



**Citizen court case alleges Suncor tailings pond leak**  
Environmental investigator Tony Boschmann is taking Suncor to court for an alleged leak from its tailings pond into the Athabasca River. *See page 2.*



**Drowning sees creation of Long Lake beach patrol**  
Concerned Yellowknifer Tanya Silke has organized a community lifeguard program at Long Lake in response to the drowning of a young boy. *See page 3.*



**Smith's Landing keeps chief, elects new council**  
Andrew Wandering Spirit has been re-elected chief of the Smith's Landing First Nation, and he could not be happier about his new council. *See page 7.*



**NWT judoka wins silver at national championship**  
Hay River's Mason Bruneau took home the silver medal at the national judo championships in Vancouver. *See page 21.*

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*Drummers from the Dene Tha First Nation in northwestern Alberta, the site of a recent pipeline spill termed the most devastating in Alberta's history, lead marchers past Syncrude's oilsands upgrading facilities on the fourth annual Tar Sands Healing Walk on Saturday north of Fort McMurray. See pages 12-13.*

## Possible oil spill found on Athabasca as hundreds pray for end to oilsands

*Government, industry maintain sheen on river is natural*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
As 500 marchers rounded the north bend of the 14 km "tar sands loop" north of Fort McMurray Saturday afternoon during the fourth annual Tar Sands Healing Walk, one of the event organizers received a phone call from her home community of Fort Chipewyan. "The oil leak on the Athabasca River is now 40 km long and the width of the entire river," Eriel Deranger called out, running in alarm to inform people throughout the site with her cell phone pressed to her ear. First reports of the unconfirmed petrochemical leak, described as a 5 km-wide slick about 60 km north of McMurray

near the Poplar Grove reserve, came as Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) Chief Allan Adam was speaking out against the industry's toll on his First Nation's traditional territory and community located downstream during a press conference leading up to the walk that morning. Not staying for the walk, Adam returned to Fort Chipewyan to address the situation as it moved toward the community. He flew over the site late Saturday afternoon, reporting the sheen now stretched over 100 km and had soaked river banks. According to a statement released Sunday by the First

Nation, the sheen "from pictures and eyewitness accounts" appeared to be petrochemical in nature. The First Nation reported the possible spill to both the Alberta Energy Regulator and the department of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) and took samples and photos of its own. ESRD said it could not find a source of the sheen and that it was likely natural - a combination of sand, clay and other suspended materials, including bitumen contained along the banks of the river. "We did a helicopter survey of the river from Fort McMurray to Fort Chipewyan and we

could not find any indication of a spill," ESRD spokesperson Jessica Potter told *The Journal*. "Because we can't confirm a spill, we are going to be doing some river sampling just to be sure. So as far as we're concerned, it's still under investigation," Potter said. Oil companies were instructed to do inspections and none reported upsets. Though the government maintains it cannot find evidence of an oil spill, the municipality stopped water intake at the Fort Chipewyan Water Treatment Facility as a precautionary measure on Sunday. Deranger said while the

petrochemical sheen may be natural, it is an unprecedented, "man-made natural disaster" caused by a combination of extremely high water levels, hot temperatures and torrential downpours. "This has never before been seen by land-users in the region," she said. "Even if it's natural, it is still an indication that climate change, which has been exacerbated by the cumulative impacts of the development in the region, is leading to irreparable harm to not just the environment but the ability of the people in the region to continue practicing their treaty rights." *See Healing on page 12.*

Photo: Meagan Wohlberg



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Police investigate oilsands bomb threat

Wood Buffalo RCMP received a call last Wednesday around 11:30 a.m. about an alleged threat to an industrial site near Conklin, Alta., about 155 km south of Fort McMurray. An employee had found a written message indicating there was a bomb set to detonate on the site. An undisclosed number of employees were evacuated by the company. The preliminary investigation on site showed no risk to the public and no evidence suggests the presence of any potentially hazardous devices, police said. Anyone with more information is asked to call the Wood Buffalo RCMP at 780-788-4000.

### CanNor commits to NWT resource and infrastructure development

The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government of the Northwest Territories last week, committing its support to “responsible resource and infrastructure development to promote economic prosperity” for Northerners. The MOU means CanNor will work with the GNWT through its Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO) to develop and foster transparent environmental assessment and regulatory process when it comes to resource development and regional infrastructure projects across the NWT.

### Worker dies at mine north of McMurray

A contract worker at Syncrude’s Aurora oilsands mine north of Fort McMurray died last Monday following what the company is calling “an incident involving heavy equipment.” The company did not release any further details. The name of the deceased is not being released at this time. Next of kin have been notified. “Our thoughts are with the worker’s family and friends during this difficult time,” Syncrude president and CEO Scott Sullivan said in a press release. The investigation is ongoing.

## Environment Tailings

# Court case claims Suncor tailings pond leaking into Athabasca

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A handful of concerned citizens in the Fort McMurray area have launched legal action against Suncor Energy Ltd. over allegations that process-affected water is leaking directly into the Athabasca River from one of its tailings ponds.

Tony Boschmann, an environmental investigator from McMurray, is leading a formal information suit with the hopes a judge will charge the oilsands company this September under the Fisheries Act for releasing a “deleterious substance” into the Athabasca when the case goes to court.

The investigator, who spent the last three years looking for a link between the process-affected water contained in the tailings ponds and groundwater coming into the Athabasca River, said he found that location last November and began sampling for levels of ions, naphthenic acids and PAHs.

What he found, he said, is a 12-15,000 square-metre underflow of water into the river chemically consistent



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

Tony Boschmann, an environmental investigator, claims an underflow of water into the Athabasca River matches the chemical profile of a nearby tailings pond.

the tailings adjacent to Suncor’s “south tailings pond” and “pond AA” - 32 square kilometres of out-of-pit tailings ponds.

“This perception that is portrayed over and over again is they’re holding this water in, they’re storing all this water, but when you really start to look at it you go, how could they actually stop water from leaking from this type of facility when you’ve built it next to a river, on sloping ground, with all this porous geology? How could they stop it? So we investigated that, and we’re finding that the fundamental engineering to operate these really important structures properly is to get rid of water,” Boschmann told *The Journal*.

Boschmann’s team, which includes Ian Peace - a former employee of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) - found the 6,000 square-metre sample area on the river last November with the help of traditional land-users.

“We let the river tell us where to go look. We went looking for a leak. We took some traditional, First Nation knowledge about ice development and the formation of ice and how it wasn’t developing properly in some spots, and they thought it was spring-like conditions where there was water entering. So we watched the river one November, watching the ice formation, and one particular spot took an additional month to freeze than the rest of the river. There was no natural explanation, so we spent the next three years figuring out why,” he said.

Using a groundwater piezometer, typically used on dry land, the team pounded the 22-foot long “hypodermic needle” five feet into the sand below the swiftly flowing river to collect samples.

“We wanted a fingerprint of process-affected water, and one of the most common constituents of

Ions like sodium, chloride, potassium, sulfates, iron and calcium were much higher, as well. In the river background, chlorides and sodium were in the 15-20 mg/L range, whereas in the samples chloride was detected at 3,300 mg/L and sodium at 2,800 mg/L.

Boschmann said the problem with the soundness of the tailings pond is that it

This perception that is portrayed over and over again is they’re holding this water in, they’re storing all this water, but when you really start to look at it you go, how could they actually stop water from leaking from this type of facility when you’ve built it next to a river, on sloping ground, with all this porous geology?

*Tony Boschmann*

process-affected water is the ions, the salts, the sodium and chloride and sulfates and iron and potassium and calcium - those sorts of things. And they’re very common - prevalent, in fact - in process-affected water. They actually occur naturally, but they get focused when you take this oilsands ore and then wash it. Everything that’s in the ore gets concentrated in the water and suspended in the column,” he said.

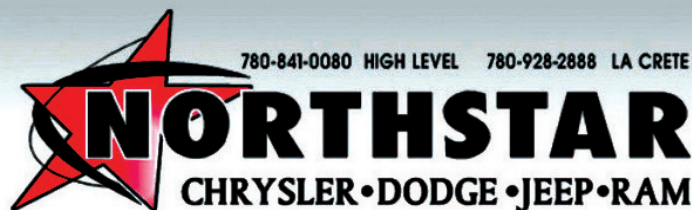
Compared to the electrical conductivity of the river water in the area, which was measured at around 300, Boschmann got readings of 10,400 from his sample water.

was constructed on a 2 km-wide and 50 metre-deep underground glacial meltwater channel, and the sand dykes - the most critical portion of the pond’s structural integrity - on top of the deepest and most porous part of the channel.

“If you’re trying to hold water in, it’s the worst place. If you’re building a tailings pond to release water, it’s the best place,” he said.

Boschmann’s challenge will be heard in court on Sept. 12. He’s being assisted by lawyer Melissa Daniels, an ACFN member.

Suncor did not respond to requests for comment as of press time.



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# Volunteer beach walkers to patrol Yellowknife beach

## Recent Long Lake drowning triggers community action

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A group of concerned Yellowknifers has taken matters into its own hands after the tragic drowning of a 7 year-old boy at Long Lake on the city's outskirts.

"Lifeguards for Lodune" is an advocacy group of volunteers who will walk the unsupervised beach at Long Lake, keeping a watchful eye on swimming children until actual lifeguards are available.

The group, named in memory of Lodune Shelley, the local boy who drowned on June 27, plans to begin its patrols this weekend.

Tanya Silke, a Yellowknife mother of four, is a family friend of the Shelleys and began organizing the group on June 28.

"It's devastated so many people in town. Nearly everyone knows the family, even if it's just to a minimal degree...There was a near drowning last year and she survived, but that incident also upset a lot of people," Silke said. "I knew in my heart that you have to capture people's attention when emotions are raw so I approached Lodune's mother about my plan and she gave me the go-ahead."

Lifeguards for Lodune has a three-pronged mandate, Silke said, with the first and foremost goal of advocating for official lifeguards at the beach again.

As the beach is located within Fred Henne Territorial Park, the responsibility of providing lifeguards falls to the territory, though in the past, both the GNWT and Yellowknife worked together to staff the beach.

There have been no lifeguards since 2003 when that partnership came to an end after territorial budget cuts.

According to Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck, the city has held recent talks with representatives from the department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) about the drowning and options for optimized beach safety.

"The department of ITI is moving ahead with a safety audit of the beach so depending on the results of that audit, we will look to potentially coordinate efforts with them," he said.

Heyck said he believes the audit will be carried out within the next few weeks.

"One of the benefits of the safety audit is that it's not only looking at the issue of lifeguards, but it's also looking at some of the physical aspects of the beach itself, such as the drop-off, and things like signage and other issues to make it a safer space," Heyck said.



Photo: Renée Francoeur

Tanya Silke is the face of Lifeguards for Lodune, a new grassroots group advocating for lifeguards at Long Lake.

A major hazard at the beach is the drop-off section, a sudden sand decline located just before the buoys.

Last Friday, the GNWT released a statement about the audit, which will also take place in Hay River's territorial park in cooperation with the Life Saving Society of Alberta.

The department is concentrating on these two locations because the beaches are within municipal boundaries and in close proximity to large populations, according to the press release.

The audit will address the use of lifeguards, beach size and access, park numbers and usage, signage and supervision.

Silke said she wants the public to understand that any changes at Long Lake will take time.

"We know this is going to cost money and that the territorial government will have to budget for it...It's not like we need just one lifeguard and the training Long Lake lifeguards would require is for open water - very different from pool training," Silke said. "It's not going to be a quick and easy process, but it is something that needs to happen, regardless."

### Group gathers beach walkers

When Lifeguards for Lodune isn't lobbying and urging the public to write MLAs, a select handful of volunteers will pace the beach, acting as "first responders," Silke said.

"We're not an official organization; we're underground so to say - grassroots," she told *The Journal*. "Many of

us have our CPR training and we're looking to give unofficial training about our role to our walkers...We have to be clear: we're not babysitters."

Silke, in her fourth year of Aurora College's nursing program, is off for the summer and plans to scan the water as much as she can.

"If I'm not out there, I'll have someone else who has CPR training on the ground...I'm still figuring out the scheduling, but I'd like to have at least three beach walkers at a given time: one halfway in the water, one on the shore and one back by

the tree," she said. "Ideally, we'd like to have people out there everyday, but we just don't know if we can do that at this point so we don't want the public assuming we'll be there. You still should come down and watch your kids."

The beach walkers will have their own shirts and hats to be more easily identified.

"We're still collecting supplies such as coolers, whistles...Many local business have been donating things, such as floatation devices. We're hopeful a defibrillator is being donated as well... Maybe lifeguard chairs. It's

amazing how we've all come together. But, that's Yellowknife for you."

The group has over 50 volunteers and is still growing, according to Silke.

"Everyone comes with a different set of skills. Of those 50, there's maybe only 15 or so that qualify for beach walkers but we can use all the help we can get," she said.

Heyck said he supports the group and thinks it's "great anytime a group of concerned citizens feel strongly about an issue and volunteer their own time to make the community a better place."

He mentioned he did caution Silke about liability issues.

"She seemed aware of the liabilities...I know they're still figuring things out, but their hearts are in the right place," he said.

### Spreading the word

Education and awareness is another big component of Lifeguards for Lodune, Silke said.

"We're in the midst of designing our website. We have a Facebook group already...to talk to kids about water safety, about the drop-off zone, the importance of not crying wolf and about what we're doing - we want the public to remember we're not lifeguards, we're volunteers."

The group plans to have Google Earth images of Long Lake on its website, as well as other maps of the area, highlighting hazardous zones. Lifeguards for Lodune strives for positive change and dialogue, Silke said.

She said she was even more motivated to "do something" after hearing some disturbing comments about beach supervision on a radio show.

"My youngest is 8 years-old and I know there's just no way you can keep your eyes on your kids every second of every day...It's counterproductive blaming parents or blaming the city or the territorial government; we need to channel this into something positive and I hope this will do that."

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# Dealing with the booze question

On June 25, the same afternoon the controversial act confirming the Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement was passed in the NWT legislature (with all but one member in favour), a private member's bill was presented, then passed first and second reading, causing a new debate to erupt in the NWT.

Norman Yakeleya, MLA for the Sahtu, presented a motion to amend the NWT Liquor Act. The bill, if it passes third reading, will enable Sahtu communities to hold a plebiscite proposing the ban of the sale of liquor by a liquor store in the Sahtu communities.

Pushback came swiftly from the business community in Norman Wells, worried that one of its own would be shut down, unjustly suffering if such a law came to pass. A call went out to businesses in all other NWT communities to influence their respective MLAs to oppose the bill. Opponents promise a public relations battle in the fall when the legislature resumes.

Yakeleya's bill follows a number of crime-related incidents in the Sahtu communities, most recently Tulita, where in late April a double stabbing took place and 180 bottles of vodka en route there via snowmobile were seized in two separate incidents by the RCMP.

Yakeleya said in a *Journal* interview at the time that the situation was worsening and community members were getting concerned, that it was "not normal behaviour."

An RCMP report, tabled in the House by Yakeleya in March, shows 47 per cent of all police calls in Tulita in 2012 were alcohol-related. In Fort Good Hope, that number was 66 per cent, followed closely by Norman Wells, the

only community in the Sahtu with a liquor store, at 52 per cent.

"People in the Sahtu have been telling me this situation with alcohol and violence is a ticking time bomb, that things are getting worse, not better," Yakeleya told *The Journal*. "We need to stand up as leaders and look at solutions for dealing with these issues."

At that same June 25 sitting of the legislature, a report was tabled by Minister of Health Tom Beaulieu on the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness.

The forum had travelled to 21 communities in late 2012 to find out what needs to be done to combat addictions. The report states, "Its 12 members had a single purpose; to listen to Northerners about what they feel are the best ways to stop the destructive impacts of alcohol, drugs and other addictions on individuals, families and communities."

One observation in the report is, "Aboriginal people are disproportionately represented in NWT correctional centres. Ninety-seven percent of inmates at the North Slave Correctional Centre are incarcerated for crimes relating to alcohol."

Among its ambitious 67 recommendations, the report recommends the government (#31) "Develop a campaign that celebrates sobriety and addiction-free living;" (#34) "Expand the NWT Liquor Commission's addictions awareness and prevention initiatives;" and (#63) "Increase liquor inspections and improve community cooperation with police to eliminate bootlegging."

Threaded throughout the report is the strong message that addictions degrade Aboriginal culture. That contrasts

sharply with the sentiments of opponents to Yakeleya's bill; that alcohol is a legal drug in our society, intrinsic to modern culture, and anyone who has a problem with that should figure it out and get with the program.

There is perhaps another way to approach all this, if liquor is to continue to be available freely in communities. That is to throw at least some of the responsibility for the problems back on the source. If a person is allowed to become overly intoxicated in a bar and then goes out and harms themselves, or others, the bar owner can be deemed criminally negligent and charged. The penalties are severe. Why not hold those licensed to operate liquor stores similarly responsible?

Obviously if a customer comes in and buys dozens of bottles of vodka, it is not for personal use. Such sales should be banned - everywhere. Often bootleggers are known to the police, have a record and could be in a database like child sex offenders, banned from ever buying liquor. Similarly, individuals with records of violence associated with alcohol could be on a banned list. As for the liquor store operator, if they were found to be guilty of selling inappropriate amounts of alcohol, obviously intended for bootlegging, or breaking the rules as to who they should sell to, they too would be criminally negligent.

This is not just about an entrepreneur running a business to make money. Booze, accepted or not, does very bad things. Alcohol abuse devastates individuals, families and whole communities. There is no easy solution to that. It is a special situation that requires special rules and strident measures.



Photo: Paul Bannister

*Juneva Green of Fort Smith spiritedly tells the original teddy bear picnic story to a group of almost 70 children in the church at Mission Park in Fort Smith on June 29 during the Northern Life Museum's Teddy Bear Picnic. A scavenger hunt, face painting, sing-alongs and sweet treats were also part of the picnic.*

## ARCHIVES

### 15 Years Ago...

#### *Escape from River Ridge*

Two male inmates from the River Ridge Offenders Centre escaped from a work project last Tuesday, July 7. The two were taken into custody the next day, following an extensive search of the surrounding area.

Leonard Archie Bourke, 18, of Fort Smith and a 15 year-old young offender were both charged with being unlawfully at large, and will appear in Fort Smith Court, Aug. 11.

*Issue: July 14, 1998*

### 20 Years Ago...

#### *Forestry deputy ministers set agenda*

The Northwest Territories representative at a national forestry meeting in Fort Smith last week said the NWT is in a position to be a leader in the field.

The topic sparking the most discussion was forest management agreements between the federal government and the provinces and territories.

*Issue: July 14, 1993*

### 30 Years Ago...

#### *Fire rages out of control*

An experimental burn that went out of control in a remote area 200 miles northeast of Fort Smith has grown to 1,300 hectares.

The burn was part of the experiments being conducted by the National Forest Fire Research Centre and the Canadian Forestry Service in the area since June 29.

When the fire was ignited just after 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 7, its rate of burn was recorded at three metres per minute.

*Issue: July 15, 1982*



# Road south good for tourism

*Editor,*  
This note is in regards to building the road south through Wood Buffalo National Park from Peace Point, Alta. After reading a couple articles in your paper, I thought would make a comment and suggestions on the matter. I support former mayor Peter Martselos, the original proponent of the 118 km road extension. I'm for an all-season route. Anyhow, Fort Smith geographically is at the end of the road, the last stop. Most travelers want to take an adventurous trek in a loop either clockwise or counter clockwise. They would explore and enjoy

new territory, good view of the evergreen, National Park, wildlife and camping grounds, etc. This will also be great for tourist industry. Now this super road will go through a National Park and Mikisew Cree and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations land. Sure this project will create some opposition. I disagree with town councillor Kevin Smith's comment, where he says the road south would see more people leaving the town to do their shopping and result in an economic loss for Fort Smith. What? Quite the contrary. You've got to think outside the box. Also the Mikisew Cree previously contested

the project, but today there is information that the Alberta band is showing interest in making this happen. Any massive road project such as this would have an impact on the people. Always have consultation with First Nation groups because they want input and shared interest in the matter. I am of Dene descent, and I know that this proposed road will benefit many remote and isolated communities north and south of the border as an excellent source for First Nations economic, social and community development. It will make a difference in people's lives. The all-season road will see

a steady traffic flow of supplies (fresh grub means fresh bannock), the production of needed goods and a market to distribute resources. How about native-owned gas and rest stop stores? The planning and implementation takes a collaborated relationship between all who are involved. Restore the defunct Thebacha Road Society, and get the heavy equipment rolling. You're at the intersection, the yellow light is on, Idle No More, the green light is flashing, time to move forward. I tell it like it is - straight-up, very straight.  
*Your friend,  
Al Benwell*

# CIDA just for rich corporations

*Editor,*  
I think one must be absolutely cynical or completely daft to pretend to be partners in helping the poor of the Third World so large Canadian corporations and mining companies can exploit their resources. Yet this is again the approach taken by the Harper government by recently amalgamating the Canadian International Development Agency

(CIDA) under the department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. Whether cynical or daft, the Harper government is diverting Canadian development assistance for poor countries to corporations, whose interests are opposite - in principle and practice - to the well-being of these poor people. There are numerous well-known instances and

testimonies in this regard. Mr. Harper knows the role played by multinationals in the impoverishment of numerous Third World countries. He is thus making another dangerous right turn in favour of the very rich, whose first victims, in the truest sense, will be the poorest of the world. I hope pressure from the public, from opposition parties and from members of

their own party will force the Harper Conservatives to change their approach towards CIDA and to adopt a much more human approach towards the poorest of the world. Assistance to the poor is limited and an effort must be made that they benefit from their own resources, not just large corporations.  
*Bruno Marquis  
Gatineau, Que.*

## COLUMN

# Water safety ideas that can save lives

Boating is a fun activity that is enjoyed by many in our communities; however, without proper precautions your fun on the water can turn disastrous. Boaters should keep the following in mind prior to heading out on local waters:

- Everyone on board should be wearing a safety-approved life jacket. Make sure they are in good condition and properly sized.
- Take a boating safety course.
- Check and monitor the weather and water conditions before and while you are boating.
- Know where you are at all times. Inform a friend/family member of your intended plans—course, direction, destination and duration.

- Make sure you are aware of local water hazards and dangers.
- Keep first aid supplies and an emergency boating kit, including matches and insect repellent, on board and in a waterproof receptacle.
- Designate a sober skipper!
- Ensure there is proper supervision for children—always within arm's reach when around bodies of water.
- Know your environment. Rivers can have strong currents that change or become powerful in high water. Lakes can suddenly drop off into deep water.
- Never underestimate the power of currents. Swimmers or waders can be swept away in an instant, particularly

if non-swimmers or weak swimmers get caught by current in rivers or out of their depth in abrupt drop-offs.

- Don't venture out on your own; always let someone know where you're going. Preferably go with at least one other person.
- Consider taking swimming and life saving lessons to help you navigate the waters safely and also to build on skills that could

be useful if you suddenly find yourself or someone else in a dangerous situation such as currents and/or under-tows. Learning water safety—such as how to prepare for an emergency, and what to do if one should occur—is key to preventing an emergency in or on the water.

*Wood Buffalo RCMP  
Community Policing*

## CORRECTIONS

In last week's story, "13th Open Sky Festival 'believes' in Northern artists," Lynn Canney, programming coordinator for the Open Sky Gallery, was incorrectly quoted as saying, "That slipped right in there because, of course, God is all about belief - no absolute truth there." It should read "no absolute proof there."

## MUKLUK



## FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

### Northern Journal 2013

Almost every evening from May to September, Ronnie Schaefer of Fort Smith can be found in his hip waders slogging through marshes on Salt River First Nation reserve land, just down from Lobstick Creek.



#### Fort Smith man stands on guard for whooping cranes



**Patricia Wasiukow:** Hats off to Ron for protecting and keeping a eye on these majestic birds. I believe the birds are nesting on Reserve Land, so the general public has to respect and not intrude were they don't belong.



**Judith Ann Gale:** Yes indeed they are nesting on reserve land. I believe it is not only his right but also every persons right to protect and respect the land.

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## Forecast

### Inuvik Yellowknife

Wednesday	
16 High	8 Low
22 High 16 Low	
Thursday	
4 High	1 Low
19 High 13 Low	
Friday	
12 High	-1 Low
14 High 8 Low	
Saturday	
16 High	6 Low
16 High 9 Low	
Norms: 20°C and 9°C	
Norms: 21°C and 12°C	

### Hay River Fort Smith

Wednesday	
21 High	14 Low
24 High 15 Low	
Thursday	
17 High	12 Low
20 High 12 Low	
Friday	
14 High	8 Low
13 High 10 Low	
Saturday	
16 High	8 Low
17 High 8 Low	
Norms: 21°C and 11°C	
Norms: 23°C and 10°C	



# NWT grid expansion to cost over half-billion

## Power Corp. to put out requests for tender within weeks

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Plans to connect the existing Snare and Taltson hydro systems with transmission lines are nearly ready to enter the tendering phase, and costs are estimated to reach more than half a billion dollars.

The line, which is preliminarily routed around the west side of Great Slave Lake for a total distance of around 900 km, is designed to increase infrastructural capacity to meet the power loads of future mines and bring several communities off diesel.

“The main driver for this initiative is to build backbone energy infrastructure that will, over time, stabilize the cost of energy for communities and existing customers that choose to tie in, but also to spread costs across all of the potential customers in the NWT and build economies of scale,” Andrew Stewart, manager of business development for NWT Energy Corp., told *The Journal*.

“We know that each individual community that’s stuck on diesel is going to be stuck in that cycle, that until we find another solution, will just be subject to the cost of the commodity...



The NT Power Corp. is looking for ways to tie the Taltson hydro system (above) with the Snare.

What we’re trying to do, even though there’s a really high upfront cost, is stabilize that cost so that you’re using water instead of diesel. And by virtue of that, you then build a system that will attract customers and also give you an opportunity to expand hydro projects like Taltson when the customer base is in place,” he said.

The project is currently in the exploratory phase of

looking at the technical stability requirements needed to link the two systems, from what voltage it will need to run at to what kind of poles it will take, which will determine the final cost.

“The Taltson project was about a \$400-million transmission line, and that was to go 700 km. This would be a higher voltage system, likely we’re thinking about 230 kv instead of 161...It’s going to be

certainly more expensive. It’s going to be more than \$500 million, as a general sense,” Stewart said.

Also to be decided is what communities the line will go through and where the line will cross the Mackenzie River. Kakisa and Fort Providence stand to get hooked into the hydro intertie, and potentially Fort Simpson, though more work needs to be done on the feasibility of that link.

Stewart said he doubts the line will be able to cross over the new Deh Cho Bridge.

“If it’s a high-voltage line, which I’m sure it will have to be, I’m pretty sure the bridge won’t be suitable for that kind of crossing because with a 230 kilovolt line you can’t. That’s something they’ll confirm for us, but I’m assuming they’re going to have to do some kind of span across the river at a narrow point,” he said.

The Energy Corp. is now in the process of putting together a request for tenders (RFT) to have system stability experts from across the country draft a proposal on what the transmission line project requires and what it will cost, taking into consideration the loads in the communities and potential mines along the way.

“Instead of chasing individual customers with one hydro project, we’ll build a grid and then build renewable and hydro projects into it, and it won’t be dependent on one individual customer to support that project.”

With the Taltson expansion project still in hiatus, Stewart said the company aimed for

about 400 megawatts of the load to be consumed by the existing customer base. He said there will be a similar kind of need for this system.

“We need those loads in order to pay for the system,” he said. “We’ll have to run a bunch of scenarios as to what loads we can expect and for how long. But a fundamental component of this is we will attract existing and new customers to the grid. And then you end up sharing the benefits of those savings to everybody that’s on the system, instead of just the communities or just one mine. All the communities would benefit - once it’s stabilized and over time if you’re attracting new customers, then everybody shares that benefit.”

Once the RFT is out, Stewart said it will take about a month for respondents to submit packages before anything can be awarded. Following the award of a contract, it will likely take about three or four months to receive a draft of the general system requirements, followed by details on routes, costing and construction estimates.



## JOIN THE NWT’S BOOMING MINING INDUSTRY AS A MINERAL PROCESSOR.

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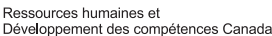
+ The program will qualify successful trainees for entry-level positions at the NWT’s major mines. Selected applicants will be financially supported through LMA, LMDA or ASETS. Mine employees generally require criminal record checks. If you’re eligible, the Mine Training Society can assist with applications for criminal record suspension.

The program has two phases. Phase 1 consists of a 12-week classroom and shop session at Aurora College’s Thebacha campus in Fort Smith. Phase 2 is 504 hours long, with three 2-week rotations on-site at an operating diamond mine.

# GET MORE WITH ORE

LOCATION: FORT SMITH, NWT  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 31, 2013  
PROGRAM START: SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

TO APPLY, CONTACT THE MINE TRAINING SOCIETY AT 867-765-0445, OR EMAIL [MTS@MINETRAINING.CA](mailto:MTS@MINETRAINING.CA)





# Smith’s Landing members elect aligned chief and council

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
Smith’s Landing First Nation members elected what could be its most harmonious chief and council in recent history on Tuesday evening. Chief Andrew Wandering Spirit, who was re-elected July 2 following his fall 2012 by-election win, said he could not be more ecstatic about the council he is set to work with. “I’m so happy they’re there,” he said of the four-person council voted in, which includes former

councillor Thaidene Paulette, Geronimo Paulette, Agnes Cheezie and Dianne Benwell. “It’s a very good council.” Thaidene received the most votes for council with 62, followed by Geronimo with 59, Cheezie with 56 and Benwell with 43. Former councillor John Tourangeau, who ran again but lost by one vote to Benwell, is expected to appeal. Wandering Spirit beat out former chief and councillor Fred

Daniels, 51 to 33. The third chief candidate, former councillor Liz Stirrett, received 15 votes. Chair of the Smith’s Landing Elders’ Committee Francois Paulette said he thinks the results signify that people want to move forward from the recent issues of corruption and troubled finances faced by the First Nation. “People want change,” Paulette said. “They want to deal with the Elders’ Committee report, the forensic audit,

changes to the election code, that kind of thing.” A 2011 forensic audit commissioned by the First Nation found hundreds of thousands of dollars were unaccounted for and allegedly embezzled by former employees and elected representatives of the First Nation, including Daniels, who is mentioned in the audit as having had signing authority over several accounts in question. Following the audit, the Elders’ Committee, which

included councillor Cheezie, Howard Benwell and Stirrett, was established to make recommendations to the chief and council on how to move forward. Recommendations included setting up measures for more financial transparency and accountability, internal justice processes to deal with anyone convicted of the alleged embezzlement and on-the-land healing workshops for council, staff members and the community.

Former chief Cheyenne Paulette, who resigned from the position last fall, partly attributed an unwillingness by council to deal with the Elders’ Committee recommendations for his decision to step down. While chief, Paulette said he tried to enact changes to the election code and address the forensic audit, but faced bullying, corruption and unethical decision making on the part of certain councillors.

# Annual Dene Nation meeting puts focus on land *Gathering in Inuvik marks 40 years since Paulette caveat*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG  
Leaders and community members from across Denendeh are meeting in Inuvik this week for the 43rd annual Dene National Assembly, and according to National Chief Bill Erasmus, the focus of the discussions is going to be an all-pervasive one when it comes to issues in the North: land. “This is the 40th year since the court case where Francois Paulette and other chiefs took

Canada to court and won the case, so why is it that 40 years later, we’re still not governing ourselves? There’s something that’s terribly wrong,” he said. “Canada’s denying the fact that these rights exist and are enshrined in the Canadian Constitution. So how to deal with, what do we do to turn that around, that’s part of the issue.” Though the specific details of each region and community will be filled in throughout the

three days of meetings, Erasmus said big issues of how to protect the land will be brought up. “We’ve got people coming up and talking about the proposed Canada-China trade agreement. We’ve also got people talking about the fracking in northern BC. Those are some of the big issues,” he said. “Water, lands, resources - the devolution agreement, for example, it’s designed to give power and authority to

the territorial government and we’re saying, how can you do that when the lands and the resources don’t belong to the federal government? It’s a huge issue that we need to talk about.” Protection for Northern lakes and rivers will also be on the agenda, including a proposal for the Dene Nation to support federal Bill C-529, which moves to reinstate protection of the Slave River under the Navigable Waters

Protection Act. It was removed from the list of protected rivers in December 2012 through omnibus budget Bill C-45. Moving on from Inuvik, Erasmus, who is also regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), will be attending the AFN annual general meeting in Whitehorse the week after. He said there will be a full contingent from the NWT focused on issues currently important to the North, such

as fracking, but said the main agenda item will be unification of First Nations across the country. “The big one is how to keep us all together and deal with the issues that are affecting us. The North is somewhat different, but really if you’re an Indian, you’re an Indian. There are specific legal obligations that have to be filled on the part of Canada and it’s important that we have all of that clear,” he said.



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# Limited caribou harvest proposed for resident hunters

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Resident hunters may soon get the chance to harvest select barren ground caribou again.

The government of the Northwest Territories has proposed a limited harvest in designated zones during the 2013-2014 big game season for resident hunters when it comes to the Bluenose-East, Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds.

Current trend and population analysis along with harvest projections indicate the herds could sustain the current Aboriginal harvest as well as a limited harvest from resident hunters with minimal negative impacts.

There has been a hunting ban on the Bluenose-East herd since 2006 for resident hunters.



Photo courtesy of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Bluenose-East caribou race through the deep snow. There has been a hunting ban for resident hunters on this herd since 2006.

This herd, currently undergoing a herd size survey from the department of Environment and Natural Resources,

was not officially recognized as a distinct herd until 1999. Resident harvesting of the Beverly and Ahiak herds

closed in 2009-2010. Aboriginal harvesting of these three caribou herds is not restricted. The most recent survey

from 2010 shows the Bluenose herd numbers have increased to 122,000 animals. The Aboriginal harvest between 2009

and 2010 averaged 2,700 animals from the herd.

The Beverly herd was recorded at 124,000 in 2011 and the Ahiak herd at 71,000.

The Aboriginal harvest of these herds between 2009 and 2010 was 1,000 animals and less than 1,000 in 2011-2012, respectively.

The proposal would allow resident hunters to purchase one tag for a bull-only harvest. The tag must be used for one bull in total and cannot be used for one bull from all three herds.

The proposal has been sent to various renewable resources boards for review and recommendations to the minister of the Environment and Natural Resources.

Environment Flooding

# Flood relief comes to Fort McMurray region

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Residents of the Fort McMurray region who suffered property damage due to flooding between June 10 and 17 will benefit from the province's recently announced disaster recovery program.

As of July 2, residents can go to the municipal office to apply for the program, with priority going to those without flood insurance.

“Our first priority is getting help to the families and small businesses who experienced uninsurable losses caused by this disaster,” said Associate Minister Don Scott, MLA for Fort McMurray-Conklin. “When she visited two weeks ago, the premier committed to helping this community recover from this flood. I’m proud to follow through on that commitment.”

The funding is part of \$1 billion promised to assist all flood-affected residents of Alberta following major disasters in the Calgary and High River areas. It is unknown how much money Fort McMurray will receive. Affected residents are required to obtain letters from their insurance companies outlining uninsured damage and submit that along with photos of the damage

to provide to assessment evaluators. Onsite damage assessments will also occur after eligible residents apply for assistance. The program only applies to homeowners looking to repair or rebuild their primary residence and other uninsurable damaged or lost property. The funds can also cover communities, small businesses and agricultural producers and are intended

to return essential property to the condition it was before the disaster. Fort McMurray was hit hard by floods in mid-June following extensive rainfall that put the community in a state of emergency for six days and had many downstream on edge about the potential for oilsands tailings ponds to overflow into the river system. Flooding began on the Hangingstone River on June

10, forcing hundreds to evacuate and causing significant property damage. On June 17, the Firebag bridge collapsed 100 km north of Fort McMurray, stranding dozens of campers in the Richardson area. Highways 63 and 881 were closed because of the flooding. Estimates of the amount of flood damage are not yet complete.

# SAFETY IN BEAR COUNTRY

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

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

For more information on bear safety, contact your local ENR office or visit [www.enr.gov.nt.ca](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca)

**South Slave Regional Office – Fort Smith, NT**  
**Phone: (867) 872-6400 • Emergency Line: (867) 872-0400**

## Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council

### Call for Expressions of Interest

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) is seeking expressions of interest for individuals to sit on an Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council for the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The objective of the Advisory Council is to provide leadership and direction for sustainable development of Aboriginal Tourism in the NWT.

Guidelines for the expressions of interest can be downloaded at: [www.iti.gov.nt.ca/tourismparks/aboriginaltourism.shtml](http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/tourismparks/aboriginaltourism.shtml) or picked up at ITI regional offices.

Deadline to send in expressions of interest is **July 12, 2013**.

For more information on the Advisory Council, please contact Mr. Douglas Dillon, Aboriginal Tourism Development Officer at **867-920-8767**.



# Tsiigehtchic hot topic for Gwich'in Tribal Council

## Health services, contracting agreements discussed at meeting with GNWT

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The severe lack of health care providers in the small community of Tsiigehtchic was a major item of discussion during a second inter-governmental meeting in Yellowknife last Wednesday between the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and cabinet members from the territorial government.

"There was some concern expressed by the council about nursing services in small communities, especially those that don't have road access," Premier Bob McLeod, who attended the meeting, told *The Journal*. "Tsiigehtchic doesn't have a nurse, for example, so there was a discussion about how we can deal with that and who should be paying for medical travel if people who are sick are driving themselves to Inuvik."

The possibility of revisiting clinical practice guidelines for nurses in isolated Northern communities was also addressed at the meeting. "Nurses aren't allowed to attend patients outside of their nursing station, so we said we would be prepared to discuss this issue with the NWT Nurses Association to see what, if any, changes



Robert Alexie Jr., president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, says the council has a good working relationship with the territorial government.

would be required to enable nurses to attend patients in their home," McLeod said. "The overall conclusion is that our health and social services people will facilitate a community meeting in Tsiigehtchic to discuss the health and medical services." The meeting will be held sometime in the coming weeks, he added. Other areas of interest reviewed at the meeting included funding levels for

community programs and services under GNWT contribution agreements, and establishing protocols for access to Gwich'in lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. "We updated them on how we're doing with our contracting agreement when it comes to contributions, as well as efforts we're taking to have a workforce and public service that is more representative of the population," McLeod said. "We do have

a memorandum of understanding when it comes to contracting and we briefed everyone on a status report on construction of senior residences in Fort McPherson and Aklavik." The objective of the contracting agreement is to provide Gwich'in companies with 50 per cent of the government contracting done in the region. Many of these contracts include highway maintenance.

Tsiigehtchic doesn't have a nurse, for example, so there was a discussion about how we can deal with that and who should be paying for medical travel if people who are sick are driving themselves to Inuvik.

Premier Bob McLeod

Overall, both parties seemed pleased with the meeting, McLeod said. "It's been a year now since our vice president Norman Snowshoe and I took over the leadership of the Gwich'in Tribal Council," GTC president Robert Alexie Jr. said in a press release. "One of the first things we did was re-establish a good working relationship with the government of the NWT. We are pleased to obtain both a bilateral agreement and an agreement on contracting in the Gwich'in settlement area, which we are making work to our mutual advantage." During the meeting, the premier confirmed he would be in attendance at the

GTC's upcoming National Conference on Indigenous Self-Government, slated to take place in Inuvik from Sept. 10-12. McLeod also announced he will respond to the GTC's funding request of \$50,000 for the conference within the next two weeks. The Umbrella Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Intergovernmental Cooperation and Coordination was signed on Oct. 13, 2012 and recognizes the importance of a government-to-government relationship between the GNWT and the GTC. It commits both governments to two meetings per year. The last meeting was on Dec. 10, 2012 in Inuvik.

# signed.

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# NWT water levels largely below normal

## Heavy rainfall in some areas resulting in swelling rivers

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

While cleanup after recent major flooding in Alberta continues, Northerners do not have much to fear when it comes to river levels in the Northwest Territories, said a Yellowknife representative from the Water Resources Division of the federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

“Pretty much, across the Territories, we’re a little bit below normal for this time of year, depending on where you are. We’re on average about 10-20 cm below normal in the Yellowknife and North Slave area and about 20-30 cm below normal in the Dehcho area,” Bob Reid, head of water management and planning with the division, told *The Journal*.

Great Slave Lake is 10 cm above average, but Reid said that is largely a result of the higher levels in northern Alberta’s Athabasca and Peace Rivers, which drain into the Slave River.

Some river levels are also up after a large rainstorm slammed into the lower part of the Mackenzie Valley mid last week.

“That storm dropped a pile of water and the rivers there



The Mackenzie River, shown here in a peaceful summer photo from 2010, is experiencing high water levels after heavy rainstorms last week.

have all come up in some cases 50-60 cm,” Reid said. “Similarly, in rivers north of Inuvik, water levels came up 80 cm and one gauge recorded the level came up just over a metre on July 4.”

But it’s not an “out of the ordinary” recording, due to last week’s persistent rain in certain areas, Reid said.

The Mackenzie River, around Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope, is also up

30 cm from rain - nowhere near as high as it can get in the spring, Reid said, but it’s still a “big pulse of water moving through there right now.”

This “pulse” will dislodge driftwood along the banks

and sediment, carrying it downriver, he noted. While the division does not specialize in flooding forecasts, Reid said there is little cause to worry.

“Most flooding concern

in the NWT comes from ice breakup in the spring... It’s forecasted water levels will start to level off over the next week,” he said. “Everything that’s going on is completely normal.”

Photo: Fort Simpson Chamber of Commerce

### Northern Youth Camps including Taiga Camps are open!

To register for the camps, forms and information can be found at [northernyouth.ca](http://northernyouth.ca) or [taigacamp.com](http://taigacamp.com)

**July 5-10:** Land based Taiga Adventure Camp, Fort McPherson (Females 12-17)

**July 17-27:** Taiga Adventure Camp Canoe Trip (Females 13-17)

**August 5-9:** Northern Youth Canoe Trip, Yellowknife (Males & Females 13-17)

**August 12-16:** Northern Youth Canoe Trip, Yellowknife (Males & Females 13-17)

Contact Jenny at: [jenny@northernyouth.ca](mailto:jenny@northernyouth.ca) / (867) 873-4891 / [northernyouth.ca](http://northernyouth.ca)



# Fort Smith council votes to support Slave River protection

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A unanimous vote by Fort Smith Town Council on Tuesday evening lends support to a federal private member's bill aimed at reinstating protection for the Slave River.

Council voted during its corporate services meeting July 2 to send a letter of support for Edmonton-Strathcona MP Linda Duncan's Bill C-529, which aims to have the Slave River again included under the auspices of the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

The river was removed from the list of those protected under the act in December 2012's omnibus budget Bill C-45, while water bodies including the Peace, Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers, along with Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake, retained protection.

Councillor Kevin Smith, who first brought the issue to council on June 18, said his main concern is ensuring people in Fort Smith will have a say about future development on the Slave.

"The Navigable Waters Protection Act does not prohibit any development.



Fort Smith Town Council has voted to support a federal private member's bill that aims to include the Slave River in the Navigable Waters Protection Act again.

What it does is it triggers a federal review process that gives communities that aren't necessarily in that jurisdiction a say in what happens, or a greater

chance of having a say," he told committee Tuesday night. "As it currently stands... if there was proposed development on the Slave

River, wherever it is, whatever form it is, the government of Alberta has the say. It's not considered to be under federal jurisdiction. The Navigable Waters Act

would put it under federal jurisdiction, which means it would trigger a federal review process, which would involve the Northwest Territories.

"Considering the Slave River is the source of our drinking water, I think we should be concerned about any form of development...in this scenario, which means we may not have any voice whatsoever," he added.

While private member's bills often don't achieve success in Parliament, Smith said there is some precedent set by a recent bill amending international boundary waters receiving royal assent in February.

"I think where things aren't very contentious and they're being requested by local communities that are potentially impacted, there is recent precedent in Parliament where private member's bills are being supported," he said.

Town council will address a letter of support for the bill to federal Environment Minister Peter Kent and Transportation Minister Denis Lebel.

The bill went through its first reading last month. Second reading will take place this fall when session resumes at the House of Commons.

## Maria (Marie) Sorochan Sibley Perron



*"It never hurts to smile a little smile and say hello"*

**ON JUNE 20, 2013,** Mom passed away peacefully in her sleep at Chateauguay, Quebec. Mom's family meant the world to her. She always had the time to sit and listen or offer gentle words of encouragement and advice. Her beautiful smile and sounds of laughter will be lovingly remembered along with her great joy of music and dancing.

**MOM WILL BE REMEMBERED** and sadly missed by son John (Nicole) grandchildren Matthew and Alexandra of Chateauguay, QC. Daughter Cathy (Ken) grandchildren Sid, Jennifer, Loren and Shawn of Fort Smith, NT. Brother Tony (Phyllis) of Fort Sask., AB. Numerous nieces, nephews, great grandchildren and friends.

*A memorial service took place in Chateauguay, Quebec on June 23, 2013. Thank you to all for your kind words and support during this sad time.*

# TREE CUTTING PERMITS



## A tree cutting permit

entitles individuals to remove one of the following:

- Three Christmas trees under 2.5 metres in height.
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- Up to 5 cubic metres of dead standing or wind fallen volume (usually used for firewood). The number of trees cut depends on tree species and size, but it is approximately:
  - 5 to 7 large coniferous trees (generally trees with needles)
  - 4 to 6 deciduous trees (generally trees with leaves)

Trees and timber are to be cut from designated Crown Provincial Land only. The permit must be with you at all times while cutting and transporting.

TM 66 permits can be purchased from participating ESRD offices or online at [srd.alberta.ca](http://srd.alberta.ca)







Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam addresses the media during a press conference at the start of the fourth annual Tar Sands Healing Walk on Saturday.



Children from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation mask up for the trip past Syncrude's oilsands upgrader facilities, taking a break to sit on the tailgate of the support truck.



A constant stream of traffic from Syncrude's oilsands facilities blasts by as young marchers try to mask themselves from the pollution.



Chris Hill from Six Nations flies his Mohawk flags near one of Syncrude's tailings ponds.



Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus marches with drummers from the Dene Tha First Nation in northwestern Alberta.

Environment Oilsands

# Healing walk brings record number of marchers

*Continued from page 1.*  
Adam called the timing of the alleged spill, which fell on the day of the Healing Walk, "tragically ironic."  
"This spill is one of the number of reasons why we walk and is an oily reminder of Alberta's

growing pipeline and tar sands problem," he said. "The Alberta government needs to address these problems. Ignoring them doesn't make them go away."  
Hundreds of elders, youth, indigenous leaders and allies marched along the busy

highway Saturday afternoon, past tailings ponds, upgraders, base camps, mined sections of land and reclamation areas, offering prayers for the land and Creator in all four directions, with the ongoing leak a constant reminder of

the purpose of the gathering that brought people in from across the continent.  
"This is why we're all here," Deranger said. "To stop this type of stuff from happening. It's absolutely imperative that we all come together and really pray for the healing of the land."

sort using the CSS extraction process, and they're actually up to their knees in this emulsion," she said.  
Lameman said it was "no coincidence" that the majority of last month's flooding in southern Alberta hit Calgary, where the major oil companies' headquarters are stationed.  
"Industry: wake up, you're being sent a message," she said. "That's our mother, she's crying."  
The walk was also prefaced by news of the shocking explosions in Lac-Megantic, Que. caused when crude oil a train was carrying caught fire and resulted in five reported fatalities and 40 other people still missing as of Monday afternoon, which had people pointing fingers again at the safety record of oil transportation systems.  
Other speakers at the Healing Walk event, including 350.org founder Bill McKibben and author Naomi Klein, tied development of the oilsands to global climate change and interpreting devastating natural

disasters, including flooding in India that recently claimed the lives of thousands and wildfires in Arizona that took the lives of 19 firefighters, as warnings the extreme could become the norm if more bitumen is extracted from Alberta's soil.  
"There are five or six deposits of carbon around the world that are big enough that if you dig it up and burn it, there's no way we're ever going to be able to bring our climate under control, and this is one of them," McKibben said. "What happens here will determine what will happen for generations and generations to come...It would be game over for the climate."  
Though organizers say the event - attracting a record number of participants this year - is not a protest against development, Adam said it is a wakeup call for industry and government officials to "clean up" their existing messes.  
"We cannot continue the destruction happening on our homeland without proper environmental and regulatory processes in place," he said.

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Leaders lead hundreds of Healing Walk participants out of Crane Lake park Saturday.



Drummers from the Lubicon Cree Nation in northwestern Alberta sing on the walk.



Crane Lake Cree elder Doreen Lameman, indigenous activist and on-screen actor Tantoo Cardinal, environmentalist and author Tzeporah Berman visit Friday evening at the Indian Beach camp.



Woodward's Landing First Nation elder Francois Paulette says prayers for the land during the 14-km Tar Sands Healing Walk north of Fort McMurray on Saturday.



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

Fort McMurray elder Violet Clarke beams proudly at her newborn great-grandson, born in a teepee at midnight on Thursday evening, the eve of the Healing Walk.

## Northerners Babies

# Rain, newborn baby bring blessings to Healing Walk

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

At the stroke of midnight on the eve of the fourth annual Tar Sands Healing Walk, a baby boy was born on a buffalo robe in a teepee during a thunderstorm at the Indian Beach camp site along Gregoire Lake near Anzac.

"A sacred child," the newborn great-grandson of Fort McMurray elder Violet Clarke was proclaimed, and along with the rain that maintained its presence throughout the next two days, made the star of the event focused on purification, life and healing.

"What a beautiful way to start the walk, not just with a birth, but with the rain," Eriel Deranger, one of the walk's organizers, said Friday afternoon during the downpour.

"This rain is healing; it is purifying," Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) elder Sue Deranger

What a beautiful way to start the walk, not just with a birth, but with the rain.

*Eriel Deranger  
Healing Walk Coordinator*

also reflected. "The tar sands are taking, and we need to give back. Our giving back is our sacrifice, to stand in the rain and walk."

She said both the rain and the baby were blessings to remind people of hope and life to help them carry on.

"Thank you to the rain for healing us all," she said.

The birth was seen as especially significant in light of the recent passing of one of the Healing Walk's founders, Roland Woodward, a Métis elder

from Fort McMurray and a member of Keepers of the Athabasca, to whom this year's walk was dedicated.

Elder Nancy Scanie of the Cold Lake First Nation, who helped coach the birth, said the new baby was a blessing after the loss of Woodward.

"One of the most beautiful experiences I ever had was watching a new baby come into the room. He's a replacement of Roland - a beautiful baby boy," she said. "Roland is with us in spirit now."

*Happy 50th Anniversary  
Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa.*



Love, Michele, Paul, Jason, Atara, Mark, Jennifer, Colinda, Joe, Amanda, Ashlie, David, Darien, Cameron, Jayden, Adanna, Christopher, Carys, Trey, Euan, and Dakota.

Photos: Meagan Wohlberg



# French man embarks on paddling journey North

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Exploring the mighty and mysterious Canadian wilderness alone was something high on Nicolas Peyrelongue's bucket list and this summer, he will be crossing it off.

The 28 year-old man from Mimizan, France set out from Jasper, Alta. on June 10 and is paddling north to Tuktoyaktuk.

"I wanted to spend some time by myself out in the wilderness, think about changes I want to make in my life, just think about life," Peyrelongue told *The Journal* when he was passing through Fort Smith on Canada Day. "I thought, if I don't do this now, I'll spend the rest of my life thinking about it."

He took a year off from his job as an air traffic controller and hopped on a plane, flanked only with guts and ambition.

With no previous canoe experience, Peyrelongue signed up for a three-week paddling course in Maine in May.

"This was good for me to do. I learned a lot and not just paddling techniques, but how to live in the bush," he said.

After poring over maps and finally picking out a "fairly easy" route with "no to very little portaging," he slipped his cherry red canoe into the



Photo: Paul Bannister

Nicolas Peyrelongue of Mimizan, France is on a paddling journey to Tuktoyaktuk for some solitary time in the great Canadian wilderness. He began his adventure in Jasper on June 10.

Athabasca River at Jasper and began his long journey.

"It's just beautiful out there. The river is very quiet, though the water is

very high everywhere," he said.

"I have yet to see any bears along the river banks, but I did see my first cougar on

my third day...By the colouring, I thought it was a deer at first, then I saw the long tail and he just looked at me and I did get a bit scared

- thought he'd follow me, but he didn't."

Peyrelongue was forced to stop just south of Fort McMurray, before the rumbling Grand Rapids.

"I didn't want to chance that. I'm not skilled enough to make it through there," he said.

He hitchhiked into McMurray where he started paddling again, coasting into Fort Chipewyan in time for the local First Nations' treaty days celebrations.

"One night I had to sleep on a pile of wood because there was water everywhere else. This was on the Athabasca Delta," he said. "Athabasca Lake was really rough when I passed through. I only slept until 3:00 a.m. and then continued on."

There have been unexpected changes to his canoe trip as he meets new people in each community along the route.

"When I started in Jasper, I thought I'm going to do this and get to my destination as fast as possible for me. Then I started meeting such interesting people along the way. They are so welcoming and helpful and kind," Peyrelongue said. "So I end up staying longer in the towns and I learn from them and even if I don't make it all the way, it'll be okay because of

all these other experiences along the way."

He attended a sweat lodge in Fort Chip and another one when he arrived in Fort Fitzgerald on June 29.

"Francois Paulette saw me pull up from the river and he came down in his truck and picked me up, even drove me to the campsite at Queen Elizabeth and invited me to my second sweat," he said. "That is very spiritual for me and I feel like I'm evolving spiritually as well as mentally, physically with this trip."

The genesis of Peyrelongue's adventure sparked from a book he read about four years ago, detailing the canoe travels into the Arctic of one Montreal man.

"This man had no previous paddling experience; he just went for it and I wanted to do that," Peyrelongue said.

From the Slave River in Fort Smith, Peyrelongue travelled to Hay River and Fort Providence last week, beginning his long stretch on the Mackenzie.

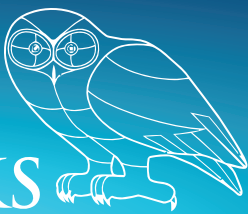
He said he sets no targeted date to reach Tuktoyaktuk because he has no idea who or what he'll run into along the way.

"I have to be back in France by October. Till then, anything can happen," he said with a laugh.

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# Aklavik woman wraps up 29 years of teaching

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The “darndest” things children say at the most unexpected moments will be what long-time teacher Edith Bourke misses most as she says goodbye to the hallowed halls of elementary education where she spent the bulk of the past 29 years of her life.

“It’s never ceased to amaze me the things kids would say... There hasn’t been one moment where I wasn’t enjoying what I was doing,” said Bourke, who retired from Joseph B. Tyrrell (JBT) elementary school in Fort Smith last month. “I love working with children; they are so eager to learn and you learn from them, too. It is one of the most rewarding jobs you could ask for.”

Bourke, 65, began her teaching journey in her hometown of Aklavik in 1971 when she was hired on as a classroom assistant at Moose Kerr School for three years.

“I have always loved learning myself, so I took courses throughout the summers and the principal knew I had the ability to teach, so the staff encouraged me to go for official training and so I did,” Bourke said.

She attended the Teacher Education Program from



Photo: Brittany Bourke

Edith Bourke (right) and husband Fred plan to travel around the NWT following her recent retirement after 29 years of teaching, visiting their children and grandchildren.

1974-1976, training for three months in Iqaluit and then finishing up in Fort Smith.

“It was at the time when they were just starting the program up in Iqaluit...I remember we stayed way out of town in a residence; it was interesting,” she said.

After the program, she was hired on full time at Moose Kerr, where she taught for the next three years before relocating to High Level, Alta.

for her husband Fred’s job.

During this time, she took a break from teaching until Fred’s career brought the couple back to the North in 1986, this time to Fort McPherson.

“Here I worked for an adult education centre for about a year before I was hired on at Chief Julius School and I worked there right up to 1995 as an elementary teacher.”

While in Fort McPherson, Bourke said she saw her love

of music blossom and expand into her teaching methods.

“I sang with the students and, for the first time, I started doing the Christmas choir. I still get comments and compliments today from people who were in my classes during that time and parents about the impact that had,” she said.

“Since then, I started incorporating more music into what I did in the classroom, just as a side note to learning, like how

to carry a tune and encourage my students to develop a love for music.”

Besides music, Bourke taught a large array of classes over the years, including math, language, science, social studies, art and health.

“I never taught home economics or gym,” Bourke said. “Everything else, though...And every grade in elementary.”

After eight years at Chief Julius, Bourke’s thirst for knowledge led her back to school where she took a two-year business management diploma course at Aurora College in Fort Smith.

“During this time I came to see how passionately I missed teaching. I’d walk down the hall at the college and run into the students in the education program and I wanted to be back teaching,” she said.

To help her cope with two deaths in the family, Bourke did go back to teaching after receiving her diploma, taking an education assistant job with Grade 8 teachers at Paul W. Kaeser high school in Fort Smith.

“Then it was time to go back to school for real and I went to the University of Saskatchewan for my Bachelor of Education, finally,” she said. “Next, it was

2001 before I knew it and I was hired on at JBT as a Grade 6 teacher and I was there right up until I retired this year, when I was teaching Grade 2.”


Bourke said she’s met many amazing children over the years and is “truly blessed” to have landed in such a life-changing career.

“My parents really instilled in me the value of getting an education. My mom was right there encouraging me till the end...I want all young and new teachers to not be discouraged, to know they can overcome obstacles and to hold onto the good moments from their students, like those moments a struggling student finally understands a difficult topic.”

Bourke and her husband now plan to spend their days travelling, visiting their 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren scattered across the NWT.

“I just got back from Yellowknife and before that I was in Edmonton. Now, we’re planning to go to Inuvik. My husband is an evangelist and we minister as we travel - that’s partly where my love for music comes from,” Bourke said.

“We’re just going to enjoy life and take it easy. I was sick last year and so now that I’m healthy I’m thankful we can travel.”



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Fort Smith-based artist Brandy Wilson is showing her collection of giant floral photographs at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife until September.

Arts & Culture Visual Arts

# Thebacha forest and roadside inspire artist

By JACK DANYLCHUK  
When Brandy Wilson first arrived in Fort Smith, she was struck by the sweetness of the air in spring, and wondered at the source of the delicate fragrance that changed

subtly with the season. “It was the wild flowers,” said Wilson, who studied fine arts at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Born in Inuvik, she was immediately taken with the

procession of blossoms of the surrounding wilderness that transition from bursts of colour in spring and summer to the muted tones of fall and winter. Wilson began to collect,

arrange and photograph the specimens – lady’s slipper orchids, rows crocus, shocking pink wintergreen, paintbrush, vetch, aster, lush green foliage - rich in texture and detail, mandalas and tapestries. “Now I get calls from people, telling me where something interesting is in bloom,” said Wilson, who must move quickly to catch the flowers at their

peak - and before they fall to the blades of the mower. The result is a series of photographic prints on archival paper that have been shown across Canada. Each is a moment in time, an intimate portrait of the landscape as seen through the eyes of an artist. “Presenting botanicals on an oversized scale is an opportunity to examine nature in ways that are

often overlooked,” she said. “Each image is refined, imperfections and distractions removed to allow for intense examination of the veins of a petal and the serrated edge of a leaf.” An exhibition of Wilson’s most recent work, *Thebacha Trails and Roadside Ditches*, will display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre until September.

## IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 24 2013 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT

### ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION NOTICES MAILED

The Improvement District No. 24 (Wood Buffalo National Park) combined assessment and taxation notices were delivered to property owners on June 28, 2013.

Under the Municipal Government Act in regards to property assessment appeals, property owners have 60 days to appeal an assessment. The final date for Assessment Complaint is August 27, 2013.

**Property taxes are still due  
and payable by July 31, 2013.**

Property owners having questions on the assessment are encouraged to contact the Improvement District assessor at 780-826-3589. Questions on the property taxes should be directed to Administration at 780-422-8876.

## Call for Nominations

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is now accepting nominations for the Minister’s Culture and Heritage Circle. The Minister’s Culture and Heritage Circle recognizes youth, individuals, Elders and groups in the Northwest Territories who exemplify excellence and dedication to the promotion and preservation of the arts, culture and heritage in their community or region.

### Nomination forms are available at:

- [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca)
- the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre website ([www.pwnhc.ca](http://www.pwnhc.ca));
- your local band office; or
- a Regional ECE Service Centre.

### Deadline for nominations is August 30, 2013.

For more information, please contact ECE Public Affairs at (867) 920-3059 or [ECEPublicAffairs@gov.nt.ca](mailto:ECEPublicAffairs@gov.nt.ca).



MINISTER’S  
CULTURE AND  
HERITAGE CIRCLE  
PRIDE IN THE NORTH





Photo: Gerda Hazenberg

Young students practice positioning their bows and fiddles during the 11th Kole Crook Fiddle Association Fiddle Camp on the K'at'l'odeeche First Nation reserve outside of Hay River last week.

## Arts & Culture Music

# Fiddle camp honours Northern identity

## *Nine instructors help spread love of four-stringed instrument*

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Bows and strings came together on the K'at'l'odeeche First Nation reserve last week for an annual affair honouring one of the North's most beloved musical traditions.

Fiddle enthusiasts of all ages from across the Northwest Territories flocked to the Chief Sunrise Educational Centre to learn tips from skilled instructors during the 11th Kole Crook Fiddle Association (KCFA) Fiddle Camp.

"It's a unique camp, a fiddle fine arts camp, if you will, and every year we try to get a new instructor or two so it kind of feels like beginning a whole new friendship for us," Gerda Hazenberg, KCFA's president, said. "Fiddling is an important part of the Northern identity. That's why we promote it, and it's from camps and groups like this that we hope to see more people take an interest...It's such an integral part of who we are."

While fiddling is practiced across Canada, there is a unique vibe to Northern fiddle music, Hazenberg said.

"We expose our students to all kinds of fiddling so they can

see how East Coast fiddling is different from Northern fiddling and understand the importance in preserving that," she said.

The camp, which ran July 2-5, hosted 55 students from Yellowknife, Behchoko, Fort Providence and Hay River. Many were adults but there was also a handful of young fiddlers keen to take up the bow for the first time, Hazenberg said.

"We had two 5 year-olds; they came with their parents for our Mom and Tots class. There was a 6 year-old, too. I think we had about five young ones in total and 12 first-time fiddlers in total," she said. "The younger ones were really enthralled by the music. That was great to see."

The camp featured nine fiddle instructors: Stacey Lynn Read, a New Brunswicker who has been playing the fiddle since she was four; East Coast classical violinist Rosanna Burrill; Bonnie Gregory and Rod Olstad, musical directors of Gateway Fiddlers and Festival City Fiddlers from Edmonton; Albertan turned international traveller, Cam Neufeld; Hay

River fiddler Linda Duford; Fort Simpson fiddler, recording artist, songwriter and motivational speaker Wesley Hardisty; music teacher and Métis fiddler Andrea Bettger; and violinist/pianist Helen Edgar from New Brunswick.

There was also a full-time art teacher, Jan McNeely.

"Every year for the past three years, there have been daily art classes, just to complement the creativity in music, and this year we focused on mask making for the week," Hazenberg said.

"It's a week of very full days, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m."

Students participate in fiddle dance classes, orchestra lessons based on their skill level, jam sessions, community events and option classes where they can choose to stream in either classical violin, Métis fiddling, step dancing, keyboarding, guitar, vocals, bucket dancing or penny whistling.

Wednesday evening featured a talent showcase and students exhibited a number of skills from flute playing to singing

and dancing. Teachers spiced up the atmosphere with a lively concert of their own, entwining East Coast flare with the rhythm of Northern fiddlers.

While camp registration numbers were fairly low this year, Hazenberg said the association remains positive and has noticed interest in fiddling picking up in some communities, such as in the Tlicho region.

"The big thing is to share what we're learning, share the fiddle knowledge when you go back to your communities.

Talk about it, show what you've learned, listen to good fiddle music whenever you can," Hazenberg said.

The KCFA was established in memory of Northern fiddling sensation Kole Crook of Hay River who traveled the NWT teaching the fiddle to young Northerners. Crook passed away tragically in a plane accident on New Year's Eve in 2001.

The association seeks to continue his legacy and bring joy to others through fiddle music.

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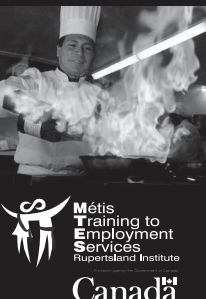
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Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment



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# EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES

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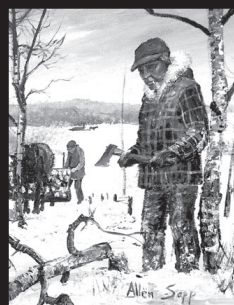
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## REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Highway Resurfacing  
CT101315**

**- Liard Highway (No.7),  
Km 104 to Km 111, NT -**

Roadway preparation and Base course construction.

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

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 1, 2013.**

Contractors may obtain tender documents from either of the above addresses as of July 2, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 3:00 pm, July 19, 2013,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Boardroom, 4510 Franklin Avenue  
Highways Building, Yellowknife, NT.

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

**Technical inquiries to:** Ziaur Rahman  
Phone: (867) 920-6472

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

*For contract opportunities visit  
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## REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Highway Windening and Reconstruction  
CT101306**

**- Ingraham Trail (No. 4),  
Km 40.0 to Km 43.8, NT -**

Roadway excavation, embankment construction, base and subbase courses, guardrail, culverts and stockpiling of aggregates.

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

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 1, 2013.**

Contractors may obtain tender documents from either of the above addresses as of July 2, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 2:00 pm, July 18, 2013,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Boardroom, 4510 Franklin Avenue  
Highways Building, Yellowknife, NT.

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

**Technical inquiries to:** Muhammad Abu Bakar  
Phone: (867) 873 7309

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

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## REQUEST FOR TENDERS

**Runway Paving  
CT101198**

**- Hay River, NT -**

Mill and pave with hot mix asphalt to repair dips in Runway 14-32, located at the Hay River Airport.

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

**3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JULY 18, 2013.**

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above addresses as of July 2, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 3:00 pm, July 11, 2013, Hay River Airport Boardroom, Hay River, NT.

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

**Technical inquiries to:** Bill Chapple  
Phone: (867) 873-7809

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

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## NOTICE OF ELECTION



### Tulita Land Corporation Notice of Election

To all voting members  
of Tulita Land Corporation (TLC)

Please take notice that an election for the President, Vice President and five (5) Directors of TLC will be held on August 19, 2013.

Nominations for these positions will open on July 8, 2013 and will close on July 22, 2013.

You are asked to deliver any completed nomination forms as soon as possible to ensure they are received by the Returning Officer before the closing date for nominations. In the event that nomination forms are mailed, please note that the Returning Officer cannot be responsible for any nomination forms that are not received on or before the closing date.

This election will be conducted in accordance with the consolidated by-laws of the TLC with amendments adopted August 24, 2011.

If you have had a change of address, or have any questions at all, please contact the Returning Officer in order for your information can be updated as soon as possible.

Copies of the by-laws and nomination forms available at the following address, as well as on our website.

Attention: Cathy Beard / Returning Officer  
Tulita Land Corporation  
P.O Box 63, Tulita, NT X0E 0K0  
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The winners of the NWT Golf Championships in Fort Smith on the weekend earned silver trophies to take home. From left, NWT Golf president Quinn Groenheyde of Hay River, men's senior champion Jean Soucy of Fort Smith, junior champion Brandon Tuckey of Fort Smith, and Mike Gervais, president of the Pelican Rapids Golf and Country Club.



The under-19 junior golfer group pause for a photo op with Golf NWT president on the final tee box on the last day at the NWT Golf Championships in Fort Smith. From the left, Quinn Groenheyde, Jeffrey Groenheyde of Hay River; Brandon Tuckey, Theoron Daniels and Brandon Walterhouse from Fort Smith; and Jake Roche from Yellowknife/Deline.

Sports & Recreation Golf

# NWT junior golfers vie for berth in Canada Games

By DON JAQUE

The highlight of the NWT Golf Championship tournament in Fort Smith over the weekend was the play of the top junior golfers in the NWT, showing off their skills for a chance to represent the territory at the Canada Summer Games next month in Sherbrooke, Que.

Five junior golfers from Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith were in the running, and they were accompanied both days on their 18-hole rounds by Matthew Gray, PGA professional from the Yellowknife Golf Club.

It was a typical golf tournament in Fort Smith - relaxed,

fun, hot and sunny with only a few bugs, as golfers set out to elevate their status in the established hierarchy of who is a good golfer, and with a little luck, be the best one there - but throughout the two days of competition, everyone was aware of the final group, "the juniors," as they made their way around the course under the watchful eye of the territorial golf coach.

"This process is the final stage of selection for the Canada Summer Games. The top three golfers will go to Yellowknife to work with the coach for a week," Quinn Groenheyde, president of NWT Golf, told *The Journal*.

"It is not just about scoring. The coach looks at how you manage the course and how you manage yourself. That is why he walked with the juniors the last two days."

These young golfers should be very proud of themselves for what they have accomplished.

The NWT Championships are rotated each summer among the four communities in the territory with golf courses, including Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River. The selection

and we move them along," Groenheyde said.

This year, seven were produced, and they are now down to five with the coach picking the final three. That will be done by early next week, Groenheyde said. Two years ago, the first time this was done, a team of four boys and a girl was sent to the Canada Summer Games, which are held every second year.

Another selection process for the juniors with an even loftier goal is underway simultaneously - to be able to play in the Canadian Amateur Golf Championships in Winnipeg in 2014. That selection will take place in three weeks, at a golf tournament in Yellowknife at

the beginning of August.

"We have secured three spots for the Canadian Amateurs in 2014. The tournament in Yellowknife on the August long weekend will select the three best candidates," Groenheyde said.

"We're very fortunate to have a golf pro with knowledge and skill who knows the way the game needs to be played. These young golfers are very fortunate to have that."

Gray, who is from New Zealand, has been the club pro in Yellowknife for four years.

Groenheyde said the NWT Golf Association has been working with Golf Canada to get the four NWT courses "rated and sloped so all are on the same handicap system" as golf courses in the south. Once that is done, it will mean no matter where an NWT golfer plays, their handicap will apply equally.

A group of golf fans gathered at the Pelican Rapids golf clubhouse late Sunday afternoon to watch and applaud as the six juniors pitched onto the green to finish off the 18th. Groenheyde was there to shake their hands and congratulate them.

"These young golfers should be very proud of themselves for what they have accomplished," he said after it was all done.

The group of juniors included Brandon Tuckey of Fort Smith, who had the lowest combined score for the two days, Jake Roche from Yellowknife, Jeffrey Groenheyde of Hay River, and Theoron Daniels and Brandon Walterhouse, also of Fort Smith.



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# NWT judokas win big at nationals

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR  
Two Northern judo fighters have emerged victorious from the Canadian Judo Championships last weekend in Vancouver.

Hay River's Mason Bruneau, 17, won silver in the under-21 junior category for his 100 kg and over weight class, losing out to Ontario's Martin Rygielski. BC's Jeff Swadden took home the bronze.

Gabrielle Des Forges, who fights out of Yellowknife, walked away with the bronze medal in the senior women's category after losing to competitors from BC and Quebec. Des Forges, 19, was unable to compete later in the under-21 division after an injury.

Only two NWT fighters competed at the nationals, along with one from Nunavut.

"It was a great few days for the NWT. We're really in the running," Bruneau's mother, Yvette, told *The Journal*. "Mason really wanted the gold but he's content with silver and walking proud. He's gung-ho to continue training and come back stronger. This was his first nationals."

A silver medal speaks volumes as, compared to many



Mason Bruneau, second from left, is awarded the silver medal in his weight class for the under-21 category during the Canadian Judo Championships on Sunday.

of the other fighters, Bruneau does not have a judo club in Hay River to be training at every day, his mother said.

"He only has personal training available in town. His main coach is based in Yellowknife, so it's a bit more difficult...He does go train with the national team in Montreal before most of his competitions, but it's not the same," she said.

Bruneau trains with Mario Des Forges, the head coach of the NWT Judo Association, and with Philippe Beaupré in Hay River as his personal trainer and conditioning coach.

Beaupré, who was in Vancouver watching Bruneau compete, said he's pleased with Bruneau's results.

"In his category he won three fights and lost one.

That's pretty good. This was also the first time he competed at the senior level, where he lost three but won one. He had good posture but made a few little mistakes in that one, but it's good because now he knows what he has to work on," Beaupré said.

According to Beaupré, Bruneau, who has been training in judo for the past four years, is only the second male in the NWT's history to bring back a silver medal from the Judo Nationals.

Bruneau also won silver in February at the Pacific International Open in Vancouver.

Bruneau is currently taking part in a three-day follow up judo training camp in Vancouver.

Upon his return to the North, Beaupré said they plan to begin an intense summer workout program.

"We're going to be stepping up his game this summer with some hectic workouts, getting him into the gym, doing weights and working on nutrition...I plan on teaching him to cook...He's motivated," he said.

The next judo competition for the Northern fighters is the Quebec Open in November.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Annual charity golf tournament kicks off Friday in Yellowknife

The Aboriginal Sport Circle is hosting its 4th annual charity golf tournament on Friday at the Yellowknife Golf Club. The shotgun start begins at noon. The event features a Texas scramble, 18 holes, a hole-in-one contest, dinner and live as well as silent auctions. The entry fee is \$400. All funds raised go towards KidSport NWT, an organization that helps children from families with financial challenges participate in sports. For more information or to register, contact the Sport Circle at 867-669-8338 or 867-669-8382 or by email at [summerstudent@ascnwt.ca](mailto:summerstudent@ascnwt.ca).

### Paddlefest gets \$5,000 from Fort Smith

Fort Smith's annual river festival, the Slave River Paddlefest, received the one-time \$5,000 boost it sought from the Town of Fort Smith after half of its funding was cut by the territorial government this year. Council made the decision last Tuesday. Paddlefest runs Aug. 2-5 and has drawn between 300-500 kayakers, rafters, canoeists and spectators since it began in 2007.

### Yellowknife hosts track clinic for Canada Summer Games

The NWT Track and Field Association hosted a distance running camp in Yellowknife this past weekend for Canada Summer Games hopefuls aged 14-21. There were eight participants in total who took part in the event, which includes technical sessions, recovery work in the pool and training by a BC coach with the Pacific Sport Network. Fifty-six track and field athletes are invited to another camp in Sherwood Park, Alta. from July 19-21 where coaches will then select the Canada Summer Games team. Team NWT is permitted to take up to two athletes per event, which would be a maximum of 50.

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# Keeping you informed.

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

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

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

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# Northern artists in the running for music awards

## Leanne Goose, The Johnnys up for major titles in August

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Two long-standing NWT acts are in the running for some of the top honours at this year's Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards in Winnipeg, Aug. 17-18.

Inuvik's Leanne Goose is up for the prestigious title of Female Entertainer of the Year along with Best Producer, while high-energy rockers The Johnnys, fronted by Fort Smith's own Veronica Johnny, are up again for Best Rock Album and Best Group or Duo.

Both women say the nominations are a huge honour.

"I've been touring really hard for the last two or three years, and it's really nice to have been able to travel across Canada and throughout North America, into the States, perform and get my name out there," Goose said of her nomination for number-one female entertainer.

Despite living way up in Inuvik and facing high travel costs, Goose said she is committed to winning fans over from across the continent, one at a time.

"I've made a real effort to try and just be there, to get out to the events, to travel and to share my music, and



Photo courtesy of Leanne Goose

Leanne Goose is nominated for Female Entertainer of the Year and Best Producer/Engineer.

ultimately that's what it's all about. I didn't really expect that I would receive a nomination like this, but you know I'm really, really excited and thankful to my peers that they considered me for this honour," she said.

It's the second time Goose, who has produced her last two albums, has been nominated for the Best Producer/Engineer category.

"In producing my album, I'm in charge of making sure the overall project goes well. I wrote all the songs, so it made things easier. I had a sound in my head of what I wanted to hear, so it was just being able to express that with my engineer and with my crew, so it's been a really great experience," she said.

It's not the first time The Johnnys have been nominated



Photo: Victoria Vaughan

Veronica and Dave Johnny of The Johnnys are up for Best Rock CD and Best Group or Duo.

for their signature rock, either. Their last album, *Louder Faster More Fun*, was nominated in 2011 as was their debut *I Like It A Lot* in 2008. Johnny said the level of talent among nominees is astounding again this year.

"Everybody in both categories is really accomplished, so everybody brings their own uniqueness, and what I think what makes us stand out is

our straight-ahead rock and roll songs," Johnny said of the band's two nominations.

"A lot of artists in both categories are writing music that is a little more heartfelt, political and environmental. It makes you think more, and definitely that's what we tried to do with this album. We wanted to have more of ourselves in it, more of what's happening currently in the

world and Canada and in our communities. We wanted to reflect that in our songwriting, while still staying true to our high-energy sound and the genre of rock and roll."

The Johnnys, who will perform at the live televised event on Aug. 18, changed their sound slightly on their latest album *Rock*. While it stays true to their classic rock and roll sound, Johnny said they tried other tempos and got more serious with some of the lyrical content.

"We want to empower people, and particularly women and youth. It's uplifting when audiences participate. That's one of my favourite aspects of performing; when people get into it, seeing people jumping up and down and singing along - that's why we write these songs, to help people feel that," Johnny said.

Fans can vote for their favourite artists at <http://ab-originalpeopleschoice.com> until midnight on July 19.

Both Goose and The Johnnys are also surfing the charts on the National Aboriginal Music Countdown. To help them move up the charts, send your requests to [countdown@ncifm.com](mailto:countdown@ncifm.com).

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If you have suffered emotionally or physically because of a crime, you can write a VIS. A VIS is your chance to tell the court, in writing, how a crime affected you. If the accused is found guilty, the court will consider your VIS. For help to complete your VIS call your local victim services program or call the Manager, NWT Victim Services (collect calls accepted) 920-6911.

### Victims of Crime Emergency Fund

If you have been a victim of a serious violent crime, emergency funding might be available to you. For more information call your local victim services program or visit [www.justice.gov.nt.ca/VictimServices/VCEF.shtml](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/VictimServices/VCEF.shtml) or call 867-920-6244 or 867-873-7002.

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Fort Good Hope..... 598-2247  
Fort Simpson..... 695-3136  
Aklavik..... 978-2265  
Paulatuk..... 580-3223  
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**Alison McAteer House Yellowknife**  
Toll Free 1-866-223-7775

**Legal Services Board Yellowknife**  
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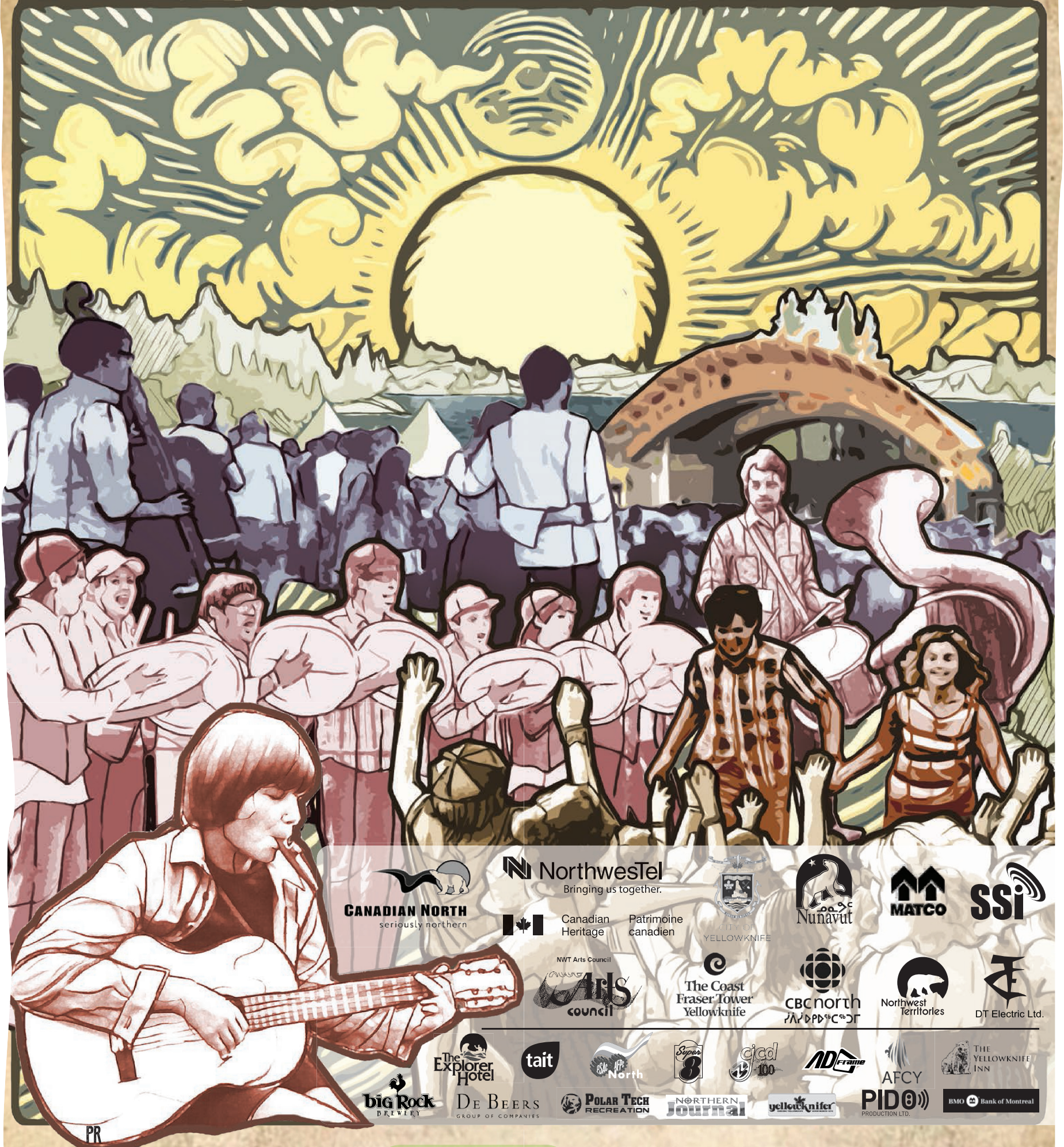




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# FOLK ON THE ROCKS 2013

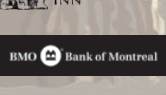
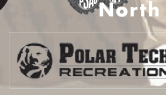


Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien



NWT Arts Council



## Advance tickets (May 13 – July 19)

Adult (19+): \$80/day, \$105/wknd

Youth (8-18)/Senior (60+): \$48/day, \$60/wknd

## Gate tickets (July 20– 21)

Adult (19+): \$90/day, \$120/wknd

Youth (8-18)/Senior (60+): \$55/day, \$70/wknd

(All prices include GST and handling fee)

## Tickets available at

Fiddles & Stix, 5018-52nd St., Yellowknife

And online at [folkontherocks.com](http://folkontherocks.com)

867-920-7806

**Warm the Rocks**  
**July 19**

Seperate charges apply

**Rock the Folks**  
**July 20**

taking place at the festival

**Festival Weekend**  
**July 20–21**

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

**FOLK  
ON THE  
ROCKS**  
YELLOWKNIFE, NWT



In compliance with our liquor license outside alcohol will NOT be permitted on the premises and bags will be checked at the gate. Alcohol can only be purchased and consumed in the Beer Garden.



IT'S BACK



# EMPLOYEE PRICING



## BIGGEST OFFERS OF THE YEAR



[ford.ca](http://ford.ca)

## WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!



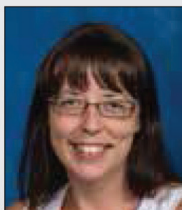
Spencer King  
Dealer Principal



Steve Moll  
Sales Manager



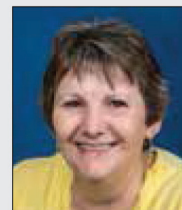
Jeff Boyce  
Sales & Leasing



Kerry Setzer  
Sales & Leasing



Donna Lee Jungkind  
Vehicle & RV Sales



Lorraine Peterson  
Fleet Manager



Tina Melvin  
Finance Manager



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