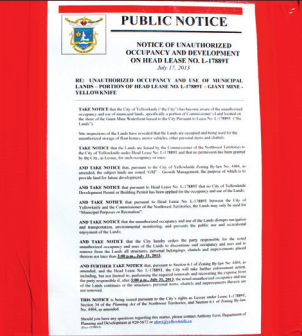




Alberta MLA charged in prostitution sting
Mike Allen, the Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo representative, has been charged following his arrest in Minnesota last Monday. *See page 7.*



Pulled treatment centre funding causes concern
Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny questions the decision to axe government funding to the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre. *See page 8.*



Yellowknife houseboats receive eviction notices
City hall and the territorial government have told houseboat squatters in the Giant Mine area they are trespassing and to move by July 31. *See page 10.*



Eighth Canol Trail youth hike teaches value of land
The 25-mile youth leadership hike captures the beauty and challenge of the Mackenzie Mountains. *See page 22.*

NORTHERN Journal

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Photo: Janna Jaque

Brandon Kikoak (left) and Lyle Emile of Fort Smith hustle onto shore during the canoe race finals to take first place at the 28th Pine Lake Picnic in Wood Buffalo National Park. Over 200 people gathered on Sunday to celebrate National Parks Day. *See more on page 23.*

Hydrocarbons found in Athabasca water

Oil spill still deemed to be exposed, natural bitumen

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Oil has been found in the latest water samples taken from the Athabasca River around Fort Chipewyan in the wake of a 100 square-km “oily sheen” first reported on the water’s surface July 6.
“The results from samples collected by Eric Christianson of the Alberta government showed positive results for oil. These samples were analysed at the Alberta Innovates Laboratory in Edmonton,” read a statement released last Friday by Mikisew Cree First Nation. “Based on information available at this time, it seems that the sheen may be the result of the high rainfall and runoff over natural bitumen combined with (this has not been proven yet)

bitumen that was exposed as a result of the bridge construction in Fort McKay.”
The initial samples collected from an independent study showed no signs of petrochemical substances. This led to the hypothesis that the sheen may have been caused by a large blue-green algae bloom upstream, which can point to substantial agricultural runoff or land disruption.
Evidence indicates that is no longer the case.
Bruce Maclean, research coordinator for Mikisew Cree First Nation’s Government and Industry Relations department and head of Fort Chip’s community-based water monitoring efforts, told *The Journal* the first

samples may not have been collected properly.
“Hydrocarbons in air can volatilize very quickly so I think that may have happened with our initial sample, which came back negative,” he said.
Nikki Booth, a communications representative with Alberta’s Environment and Sustainable Resource Development department, said the government has more testing to do before it can definitively confirm the sheen’s source.
“We do not have the results from all our tests in yet...It may be natural bitumen, or it may be pollen-related or a combination of both. They will continue running tests on it to rule other things out,” Booth told *The Journal*

on Friday. “However, this is likely natural bitumen. There was a significant volume of water travelling through that river basin that would have caused erosion and exposed bitumen.”
According to Maclean, the findings are consistent with natural, raw bitumen.
“You’d be easily able to tell in the lab if it was light crude or refined bitumen,” he said. “The sense I’m getting is that the high runoff from some of the tributaries into the Athabasca were flushing out some of the natural bitumen.”
Maclean noted there is “tons of human disturbance” in the area that could have also impacted the bitumen levels found in the water.

“There’s been some poor erosion control measures of construction sites - community members identified this to me, but this has not been verified and is not the sole source of the oil in the water samples but perhaps it had a cumulative impact,” he said. “Right now, it’s like trying to put together a jigsaw puzzle in the dark.”
According to Maclean, one of the ways hydrocarbon presence is tested in the samples is through fraction identification.
“They label these different fractions F1, F2, F3 and F4, with F1 being the lightest. They found F2s and F3s in high enough levels that were concerning,” he said.
See Dead fish on page 2.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mackenzie Valley board approves Gahcho Kué mine, with conditions

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has approved the Northwest Territories' fourth diamond mine project but with a number of conditions. De Beers wants to build a large open pit operation at its Gahcho Kué mine site, located at Kennady Lake about 280 km northeast of Yellowknife. The board found this will likely cause significant negative impacts on the Bathurst caribou herd and recommended a number of measures to be taken including implementing a habitat protection and monitoring plan. It also called for efforts to be undertaken to keep the mine's footprint as small as possible. The federal government has the final say if plans for Gahcho Kué will proceed.

NICO mine approved by Tlicho, feds

Fortune Minerals' NICO cobalt-gold-bismuth-copper mine 50 km northeast of Whiti received two key approvals last week. The Tlicho government and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Bernard Valcourt have both given the project the green light. This is the first time an Aboriginal government has had a say alongside the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. The board gave its go-ahead on Jan. 25. The company said it estimates it will take four to six months to get the water licence and land use permits as the next steps but that construction could begin in 2014. Fortune Minerals is still looking for project financing or a partner to develop the site.

Man charged in Yellowknife murder case

A Yellowknife man has been charged with the first degree murder of Yvonne Desjarlais, a Lutsel K'e woman whose body was found last December. David Richard Harrison, 28, was arrested by police two weeks ago after an extensive investigation that involved interviewing over 100 people, RCMP said. Desjarlais was found near 53rd Street and 50th Avenue in downtown Yellowknife on Dec. 30, 2012. Police have not released the cause of Desjarlais' death.

Politics First Nations

Prentice urges First Nations to 'seize the day' at national assembly

By MARY WALDEN

Looking more like the minister of Indian Affairs he used to be - clad in a beaded, fringed jacket - and less like the high-flying CIBC vice president he is now, Jim Prentice touched down in Whitehorse, en route to Asia, to drop a few verbal bombs on the Assembly of First Nations meeting last week.

His message: get on the industrial development bandwagon or get left in the dust.

Although many were offended by his "take it or lose it" ultimatum, the former cabinet minister - who resigned from Stephen Harper's government in 2010 - left no room for ambiguity.

Canada has resources to sell and it needs to expand its market beyond the United States, he said.

There's a chance to cash in on Asia's hunger for raw resources but it's a competitive market and if Canada wants in, it needs to act fast, he said.

"As a country, we are confronted by the need to secure West Coast access, through which we can reach new international markets for our oil and natural gas," he said.



Photo: Mary Walden

Former Indian Affairs minister Jim Prentice peddles his pro-development message to the Assembly of First Nations delegates in Whitehorse last week.

"This imperative has created a number of important development opportunities. So, too, has the urgency to improve continental pipeline capacity, to expand hydro production for domestic use and international sale, and to make the most of the mineral bounty that exists in pockets scattered across Canada."

Many of these riches lie in or near Aboriginal communities and the time has come for First Nations to get in on the economic action, he said.

"Opportunity of this kind, of this scale, will not exist in perpetuity," he said.

Do First Nations want an economically prosperous future or not? Do they want economic benefits or not? Do they want to be owners or not? These are questions Prentice said need to be asked.

"The choice of whether to seize the opportunity or not will be yours," Prentice said.

No other country in the world is bringing on energy projects at the pace or scale that Canada is today, he said.

Decisions made now could be game-changers for First Nations, he said.

Although supporting industrial resource development wouldn't be a cure-all for Aboriginal people, it's bound to make a difference, especially for the young who represent the fastest growing segment of the country's population, Prentice said.

"Over the decade ahead, some 400,000 Aboriginal youth will enter the job market. This is the very definition of potential - not only for Aboriginal communities but also for Canada," he said.

He also touched on the duty to consult and accommodate.

As he sees it, that duty was created by judges to ensure First Nations had a seat at the table when

decisions are made about resource development.

"It was meant to carry us forward," he said.

"It was not meant to serve as a mechanism to block projects, veto development or leave First Nations in continuing poverty. I think this is sometimes lost today by those, on both sides of the table, who see these duties as a legal game of cat and mouse."

He also reminded delegates that when he was minister of Indian Affairs, he used to say that although he liked his job, he'd rather be the minister of Aboriginal Inc.

Some bristled at that corporate remark.

One Ontario chief speaking from the floor said later he was flabbergasted by Prentice's overall message.

"Those resources do not belong to Canada," he said. "There is no certainty in Canada without First Nations' consent."

Environment Oil spills

Dead fish, seagulls found

Continued from page 1.

Over 120 dead fish were reported by community members and Parks Canada employees shortly after the slick appeared on the water. Four specimens were sent to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Centre lab in Saskatoon.

According to Mikisew Cree, Parks Canada staff Danna Schock also found a large number of dead seagulls on July 16 on the winter road up from the Embarras River. Fifteen more gulls were found by community-based monitoring crews the following day.

While Schock told Mikisew Cree she suspects the birds may have died of avian botulism disease, a few samples were also sent to the Saskatoon lab.

"People are concerned...We have to get more information and work it out," Maclean said.

Maclean headed to Fort Chipewyan Monday to update First Nations groups about test results and answer any questions.

Ray Ladouceur has been trapping and fishing in the delta for over 60 years.

"I don't know what's going on here but we have fish and gulls dying," he said. "I've

lived here all my life and I've never seen anything like that before and as far as I know there's never been an algae bloom...It seems like it's a spill of some sort and we need more information."

According to Booth, Alberta Health continues to monitor the intake of drinking water in Fort Chipewyan and is also looking at the water treatment plant to ensure the community's drinking water remains safe.

She said the government will continue sharing information and working collaboratively with First Nations groups in the area.



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Delegates attending the Assembly of First Nations meeting in Whitehorse gather for three days of discussion on a range of issues.



The Yukon's Dakhka Khwaan dancers provide a traditional welcome to delegates attending the meeting.

Politics First Nations

AFN condemns Aboriginal health experiments

National chief calls for more unity at meeting in Whitehorse

By MARY WALDEN

Hungry Aboriginal people who were used as human guinea pigs in nutrition experiments more than 60 years ago deserve an apology and financial compensation, said the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

News that tests were conducted on at least 1,300 malnourished children attending residential schools in Alberta, BC, Ontario and Nova Scotia in the 1940s came to light just as chiefs from across the country were wrapping up their annual assembly in Whitehorse last week.

Calling the experiments "shocking" and "deeply disturbing," the assembly passed an emergency resolution condemning the federally-condoned tests and demanding compensation for those who suffered physically and emotionally as a result.

"These were just kids," said Ken Watts, a First Nation councillor from BC. "The world needs to know what happened to these kids."

Atrocities like these experiments are just another reason why the federal government should release all archival documents it has regarding First Nations people, another delegate said.

For National Chief Shawn Atleo, confirmation of these "horrific" experiments only served as a sad final note to an already hectic week of wrestling myriad complex issues, including the future of the organization itself.

Taking to the podium one last time, he wrapped up the meeting much as he had kicked it off – with a call for unity and the promise of change.

Despite a growing rift within the AFN – underscored by a parallel meeting of dissenting chiefs in Saskatchewan – Atleo put on a brave face, insisting the North had inspired new hope for a shared vision.

"The way things are is not okay and it cannot be business as usual going forward," he told the assembly, which drew more than 700 delegates, including about 200 chiefs.

First Nations need to stand together, he said.

That'll be challenging, especially given the efforts of outsiders working to pull First Nations apart in much the same way that children were pulled from their families and sent to school, he said.

"We're left with that legacy," he said. "To address that, we're calling on Canadians and the federal government to acknowledge directly and work with First Nation leaders from across the country to rectify."

Like First Nations people and the culture itself, Atleo said he's confident the organization can adapt, adopt and emerge stronger than ever.

"We will take your direction. We will act on your orders. We will stand stronger together today – as they say here in the Yukon – for our children tomorrow," he said, referring to the title of the territory's land claims proposal delivered to Ottawa 40 years ago.

It took another 20 years for Yukon to cut a land claim and self-government deal, but today, for First Nations across Canada, the frustration is figuring out how to get the federal government to live up to its end of treaty bargains.

The AFN isn't a treaty signatory and has no aspirations to negotiate on its members' behalf, Atleo said earlier in the week. Rather, it sees its role as advocating on issues and supporting member nations seeking justice.

First Nations people are living in a state of perpetual crisis, he said. Crumbling homes, abject poverty, poor health and other social problems continue to plague communities across the country.

"Almost half of our children are living in poverty. We have more children in care right now than at the height of the residential school era. Our young people are more likely to end up in jail than to graduate," he said.

There is also growing pressure from governments and resource companies to develop mining and energy projects. Many are on or near First Nations lands and communities often find it all a bit overwhelming, he added.

Then there's the high rates of violence against women and girls, including the alarming number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Ending this cycle is a priority for the AFN and it

repeated its call for a public inquiry into the matter.

AFN is hoping some of these issues make their way to this week's meeting of the country's premiers in Ontario.

The AFN is also gearing up for a controversial visit to Canada from the UN's rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples later this year, as well as the UN World Congress on Indigenous Peoples in New York City, slated for September 2014.

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www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment

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



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Deline	Gameti	Tsiigehtchic
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Cheteh	Glenevis	Red Earth Creek
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Seeking a new way to treat addictions

The termination of government funding, tantamount to closing the Nats'eje e K'eh Treatment Centre in the reserve community of K'at'l'odeeche First Nation near the mouth of the Hay River, will at least be a turning point, and quite possibly a blow, to addictions counselling in the NWT. The centre has long been a focal point of that small community. Along with capacity, quality jobs will be eliminated and people there will lose something that defines them.

NWT Health Minister Tom Beaulieu, though representing nearby Fort Resolution, has his longtime home in Hay River. The closure won't win him popularity contests there. It must have been a tough decision.

He, as minister, is responsible, but how much of the choice was his? Too often governments aspire to cut jobs, change direction or close facilities and hold a "consultation process" to justify their plan. In this case, a forum on addictions held sessions in late 2012, in 22 communities to determine the right path for addiction treatment. Since most addiction problems in the NWT stem from Aboriginal people suffering the ravages of alcoholism, that was often the focal point of community hearings.

The recommendations from the forum never suggest the need to close the treatment centre, however. "Residential treatment centres are important, but according to people throughout the NWT, they are just one component of the overall continuum of care," states the report. It says "...residential treatment centres such as Hay River's Nats'ejee K'eh are important..." and in fact that more are needed, but coordinated with community-based programming.

After treatment addicts typically returned to the same lifestyle as before, with no follow-up, says the report. A mandatory, six month aftercare program for people leaving treatment, which could include time on the land, is recommended. It also asks that "a mobile healing team" be established.

Running the Nats'eje e K'eh Treatment Centre has apparently been difficult over time, challenged by staff turnover and needing inspired leadership. It is hard to hit a homerun in such an undertaking, but there are other, similar settings across the country where services are offered that make a difference, and people seek them out.

Surely the centre was costly to operate as well. What should such an investment return in the way of results? Is there a measure for success? If costs were a major concern in the closing of the treatment centre, the new direction recommended by the report is no alternative. The 67 report recommendations are a wish list, with no consideration of the practical restraints of budgets.

What is emphasized in the report is the need for change of direction, a new approach to counselling. It was clear, although not explicitly stated, that the old method in institutional settings is not working in the North. The need for community-based, on the land experiences with a cultural focus is stated over and over.

On-the-land programming steeped in Aboriginal culture may not be best for everyone, however. Many addicts are not Aboriginal, so what is to become of them? The NWT government has spent decades replacing the need to ship Northerners to Edmonton for services that were not

available in the NWT. Will the loss of institutional counseling in the NWT be a step backward? On the other hand, time in the bush in a program would likely help anyone struggling with challenges in life. Perhaps that solution will work for everyone.

The decision to close the treatment centre may have been a difficult one, but the move to launch a completely new direction is courageous. It also may be wrong. This new initiative will also require inspired leadership and need staff with strong management skills - more of them in fact, since the plan is to decentralize this into multiple communities. It too will be very expensive. There needs to be a time limit set on this - perhaps a comprehensive, critical review after five years, followed by a do-or-die date of eight years. If results are not delivered by then, tough decisions will have to be made, again.

Finding leadership at the community level to carry out on-the-land counselling programs will be the biggest challenge to success. Individuals who possess the leadership skills and charisma to bring such programs together and make them work are a rare commodity. The onus will be on the communities to help. There will also be opportunities for successful programs to become a showcase. First Nations governments must make fostering and supporting the new programs a priority.

As for the K'at'l'odeeche First Nation, this may be their opportunity to shine. After such a long tradition, who knows how to carry out addictions counselling and treatment better than them? Take it out on the land, add a cultural component and make it work - the Nats'eje e K'eh Treatment Centre could rise from the ashes.



Photo courtesy of Malorie Rehm

Fort Smith's Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre celebrates the end of its summer culture camp that took place July 4-8 at Kettle Point in Wood Buffalo National Park. Activities included making bannock on a stick, traditional hand games, drumming, rattle making with caribou hide and a medicine walk.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Fires burning, but threat has lessened

Although recent rains helped somewhat, many fires were still burning in the territories. The NWT had 299 fires for the season by July. Of these, 190 had been extinguished.

High winds and little rain hampered fire crew efforts in fighting the fires, Fort Smith Forest Officer Rick Olsen said.

20 Years Ago...

New payroll tax hits Northern pay cheques

The controversial new NWT payroll tax showed up on Northern pay cheques for the first time. John Pollard, Minister of Finance for the Government of the Northwest Territories, held a press conference to explain the new one per cent, how it works and why it is needed.

30 Years Ago...

Canada allows cruise testing

The Canadian government has announced it will allow the testing of unarmed cruise missiles over parts of northern Canada. The announcement was made jointly in Ottawa by External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen and Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne and immediately transmitted to United States officials.

Issue: July 21, 1998

Issue: July 21, 1993

Issue: July 21, 1983

Stress and how you can manage it

In society today, stress and anxiety are rising at incredible rates. Relentless daily pressures come at us from every direction and avoiding it seems unlikely.

Stress can chip away at our sense of well-being and happiness and if left unmanaged, it will take its toll on our mental and physical health. When we find an event stressful, our body undergoes a series of changes called the stress response. Understanding this can be helpful in managing stress.

Dr. Hans Selye, a world-renowned physician and endocrinologist recognized for leading study of stress in a medical context, said the instant our brain recognizes an impending threat - real or imagined - the body's fight-or-flight response is triggered.

The term "fight-or-flight" goes back to mankind's early survival when we dealt with danger by defending ourselves or running away. It involves a sudden release of chemicals in our body that provides energy to react quickly to a possible life-threatening situation.

The flight-or-flight reaction is designed to save us from danger. However, it still responds

today as if all our daily stressors were life-threatening situations - whether it's a real-life occurrence or is brought on by our thoughts and imagination.

The trouble starts when our stress response no longer functions in short bursts as it was originally intended. Our bodies weren't meant to be in an ongoing state of responding to stress. Stress was meant to happen over short periods of time with longer periods of rest in between for recovery. Without the recovery period we are left vulnerable to physical and mental health problems.

Finding ways to cope with stress has become increasingly important in order to preserve our health. There is no one "correct" way to cope with stress. Each of us responds differently. However, it is helpful to look at both short-term and long-term solutions to reduce stress. The Canadian Mental Health Association suggests the following:

- Identify your problems. Once you are fairly sure you know what the problem is, you can do something about it.
- Solve your problems. Start thinking about solutions. What can you do and what

will be the consequences? Choose a solution that works best for you.

- Talk about your problems. It may be helpful to talk about your stress with friends and family. Your family doctor may be able to refer you to a mental health counsellor.
- Learn about stress management. There are many helpful books, videos and courses to help you cope with stress. There are also counsellors who specialize in stress; ask your family doctor or call a mental health clinic.
- Reduce tension. By taking pressure off yourself and getting rid of tension, you will find yourself less stressed and more able to solve the problems that caused your stress in the first place
- Take your mind off your problems. You may be able to get rid of stressful feelings temporarily by getting your mind on something you enjoy. Not thinking about your problems for a while can give you a little mental distance from them and make them easier to solve later on.

The best way to cope with stress is to prevent it.

Some long term ways to do this are:

- Make decisions. Not making them causes worry and, therefore, stress.
- Avoid putting things off. Make a weekly schedule, including leisure activities as well as chores.
- Delegate. Get others to do tasks that they can handle so that you are not trying to do everything by yourself.

Life brings an assortment of ongoing ups and downs. It's impossible to have a completely stress-free life. If we can avoid getting to a stage of stress where our energy stores are drained we have a better chance of preserving our physical and mental health.

Alberta Health Services provides free mental health counselling services. Information for local areas can be found at www.albertahealthservices.ca or by calling Health Link Alberta toll-free at 1-866-408-5465 (LINK). Information on mental health is available on the Canadian Mental Health Association website at www.cmha.ca.

*Florence Senecal
Mental Health Promotion
Alberta Health Services*

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

It's a story of a little town that could. The Fort Smith Royal Canadian Legion erupted with overjoyed screams and whooping cheers as fists thrust into the air and bodies jumped up and down last Tuesday when TSN's Sportscentre announced the town had won \$25,000 as a finalist for the national Kraft Celebration Tour.



Fort Smith wins \$25,000 for arena

- 

Pam Bates: A job well done and deserved. Congratulations to all!
- 

Janice Hansen: Way 2 Go Ft Smith!!
- 

Ron Gwynne: Great news for everyone!

Join us online!
Like *Northern Journal* on Facebook and get the weekly news delivered to your feed!

How to teach your kids about money

A growing number of Canadians are opting for "stay-cations" this summer. This is not surprising—vacationing at home can be a good way to save money and to enjoy activities close to home.

It's also a great opportunity to teach your kids about money. Check local listings for family-friendly events or activities and ask your kids to help plan a day trip of their choosing—within a budget.

They will learn to plan ahead, anticipate costs and to make decisions like whether to bring or buy a lunch. For young kids, going for ice cream is a great time to show them that when you spend money on one item, that means you have less available for something else. Teenagers might enjoy The City, a free online tool where they can learn about financial issues like needs versus wants, budgeting and

goal-setting through different characters in an interactive, virtual world.

Parents can take advantage of everyday activities to teach a financial lesson. Go through coupons together and ask your child to clip those for items on your shopping list. At the store, show them the costs of different items, like their favourite cereal. Involve your child in decision making when

you're deciding between similar products.

Promoting financial education is a key part of what we do at the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC). Parents can check out "Teaching Children About Money" and our other free resources on teaching financial literacy to children at itpaystoknow.gc.ca.

*Lucie Tedesco,
Financial Consumer
Agency of Canada*

Snacks spike blood pressure in kids

Spurred by too much salt and too many extra pounds, blood pressure in America's kids and teens has gone sky-high, creating a young generation at risk for serious health problems, including heart disease, stroke and worse.

The percentage of American children and adolescents ages 8 to 17 who have high blood pressure - a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, organ damage, heart attacks and strokes

- climbed 27 per cent over 13 years, according to researchers from Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital and other institutions funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The researchers compared blood pressure data of thousands of children from two National Health and Nutrition Examination surveys, a government program designed to track health and nutritional status of adults and children in the U.S.

During the period 1988 to 1994, 15.8 per cent of boys, and 8.2 per cent of girls could be classified as having elevated blood pressure. By the next survey period, covering the years 1999-2008, those percentages jumped to 19.2 per cent for boys and 12.6 per cent for girls.

The new research, published last Monday in the journal *Hypertension*, positively links rising blood pressure to

increasing body mass index, especially waist circumference and sodium intake. In short, far too many American children are too fat and eating too many salty snacks.

More than a third of children and teens in the United States are overweight or obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.









*Jeff Crilley
Real News PR*

MUKLUK











Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

11 High		11 Low	Wednesday	22 High		14 Low
16 High		6 Low	Thursday	23 High		15 Low
16 High		10 Low	Friday	24 High		15 Low
23 High		13 Low	Saturday	24 High		15 Low
Norms: 19°C and 9°C				Norms: 21°C and 13°C		

Hay River Fort Smith

22 High		13 Low	Wednesday	24 High		11 Low
25 High		14 Low	Thursday	27 High		11 Low
25 High		15 Low	Friday	28 High		14 Low
23 High		13 Low	Saturday	26 High		13 Low
Norms: 21°C and 11°C				Norms: 23°C and 10°C		

Re-elected Smith’s Landing chief plans for change

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Chief Andrew Wandering Spirit is ready to get to work.

The chief of Smith’s Landing First Nation, which straddles the Northwest Territories-Alberta border, was sworn in last week along with a new four-person council following the July 2 election that saw Wandering Spirit beat out former chief and councillor Fred Daniels, 51 to 33.

The freshly elected council - Dianne Benwell, Thaidene Paulette, Agnes Cheezie and Geronimo Paulette - held its first official meeting last Tuesday.

Wandering Spirit, who also won a by-election last fall after the resignation of former chief Cheyenne Paulette, said he’s keen to continue working on the strategic plan Paulette had begun.

“We want to continue on with that. They had a lot of good things in there,” he said. “This means making some amendments to the



Photo: Renée Francoeur

Smith’s Landing new council is sworn in last week at the band office. Left to right, Thaidene Paulette, Geronimo Paulette, Agnes Cheezie and Chief Andrew Wandering Spirit. Missing is councillor Dianne Benwell.

elections code, developing a constitution...I’d like to work towards finishing that if we can.”

Making changes is what needs to happen to best serve the membership in the most transparent and fair way, he said.

“From what I’ve heard and what I’ve seen, it’s something that needs to be done to ensure things that happened in

the past don’t happen again, like closing off loopholes,” Wandering Spirit said. Hundreds of thousands of

dollars were found to be unaccounted for in a 2011 audit commissioned by Smith’s Landing. The sum was allegedly embezzled by former employees and elected representatives.

The Slave River is also a focus for the First Nation, Wandering Spirit said.

Council wants to show more support for federal private member’s Bill C-529 that was introduced last month, calling for reinstatement of the Slave River under the Navigable Waters Protection Act after it and many other Northern waterways were removed last December.

“Things are looking very positive. I’m happy with council. There are some new and some with previous experience and I think there will be a lot of good ideas,” Wandering Spirit said. “People tell me it’s a tough job but that I can do it and I’m grateful to have this opportunity to lead my people.”

Elections wrap up in Fort Providence, Fort Good Hope

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Last week’s elections in Fort Providence and Fort Good Hope resulted in one re-election and one new face.

The Deh Gah Got’ie First Nation membership in Fort Providence voted in Joachim Bonnetrouge again on July 16 for the next two years. Bonnetrouge beat out the opposition, all former chiefs themselves, with a total of 117 votes.

Bernadette Landry landed 102, followed by Wayne Sabourin at 69 and Gregory Nyuli with 48.

Three new councillors were also elected: Samuel Gargan, Xavier Canadien and Eddie Gargan. Returning councillors are Jim Thom, Michael Van Dell, Trisha Bonnetrouge and Victor Constant.

According to Bonnetrouge, 337 members voted,

41 per cent of registered voters.

Bonnetrouge, 66, has been chief multiple times since 1976. He said he’s been working with the band since he was 24. Over the next 24 months, he said he looks forward to working more with youth, preserving Aboriginal language and focusing on economic opportunities.

“Lack of employment has been a problem in our

community,” he told *The Journal*. “We want to keep working on preserving culture and also looking around for different things for our youth, like a gathering place.”

Voters also headed to the polls last Wednesday in Fort Good Hope.

In a tight race Greg Laboucan defeated Arthur Tobac by just two votes with a count of 76. He also emerged

victorious over incumbent chief Wilfred McNeely by four votes.

New councillors were also voted in: Beverly Masuzumi, Angela Grandjambe, James Caesar, Jacinta Grandjambe and Beverly Drybones-McNeely. Other members making up the new council are Charles Barnaby, Sharon Pierrot, Charles McNeely and Robert Bourassa.

“I feel honoured and blessed with the result and am looking forward to working with this council over the next two years to serve our community the best we can,” Laboucan, 34, said.

Laboucan, originally from Alberta’s Whitefish Lake First Nation, moved north 11 years ago after he fell in love with his wife, a member of the K’asho Got’ine in Fort Good Hope. He is the first chief from outside the community.

“It’s rare someone from outside is voted in as chief; it feels almost surreal...I want to focus on the youth and their educational needs and deal with other social issues through supporting members with workshops that deal with issues handed down from the residential schools,” he said.

Laboucan had previously worked as senior administrator and band manager in the community.

The voter turnout in Fort Good Hope was the highest ever recorded - 256 out of 353 eligible voters marked a ballot - a whopping 72 per cent.

“People wanted change and I’m so happy to see them taking initiative and getting involved in the democratic right to vote. The result was amazing,” Laboucan said.



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MLA charged in connection with prostitution sting

Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo rep Mike Allen quits caucus

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Alberta MLA Mike Allen has resigned from the provincial government caucus after he was arrested in connection with a prostitution sting in Minnesota last Monday.

The 51 year-old representative for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo was attending a legislative conference in St. Paul, Minn. when he was arrested by police for allegedly soliciting a prostitute, who turned out to be an undercover officer.

He has been charged with one count of hiring or agreeing to hire a prostitute in a public place, a gross misdemeanor. The charge carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a \$3,000 fine.

Allen gave notice he was quitting the PC caucus on July 16 when he flew back to Edmonton but remains an independent MLA for the northern Alberta region.

Immediately following news of the arrest, Alberta's



Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo MLA Mike Allen

official opposition called for Allen's resignation.

"Albertans expect their elected officials to follow a higher ethical standard of behaviour and to obey the law,

both of which Mr. Allen failed to do," Wildrose Official Opposition Leader Danielle Smith said in a press release. "For an MLA to behave in this manner while travelling abroad on

This is a deeply embarrassing moment and all I can say is that I am sorry and I humbly ask for forgiveness. I will work long and hard to regain the trust of the many I have let down.

Mike Allen
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo MLA

government business is unacceptable and he owes it to the people of Fort McMurray and all Albertans to immediately resign."

Smith's sentiments were echoed by Wildrose house leader Rob Anderson.

"Mr. Allen has broken the trust of Fort McMurray voters. He promised to represent them with integrity and honour and the people elected him on that basis," Anderson said in the same release. "The fact that he has been arrested in a foreign country while representing

his province and community and has confirmed that he did indeed do what he had been accused of, it is only proper to allow the residents of Fort McMurray to have the opportunity to select a new representative who will uphold the dignity of the office."

Allen released his own media statement later on July 16, apologizing to friends, family, his constituents, staff and all Albertans.

"I made this mistake as a result of a profound lapse in my personal judgement. It is

a mistake for which there are no excuses and for which I accept full responsibility," he said. "This is a deeply embarrassing moment and all I can say is that I am sorry and I humbly ask for forgiveness. I will work long and hard to regain the trust of the many I have let down."

Allen previously served as a Fort McMurray city councillor for two terms and is a past Fort McMurray chamber of commerce president.

He could not be reached for comment at his McMurray office as of press time.

Politics Devolution

MP worries devolution to be lumped in omnibus bill

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington is worried Aboriginal signatories to the devolution deal will be getting more than they signed up for if the NWT devolution implementation act, set to go through the House of Commons this fall, gets lumped into another omnibus bill.

The MP said he fears the Harper government is going

to follow its recent trend of pushing forth regulatory changes by including amendments to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) in the same bill as the one to initiate the transfer of lands, water and resources to the territorial government.

"I don't want that to happen. I don't think that's fair to the people that went into the devolution

agreement, people like the Tlicho who agreed to the devolution deal because it had some separation from the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. I think it's inappropriate," Bevington said.

Proposed amendments to the MVRMA include the amalgamation of the territory's review boards, set up under various regional land claims, into

one "superboard" - a controversial move opposed by several First Nation governments.

Though Bevington said there has been no indication the Conservatives are planning another omnibus bill, he said his efforts to warn Dene leaders at recent assembly meetings in Inuvik were preemptive and based on recent history of federal legislation being passed in

clumps rather than separate bills.

The controversial budget implementation bills C-38 and C-45, along with the recent grouping of the NWT Surface Rights Board act with changes to Nunavut regulation, are indications another omnibus could be coming down the pipe, Bevington said.

"I wanted to put that out so people could be

forewarned and perhaps forearmed, and also indicate to the government that that is not the appropriate course of action," he said. "I'd rather be ahead of the game this time and if they don't do it, then great. But that's why I'm throwing it out there."

The devolution implementation bill will likely be introduced in the House of Commons this October.

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Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

Pulled funding from treatment centre raises concerns

New addictions programming to roll out in April 2014

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Anyone in the Northwest Territories needing a residential treatment centre for addictions will have to travel south of the 60th parallel beginning this September.

The only such facility in the NWT is on its way to winding down operations for good following a July 11 announcement from the department of Health and Social Services that it is discontinuing funding to the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre on the K'at'l'odeeche First Nation reserve, located just outside of Hay River, when the centre's contract expires on Sept. 30.

The sudden verdict has caused a stir of emotion.

Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny questions the decision, saying the quick news and lack of discussion regarding a transition period for the centre concerns him.

"The guiding principles of the 17th Legislative Assembly clearly state that except under extraordinary circumstances, members of the Legislative Assembly should have the opportunity to discuss significant announcements, changes, or initiatives before they are released to the public," Dolynny said in a press release last Tuesday.



The territorial government has decided to cut funding to the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre on the K'at'l'odeeche First Nation reserve, located just outside of Hay River, when the centre's contract expires Sept. 30.

He added that members of the standing committee on Social Programs were only briefed by the health minister on July 10 and had no opportunity for comment - a move

"inconsistent with consensus government."

According to Dolynny, there are many gaps in territorial addictions and wellness programs.

"We need to look at the full range of services for all NWT residents, not just a select few," he said. "We are failing people who need a proper detoxification program, or a

Another factor contributing to the decision is Nats'ejee K'eh's difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified staff. "That meant that the patients coming in at a fairly vulnerable

is something we are discussing as well."

Programs presently in place are not improving the addictions situation in communities, Beaulieu said.

"We're seeing a great level of addiction in the communities so we're saying let's do something different, let's ask the people and they gave us their answers at the Minister's Forum so let's listen to what the people want."

Residential addictions treatment options will continue to be provided to NWT residents as the department is in the process of negotiating more contracts with a number of southern treatment programs in Alberta and British Columbia. These contracts should be in place by the end of July 2013.

Beaulieu held a meeting July 12 with the board at Nats'ejee K'eh.

"It was a good, informative meeting and they understood the direction we're taking," Beaulieu said. "Their main concern was making sure that there would still be a service provided to people and I think they were comfortable that there is something happening, there's movement on this, which is what everyone wants to see."

Beaulieu said he believed the centre will be winding down operations.

Dolynny said he does support Beaulieu's intent to improve community wellness but would like more information about what's to become of Nats'ejee K'eh.

"We have skilled care workers there who have helped a lot of people over the years," Dolynny said. "I would like to know what the plan is for them and just what the plan is for mental health and addictions service for all Northerners."

This calls for a redesign of how we deliver addiction treatment programs right across the territories, whether it be on the land, mobile treatment or some sort of regional treatment.

Health Minister Tom Beaulieu

stronger integrated service management program. We are failing the youth who need specific programs designed for them. We are failing people who need specialized addiction treatments for crack cocaine addiction, solvent abuse and prescription drug abuse. We need mental health and addictions programs for people who don't fit into the on the land and mobile treatment models."

According to the department, the decision to cut funding is in the best interest of Northerners as they move towards more community and on the land-based programming as outlined in the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan and recommendations from the April 2013 Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness.

"This calls for a redesign of how we deliver addiction treatment programs right across the territories, whether it be on the land, mobile treatment or some sort of regional treatment," Health Minister Tom Beaulieu told *The Journal*.

state were potentially at risk... if there were not enough qualified people and it puts the staff themselves at risk as well," Beaulieu said.

"They can chose to continue to operate and look for funding elsewhere. It's not our position to shut them down. It's our position to withdraw funding, which covers the majority of operations," he said.

According to Beaulieu, the department hopes to roll out the new program of addictions services by April 2014.

"Meanwhile, we're hoping to fund some community-based projects which we will evaluate at their completion. These will be based on ideas that have come from the communities in the area of addictions treatment," Beaulieu said, noting the majority of these ideas have yet to be put down on paper.

Part of the new programming will also entail "solidifying after-care" programs within the communities, Beaulieu said. "There's also always been an issue of the lack there of detox and detox programs so that

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Test scores drop for Northern students

Grade 1 students highest achievers for 2011-2012 functional grade levels

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

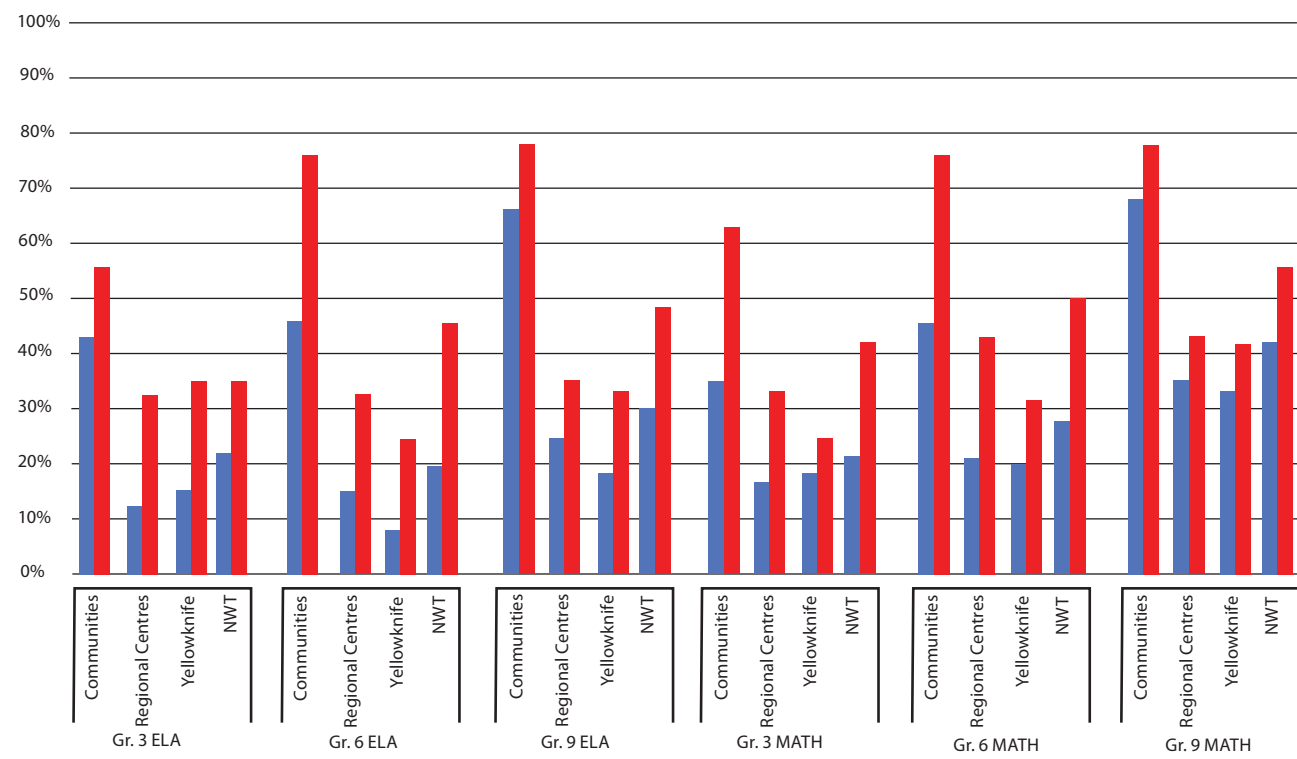
Northern students have slipped when it comes to making the grade, as indicated by recently released test results from the government of the Northwest Territories.

Overall, only an average of 65 per cent of students from grades 1 to 9 are working at the appropriate grade level for their age in English Language Arts, as found through the Functional Grade Levels (FGLs) assessment, which illustrates student performance over the full year.

In math, about 71 per cent of students are at or above their grade levels.

The gold star sticker for the most success goes to Grade 1 students - approximately 83 per cent mastered the language arts curriculum, followed by Grade 5 at 67 per cent. The lowest score in the NWT went to Grade 8, with 60 per cent meeting the grade level. Grade 1 also lead the way when it came to math, with 90 per cent meeting the FGL level.

Results varied based on location. The FGLs discovered Yellowknife students and those in “regional centres” such as Inuvik, Fort Smith and Norman Wells, did better than those in smaller communities.



2011-2012 NWT Results for AATS

■ Students achieving below acceptable standard as a % of available test results ■ Students achieving below acceptable standard as a % of total enrollment

Student test scores dropped in the English, Language and Arts departments in the Alberta Achievement Tests, standardized tests that measure student performance in NWT curriculum in the areas of language arts and mathematics in a single day.

The percentage of grades 3, 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable language standard came in slightly below results from 2011. In Grade 3, 45.3 per cent passed compared with 53.1 the previous year, 43.3 in Grade 6 compared to 49.3 and 41.2 in Grade 9 compared with 44.

When it came to math, however, students improved on last year’s results. The percentage of Grade 3 students who achieved the standard of excellence was 54.1 versus 48.3 last year; 40.3 in Grade 6 versus 38 and 34.3 in Grade 9 compared to 30.2 in 2011.

Meanwhile, attendance was slightly up across the NWT with the average student attending school 84.4 per cent of the time in the 2011-2012 school year compared with 83.7 per cent in 2010-2011. Attendance was lower in smaller communities, where

on average students attended classes 80.8 per cent of the time. Eighty per cent attendance roughly translates into a student missing one day per week. Over several years, this means a student is missing one entire school year for every five.

“Each year these results help track student performance and the success of the education system in the Northwest Territories,” Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty said in a press release. “We know, however, that they only provide snapshots of particular kinds of learning. Alberta, who we partner with on a number of education system components, is completely overhauling these assessments and developing tools designed to measure authentic student learning. In the NWT, we have begun an Education Renewal Initiative and assessment that truly measures student learning is one of the areas we will address.”

The Education Renewal Initiative has been engaging with stakeholders for the past several months to determine gaps and successes in the NWT education system and plans to use this information to inform a new direction for education in the North.

Image: Education, Culture and Employment

Hey Folk on the Rocks... thank you!

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Giant Mine houseboat squatters get eviction notices

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Yellowknife City Hall and the territorial government slapped trespass notices on a handful of houseboats last week, giving their owners until July 31 to move the dwellings.

At least one owner – Fort Simpson musician Randy Sibbeston and son of Liberal Senator Nick Sibbeston – said he may seek a court ruling on his right as a Dene to moor his houseboat anywhere it pleases him.

“I’m tired of southerners trying to tell me how to live,” he told *The Journal*, accusing the city of acting on a grudge dating back 30 years to a lost legal battle for jurisdiction over houseboats in Yellowknife Bay.

“MACA posted the eviction notice, but I know the city is behind it,” said Sibbeston, who had moved his houseboat from the Giant Mine dock to Snowking Point on Yellowknife Bay.

Mayor Mark Heyck said the Giant Mine houseboaters have “privatized land that is intended for public use” – a common practice in Yellowknife, especially on the waterfront where many docks



A kayaker paddles past a houseboat sunk at the entrance to Baker Creek, one of a handful that were served with eviction notices last week.

are in areas where jurisdiction is muddy.

Leased from the territorial government, the land where the houseboats are camped and face eviction includes the Giant Mine boat launch and a breakwater protecting the small delta of Baker Creek.

The city acted after receiving “numerous complaints from the public,” Heyck told *The Journal* after a chorus of ‘likes’ greeted his Facebook announcement: “City takes action on waterfront lands.”

“Residential (float home) uses are not permitted within this lease area and have prevented the recreational use and enjoyment of the site by

visitors and residents of Yellowknife, Dettah and Ndilo,” Heyck posted on Facebook.

But what prompted the city to finally sort out jurisdictional issues with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and Municipal and Community Affairs, Heyck said, was obstruction of the Giant Mine remediation team.

The only houseboat that appears to be regularly occupied in the small ghetto that has formed near the Great Slave Yacht Club is sunk in the shallow outlet to Baker Creek – right where the remediation team wants to take water samples.

Three other houseboats that show signs of intermittent habitation, and an undeveloped float base, are tied to the breakwater. All wear notices, red-taped, to doors or windows.

A trespass notice was also taped to Sibbeston’s houseboat and two others that are moored several kilometers south, at Snowking Point, just off the Old Town waterfront on the outer fringe of the growing houseboat neighbourhood on Yellowknife Bay.

Sometime in the past month, someone cut one of the mooring lines to Sibbeston’s houseboat, an act he described as “criminal, with a maximum penalty of life in prison,” that is under police investigation.

“I would like to know the identities of the people who complained to the city,” said Sibbeston, who thinks the person who tried to set his dwelling adrift may be among them.

Sibbeston, who has built several of the newer houseboats moored in the Yellowknife area, believes the city is motivated by a desire to gain control over the sudden growth in the picturesque floating neighbourhood.

“It’s something they have no control over, and I think that scares them,” Sibbeston said.

The city lost a bid in the 1980s for the right to levy a property tax on houseboat dwellers when the court ruled that its jurisdiction ends at the waterline.

In the long term, when devolution and the handover of control of land and resources to the territorial government is complete, Heyck said the city wants to obtain jurisdiction over the lakebed which would give it the power to dictate where houseboats can moor.

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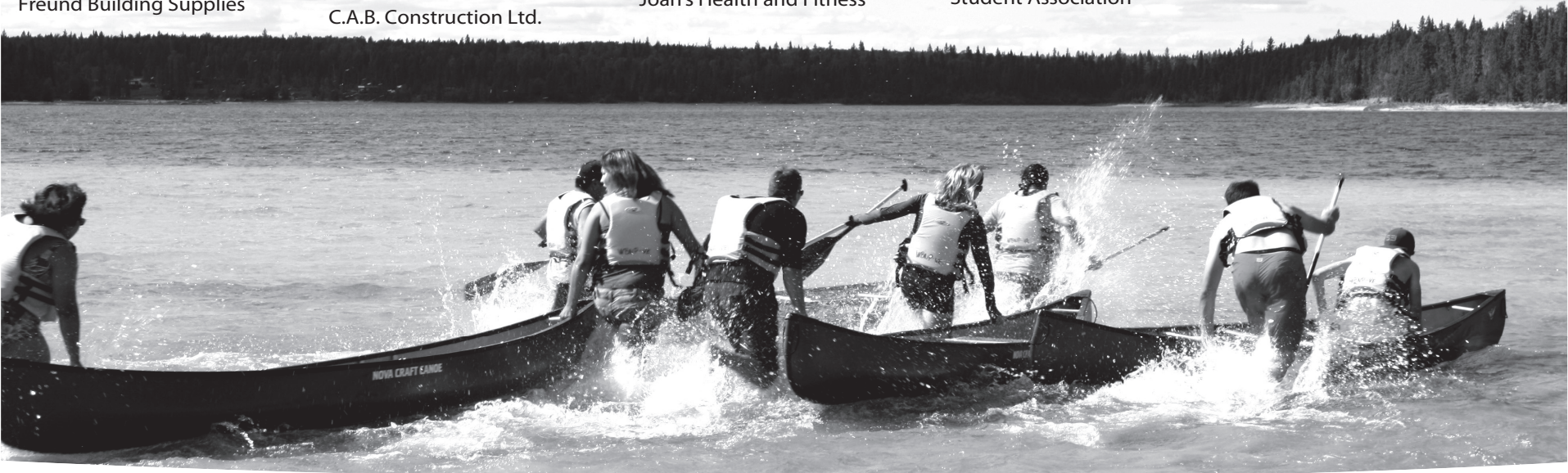
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Deepak diamond deal still shines for GNWT

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Like everyone else who bought into the Deepak International Ltd. story, the DehCho Travel Connection hopes the company can deliver on its promise to re-launch two factories in Yellowknife.

Through a promotion aimed at drawing rubber tire tourists North, the organization is offering a chance to win a .5 karat diamond, engraved with the Polar Bear logo that the territorial government assigned to Deepak International (DIL) last January.

The contest closes Oct. 31, but the former factories on what was Diamond Row in Yellowknife still sit silent and empty with no word from Deepak Kumar, DIL's president and CEO, about when he will buy the buildings and open them for business.

Mike Couvrette, who manages travel promotion for the DehCho Travel Connection, remains hopeful, if not confident that Kumar will deliver on his promise.

"We have a commitment," Couvrette said. "We would prefer that the diamond has



Many Northern companies are hoping Deepak International Ltd. will breathe new life into the dormant factories on Archibald Street - once known as Diamond Row - in Yellowknife.

the polar bear logo. But if that isn't available, we will offer a Canadian diamond."

Kumar told *The Journal* early this year that he would complete the sale this spring. In May, he said the factories

would open this summer. Last week Kumar said he would reveal the opening date by Friday, but the day passed without an announcement.

Despite repeated delays in closing the sale, Minister

of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay believes Kumar can come up with \$1.795 million for the buildings and restore Yellowknife's reputation as North America's diamond capital.



Deepak Kumar

Ramsay said the delay is understandable, given the estimated \$50 million DIL needs to equip the factories and secure a supply of diamonds.

"It's a big deal, from the proponent's perspective. It's

not a small undertaking," Ramsay said.

The government granted DIL approved manufacturer status and use of the polar bear logo on the strength of due diligence performed by advisors in his ministry, Ramsay said, but admitted there was no other choice.

DIL was the only company to answer a Request for Proposal the government issued in October 2011. It offered any qualified manufacturer the package DIL received if it would buy the Archibald Street buildings and fill them with busy diamond cutters and polishers.

"If we could recoup our costs on the buildings and get some factories open and 30 to 50 people employed in those factories, that's a good thing for the government to be doing," Ramsay said.

"Why wouldn't we approve somebody like that? We need to take some chances. At the end of the day, it's going to be on Deepak International and their ability to make this work. My belief is that it's going to happen."

Photos: Jack Danylchuk



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Brothers Chris (left) and Tom Hooper of The Grapes of Wrath perform on Sunday afternoon.



George Leach of Lillioet, BC rocks out in the beer garden.



Jaffa Road grooves to the beat.



Matt Fost (left) and Jesse Matas of The Crooked Brothers belt it out on the cultural/world stage during the Stoop Jam.



Local Yellowknife band known as Digawol performs on stage.

Arts & Culture Festivals

Folk on the Rocks draws loyalists and newcomers

By JACK DANYLCHUK
Part showcase for developing musical talent, annual social event and celebration of the brief Northern summer – Folk on the Rocks drew several thousand people to the shores of Long Lake last weekend. They drank beer, chatted with friends, bought souvenirs and caught snatches of

song and melody that wafted from stages scattered within earshot of aircraft coming and going from Yellowknife Airport. Unlike previous years that have featured well-known performers such as Bruce Cockburn or Buffy Sainte-Marie, there was no “big-wig” headliner among the 28 acts

in this year’s line-up, which artistic coordinator Keith MacNeill sees as one of the festival’s strengths. “What I have always liked about Folk on the Rocks is that people come away with a new favorite band,” MacNeill said, putting a shine on the eclectic mix of the familiar and unknown musical talent.


“I’m really excited to hear the Harpoonist and the Axe Murderer,” he said, describing the Vancouver musicians as “a real kick-ass blues duo.” MacNeill said the bands are chosen by a selection committee that meets weekly through the year and reviewed entries from 245 acts to build a line up that strives

to strike a balance between Northern and southern acts and includes as many musical genres as possible. Familiar Northern acts that appeared this year were Louis Goose, who this year won a lifetime achievement award; Erebus and Terror; a new band called Poor Choices; and the Trade-offs from Iqaluit.

Among the acts that might have struck a familiar chord with some, MacNeill named “Grapes of Wrath, a legendary band with their first new recording in 20 years; Hey Ocean from Vancouver, nominated for a Juno award.” MacNeill paid tribute to the more than 300 volunteers who

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Jesse James Gon (also ...f) sings on the cultural/world



Hayden of Toronto bears his soul to the crowds on Satur- day.



B.A.M. (The Borderless Art Movement) get their creative juices flowing, dancing and painting, while Yes Nice! plays.



Nabi Loney of the band Medicine Hat sings of love on Saturday.



Jillian McKellar (right) of Yes Nice! thrills the audience with her keyboard skills.

ers to sample sights, sounds and flavours

"give to make it work because it's so special."

For Cheryl Baker, visiting from British Columbia and working as a cashier for the summer, volunteering in the beer garden was "a chance to listen to music and join the party in exchange for four hours of dispensing tickets."

For Elizabeth Liske, a volunteer for three of the past five years, the festival is a weekend in the sun. "I like the music, the food and the fact that there is something here for kids. It's really family-friendly," Liske said.

Folk on the Rocks is a special treat for performers as well, according to Doug

Liddle. In a tribute included in the festival program, the Vancouver musician was impressed by "a community fully active in creating its own culture."

The weekend started at noon last Thursday with a concert in Somba K'e Plaza, rolled on through the traditional Warm the Rocks

concert Friday night in the plaza to a party in a downtown bar and then settled in to the Long Lake concert site.

Folk on the Rocks is as much a social event as musical event, where the audience can people watch, get a bit tipsy under the broiling sun, and sample food offerings that

reflect Yellowknife's changing demographic.

Attendance has grown and last year drew 5,600 people over two days. It pulls in a cross section of Yellowknife's diverse communities and the food offerings reflect the changing city's changing demographic and evolution of tastes, from hamburgers and

hot dogs to samosas, curry and pad Thai.

"It's nice to see a variety," said Flint Palmer, a restaurateur for 15 years in Yellowknife. "In years past it was just hot dogs and hamburger; now there is real food out here, not just stuff off a greasy grill. That helps to make this a real fun event."

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Delivery Allowance // \$7250

Total Price Adjustments // \$11,673

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NORTHERN Journal

Tuesday, July 23, 2013



Rev. David Lehmann entertains his audience with a story about the origins of haggis.

Photo: Paul Bannister

Arts & Culture Heritage

Smith museum weaves storytelling workshop

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
Fort Smith children sat spellbound by the retelling of stories and legends last Tuesday in the church at Mission Park.

The Northern Life Museum hosted its first legendary stories workshop, teaching children the difference between a story and a legend, and the importance of preserving cultural legends.

About 30 youngsters showed up to fill their ears with animated talk of magical animals and far-away lands. There were

Ukrainian, Mayan, Dene, Scottish, British and Ojibway stories told by museum staff and community members.

After the Scottish story, *Ode to Haggis*, told by Rev. David Lehmann of the Anglican Parish of St. John, there was a ceremonial slicing of liverwurst (representing haggis). The children all tried some and many actually enjoyed it, museum staff member Grace Sherwin said.

In the afternoon the kids had a chance to create their

own stories from a handful of provided illustrations, based on the stories they'd heard told in the morning.

"Legends often have lessons in them and the children were tuned into the morals such as, always be kind to others, treat everyone as your equal," Sherwin, who had the idea for the workshop, said.

Sherwin said she's always had a love of folklore and saw a "unique" opportunity to combine that interest with cultural learning for the younger generation.

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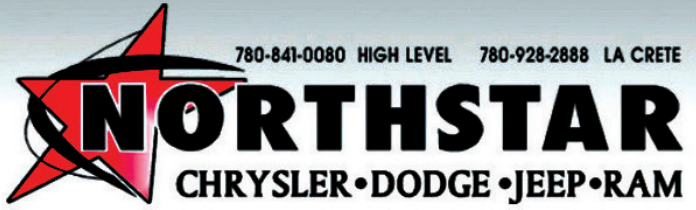
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Avens wants new facility to meet seniors’ needs

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A Yellowknife seniors’ society is making plans for what it says will be a major surge in the number of seniors over the next decade. Avens, which runs the seniors housing and long-term/dementia care facility in the city, has launched a campaign that hopes to see construction of a new building as well as a renovation of the current facility, Aven Manor, within the next few years.

The society, operated in partnership with the territorial government’s department of Health and Social Services, launched its \$33 million “Moving Forward” campaign to the public last Thursday.

“We will see the NWT’s population of seniors more than double by 2026, one of the fastest rates of growth in that age demographic in Canada,” Jeff Renaud, Avens’ CEO, said in a press release. “In Yellowknife, that number will triple.” According to Renaud, there are 173 long-term care beds for seniors in the NWT with 19 on the waiting list.



The new Aven Pavilion, 55,000 square feet, would feature 55 long-term care beds and three palliative care beds.

By 2026, the number of beds needed could rise to well over 600, he said. Avens’ campaign is part of a two-phase, 70-page business case study. The first part of the plan consists of the construction (aimed to start sometime in 2014) of a 55,000 square-foot, two-storey facility. This “Aven Pavilion” will house 55 long-term care beds to expand and replace the 29 ones currently in Aven Manor.

The pavilion will also feature three beds for the creation of a dedicated palliative care program, two additional beds for contingency requirements, a geriatric step-down program and/or family stay programs. There will also be a main floor kitchen with the capacity to serve 300 meals and a main floor rehabilitation centre as well as extra office space. The facility would break ground behind the current

manor on Franklin Avenue, near the downtown core. The estimated cost of this phase is \$28,500,000. Avens said capital financing will need to be secured through private donation and government support. Phase two, slated to follow immediately after the commissioning of the pavilion, will entail a complete retrofit of the existing Aven Manor, which was built in 1983.

The renovations would see 30 supportive living (semi-independent) units redesigned into the manor’s model for seniors age 60 and up. Supportive living includes initiatives such as medication administration, a bath assistance program, laundry, light housekeeping and meal service among others. Phase two is expected to come with a \$5,000,000 price tag and would also

require government and private funding. “In our 30 year history, our government and community partnership has achieved a lot for seniors,” Bill Braden, president of Avens’ board of directors, also said in the release. “The Avens volunteer board is now working to create the awareness and raise the support and dollars needed to continue.” Braden added that the projected growth of Northern seniors and the “serious gap in supportive services” for them is driving Avens’ new vision with this campaign. The number of seniors age 65-74 in the NWT is projected to increase from 1,546 in 2011 to 3,866 by 2026. Seniors over age 75 - the age group requiring the most care - are to rise from a total of 905 to 2,037 in the same time frame - a 300 per cent growth rate. According to Avens officials, it’s this particular age group that will be the most acute in Yellowknife in the coming years and the cohort that will largely drive the demand for support services.

Image: Avens

Proposed Limited Resident Harvest for Bluenose-East, Beverly and Ahiak Caribou Herds



The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is proposing a limited resident harvest on the Bluenose-East, Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds for the 2013-2014 big game hunting season.

Under the proposal, resident hunters in the NWT would be allowed to purchase **one bull-only tag** to be used in Barren-ground Caribou Management Units **R/BC/01, S/BC/03 and U/BC/01**.

The GNWT requires your **input** on the proposal for the limited resident harvest. For more information, contact your local ENR office. Send your comments to:

Lynda Yonge, Director, Wildlife
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Phone: (867) 920-8043
Fax: (867) 873-0293
Email: sara@gov.nt.ca

Comments due by August 9, 2013.



Infrastructure Housing

Fire brings housing plight

By JOSH LONG

A Fort Resolution man could find himself paying tens of thousands of dollars for a home that caught fire July 6. “My mom and dad gave me that house and when we came and signed the papers, the guy we signed it with said we didn’t have to pay nothing because we got the house from my mom and dad,” Leonard Beaulieu Jr. said, describing the circumstances through which he said his parents gifted him the now fire-damaged home. Before the house burned down, Beaulieu said he was approached by a new housing official who tried to get him to sign a mortgage plan to pay back \$21,000. “When I signed for it the first time, we could have paid that long ago and now they just throw this big bill at us,” Beaulieu said. The representative was willing to take the bill down to \$11,000, Beaulieu said, “and I told them I’m not going to pay even that.” He said he hasn’t heard about the matter since that exchange. In the meantime, he’s having a tough time making ends meet. The fire took all his clothes, forcing him to rely on donations. Both he and his wife were unemployed at the time of the fire and they hadn’t budgeted for the cost of the burned home, nor the cost of rent they now

face as they look for other places to live. “I don’t have that kind of money right now,” he said. “I’ve got three kids to feed plus the power bill and water bill. It’s hard to live on \$800 every two weeks.” Their interim housing arrangements put him, his wife and kids in a two-bedroom house they share with his father-in-law and sister-in-law. “I can’t stay where I’m staying right now because we’re sleeping on the floor,” he said. “His house is not big enough for my family and his family.” The fire-damaged home was built in the 1970s according to his mother, Terri Beaulieu, who attributes the bill to some renovation work the housing corporation conducted before she and her husband gave it to their son. She said she was under the impression that the housing corporation would foot the bill. “They give you something for nothing, and then they turn around and you gotta give them something for it,” she told *The Journal*. Tu Nede MLA Tom Beaulieu said he’s discussed options with the family. “We didn’t get into the specifics of his current mortgage, but we did talk about what his options would be right now,” he said, adding that they’re

currently looking at public housing. “Regardless of what his mortgage situation with the house that burnt was, he needed a house.” NWT Housing corporation spokesperson Revi Lau-a said he can’t speak to the case due to privacy concerns. Some housing situations can be confusing, but most have a legitimate explanation behind them, he said. “If there is something that we’re doing in a particular way and people don’t understand why, that’s something that our communications needs to address,” Lau-a said. Weledh MLA Bob Bromley has raised the issue of housing units in N’Dilo and Dettah sitting vacant, despite a waiting list he characterizes as lengthy. “I think the perception is that when you see an empty house, it is property of the NWT Housing Corporation and that’s not necessarily the case,” Lau-a said, adding that sometimes it could be an abandoned home or market housing. There are also cases when home ownership units can sit empty because there are no clients eligible for the program, he said. Meanwhile, Leonard Beaulieu Jr. said his cramped living conditions have led him to consider moving back into the fire-damaged home, but his mother says that’s an unlikely option. “He can’t, it’s completely demolished,” she said.

Sportscentre prepares for its first NWT broadcast

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

It was lights, camera, action in Fort Smith and Yellowknife as speciality sports channel TSN toured the North in the wake of Fort Smith's triumph as a finalist in the TSN Kraft Celebration Tour two weeks ago.

After beating out Whitehorse in an online voting matchup, Fort Smith won \$25,000 from the tour and will host a live Sportscentre broadcast on Aug. 16. The money will go towards purchasing of one of two portable change rooms and washrooms to support figure skaters and hockey players after a fire damaged Fort Smith's Centennial Arena in May.

TSN, in the Northwest Territories for the first time, wants to take a deeper look into the community for the broadcast as well.

"Producers go in ahead of time and look for a sports related story that we can feature as part of the show in August," Matt Cade, an associate producer with TSN, said. "We had a research team that did some digging around and found someone heavily involved in sports to profile."

That someone is Maurice Evans of Fort Smith,



A TSN crew sets up to interview a long-time Fort Smith business owner about Maurice Evans and minor hockey in the North. Left to right: George Hupka, Matt Cade and Larry Westgard.

a longtime supporter, volunteer, coach, manager and wearer of many other hats for minor hockey in the community.

"It became clear pretty quickly that he was an important part of winter sports in Fort Smith and even in other communities across the NWT," Cade said. "In particular he is so dedicated to working through the challenges of putting together a

full minor hockey team in the North and making sure those kids get to compete in tournaments."

The TSN crew caught up with Evans in Yellowknife for an interview where they discussed the difference between hockey in the North versus the south.

"Our numbers have dwindled over the years, especially for the bantam league so we often don't

have enough players here in Smith to fill out the team," Evans said.

That means you have to get creative and network, he said.

Last year, Evans gathered players from Lutsel K'e, Fort Providence and even Inuvik to help flesh out the roster.

"It's about keeping it going and making sure these kids get to play in tournaments, even if that means driving

700 km, caught behind a transport truck...It's very rewarding," Evans said.

For the larger TSN audience, it's an interesting feat, Cade said.

"For those of us that don't face these challenges, it's neat. You gather kids from all these communities - and they're not close communities by any means - to play the game. It's great," Cade told *The Journal* when he was in Fort Smith interviewing others who know Evans.

"The clip we'll show in the broadcast is about Maurice but it's also about sports in the North and obstacles as it works a bit differently here than in other communities in the country," Cade continued.

Ice surface may be useable at arena

Meanwhile, demolition work to remove the fire damaged areas at the arena has begun.

Fort Smith town council hopes to have enough repair work done to use the ice pad for the 2013-2014 season.

"It's looking like we'll be able to use the ice surface there more and more but just the ice surface - not the rest of the arena," Fort Smith's

senior administrative officer Jim Hood said, noting the washrooms, change rooms and even stands would not be useable. "It's not 100 per cent yet, however."

At this point, according to Hood, the town may not need to build a temporary exterior ice surface.

"We haven't completely ruled out an outside rink yet. That option is still being left open for the time being but we're mainly focusing all our efforts into being able to use the surface in the current arena as a solution," he said.

They have been working closely with the fire marshal's office to meet all requirements and building codes. Testing of the electrical system was also underway last week.

"This will help us determine how much additional work we're going to need to do to make it useable," Hood said. "It's looking fairly positive - a lot better now than earlier."

Hood said council hopes to have a final quote from the insurance company by the end of August, when they will make a final decision about whether to go with an exterior rink or use the ice pad at the arena.

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CANDIDATE INFORMATION
SESSIONS FOR WARD 1

Residents in the rural communities of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo interested in running in the 2013 General Election for Mayor, Council or School Board Trustee are invited to attend one of the following candidate information sessions:

• Wednesday, August 21 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.,
Fort Chipewyan Municipal Office

• Thursday, August 22 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.,
Dorothy McDonald Business Centre, Fort MacKay

• Wednesday, August 28 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.,
Conklin Municipal Office

• Thursday, August 29 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.,
Janvier Municipal Office

• Wednesday, September 4 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.,
Anzac Municipal Office

A series of Candidate Information Sessions to be held at the Jubilee Centre, in Fort McMurray, were announced in June. Details on those sessions, as well as the Candidate Information Package, are available online at www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/elections. Please note: any person who wishes to become a candidate is welcome to attend any of the sessions.

Nomination Day in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is Monday, September 23, 2013 and Election Day is Monday, October 21, 2013.

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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



Government of the Northwest Territories

For copies of the job description please visit
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Public Works and Services Hay River, NT
Indeterminate

Salary starts at \$42.28 per hour (approximately \$82,446 per annum), plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$5,410.

Job Opening ID#: 10690 **Closing Date:** August 2, 2013

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

Inquiries Only: Hay River Human Resource Service Centre, 209, 62 Woodland Drive, Hay River, NT X0E 1G1, Fax: (867) 874-5095, E-mail: jobshayriver@gov.nt.ca

Senior Financial Reporting Advisor

Finance Yellowknife, NT
Accounting Services

Two Indeterminate Positions

Salary is currently under review, plus an annual Northern Allowance of \$3,450.

Job Opening ID#: 10684 **Closing Date:** August 2, 2013

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

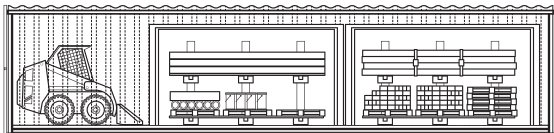
Inquiries Only: Department of Human Resources, Management and Recruitment Services, P.O. Box 1320, Laing Building 2nd Floor, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, Fax: (867) 873-0281, E-mail: jobsyk@gov.nt.ca

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#42:**

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Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Blackstone Park Staff Residence Renovations CT101330

– Blackstone Park, Highway #7, Fort Simpson, NT –

Provide all material, labour and equipment to renovate the staff residence as detailed in the attached scope of work.

Sealed Tenders addressed to: Area Manager Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories 9909 - 97th Ave. Fort Simpson, NT (delivered to 1st floor, Milton Building) or Projects Division, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, Suite 301, 76 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT (delivered to 3rd floor, B&R Rowe Centre), will be received before:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the Electronic Plans Room at the NWT Construction Association website www.nwt.ca or by calling (867) 873-3949.

To be considered each tender must be submitted on the forms provided.

General inquiries to: Audrey Mabbitt
Contracts Administrator
Phone: (867) 874-7003

Technical inquiries to: Alison Billard
Project Officer
Phone: (867) 874-7001

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

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Leased Office Space LS103173

– Fort Smith, NT –

Leased office space in the town of Fort Smith, NT of not less than 85 useable square meters.

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

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013.

Proponents may obtain proposal documents from the above address as of July 22, 2013.

General inquiries to: Contracts Administrator
Government of the NWT
Procurement Shared Services
Phone: (867) 873-7230
Fax: (867) 920-4112
E-mail: pwstenders@gov.nt.ca

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Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Tsiigehtchic Community Learning Centre SC794461

– Tsiigehtchic, NT –

To remediate the structural deficiencies of the existing decks of Tsiigehtchic Community Learning Centre, Tsiigehtchic, NT.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, Bag Service #1, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0 (delivered to 3rd Floor GNWT Building, 106 Veterans Way) will be received before:

4:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above address as of July 17, 2013.

To be considered each tender must be submitted on the forms provided.

General inquiries to: Ann Lindsay
Contracts Administrator
Phone: (867) 777-7146
Fax: (867) 777-7109
Email: ann_lindsay@gov.nt.ca

Technical inquiries to: Saifuddin Quazi
Contracts Administrator
Phone: (867) 777-7391
Fax: (867) 777-7109

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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Northwest Territories Public Works and Services

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

3 PAR SAN Enterprise Server Hardware PO436712

– Yellowknife, NT –

3 PAR SAN Enterprise Server Hardware.

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

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above address as of July 11, 2013.

General inquiries to: Clayton Ravndal
Contracts Administrator
Government of the NWT
Procurement Shared Services
Phone: (867) 873-7230
Fax: (867) 920-4112
E-mail: clayton_ravndal@gov.nt.ca

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For contract opportunities visit
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Growing community in the Arctic Market

By SAMANTHA STOKELL

A crowd of locals, tourists and other vendors gathered around elder Shirley Elias as she demonstrated the Inuit yo-yos she was selling at the Arctic Market in Inuvik on July 6.

“You hold it in this hand and spin it in,” Elias explained to onlookers. “Then spin the other one out. It’s about balance.”

Elias, in her blue Mother Hubbard parka cover, spun the two seal covered rectangles in opposite circles as the small crowd laughed in appreciation of Elias’ skill at the traditional Inuvialuit game. She has sold the yo-yos, rabbit mukluks, embroidered gloves, more parka covers and a few baked goods at the Arctic Market since it started on June 22.

“I’ve come out for the last two weekends. My daughter informed me about the free table, so that’s nice you don’t have to pay,” Elias said. “It’s freestyle and significant that this is coming to Inuvik and that we get to be in it.”

July 6 saw the best turnout for vendors and customers so far, with nine tables set up in Jim Koe Park and more browsers than ever before. People come for the fresh-baked goods, the traditional crafts, herbs and vegetables harvested that morning from the Inuvik



Customers buy some baked goods and cranberry jam at the Arctic Market in Inuvik.

Community Greenhouse and knitted or crocheted items. To sell at the market, people have to make it, bake it or grow it.

“We wanted it to be a place to showcase only homemade items,” said Jackie Challis,

economic development officer for the Town of Inuvik and market facilitator. “We wanted to build on the idea of a farmer’s market and if you look at the model that’s run in big places like Halifax and

Vancouver or even Yellowknife, it’s always primarily a grower’s market that supports local artists or craftspeople.”

With that in mind, the Inuvik Community Greenhouse has been the anchor vendor for

the Arctic Market by attending each weekend, even in downpours. The greenhouse harvests kale, lettuce, basil, cilantro, rhubarb and other greens every Saturday morning and also sells flower and herb pots for people to take home. The market allows the greenhouse to reach more of the community with its produce.

“It’s a good forum to talk about the foods we’re growing, what the community would like to see us growing and find out what direction we’re going in,” said Sarah Reaburn, chair of the greenhouse board. “We have our own community of members, but now we get to be a part of the community.”

Other vendors include young girls selling cupcakes and caramelized popcorn so they can ride roller coasters at West Edmonton Mall on their summer vacation; women selling jam made from cranberries they picked last summer; traditional craftswomen selling and teaching how to make crafts; and experienced farmer’s market vendors selling wood, stone and bone carvings. Inuvik residents agree that while it’s only a few weeks old, the market has become vital to the community.

“It’s just incredible. I’ve been waiting for this for years,”

Debbie Boudreau, who grew up in Inuvik, said. “As a community we’re able to support our arts and crafts, the greenhouse especially. It’s difficult to get fresh herbs in town so I come down every weekend and know that it was harvested this morning.”

Not knowing of each other’s efforts, the Town of Inuvik and a group of community members both started planning the Arctic Market. While the town facilitates the initiative, community volunteers support and lead with their ideals. The town hopes volunteers will eventually take over the venture.

“What is ironic is as they were coming together, we had already gone to ITI. I thought, we have to do it now,” Challis said. “And that’s when we knew the buy-in was there. The town doesn’t want to take any credit for this.”

The Town of Inuvik will continue facilitating the market as a trial this summer until Aug. 31 to stimulate the local economy, provide a positive place for the community to come together and eventually draw tourists to the area. The Arctic Market is held each Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Jim Koe Park come rain, shine or sub-zero temperatures.

Farmers’ market sprouts from growing gardening passion

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Born in June this year, a farmers’ market organized by the Yellowknife Commons Co-operative has drawn hundreds of patrons to Somba K’e Civic Plaza every Tuesday evening this summer.

“It seems to be going really well,” said Dave Zethof, a member of the co-op steering committee, eyeing queues at booths selling everything from butter chicken and samosas to birch syrup and dried mushrooms, fresh herbs and salad greens.

Vendors pay \$150 for the season or \$20 a night and about 40 vendors have signed up; half of them show up every week with baked goods, preserves, fresh produce, fish, eggs and prepared meals, he said.

“The only rule is that whatever is being sold must have been grown or prepared in the Northwest Territories,” Zethof said. “We’ve been lucky to have dinners, jams and breads and other baked goods, but now that we’re in the harvest season we’re



Meaghan Shuparsk (left) and Tamara Christin preside over a table of herbs and vegetables at the Yellowknife Farmers’ Market.

featuring fresh produce on our Facebook page.”

The market is an offshoot of gardening’s renewed

popularity in Yellowknife. In the past decade, the number of community gardens has multiplied from a single

plot to a half dozen scattered around the city.

“I think we’ve come full circle,” Mayor Mark Heyck

said, who grew up in the Con Mine neighbourhood where there was an area set aside for miners to garden.

“In the early days, when shipments of goods were fairly infrequent, people were self-reliant and produced a lot of their own vegetables. There were a lot of community gardens that flourished everywhere,” he said.

“It’s been interesting to see the growth of popularity in the last several years,” continued Heyck, who sees the immediate success of the farmers’ market “as an expression of how popular gardening has become.”

City Hall has followed the renewed interest by making land available in established neighbourhoods and setting aside areas for plots in new subdivisions.

“We’ve built gardens into the planning process. We’re taking food security into account and making allowances if someone wants to establish a community garden in the future,” Heyck said.

After the last market day in mid-September, Zethof said the steering committee will evaluate the first season and “see what we can do for next year and continue on from there. Maybe there will be a Christmas market – that’s a possibility.”

Family-run circus tours NWT, picks up new member

By DIANA SMITH

There are those who run away with the circus and those who actually are the circus. Both types were found in the Family Fun Circus that swept through the NWT recently.

The blue and yellow big top tent brought an element of mystery and magic, even when it was simply parked in the muddy back lot of the rec centre in Hay River on July 10 and 11. Storm-force winds seemed benign as they ruffled the flags atop the tent's four points and flashing lights blinked from concessions on wheels, their windows full of pink cotton candy.

At the entrance a jolly young fellow in a shiny tux gathered tickets and ushered spectators inside the dimly lit tent, where red silk ropes and the human cannon became the focal point.

The jolly fellow was Jairo Ojeda, the ringmaster. The ropes belong to his wife Amanda, who practices her art 30 feet in the air in the early hours of the morning. The cannon was for Ojeda's little brother Johnny, who later stood atop it and climbed in.

Ojeda, 22, is a fifth-generation circus performer. Amanda comes from seven generations of performing.



Johnny (right) and Jairo Ojeda pack up their human cannon to hit the road for Alberta.

The two grew up watching their parents do their jaw-dropping routines, picked up risky tricks and came up with acts of their own, all while being homeschooled and living in a semi-truck.

"This is our life," Ojeda said. "It's all any of us know. We were born on the road in the hospital of whatever town we were in at the time."

A day in the life of the circus starts at 4:00 or 5:00 a.m.

Upon arrival, there is much to do from setting up the tent and its apparatuses, putting on a show, tearing down the miniature city that had just been built and hitting the road on the way to the next

town to do it all over again. It's exhausting and some people who tag along don't last, Ojeda said.

"It's not for everyone. Some people love it and some people just get homesick."

According to Ojeda, the circus demands 11.5 months out of the year, with only two weeks to visit "home" and relax.

"We get down to Texas, water our animals, sleep in for a few days and then take off again," he said. "But I love it."

Having been on the road his whole life, Ojeda knows nothing about life in a town with a yard and school friends.

"Sometimes I look at a town as we pass through and I wonder what it's like to have a job and to come home every night. But I don't think I could do it. If I'm in one place too long, I get an itch to perform and keep moving."

Ojeda said his parents met in the circus and after working for other people, they decided to start their own family circus. For eight years now, they have been independent and travelling all over Mexico, the USA and Canada.

Of course, they can't help but pick up a few strays along the way.

Meagan Evalyk, curled up in a sleeping bag on a make-shift plywood bunk inside the semi-trailer, did what many only dream of: run away with the circus.

July 7 marked her first week sleeping on the bunk since she hopped on the truck in Yellowknife.

"It's because she saw my brother in tight pants," Ojeda said with a laugh.

"I just thought, 'I'm not doing anything else, so why not?'" Evalyk said. Having been in foster homes most of her childhood, she said she is used to the transient life and wanted to experience other places.

According to Ojeda, she'll be doing odd jobs and helping behind the scenes.

The circus packed up late July 11 and drove through the night to High Level. From there, they were off to Edmonton and then Manitoba. Ojeda said sometimes they don't know where they're going. When they don't have sponsors booked, they just "wing it" and put on a show wherever they happen to be.

"Nothing's guaranteed in this business. That's what makes it exciting," he said.

Photo: Diana Smith

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CANDIDATE INFORMATION
SESSIONS FOR WARD 1

Residents in the rural communities of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo interested in running in the 2013 General Election for Mayor, Council or School Board Trustee are invited to attend one of the following candidate information sessions:

• Wednesday, August 21 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.,
Fort Chipewyan Municipal Office

• Thursday, August 22 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.,
Dorothy McDonald Business Centre, Fort MacKay


• Wednesday, August 28 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.,
Conklin Municipal Office

• Thursday, August 29 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.,
Janvier Municipal Office

• Wednesday, September 4 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.,
Anzac Municipal Office

A series of Candidate Information Sessions to be held at the Jubilee Centre, in Fort McMurray, were announced in June. Details on those sessions, as well as the Candidate Information Package, are available online at www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/elections. Please note: any person who wishes to become a candidate is welcome to attend any of the sessions.

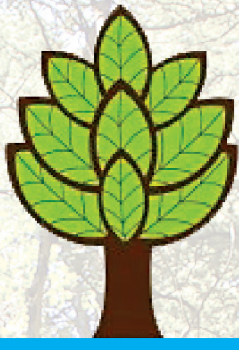
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Tuesday, July 23, 2013

NORTHERN
Journal

21



Fourteen hikers take a well-deserved break during the 25 mile trek across the Mackenzie Mountains in support of youth leadership.



Norman Yakeleya takes in the view beside an Inukshuk hidden inside a canyon along the Canol Trail.

Photos: Myles Erb

Sports & Recreation Youth

Sahtu youth conquer mountains, rivers and canyons

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

For six days they slogged across swift river currents, through deep, chiseled canyons, climbed tree covered hills and up through jutting mountains.

It's gruelling, ever-changing terrain considered one of the most challenging backpacking routes in the country, but that didn't deter 22 hikers from making the journey of a lifetime on foot through

the Mackenzie Mountains earlier this month. The eighth Canol Youth Leadership Hike is a 25-mile trek along the 358 km Canol Heritage Trail, an abandoned World War

II pipeline route, with the overall goal of exposing Sahtu youth to surviving in the wild, connecting to the land, building self-esteem and encouraging more discussion about industry

of elders there and they told stories and talked about the traditional medicine we can gather from the land," Yakeleya said. This year's hike did things a bit differently, including

middle of a canyon or splashing across a river... and I love the chance to share my knowledge with youth. It's something I'm passionate about and grateful to be involved in," Erb, 23, said. "We've taken a good approach to it and slowed down a bit; we used to do 20 km a day."

This year also marked the first time hikers trekked across the Carcajou River. "We'd scouted it out last year but this was the first time we crossed it with backpacks and everything," Erb said. "It was pretty cool. We also did an excursion off the trail inside one of the canyons with the geologist to take a closer look at the rock formation and talked about oil exploration in the Sahtu with the kids."

The journey evokes a sense of pride, Erb said.

"It makes you appreciate where you come from and to be proud of our land, not to mention it gives you confidence that you can set out to do what you want to, which adolescents need."

For Yakeleya, it's also about acknowledging the power of mother nature.

The group starts off with a fire ceremony on day one, he said, to illustrate a spiritual connectedness to the land.

"Right away, I think everyone on the walk takes away some humbleness and how small we are, how we have to respect the natural world around us," he said. "I want the youth to recognize the history of the place, too, and the wealth many of us are fortunate enough to have."

Most of the youth emerge from the long hike exhausted and sore but also beaming, Yakeleya said.

"They tell me they want to come back next year, that it was the best trip of their lives."

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The scenery is a big thing for me - one moment you're in thick bush, the next you're in the middle of a canyon or splashing across a river... and I love the chance to share my knowledge with youth.

*Myles Erb
Canol Youth Leadership Hike leader*

- such as pipelines - and its impact on the environment. "Very few people ever hike this route; it's just you against nature," said Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya, who has been leading the adventure since it began in 2005. "The first checkpoint is eight miles straight up a mountain and it takes about eight hours to get up there. Everyone has 55 pounds on their back. It's tough." Of the 22 hikers, 14 made the taxing journey beginning July 6 from mile 50 to mile 25, five of which were youth between the ages of 16 and 20. The others stayed at the base camp at mile 36, where all participants met up and took part in a two-day Aboriginal cultural camp. Everyone was flown home to soothe their blistered feet and aching backs via helicopter on July 12. "At the Aboriginal camp, there were a whole bunch

participation from a geologist for the first time as well as representatives from Husky Energy's base in Calgary and ConocoPhillips. "Having them come out on our land and learn about us truly as Aboriginal people and how we live out in the bush was meaningful," Yakeleya said. "It helps the companies realize first hand the importance of our culture and land and helps us realize opportunities with them. We can work together...They didn't come out as just oil and gas employees; they came out as everyday people, just like you and me, eager to experience it." Myles Erb, the recreational programmer with the Town of Norman Wells, has been partaking in the hike for the past eight years. "I just absolutely love it. The scenery is a big thing for me - one moment you're in thick bush, the next you're in the



Children hop to the finish line during the sack races.



Jerric Cardinal (left) and Ryan Schaefer, both 12, prepare to launch off from shore in a kayak supplied by the Fort Smith Paddling Club.



Shanae Nadary, 8, wins the girls' obstacle course race with a time of 51 seconds.

Sports & Recreation Parks

Pine Lake Picnic celebrates 28 years, National Parks Day



Autumn Gervais (left), 11, and Kiah Vail, 12, chow down on fresh corn on the cob after the traditional corn husking races.



Brenden Li gets a ride from Dad, Sam as they explore the beach.



Peyton Brasser (left), 3, and Raya Berro, 5, have some fun in the sun filling up their dump truck.

Photos: Renée Francoeur

Sports & Recreation Paddlefest

Paddlefest 2013 kicks it up a notch with youth camp

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Fort Smith's hottest summer event is bringing even more to the table for its sixth season.

Paddlefest, a kayaking, canoeing, rafting and all-around whitewater weekend of fun on the Slave River rapids, is hosting its first youth camp for ages 13-17.

"I really want kids to get stoked about Paddlefest," Paddlefest coordinator Genevieve Côté said.

An instructor from Aquabatics in Calgary, top-of-the-line pros who deliver regular youth kayaking courses, will be on site for the week of July 29.

"People have wanted this. We've been asked to provide something for the youth for many years but we've never had the volunteer capacity to run it before," Côté said. "This year I said, you know what, I'm going to ask these cool Aquabatics guys to come up - they did two years ago, not to teach but to sell equipment and things - and teach a youth camp and they agreed."

There will be two full youth camps, scheduled to run over two days for a total



Paddlefest coordinator Genevieve Côté is pumped for this year's celebration on the Slave River rapids, featuring lessons from an Aquabatics Calgary pro for the first time.

of 14 hours, as introductions to all things whitewater.

The first runs July 29 and 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. followed by the second July 31 and Aug. 1 in the bay at Mountain Portage.

Côté said there is room for five adolescents in each camp and there are still many spots available.

Participants will learn basic kayaking and paddling skills, river safety, rolling

and eddy turns in a safe environment while building confidence in a boat.

"It's the perfect, high-quality introduction on how to be safe in the rapids and water safety all around which is

pretty important when you live right by the big Slave River," Côté said. "People are excited. I'm really excited. I want to get those kids that do a lot of BMX biking around town to come out - they'll be amazing in there and at least if you fall, you fall in the water with this - it doesn't hurt as much."

And it's not just about kayaking, Côté said; the youth camp will also use inflatable rafts for a wavy, spray-filled adventure.

"It's cool, you're outside by the water. There's a campfire, hot dogs. It's a positive thing for kids to try out," she said.

The Aquabatics crew is also hosting a rolling clinic on the morning of Aug. 3.

"That was something I brought up with them because we always have a big group from Yellowknife coming down, super excited to get in the water but most of them are brand new beginners so I thought it's be nice to give them this opportunity," Côté said.

On top of that, there will be stand-up paddleboard surfing instruction from the Aquabatics trainer.

"There will be a half hour paddleboard course available, two people and just the instructor. And that will be in the bay of course, not the rapids. It's already hard enough," Côté said with a laugh. "So Paddlefest isn't just about whitewater, we have some flatwater events, too."

Paddlefest, a weekend of river trips, races and fun-filled competitions, is also about making Fort Smith a hotspot for summer tourism, Côté said.

"Paddlefest brings in people year after year and friends come back with their friends the following year so it should be nourished for that long-term potential...We're a river people; it's time to promote it."

Côté expects around 300 participants and spectators to take part in the festivities this year. Last year saw a total of 226 come out.

"I'm hoping to stack the rocks."

For full details on everything Paddlefest or to register for Aquabatics lessons, visit www.fskaya.webs.com or email slavepaddlefest@gmail.com.

Photo: Renée Francoeur

FORT SMITH NT CANADA SLAVE RIVER PADDLEFEST AUG 2-5 2013

TAKE AN AQUABATICS LESSON

YOUTH INTRO TO WHITEWATER CAMP

For youth 13 - 17. This 14 hour, 2 day session is a great introduction to the fun and excitement of whitewater kayaking. In a safe and supportive environment participants will be exposed to a bunch of whitewater kayaking skills which will build confidence and enjoyment of this fabulous and healthy pastime. The program will cover everything from forward paddling to eddy turns, basic river safety to rolling and everything in between!

Dates: Group 1 - Monday, July 29 and Tuesday, July 30 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Group 2 - Wednesday, July 31 and Thursday, Aug 1 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Bring lunch and snacks
\$199 +GST

ADULT WHITEWATER PROGRESSION LEVEL 1

The 8 hour Level 1 whitewater progression is for those who have been in a whitewater boat before on moving water and want to get some more experience/guidance on how this all works. This 2 evening program will take the skills you already have and will look at refining them and look at applying them in more challenging river features. The goal of this session is to build confidence, skill set and overall have a great time on the water. No roll required!! (we will work on it for sure!)

Dates: Monday, July 29 and Tuesday, July 30
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
\$120 +GST

ADULT WHITEWATER PROGRESSION LEVEL 2

The 8 hour level 2 sessions require you to have a moving water roll and some Class II paddling experience. This session will be based on an intermediate session and we will look at everything from moving water rolling, surfing, eddy turns, river safety and much more. Lots of feedback and time to practise will see your skill and confidence improve dramatically.

Dates: Wednesday, July 31st and Thursday, Aug. 1st
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
\$120 +GST

Must register at slavepaddlefest@gmail.com
Info Gen 867-872-3593
www.fskayak.webs.com

Register Online: www.fskayak.webs.com

For info: Call (867) 872-3593 or email slavepaddlefest@gmail.com

Brought to you by: Fort Smith Paddling Club, Smith's Landing First Nation,
Northwest Territories Kayak Association, Wood Buffalo National Park and the Town of Fort Smith.



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