulukhaktok | Grey Gritt, Yellowknife.

nwtarts.com



TOURISM OPERATORS PUTTING HAY RIVER ON THE MAP

By SCOTT CLOUTHIER

A locally-owned tour company has found success in offering visitors a “locals-only” experience in and around Hay River.

2 Seasons Adventures offers tour package excursions from fishing on the lake, jet boating on the Hay River, quadding on the beach and, of course, camping out under the northern lights.

For tour operator Spencer Pike, the choice to turn his family’s favourite pastimes into a full-time business venture was an easy one.

Pike, his father Fraser and step-mother Kathy McBryan jointly own and operate the business. He said the family has always spent its spare time cooking, entertaining and leading adventures for friends and relatives.

“We basically did the job already for our friends all the time for free,” he said. “We’ve got all the equipment; let’s try and make a business out of it.”

The traditional tourist checklist in Hay River consists of camping a night or two at the Territorial Park and going out fishing on Great Slave Lake with a local guide, which is usually where most trips end. 2 Seasons Adventures hopes to entice visitors to extend



Photo: Scott Clouthier

Tourists take a jet boat excursion along the Hay River to soak up a “locals-only” experience.

their stay and learn to enjoy Hay River the way locals have learned to.

“There’s so much more to do than just fishing,” Pike said. “If you come to Hay River and you don’t know anyone you’re going to say, ‘Hay River’s boring’... You come and hang out with us for a couple of days, you’re going to have a great time.”

There’s a reason that a boat and an ATV have a reserved spot in nearly every driveway in Hay River. Most of the best adventures to be found here happen off the beaten path.

One excursion offered by 2 Seasons Adventures even has locals requesting a spot - a jet boat ride from Paradise Valley up to the very foot of Louise Falls.

“It’s the biggest hit, for sure,” Pike said.

Previously, only those who own jet boats - or are lucky enough to have friends who do - have been able to see what these magnificent falls look like from the water.

Pike recalled recently taking out a couple who had lived in Hay River for 30 years and

had never been able to have that experience.

“It’s not even like being in Hay River any more once you’re up there,” he said, noting just about everyone in these parts has seen the falls from the designated viewing areas, but seeing them up close is an entirely different experience.

The falls trip has become a popular way for Hay Riverites to show off something unique to their visiting family and friends, Pike added.

Despite its many amazing attractions, Hay River has in the past often been only a staging area for plane rides to fishing camps in more remote locations or, in its day, a trip up the Mackenzie River on the famous Norweta. Pike and his family hope to keep tourists in Hay River longer.

“They’re off on a plane and they’re going to a fishing lodge someplace else,” Pike said. “I don’t think Hay River’s really known right now for tourism.”

Without guides like 2 Seasons Adventures, it’s hard to see beyond the town’s industrial facade.

“Unless they know someone up here... They don’t really see it,” he said.

Aside from the Louise Falls tour, one can also

hire the Pikes for a jet boat tour from Old Town up to the Pine Point Bridge. A guided ATV tour is offered via a six-seater side-by-side quad. For a more relaxed adventure, there is a harbour and lake cruise where dinner is cooked and served on board. For those who wish to be their own guide, ATVs and boats are available to rent.

If that isn’t enough variety to satisfy, travellers are welcome to choose their own 2 Seasons adventure.

“There’s pretty much nothing that we can’t do or set you up with, really,” Pike said.

Accommodations currently offered include camping stalls, cabins and the most Hilton-esque yurts in existence - complete with flat screen TVs and free WiFi internet.

A full-service lodge is currently under construction.

Pike said his company aims to offer a complete experience for visitors to Hay River - lodging, dining and activities. It’s an approach that so far hasn’t been tested in the area.

“We’re kind of starting on ground zero with it. There’s really no one else doing what we’re doing, to the extent that we’re doing it.”

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Tamerlane's Pine Point project still on quest for funding

Reviving old mine site will create more opportunities for Hay River

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Progress at the old Pine Point mine site, the largest and most profitable zinc-lead mine in Canadian history, is at a standstill as Tamerlane Ventures Inc. continues to search for funding to get the ball rolling.

"We're still in negotiations with larger mining companies in Asia, Europe, as well as in North America. These are major companies involved in either the mining or smelting of lead and they have the financial resources to fund the project," Brent Jones, the director of corporate communications at Tamerlane, told *The Journal*.

While Jones remained mum on these companies' identities, he said talks are going well.

The Washington state-based company, which purchased the currently defunct Pine Point site and the surrounding area in 2004, is looking for about \$140 million, give or take depending on the negotiations, to start building and mining lead and zinc again, Jones said.

According to Jones, a downturn in the global economy over recent years, especially when it comes to the mining industry, has slowed the entire process.

"It's been a very difficult time for smaller mining companies to get financing," he said. "But even since the



Tamerlane is preparing to breathe new life into the old, abandoned Pine Point site, pictured above, defunct since 1988.

beginning of this year, things have been a bit better, so we're cautiously optimistic that it shouldn't take too much longer to get funding."

Once the capital is secured, construction of the mine could begin within six months and would continue for an 18-24 month period.

"Tamerlane has all the permits to start construction and, at some point, after we have the funding, we'd need further permitting and begin an environmental review before production," Jones said, noting there is still a long way to go.

"Everyone's biggest concern is the environment and they want to make sure this

restoration of work at Pine Point is going about it in a responsible manner, environmentally and socially. So for our part, it's important to have as much involvement with the public in the beginning."

Tamerlane visits NWT, talks benefits

Tamerlane staff, including new CEO John Key, traveled to the NWT last month to talk about the project, introduce Key to community leaders and discuss the future impact of a restored Pine Point.

"One of the reasons we went up there is to discuss more about environmental reviewing because it's been

a bit of a sticking point for mines in the NWT and all across Canada," Jones said. "We want to make sure that everybody in the communities are involved at an early stage and everyone has input so that no one feels like their voice is not being heard."

The team met with K'atl'odeeche First Nation on the Hay River Reserve, the Deninu Kue First Nation in Fort Resolution and the Métis in both communities. Meetings were also held with Andrew Cassidy, Hay River's mayor, and a few MLAs.

"It wasn't a really formal visit. It had more of a social purpose, to introduce John...

We did however talk about the potential benefits to the community, such as jobs," Jones said.

Tamerlane's policy is to hire "as many local workers as possible," he added. "We'd also do as much local contracting as we can from trucking companies to catering and janitorial services."

The company is in talks with the GNWT about teaming up to provide training programs on site at Pine Point to give more locals the opportunity to become certified heavy equipment operators or underground miners, Jones said.

"It would be funded by both partners and allow

more interested community members to become eligible for higher paying jobs," he said.

Pine Point's rebirth means multiple opportunities for Hay River specifically, Jones said, as the company plans to use the rail head in the town, located 42 km east of the mine site.

"I think most people are in favour of this because they see those benefits...We'd be trucking the ore to Hay River, then we would rail it south from there."

There was previously a railway out to the site but it was ripped out by the mine's previous owner, Cominco. According to Jones, it would be too costly to rebuild.

The site would also be using hydro power from the Taltson Dam.

"Once it gets into production, Pine Point's going to generate a lot of revenue and profit," Jones said. "We figure we can produce 60,000 tonnes of zinc a year and 30,000 tonnes of lead a year and, depending on the market at the time, that can generate good revenue. But the important thing is not so much the amount of money, because there will be a lot of costs, too; the important thing is going to be the jobs and contracts for local business."

Avalon progressing with Thor Lake, Pine Point plans

Company's hydrometallurgical plant to have ripple effect on South Slave

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Avalon Rare Metals Inc. is predicting a significant boom for Hay River and the Northwest Territories overall as it moves forward with plans for the Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project at Thor Lake, about 5 km north of the Hearne Channel of Great Slave Lake and 100 km southeast of Yellowknife.

The company plans to mine heavy rare metals - used in hybrid cars, x-ray devices and lasering equipment among many other high-technology uses - and process the mineral concentrate by barging it across the lake to a hydrometallurgical plant at the old Pine Point site, 42 km east of Hay River.

The plant would take the mineral concentrate and crack and dissolve the minerals to release the rare elements into a solution which can then be precipitated out into a chemical concentrate of its own.

"That next stage of the processing and refining of a mineral product has never been done in the NWT before," Don Bubar, the company's CEO, said. "The territory has always been just a

producer, shipping the basic mineral concentrate somewhere else. So this would be a pretty big thing for the economy in the North to see this sort of operation succeed. It would basically expand the economy."

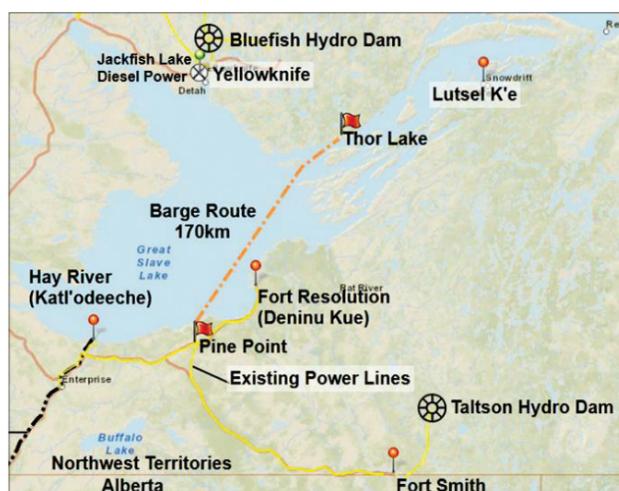
A "huge undertaking," the metallurgical plant would generate 60 or 70 full time jobs at Pine Point alone, Bubar added.

Overall, the company is estimating 300 new jobs in the NWT from the project, with a ripple effect in the South Slave region.

The hydrometallurgical plant requires copious amounts of lime, opening up another business opportunity with limestone, a readily available resource in the South Slave.

"A local business could then establish a quarry operation to provide us with that material, again feeding into the local economy," Bubar said.

Additionally, Avalon would be boosting Northern transportation, accessing the Northern Transportation Company Ltd. (NTCL) to seasonally barge the mineral concentrate, as well as the CN



The Nechalacho Project will barge mineral concentrate from a site at Thor Lake to Pine Point for processing.

rail line running out of Hay River to ship the processed chemical concentrate to a refinery in the United States.

"We plan to use as many local venues as possible," Bubar said, adding that the project provides an opportunity to help push for an expansion of the hydro grid in the NWT.

"Without a doubt, the issue of what we'd do for power at Thor Lake remains a problem...As everyone knows, the Taltson dam has so much capacity for expansion to

produce more power and needs more customers. We'd like to see that happen...We'd be a long term consumer of power," Bubar said.

"Overall, this project could be a stable, long-term contributor of revenue to the NWT because it's such a big resource and has such a long life potential due to demand. It could go for many decades."

Operating costs average \$264.5 million per year over the initial 20-year life of the operation, according to the

feasibility study, against average annual revenues of \$645.8 million. Average revenue is estimated to be about \$886 per tonne mined, with average operating costs running at \$361 per tonne mined.

According to Bubar, Avalon, which revealed the results of its comprehensive feasibility study in April, is on track for production in 2017, subject to financing and permitting.

"We've demonstrated we have an economically viable project with the feasibility study - a huge milestone for us. The next steps are to find two things: customers that want to commit to buying the product we seek to produce, the rare elements, and project financing for the construction of the project."

The total cost of the project is \$1.5 billion, Bubar said.

"We talked about \$30,000 million as what we need to start doing some early preparatory site work," he said. "Right now, we have to work on attracting that capital. The markets are not very receptive to funding right now, so it may take a bit longer. The sector is really struggling right

now, but it'll turn around. You go through down cycles like this."

First Nations talks continue

Despite major divisions across the Akaitcho, Deninu Kue First Nation in Fort Resolution signed an accommodation agreement with Avalon earlier this year.

"We're continuing to work towards a model that will allow for direct First Nation participation in the project - equity participation," Bubar said. "This is a significant change in how these type of agreements are structured. In the past, they followed a more direct cash transfer model."

The company is also in "pretty advance conversations" with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, NWT Métis Nation and the North Slave Métis Alliance.

"We want to maximize the opportunity for everyone," Bubar said. "What we're trying to enable is for the First Nations to have a small ownership position directly in the project. We think that's the future."

WHAT TO DO IN A HAY RIVER SUMMER



Hit up the Wharf on a Saturday for some fish and chips.

Photo: Jared Monkman

between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Local vendors set up shop to sell their wares, including local produce, freshly caught fish, sweets, baked goods and handmade arts and crafts. Should you find yourself hungry while you are down there, various versions of fish and chips are available with plenty of seating. You're sure to run into some familiar faces or meet someone new spending part of your Saturday at the wharf. The market is open mid-June to September, weather permitting.

TWIN FALLS

If you are willing and able to make a short trip south, Twin Falls is the place to go. Approximately 20 minutes from town, beautiful scenery and a lengthy walking trail will absorb your day, taking you from Alexandra Falls to Louise Falls. Informative plaques explain the significance and historical usage of the falls from the Dene people's perspective. Be sure to bring your camera and your walking shoes.

CHECK OUT THE LOCAL SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS

There are a number of different shops and restaurants scattered throughout town that are worth a visit. Many have been open for years and are well

established in the community. Others are new and starting to make a name for themselves. The number of restaurants has increased over the last few years, and include a wide variety of options. Invite a friend and try out a new place.

LOCALLY ORGANIZED TOURS

For those looking for a guided tour, there are

several local outfitters who will take you on various excursions. Fishing tours, walks along the falls and camping trips are just some of the services offered. Check with town hall and the community bulletin boards at the Don Stewart Recreation Centre and Ring's Pharmacy for recommendations, contacts and additional information.

ADDITIONAL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Hitting up the golf course, going camping at one of Hay River's campgrounds or visiting one of the beaches along Great Slave Lake are other worthwhile ways to spend a day while in town. There is no shortage of things to do in Hay River, so be sure to make the most of your visit.

HAY RIVER CHUGS ALONG

By KRISTEN CAMPBELL

Summer is a great time to visit Hay River. Seemingly endless hours of sunlight will greet any visitor to the area and the town is buzzing with life as the winter fades to memory.

If you find yourself in town this summer, be sure to check out some of the local attractions.

HAY RIVER HERITAGE CENTRE

Whether you are new to the area or returning for a long overdue visit, be sure to check out the Hay River Heritage Centre.

Located in Old Town, the centre showcases pieces of Hay River's history, from photographs to anecdotes. Various displays rotate through the museum, as do presentations by local performers, nature enthusiasts and historians. Even if you are familiar with Hay River's past, the centre is worth a visit. The volunteers are constantly updating the facility.

FISHERMAN'S WHARF

Finding yourself free on a Saturday? Be sure to head down to the Fisherman's Wharf

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Hay River is home to the Northwest Territories' only railroad line, the northernmost railhead in Canada. Formally known as the Mackenzie Northern Railway, the 585-km line runs to Peace River, Alta. It also connects up to High Level at the 310-km mark.

Canadian National Railway (CN), who built the railroad North in the 1960s when it was the Great Slave

Lake Railway, purchased the line in 2006, renaming it the Meander River subdivision.

The company also bought 157 acres on the west side of the Mackenzie Highway from the Hay River town council in 2007 for an expanded offloading site.

Choo Choo Choo-ing Facts in the North:

- CN operates one train North into Hay River per

day and one train back south

- Trains run into Hay River six days a week
- CN has moved 2,700 cars into Hay River in 2012
- CN has invested \$2.4 million into capital improvements for rail networks from Northern Alberta to Hay River over the past couple years
- CN employs three people who work out of Hay River

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Hay River Homecoming Schedule

Friday, June 28

REGISTRATION

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
HR Curling Club ice surface

MEET & GREET

7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
HR Curling Club Ice Surface
Opening ceremonies, cash bar and appetizers
Live music provided by local musicians from 7:00 p.m. - Midnight
Contact Robert Eyford at robert@rae-tech.net to book your slot.

Saturday, June 29

HOSPITALITY ROOM

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
HR Curling Club ice surface
Light snacks, refreshments and cash bar

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Diamond Jenness Secondary School
Tours and re-dedication of a fully renovated DJSS

LOOKING FOR LUNCH?

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Fisherman's Wharf in Old Town
Fish and food vendors under the big top!

SHOW AND SHINE

Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Pretty bikes/Fancy cars at Kingland Ford

EXHIBITION BALL GAME

2:00 p.m. at Pine Point Park (South end of town on Stewart Dr.)
Bring your mitt and your A-game!

FISH FRY

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
At the Big Tent in the Fisherman's Wharf Area
Fish fry (burgers and hot dogs, too), beer garden and live music
Live music will be 'A History of Hay River in Music' with Robert Eyford alternating with the band "Tour de Mac." Music starts at 7:00 p.m.
Bring a lawn chair!

PUBLIC DANCE

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Arena Ice Surface sponsored by the HR Slo-pitch League
\$10 entry and cash bar (tickets)
Pre-registration not required.

Play a Round of Golf

2 FOR 1 GREEN FEES AT THE HR GOLF CLUB

Ask for your coupon with your registration package.

Sunday, June 30

HOSPITALITY ROOM

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. AND 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
HR Curling Club Ice Surface
Light snacks, refreshments and cash bar

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE AND BLESSING OF THE FLEET

10:00 a.m. - Noon
Fisherman's Wharf Area
A time to rejoice and listen to great music.
Brunch will be served.

BRIDGE GAME

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
HR Library
Sign up sheet at Registration

HOMECOMING BEST BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

2:00 p.m. PROMPT START!
HR Public Golf Course - 9 hole, two person best ball
Followed by a steak BBQ
\$40/person LIMITED TO FIRST 72 PAID ENTRIES
Call Jeff to register at 867-874-6290
(Cannot be registered through Homecoming)

PIG ROAST/BBQ

6:00 p.m. - Midnight
2 Seasons Adventures at New Beach
(Turn left before the bridge and follow the signs)
\$30/person plus a cash bar. Limited to first 100 people.
Register at www.2seasonsadventures.com
(Cannot be registered through Homecoming)

HOMECOMING DANCE

8:00 pm - 2:00 a.m.
Arena Ice Surface
Sponsored by the Rusty Blades Oldtimer's Hockey
Music from the 60's - 90's
\$10/person plus cash bar
Pre-registration not required.

Canada Day, Monday, July 1

CANADA DAY PARADE

10:30 a.m. Starts on Woodland Drive
Bring your team spirit! Watch the fun or enter.

The Town of Hay River events following the parade include:

- Raising the Flag at Town Hall
- Kiddies Games at the Arena ice surface
- Canada Day Cupcake Give-away at the Arena
- Family BBQ at the Arena parking lot. It's free!

HIGH TEA

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Hay River Museum in Old Town
Step into the past with a nice cuppa and a dainty dessert!

LOOKING FOR LUNCH?

- Monday Sundown Market - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
At the Big Tent in the Fisherman's Wharf Area
Artists and Foodies show their stuff

Come Back Home to Hay River!



Mine rescue skills tested at annual competition

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Over 40 mine rescue personnel from mines across the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon put out fires, practiced First Aid in gory, simulated emergencies and challenged each other in underground obstacle courses during the 56th annual mine rescue competition over the weekend.

"It's a great way to refresh and challenge emergency rescue teams' skills and knowledge in a fun way. There's plenty of bragging rights to winners," said Peter Bengts, chief inspector of mines with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission of the NWT and Nunavut (WSSC), which runs the competition.

The competition took place in Yellowknife at a mock mine site set up within city limits and also at the Giant Mine where the fire fighting component was enacted.

Seven teams from six mines participated, including Cantung mine, EKATI diamond mine, Diavik diamond mine, Snap Lake diamond mine, Minto mine and Agnico-Eagle's Meadowbank mine.



The team from Snap Lake straps up with safety gear in preparation to compete in the rope rescue challenge in Yellowknife on Saturday.

Last year marked the first time a Yukon team participated.

EKATI walked away with the competition, winning trophies in both the Overall Surface and Overall Underground events. They will go on to compete in the biannual Western Regional Mine Rescue Competition held in Fernie, BC this fall.

"I congratulate all the teams on their level of

excellence," Bengts said in a press release. "They know what to do in the event of an emergency. The Northern mining community can be confident we are in good hands."

Each team came with five members, with one spare for backup, Bengts told *The Journal*.

"These teams rotate every two weeks in the mine, so they're doing rescue training

every month at least," Bengts said. "They do more if they know they're coming to the competitions...Teams are usually picked by late winter."

Diavik and EKATI have been strong contenders in the past, he noted.

"Mines win and some win well, but they don't very often win resoundingly. There's five components to

most events and you have to do well on all five to win it," he said.

Judges from WSSC evaluated each event, ranging from simulated disasters to safety equipment checks. It also included written tests and rope and smoke rescues, as well as underground/surface bench challenges (gas monitoring) and obstacle courses.

"Ventilation is a critical issue for miners. In the competition, they have to pretend poisonous gas is around - which can be a bit of a challenge itself when you know you're in a safe place - and figure out if they have enough oxygen. Our machines have four hours of oxygen, but for every hour you go in, you need two to get back," Bengts said. "The obstacles are in a maze of burlap tunnels - two by four and one by four. We test teams by really putting the time pressure on them. They know what to do from their training, so we can see if they're doing exactly what they're supposed to be doing and if mistakes are made, we learn from them."

Mine rescue competitions, held across the country, allow mines to evaluate and compare the effectiveness and quality of their emergency rescue training programs, stated a release from WSSC.

The competition also coincided with the NWT Chamber of Mines' Miner's Picnic on Saturday, the final day for NWT Mining Week, which celebrates the role the industry plays in the territorial economy and Northerners' daily lives.

"The mining industry continues to be a driving force of our economy," Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay said in a release. "NWT Mining Week provides an opportunity for us to celebrate the hard work of people working in this industry, to recognize the importance of developing our mineral resources in an environmentally sustainable way, and to showcase how the mining industry benefits NWT residents."

The mining sector employs more than 3,000 people in the territory and its four producing mines contribute \$770 million in annual spending.

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Choose

East Three celebrates first grad in new building

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Inuvik graduates celebrated the end of high school in the new East Three secondary school for the first time on June 1 under a ceiling of balloons.

"It was a spectacular and memorable day," Deborah Maguire, the school's principal, said. "Grad is usually held at the Midnight Sun complex. This year it was in our new double gym which is connected to the elementary school. It was brought up multiple times throughout the ceremony how nice the new building is."

The second biggest building project in the Northwest Territories (after the Deh Cho bridge), the \$110 million school was finished for the beginning of the 2012 school year. East Three comes from the title formerly used by the federal government to refer to the location that was eventually chosen for Inuvik.

The two Inuvik schools that East Three replaced, Sir Alexander Mackenzie School (opened in 1959) and Samuel Hearne Secondary School (opened in 1969), are currently being demolished.

"We moved into this new school a year earlier than anticipated and we didn't even have an identity until last October



Haley Smith (centre) dons shades with her fellow classmates to celebrate in style.



Speaker Angela Young cheers on the graduates.



East Three's class of 2013 celebrates graduation in the new school for the first time.

Photos: Alexandra Winchester

or so...Now the eagle is our brand new mascot, selected by the students, and we have a new motto as well - Rise

Above - chosen by a student," Maguire said.

The school is currently working on creating an

official crest, largely reflective of Inuvik's Gwich'in and Inuvialuit culture, Maguire said.

"It really is a new beginning and graduation spoke to that," she said.

Thirty-four graduates, a fairly standard number, marched through the gym, decorated to the nines in purple and blue, to receive their diplomas. Graduation had a decorating theme along the lines of "a sense of arbour," Maguire said, with black cardboard trees lining the gym, glittering with sparkles.

"It snowed the morning of grad and was cloudy throughout the ceremony. Then, just in time for photos, the sun came out," she said. "It was really quite perfect."

Guest speakers included representatives from the Inuvialuit Regional Corp. and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Angela Young, a former teacher now working as a coordinator at the Beaufort Delta Education Council, was the keynote speaker.

"Angela spoke about each individual graduate because she knows all of them personally...It was very special," Maguire said.

Valedictorian Caroline Kaufman was also the winner of the Ladies Auxiliary Top Academic Female award.

Roald Langford took home the top academic male award,

sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion.

Nicole Jacobson won the Pat Petrie Bursary, presented by Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion to the student showing continuous effort, dedication, improvement and enthusiasm.

Kaila Jefferd-More won the Cliff King Memorial award, named in honour of a teacher who taught at Samuel Hearne for 30 years. The memorial award is presented to the grad who contributes most to the planning of graduation.

The RCMP All Ranks Mess award, a bursary presented to the graduate who shows citizenship, academic excellence, volunteer service and school spirit, went to Laura and Lydia O'Connor.

The ceremony was followed up with a dinner and slideshow presentation showing the graduates' baby photos. There was also the traditional prom dance later that night, which was open to the entire school.

"It's so important to celebrate grad. Students in Inuvik - and really students all across the North - have to rise above many challenges to get where they're going and it's not always easy. These kids are role models," Maguire said.

Education Awards

PWK High awards students for year's efforts

PWK High School 2013 Award Winners

- **Award of Distinction:** Katelynn Holtorf, Sarah Peterson
- **PWK Memorial Award Most Outstanding Student:** Katelynn Holtorf
- **Union of Northern Workers Greatest Improvement in Grade 7:** Ryan Beck
- **Northern Journal Academic Achievement in Grade 7:** Ixaka Newkirk
- **Marvel Construction Highest Achievement in Grade 7:** Mackenzie Villeneuve
- **Fort Smith Fire Department Greatest Improvement in Grade 8:** Athena Sharp
- **NTPC Academic Achievement in Grade 8:** Ian Gauthier
- **Town of Fort Smith Highest Achievement in Grade 8:** Celeste Tourangeau
- **Fort Smith Fire Department Greatest Improvement in Grade 9:** Thomas Rohne
- **Northwesten Air Lease Academic Achievement in Grade 9:** Katelynn Holtorf
- **SSDEC Highest Achievement in Grade 9:** Morgan Dumkee
- **Department of Public Works and Services and the Department of Transportation Math/Science Award:** Mackenzie Villeneuve (7), Celeste Tourangeau (8), Katelynn Holtorf (9).
- **Wally's Drug Store Top Attendance Junior High:** John Labine
- **RCMP Greatest Improvement in Grade 10:** Jerry Dion
- **WBNP Academic Achievement Award in Grade 10:** Sarah Peterson
- **Bank of Montreal Highest Academic Achievement Award in Grade 10:** Kier Lindsay
- **UNW Greatest Improvement in Grade 11:** Gina Heron
- **NTPC Academic Achievement in Grade 11:** Emily Sturgeon
- **John Vogt memorial Highest Achievement in Grade 11:** Megan Walsh
- **Aurora College Grade 11 Citizenship Award:** Crystal Andersen
- **RCMP High Aggregate Award (Male & Female):** Atikin Hehn, IZIAH Faulkner
- **Royal Canadian Legion, Branch # 239 Top Attendance in Sr. High:** Crystal Andersen, Hannah Wiltzen
- **Vice Principal's Award:** Breen Young, Sarah Peterson
- **CAB Construction Service Award:** Jeremy Beamish, Jara Watts
- **Fort Smith Tae Kwon Do Award:** DJ Blesse
- **Richard Van Camp Literary Award:** Sean Tourangeau, Alexa Funk, Katelynn Holtorf
- **Junior & Senior Male & Female Athlete:** Thomas Rohne, Ryan Evans and Logan Tourangeau, Veronica McDonald
- **NWTTA Leadership Award:** Atikin Hehn
- **Lawrie Hobart Memorial Citizenship Award:** Atikin Hehn
- **SSDEC Literacy Award:** Mayia-Mae Stewart Tuccaro (7), Jewel Tuckey (8), Isabella Bourque (9), Lauren Cournielle Lafferty (10), Emily Sturgeon (11), IZIAH Faulkner (12)
- **Sport North Good Sport Award:** Isabella Bourque, Theoron Daniels
- **Clan Trophy:** Road Runners

Right: Dwayne Woodward presents an award for excellent math and science achievement in junior high to (left to right) Katelynn Holtorf, Grade 9, Celeste Tourangeau, Grade 8, and Mackenzie Villeneuve, Grade 7.

Below: The Road Runner clan topped the other three clans at the school for points accumulated in various activities throughout the year. Clan leader Atikin Hehn hoists the trophy and leads the celebration.



Photos: Sandra Jaque

Historic Wildcat Café opens after two-year restoration

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Yellowknife city administrators are still tallying costs of the restoration effort that closed the historic Wildcat Café for two years, but whatever the final total is, it was worth it, says Mayor Mark Heyck.

With former mayor Gord Van Tighem in the crowd that turned out to see what more than \$500,000 accomplished, Heyck cut a red ribbon to re-open the 75 year-old landmark.

Heyck thanked contractor Rick Muyres and praised his painstaking efforts that were cut short earlier this year when the city abruptly cancelled his contract before the log-construction expert could put the final touch to what was a labour of love.

“Without his skillset, his passion, this project could not have been pulled off as well as it was; we’re very appreciative,” Heyck said. “Not only will the current generation enjoy the Wildcat, but generations to come.”

The project added a deck, which doubles the capacity of the Wildcat. A second deck may be added in future, and the season extended for the café, which has traditionally operated between the Victoria and Labour Day weekends.

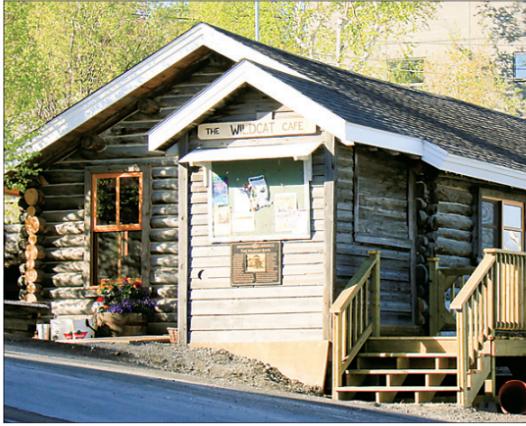
Margaret Peterson was the first person through the



Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck cuts the ceremonial ribbon to mark the café's reopening after a two-year, \$500,000 makeover.



Former Yellowknife mayor Gordon Van Tighem enjoys the restored Wildcat Café in the sun.



The oldest, still-in-use building in Yellowknife boasts a new deck as a feature of the restoration efforts.

a new foundation of steel and concrete was installed, driving the cost beyond the original estimate of \$476,000.

Behind the rustic authenticity of the dining room are sparkling new washrooms, one with a picture window looking onto a sunny terrace, and a modern kitchen of gleaming stainless steel appliances.

Chris McGuire, the chef, plans “lots of simple, hearty food. Nothing too crazy. Some pork dishes. Bacon. Hand-made pasta. To start, we’ll just be doing dinners. Lunches will come a couple of weeks after we open, and brunch on the weekends.”

Councilor Adrian Bell, who owned and operated a popular Yellowknife coffee shop for several years, said the new kitchen “looks beautiful. There’s nothing I would have done differently. The deck is a great addition, and the dining room seems larger.”

“It’s brilliant; we should have had this years ago,” said Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley, who was sharing a table with friends on the sun-splashed deck.

Bromley said he thought the restoration of the building that was never intended to last more than a generation was worthwhile, despite a cost that may be close to \$600,000.

“There is a value that goes beyond that. This jogs a lot of

memories and plants a seed of what things were like for those who didn’t experience it. There is a reason why it was duplicated in the National Museum of Civilization.

“We have to be careful with public money, but there are some things that have value beyond material value you can feel here today with the community. Many of us have visited the restaurant for decades and seen the excitement of tourists and old-timers,” he added.

Barb Cameron worked as a dishwasher at the Wildcat in the 1970s after the Old Stope Society rescued it from decay.

“We never had anything even close to this. This is a great restoration. I applaud the city for forward thinking. The building was slated for demolition in the ‘70s. Volunteers helped the city recognize that it was an important landmark.”

There was never any question in Van Tighem’s mind about the worth of restoring the Wildcat.

“It’s the oldest still-in-use building in town,” said the former mayor, who grew up in Calgary, “where any building over 25 years was torn down. They lost their past. But here this past is ours, but it’s also in the Museum of Civilization. It’s internationally recognized.”

door of the dining room of the restored café, which incorporated the logs and ceiling of the original structure

to create the impression that nothing has changed.

“It’s a wonderful place; I’ve been watching the progress.

They did wonderful work,” said Peterson, who watched the building dismantled and re-assembled log by log after

2013 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY MESSAGE

On this National Aboriginal Day, I invite you to celebrate Wood Buffalo’s Aboriginal community.

We value that our cultural diversity is rooted in a rich First Nations and Métis heritage. We value the contributions the Aboriginal community has made to Wood Buffalo and value the many that will come. We value the example of strong family, culture, and community. We value that your vibrant traditions continue to be shared in Wood Buffalo. We value the wisdom of the Elders. We value working together to build a bright and bold future for our region and our young people.

On behalf of Council and the residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, I wish members of the Aboriginal community the very best on National Aboriginal Day.

Sincerely,

Mayor Melissa Blake



Congratulations to Graduates

On behalf of Regional Council and the residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, I would like to extend my congratulations to all the students in our northern communities who are graduating from high school this year.

You have accomplished an enormous feat and should be very proud of yourselves. Speaking on behalf of Regional Council, who represent your family, friends, and teachers, I can certainly say we are all very proud of you!

It is an exciting time as you begin the next phase of your life. Whether you pursue further education, enter the work force, or take some time to figure things out, I have confidence that you will be successful in whatever you choose to do.

Regardless of what you do next, you are an important part of our community’s future. If you stay here, I encourage you to make a positive contribution to Wood Buffalo. If you move elsewhere, I hope you are strong ambassadors for the region.

Once again, congratulations and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours!

Melissa Blake
Mayor

South seeks help from NWT on language revitalization

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Universities, agencies and First Nations are interested in partnering up with the territorial government on Aboriginal language revitalization following last week's Dene Languages Conference in Calgary.

Education, Culture and Employment Minister Jackson Lafferty, who attended the three-day conference to present and network, said people from across North America were "blown away" by the GNWT's efforts to protect and promote the territory's nine official Aboriginal languages and are looking for guidance on how to do similar things in their jurisdictions.

Lafferty said communities from Arizona to Alaska were amazed that the NWT spent \$14 million each year on language and cultural revitalization.

"They were kind of envious of us, but at the same time, we told them we're more than willing to share our resources, our information, our expertise, so that's what we offered," he said.

Universities such as the University of Victoria, which houses an Aboriginal Languages Revitalization certificate program, are interested in taking the bait, as well as



Aboriginal languages in the NWT, by region

several others from Ontario, Lafferty said, who want access to the groundwork the NWT has done on its Aboriginal Languages Strategy.

Lafferty said he's looking forward to the opportunities presented by the potential partnerships.

"That's the network that we've been looking forward

to and it's before us now, so I'm very excited," he said. "We need to expand on what we have, mainly through partnerships, whether it be delivering diploma, certificate or degree programs on language revitalization. So it's very interesting, the discussions we had, and I want to move forward on that."

Besides work on language revitalization, the minister said other jurisdictions are greatly interested in the early childhood development work in process right now, along with the NWT's new mandatory Grade 10 residential schools curriculum, for which a Grade 11 component is currently under development.

We're just building on our strengths that we have today and, again, it's a networking, compiling more partnerships across Canada. They're reaching out to us, too - Alaska, even some from California. They're very interested in how we can join forces.

*Minister Jackson Lafferty
Education, Culture and Employment*

"There's a lot of interest in that curriculum, so that's what we'll be sharing with our neighbouring provinces," he said.

As was communicated at the recent Aboriginal Languages Symposium in Yellowknife, Lafferty said people at the conference continued to emphasize the early learning of languages.

"That's what we've heard from grandparents, the parents, the experts, even the researchers. So that's what they shared with us, from Alaska to Arizona, that we need to start at the early ages - babies, before they're talking - capture their attention, even when they're in the womb, start talking to the babies. That's what we heard here

and we're hearing the same thing in other regions as well. All in all, we're on the same page, sharing similarities across the country."

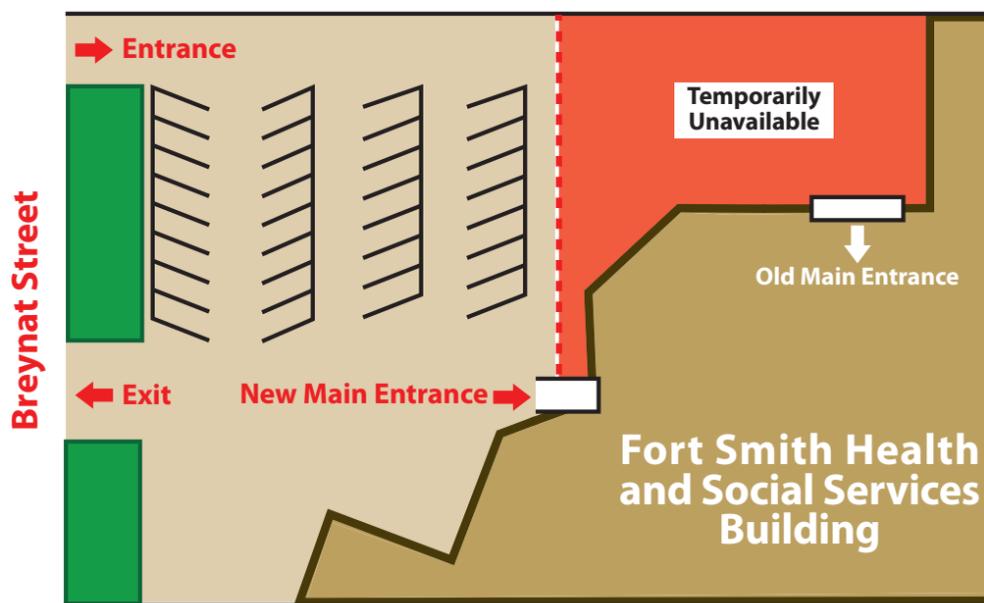
Lafferty said the conference also looked towards new technologies being developed to facilitate language direction with respect to best practices for language revitalization.

"We're just building on our strengths that we have today and, again, it's a networking, compiling more partnerships across Canada. They're reaching out to us, too - Alaska, even some from California. They're very interested in how we can join forces. It's just a discussion that we need to move forward," he said.

NEW Main Entrance to the Fort Smith Health Centre is now in effect.

The newly renovated East Wing of the Health Centre is **OPEN**.

The Medical Clinic is now **OPEN** at the **NEW** Madonna House Location.



Thank you to all community members for your continued patience during this time of transition as we renovate the Fort Smith Health Centre. Thank you to all Health Authority staff for your dedication and extra effort to make this transition as smooth as possible.

For more information, contact the Fort Smith Health Centre at (867) 872-6200.

Beaded pathway honours missing Aboriginal women

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A new collaborative and entirely volunteer-based art project is seeking to bring awareness to the large number of missing Aboriginal women across Canada.

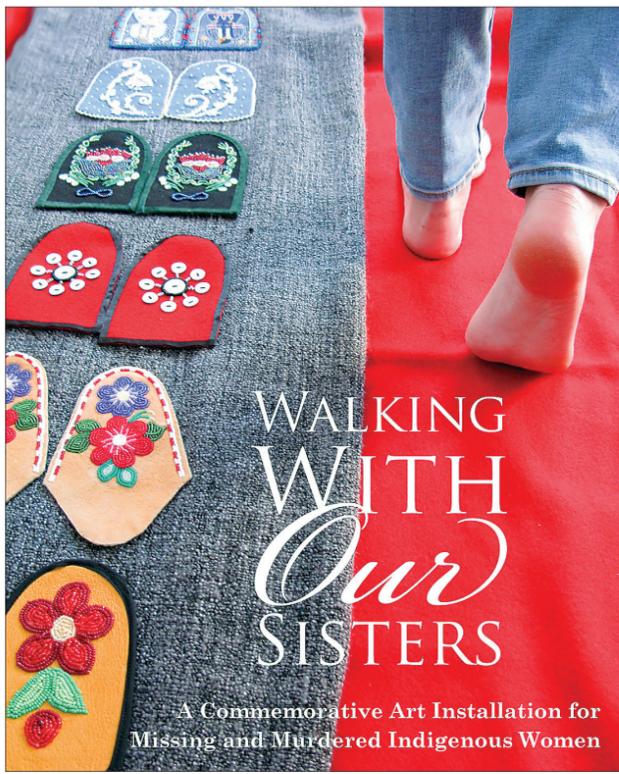
Walking With Our Sisters is collecting over 600 handmade moccasin tops (also known as vamps or uppers) to create a visual art installation - a winding, beaded path of vamps laid out on red and grey cloth that will run across a gallery's floor.

Members of the public will be able to walk along the path, symbolizing union and commemoration of the 600 documented cases of Aboriginal women who have gone missing over the past two decades, which doesn't even begin to take into consideration the number of undocumented cases.

The unfinished moccasins represent the women's unfinished lives.

The project, started and managed by Christi Belcourt, a Métis artist from Ontario, has received over 200 pairs to date, with beaders as far away as Germany participating. It's scheduled to show in over 18 galleries in Canada with talks of travelling to the United States.

An audio recording of traditional Aboriginal honour



Walking With Our Sisters is an art project commemorating the 600 plus missing Aboriginal women across Canada.

songs is also in the works, to be played during the piece's exhibition.

Brendalynn Inuk Trennert of Hay River, a Facebook friend of Belcourt, started contributing moccasin tops to the project because, too often, the news of missing women and violence against women "is put on the back burner," she said.

"Domestic abuse is rampant against all woman and there's a high occurrence in the NWT and Nunavut and it is time to speak out loud," she said. "I hope this project continues to shed light on such a sad and dark reality in Canada and that a positive and productive outcome begins to help stop the violence."



Heather Burch of Fort Smith is on her second pair of moccasin tops for the project. Her first pair featured beaded trilliums.

Heather Burch joined a beading club this year at Aurora College's Thebacha campus in Fort Smith, where she first heard about Walking With Our Sisters.

"The idea of representing visually in a show the 600-plus women who are missing struck me as a really powerful way to express the absence of these women in our lives," she

said. "I really feel for the families...These cases are not given the attention that the families deserve...I wanted to participate, to create something beautiful."

Burch, who had never created moccasin tops before, mailed her first pair of trillium-designed uppers last week to Belcourt. She is now beginning her second, to be called "Northern Lights."

The deadline for all entries to be mailed in is July 15.

Beading is a process of healing for Celine Mackenzie Vukson of Behchoko, who began making moccasins after a head injury.

She has also submitted one pair, titled Dene Water Rose, and is working on her second.

"We need to have healthy and strong Dene communities and ask why it is that deaths and missing women are still happening and what we, as First Nations women, can do in our space, where we are living and doing," said Vukson, who currently lives in Ontario. "Can we use our voices and our Dene beadwork sewing heritage to bring attention to the murdered and missing indigenous women? I think we can."

Vukson said she also wants to remind the public that Walking With Our Sisters isn't just open to women and encourages men to participate as well.

Walking With Our Sisters' first exhibit is at the Haida Gwaii Museum in Haida Gwaii, BC on Aug. 23. It is tentatively scheduled to run in Fort Simpson's Open Sky gallery in January or February 2015. The exhibition will end with a traditional ceremony in Batoche, Sask. sometime in mid 2018.

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Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

REQUEST FOR TENDERS PWK-Skylight / Roof Replacement CT101304

- Fort Smith, NT -

Supply materials, equipment and labour to replace Skylights/Roof at PWK High School.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Projects Division, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, 199 McDougal Road, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0, or the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, North Slave Regional Office, 5015-44th Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents as of June 17, 2013 from the Electronic Plans Room at the NWT Construction Association www.nwtca.ca or (867) 873-3949.

Pre-tender meeting: 11:00 am, June 26, 2013, PWK High School, Fort Smith, NT.

General inquiries to: Betty Beaudriault
Maintenance and Project Support Clerk
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 872-7411

Technical inquiries to: Mike Bourke,
C.E.T., Project Officer
Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 872-7409

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

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Electronic Security Infrastructure Maintenance and Support SO435878

- Yellowknife, NT -

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Department of Justice, is requesting proposals for the purpose of establishing a Standing Offer Agreement with a qualified contractor to provide "as required" electronic security infrastructure maintenance, support, and authorized equipment.

Sealed proposals addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, 5009-49th Street, Yellowknife, NT, will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JULY 9, 2013.

Contractors may obtain proposal documents from the following:

General inquiries to: Contracts Administrator
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- Design of high voltage protection systems including co-ordination studies for protective relays and design of systems including exciters/voltage regulators.
- Commissioning of diesel gensets including governor set-up and load sharing.
- Ability to conduct failure modes, effects and root cause analysis for power plants.
- Proven health and safety practices in a high voltage and plant operation environment.
- Experience instructing Operators in use of electrical power plant equipment.

You will ensure that designs produced meet both the functional and operational specifications, producing necessary documentation. It will also include station services, cable schedules and any electrical support systems and equipment.

Qualifications: Bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering and P.Eng status. A minimum of 10 years related experience either with a contractor/consultant installing large diesel engines/hydro plant for power generation or an owner/operator that uses diesel engines/hydro plant for electrical power generation. Experience should include design and execution associated with new or renovated diesel genset and hydro installations including preparation of tender documents and

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Cancer survivor Cathy Lepine of Team Butterflies heads the Survivors' Victory Lap.



Karen Mabbitt is all smiles despite the rain.



Honorary chairs Barb Lepine (left) and Paul Currie tell Relay participants hope is key to fighting cancer.



Over 1,000 luminaries cast a golden glow in honour of survivors and loved ones who have passed on.



Left to right, Jeff Ashby, Christine Brassington, Pat Burnstad and Ronnie Shaw march as the sole Hay River team.



Troy Ellsworth (left) and Dan Kearley brave the downpour followed by Linda Ellsworth (centre) with her umbrella.



Lisa Saunders of Irene's Brats lights her luminary at 11:00 p.m.



Ann Keizer looks to inspire laughs during the 12-hour walk.

Photos: Paul Bannister

Health & Wellness Relay for Life

Fort Smith raises over \$107,900 for cancer research

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Residents of Fort Smith raised over \$107,900, with donations still being tallied, for the Canadian Cancer Society through the annual Relay for Life event, which switches locations between Fort Smith and Hay River every year.

Celebrating survivors and honouring loved ones who lost their lives to cancer, the 12-hour event saw 14 teams and 131 people come out to walk laps at Queen Elizabeth Territorial Park on Saturday evening through to early Sunday.

Irene's Brats, walking for late mother, grandmother, aunt, great-grandmother Irene Sanderson, was this year's Team Gold, raising the most money with a team total of over \$16,160. "We're very excited. We surpassed our \$10,000 goal,"

team captain Sandy Poitras said. The Mabbitt Bunch came in second place with over \$8,250, followed by the Partridge Family in third and the Butterflies in fourth. In 2011, Fort Smith pulled in over \$140,000 - the second

highest tally in the country that year. "The NWT teams, compared to the rest of Canada, really knock the socks off of Relay," Lorna Deveau, the Canadian Cancer Society's Revenue Developer in Yellowknife, remarked. Fort Smith sold almost double the luminaries Yellowknife did, she added.

have events like this to support everyone who's been touched by cancer. "You can't give up; you have to always have hope," she said. "Relay is about that. I live my life one day at a time. I told everyone here tonight...you take one step at a time."

Small Community Homelessness Fund

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is looking for proposals from community organizations to undertake projects that provide support services and/or shelters and transitional housing to help the homeless in their community.

For more information and to obtain an application form, please go to www.nwthc.gov.nt.ca or call (867) 873-7941, fax (867) 873-0279.



The application deadline for support in 2013-2014 is July 12th, 2013.



Teams fought off a downpour and a never-ending army of bugs to compete in a number of games throughout the evening from an entertaining orange swinging race to a scavenger hunt. There were also themed laps, with team spirit award points going to every team member who dressed up. At 9:00 p.m., the clippers were brought out and Connor Steed, Marsha Rankin and Micaella Leguerrier shaved their heads for more donations to cancer research. For the best decorated campsite at the park, first place went to the Too Good to be Forgotten team. The Butterflies took second and the Mabbitt Bunch came in third. Relay for Life heads back to Hay River for 2014.

Options explored for missing Arctic Winter Games sports

Separate, multi-sport competition in the works, minister says

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A new committee is being formed, led by the Northwest Territories, to explore ways to host a competition for the six key sporting events currently excluded from the 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland.

Dog mushing, curling, gymnastics, speed skating, midget hockey and figure skating have traditionally been a part of the games' lineup, but will not be held in 2016 due to the lack of facilities in Greenland.

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee recently announced it will work together with the ministers responsible for sport in Yukon, the NWT and Nunavut, along with the lieutenant governor of Alaska to ensure these events happen at a separate multi-sport competition, even if it won't be at the official games.

The committee, which has yet to be appointed, will look at new jurisdictions to host the eliminated events, including possible locations in the NWT, Yukon, Nunavut and Iceland. It will consist of one member from each of the six jurisdictions who make up the permanent partnership of the Arctic Winter Games.

"We're excited for our athletes and that they will still be able to compete," the GNWT's Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Robert McLeod told *The Journal*. "It's our goal to see this through to the end and make sure it happens."

According to McLeod, 350 athletes and coaches have been cut out of the games due to the missing events.

"That's a huge number. All of the Northern political leaders were concerned about that and we've been brainstorming about this for a while now," he said.

McLeod said he's been meeting with territorial sport organizations who are worried about the impact the eliminated events would have on young Northern athletes.

"They were all very supportive. Once they realized these events couldn't be affiliated with the Arctic Winter Games, they were glad we're looking to provide an alternate event because they were afraid we'd lose a whole cycle of athletes who have been training for the games," he said.

"Providing a multi-sport competition for young athletes across the

circumpolar North is key to the continued growth and development of our

release. "Hosting an event such as this will...ensure continued momentum in

Arctic Winter Games tradition." Alaska's Lieutenant

We're excited for our athletes and that they will still be able to compete... It's our goal to see this through to the end and make sure it happens.

Robert McLeod
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

sport community," Yukon Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor said in a

the development of sport across the North, in keeping with the vision of the

Governor Mead Treadwell agreed with Taylor, adding in the release, "In the Arctic

we often face a lack of infrastructure and we must overcome those obstacles together."

The games are no stranger to eliminating events. There was no alpine skiing in Yellowknife in 2008 because there is no ski hill and in 2002 when the games were held in Greenland, some events requiring an arena were co-hosted with Nunavut and athletes were flown back and forth.

Iqaluit is not an option for 2016, however.

"They don't think they have the capacity to take on the extra sports right now," McLeod said. "They're dealing with some huge infrastructure projects, none related to the Arctic Winter Games, so that's quite understandable."

The committee will report back, with recommended locations and how much this extra sport competition will cost, by October 2013.



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June 21, 2013

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Thank you MATCO!

Thanks to all the MATCO crew and the lovely ladies of the YK Chamber who helped out at your annual barbecue on Thursday afternoon, June 13. From all of us who enjoyed the fine music, burgers, sunshine and great company!



Students from Fort Providence and Fort McPherson have fun with NWT fire crew members Edward and James Buggihns setting up a hose out at Sandy Lake during last week's forest ecology camp.



Edmund Gargan (left) lends Blake Menoza, both from Fort Providence, a hand with hauling firewood.



Manager of Forests for the South Slave Rick Olsen (left) explains what is needed to start a fire to the group of students.



Fire crew member Edward Buggihns instructs Peter Snowshoe of Fort McPherson on using the hose to fight wildfires.

Photos: Stephanie Yuill

Education On the Land

Forest camp fosters leadership skills in NWT youth

'Keepers of the NWT' puts youth on the land, water and career path

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Students from Fort Providence and Fort McPherson spent five days with forestry experts on the land at Sandy Lake between Hay River and Fort Smith last week to learn more about the wilderness and hone their leadership skills.

The third annual forest ecology camp, hosted by the department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), is one of the final components of the two-year Keepers of the NWT program for youth aged 14-17 led by Deh Gah School out of Fort Providence.

"The focus is to create experiential based learning opportunities for youth from a number of communities, to bring the kids together so that they begin to meet other youth with the same kinds of interests," said Lois Philipp, principal at Deh Gah and the Keepers program founder.

"It's to build environmental stewardship. We live in an amazing part of the world, and if we can get our kids out into it in an environment that teaches them to appreciate it and respect it and use it well, then those are the lessons that they can take with them," she said.

Nine students worked with fire crews both on land and in the air. Aurora College staff, forestry technicians and elders to learn everything from fire prevention and management to using a GPS and compass, tree identification

and how to age a tree stand through tree coring.

"The whole idea of the Keepers program is to develop leadership skills in the environment for youth," said Stephanie Yuill, public education specialist for ENR, who helps lead the camp. "We try to make it as all-encompassing as we can."

Fire crews gave students the chance to try out firefighting equipment, like hoses and Wajax packs. They also met with FireSmart coordinator Wes Steed to assess houses around Fort Smith, and were able to compare last week's burn near Salt Mountain to one from the year before in the same area with Parks Canada, who also gave the kids a tour of the Angus fire tower site.

But the major moment of the week was going up in the helicopter, Yuill said.

"Of course, a lot of kids this year want to be a pilot," she said with a laugh. "Certainly we use aircraft and helicopters quite a bit within the firefighting and even the forestry industries, so they got to go up in a helicopter this year and they loved it. I'm guessing it was probably their highlight."

Founded three years ago in Fort Providence, the Keepers program attempts to move the classroom outside on several large excursions over a period of two years.

Students begin by doing a five-day winter hunting trip in year one, where they obtain

both their first aid and fire-arms safety training, followed by a flatwater canoe trip that gives them their basic Paddle Canada flatwater canoe certification.

Just last week, a group of first-years finished their 10-day canoe trip from Fort Providence to Willow River near Wrigley.

In the second year, they take a trip south to the annual Inspire Awards, where they not only attend a career fair, but visit local universities and colleges and volunteer for inner city organizations.

After the forest ecology camp, students will head out on one more paddling excursion near Yellowknife,

earning their canoe tripping certification.

"It's about getting them out into programs that are totally experiential and totally on the land," Philipp said.

Participating students have come from Fort Smith, the Hay River Reserve, Kakisa, Fort Resolution, Nahanni Butte, Fort McPherson and

Fort Providence over the years.

Next year, Philipp said the goal is to give even more students the opportunity to participate.

"Now that we've built some of these partnerships that ideally are sustainable, we can begin to open it up to a broader range of communities," she said.

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