

First Nations gather for KFN's first assembly After leaving the Dehcho pro-

cess, the K'atl'odeeche First Nation near Hay River hosted its first independent assembly last week. See page 2.



Film explores industry, environment connection

A new documentary delves into the complex relationship between development and safeguarding the land in Fort Chipewyan. See page 6.



Wood Buffalo becomes new Dark Sky Preserve

Wood Buffalo National Park has become the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve and the first preserve in Northern Canada. See page 8.



Enterprise jamboree hosts first pig roast

The 15th annual Gateway Jamboree was full of games, good food and an impressive lineup of Northern music. See page 10.



August 13, 2013 Vol. 37 No. 15



Team NWT swimmer Roman Asmundson, 16, of Yellowknife steam rolls over his personal best during the 200m butterfly event at the Canada Summer Games in Sherbrooke, Que. last week. The Northern swimmers made big waves with 19-year-old Tanner Dolynny coming in seventh in the 50m breast stroke final. See more photos on page 19.

NWT fracking water license allows for company to keep 'trade secrets'

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The water license recently issued to ConocoPhillips for the first horizontal fracking activity in the Northwest Territories contains a legal loophole that should be cause of serious concern for the public, emergency responders and oilfield workers, according to critics.

The license, awarded by the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) in June, requires the company to disclose all chemicals used while fracking with two exploratory wells south of Norman Wells, with the exception of those chemicals deemed to be "trade secrets."

Under the license, the company must submit the name of each chemical ingredient listed on the material safety

data sheet (MSDS) for each additive, along with the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number from each chemical ingredient, an oil patch consultant and

is to be used consistent with the MSDS," the conditions of the license state.

According to Jessica Ernst,

Why should the workers be exposed to chemicals that might be harming their health if they don't know?

Jessica Ernst Oil patch consultant

to the land and water board within 30 days after each frac.

But where the company considers the "specific identity of a chemical ingredient" to be a proprietary right, "a more general identification

landowner from Alberta currently engaged in legal action against Encana for allegedly polluting her community's water through fracking, the incomplete list of chemicals being supplied to regulators,

the public and emergency responders is putting the environment and human safety at

serious risk. "If fracking starts to ramp up - and we have thousands of wells in Alberta - in terms of the first responders, how do you prepare your emergency people in hospitals and fire halls, medics, etc, if they don't know the potential risks they may be facing?" she said. "The workers - why should the workers be exposed to chemicals that might be harming their health if they don't know?"

There is precedence for Ernst's concerns. In 2008, an emergency room nurse in Colorado, Cathy Behr, nearly died after being exposed to a "mystery frac chemical" a patient was doused in. She lost

her sense of smell and spent 30 hours in intensive care after her organs began shutting down.

Although the company provided MSDS sheets to Behr's doctors at the time of the incident, it refused to provide them with more specific information once she fell ill, according to news reports, meaning her doctor had to guess what to do to keep her alive.

More recently, responders to the train derailment and explosions that took place in Lac Mégantic, Que. were not told the oil in the tankers was fracked from the Bakken shale play containing chemical additives. That oil has now sunk to the bottom of the adjacent river, challenging cleanup efforts.

See Chemical on page 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

Tlicho grand chief candidates declared

The nomination meeting for the grand chief of the Tlicho government election officially closed last Thursday, announcing incumbent Edward (Eddie) Erasmus, George Mackenzie and James Wah-Shee as candidates for the position. This is the fourth grand chief election for the First Nation government. The elected candidate will serve a four-year term. Tlicho members head to the polls on Sept. 16, with an advance poll on Aug. 26. Voting takes place in Behchoko, Whati, Gameti, Wekweeti and Yellowknife. For more information, visit www.tlichoelection.com.

Kennady Lake project sees 'exceptional' diamond recoveries

The Kennady Diamond project in the NWT has made some impressive finds. A recent 1.1 kimberlite ore sample yielded three large diamonds: a 2.48 carat off-white transparent octahedral, a 0.90 carat off-white transparent irregular, and a 0.75 carat off-white transparent octahedral. The project is located about 280 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife. The find "of three diamonds of this size and quality from a 1.1 tonne sample is very encouraging," the company said in a press release last Tuesday.

Corrections training program celebrates first graduates in Fort Smith

Twelve graduates successfully completed the first-ever session of the Corrections Northern Recruit Training Program (CNRTP) in Fort Smith, gaining the knowledge and skills needed to apply for corrections positions and other security related jobs in the Northwest Territories. All CNRTP participants receive six weeks of paid training with certified instructors from the department of Justice, followed by 14 days of job shadowing a corrections officer. A Yellowknife-based session will run from Nov. 8 to Dec. 20. Applicants may apply at www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment. The deadline for applications is Aug. 19.



K'atl'odeeche First Nation Chief Roy Fabian said the assembly last week was one in a series of steps the First Nation is taking to assert jurisdiction on its traditional territory and find ways to protect its treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Politics First Nations

K'atl'odeeche First Nation hosts first independent assembly

Reserve hosts visitors from southern First Nations

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Following its withdrawal from the Dehcho process and frustrations with the Dene Nation, the K'atl'odeeche

First Nation (KFN) near Hay River decided to host its own assembly last week on the Hay River reserve - but they were not alone.

First Nation leaders from the Prairie provinces came north to support KFN last week as the First Nation presented its trials and tribulations with the implementation of Treaty 8, land claims, devolution and jurisdiction over its traditional territory.

While providing some advice from their perspective, the chiefs from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba opted mostly to listen to what KFN Chief Roy Fabian and other members of the First Nation had to say.

"They just came to support us," Fabian said. "They're working on certain things down there and they wanted to come to our assembly to support us, so we welcomed them. We're no longer affiliated with any region; we're kind of on our own. So they just felt that it would be good for them to come and support us, but at the same time present to us how they're working and stuff like that."

Fabian said the assembly focused primarily on treaties and any different avenues the First Nation could potentially take to assert jurisdiction over its traditional territory, and flowed out of the recent treaty rights workshop held on the reserve in April where KFN's leadership was instructed to do "whatever it takes" to find more ways to protect members' treaty rights.

"So that's what we've been working on, you know, issues like devolution, the Métis claim and other things. We had a chance to do some work on it and basically we just reported to the First Nations all the work that we've done over the last few months and get some direction," Fabian said.

"There's a lot of differences between the Northwest Territories and what's happening in the provinces. For example, in the provinces they're already living under what they call the Resource Transfer Act that took place in 1930, so they know what it's like to live under a kind of devolution.

potential legal action against the NWT Métis Nation, which is currently negotiating its own lands and resources agreement in the region, in order to assert jurisdiction.

Hosting its own assembly for the first time was another assertion of that, Fabian said.

"This is about KFN. We've chased land claims and we've followed other people - we followed Dene Nation, we followed the Dehcho Process for 20 years - and it got

We've chased land claims and we've followed other people - we followed Dene Nation, we followed the Dehcho Process for 20 years - and it got us nowhere. So now what we're saying is we're going to exercise our rights as a First Nation and we need to start listening to ourselves and lay a path for ourselves on our treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Chief Roy Fabian K'atl'odeeche First Nation

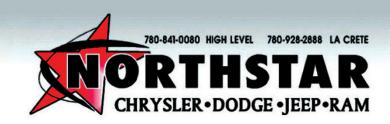
They shared with us how they see devolution working and the ins and outs of it, just how it impacts treaty rights...They also talked about some other issues. Like for them, a big part of their process is to try to get international recognition by the United Nations process, so those kinds of things they talked to us about."

Currently, KFN is involved in three separate claims processes with the federal government and is looking at tools like the NWT's Protected Areas Strategy, co-management with Parks Canada and

us nowhere. So now what we're saying is we're going to exercise our rights as a First Nation and we need to start listening to ourselves and lay a path for ourselves on our treaty and Aboriginal rights. That's what this whole meeting was about," he said.

Fabian said the First Nation would be having another session out on the land sometime in the next month or so to work on a declaration for KFN.

"We're going to tell everybody who we are and what our rights are," he said.



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Chemical disclosure loophole for fracking in Sahtu creates health and safety hazard: critic

Continued from page 1.

"How can they properly protect themselves when they fight a fire or deal with a spill at an emergency if they don't know what chemicals are in those tanks?" Ernst asked. "Never mind the people who live beside the site and are breathing the toxins."

Ernst said workers and emergency responders in the North have more to lose when response and travel time is taken into consideration for emergency transportation.

"You're isolated up there in the Territories, so what if a worker is doused in toxic secret sauce and comes into emergency and nobody can warn any of the emergency staff how to protect themselves? They don't know what kind of respirators to wear, whether to put him into isolation, whether other patients will be at risk from him dripping toxic chemicals into a hospital," she said. "You have communities far apart, which makes it worse because a person who might be exposed would have to travel further and be exposed longer to get to a hospital."

Board given MSDS sheets for additives

Fracking, a controversial and unconventional oil and gas drilling process, injects chemically altered water and sand at high speeds underground to hydraulically fracture, or "frac," the shale bed, releasing petroleum which is then pushed up through a well.

The leftover solution of toxic wastewater is either injected into underground storage tanks or, as ConocoPhillips plans, is hauled by truck to a dump site.

The chemicals added to the mix include a range of solvents, gelling agents, friction-reducing agents and non-emulsifiers, among others, often listed by product or brand name or based on their purpose.

For example, the list of chemicals and their MSDS sheets submitted by ConocoPhillips to the SLWB includes a "surfactant," "breaker," "water-friction reducing agent" and "X-CIDETM 207 Industrial Microbiocide,"

to name a few.

SLWB executive director
Paul Dixon said the board gets
information from companies
in three ways: first, a list of all
potential chemicals, then a risk
assessment for those chemicals
(to identify if there are less
toxic alternatives available)
and finally a breakdown of
what was used after each frac.

"Basically, there's a couple different competing companies that run these fracking chemicals, and we get the breakdowns in the chemical



Alberta landowner and oil patch consultant Jessica Ernst says proper information on fracking chemicals and their impacts on human health and the environment is not being disclosed to the government, regulators or the public.

MSDS sheets. So that gives us the materials found within each one of those frac fluids and where the frac fluids are commonly used," Dixon said.

"They disclose what they are, but then when they give us the list for what they used for that specific frac, the exact combinations aren't given. They'll give us the MSDS sheet - it will be all the chemicals within there, but the 0.1 or 0.2 per cent or whatever of this component or that component won't be identified."

Dixon admitted that MSDS sheets can be "a little bit vague," but still list the names of the products.

"They're not going to leave out a chemical, but some MSDS sheets are a little bit more well-refined than others," he said.

MSDS sheets

'a very good con': Ernst

According to Ernst, information contained on these frac fluids' MSDS sheets is incomplete, with some parts of the solution missing altogether.

For example, X-CIDE's ingredients only add up to 92 per cent of the fluid when using the max quantity of each additive (if keeping levels to the minimum, 38 per cent of the microbiocide is missing). For "Non-Emulsifying Agent W54" - an additive that contains naphthalene, a red blood cell destroyer, and which "cannot be made non-toxic" - four of the six components are listed as "proprietary" without CAS numbers disclosed.

Ernst said part of the problem is the "trade secrets" loophole, but said the issue has to do with the MSDS sheets in general, which she called a "very good con." Besides keeping trade secrets secret, by listing a generic product name like "corrosive" as the chemical itself, the sheets leave out what could be three to 500 harmful ingredients contained within, she said.

"They (the board) are getting a number and a name and they think they're getting a chemical," she said. "But how much benzine is in each of those products? How much toluene - it's a known neurotoxin that damages the brain, especially in children?...What acids are they injecting?"

Online disclosure sites like fracfocus.com, recently made mandatory in Alberta, also leave out specific information on chemical ingredients. A list of frac fluids on the website from one example well in Alberta gave no information on three of the additives; for the other four, only brand names were given, with no list of ingredients.

Complete list of chemicals unknown in Canada

An assessment done by former federal environment commissioner Scott Vaughan on fracking in February confirmed the lack of government knowledge on the chemicals being used.

"Environment Canada and Health Canada told us that while a partial list of substances that are likely to be used in hydraulic fracturing has been developed, a complete list of substances used in Canada is not known," he wrote, adding:

"Environment Canada informed us that it takes about

three years to establish control measures...Environment Canada and Health Canada told us that they are still working toward gaining a better understanding of the substances contained in hydraulic fracturing fluid and the risks associated with the hydraulic fracturing process." Ernst said regulatory boards and government are being "conned" into thinking they have the information needed to keep people safe and protect the environment, and should use the power given to them through the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to enforce full disclosure of chemicals, or prevent chemicals from being used until their health effects are studied.

"People have the right to know so they can make an informed, balanced, reasonable choice on whether or not they want to let this industry into their territory, or think of a better way to make energy," she said.

"If people in the Territories knew that these wastes contained such and such chemicals and were radioactive, perhaps, had a certain concentration of carcinogens, neurotoxins, but the specific deadly chemical identified, I would expect communities anywhere who knew this would refuse to allow it.

"I don't believe it's at all about trade secrets."





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Publisher & Managing Editor Don Jaque 867-872-3000 ext.21 • dj@norj.ca

..... Meagan Wohlberg 867-872-3000 ext.24 • news@norj.ca

..... Renée Francoeur 867-872-3000 ext.25 • reporter@norj.ca

Comptroller Dixie Penner 867-872-3000 ext.23 • dix@norj.ca

Advertising Joshua Jorgensen 867-872-3000 ext.15 • ads@norj.ca

Administration..... Carol MacPherson 867-872-3000 ext.29 • admin@norj.ca

Production & Graphics Sandra Jaque 867-872-3000 ext.22 • sandra@norj.ca **Paul Bannister** 867-872-3000 ext.27 • graphics@norj.ca Anna Sierra 867-872-3000 ext.26 • design@norj.ca



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Good cop, bad cop

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was busy in recent weeks too busy.

Three incidents of police shooting and tasering left two man dead and two others shot.

The first incident occurred last Thursday night near Grande Cache when two officers tried to stop a vehicle driven by a 38 yearold local. The officers thought the driver might be impaired. RCMP say there was a confrontation that ended with the suspect being shot, apparently through the truck door, in the shoulder as he fled the scene.

On Friday a Leduc RCMP officer tasered a 27-year-old man during an arrest at a gas station who died two days later. The victim was suspected in assaults and auto thefts.

The third occurred last Saturday night when an RCMP officer fatally shot Lance Cutarm, 30, near Pigeon Lake, and injured his brother, 41 year-old Larron Cutarm. The two were in a car being driven by their father, Larry Cutarm near Ma-Me-O Beach, south of Edmonton when the policeman, suspecting an impaired driver, pulled them over. During the arrest, police say a confrontation broke out with the other four men in the vehicle. The father claimed the policeman was in the process of arresting him cuffing him on the ground - when his sons got out of the car to come to his rescue. The officer discharged several shots. Lance Cutarm died of chest wounds soon after. The father claimed in a television interview that the policeman tasered the dead body of his son as it lay on the ground.

Those three incidents happened just after the shocking death of Sammy Yatim,18, at the hands of police in downtown Toronto on July 27. Yatim was brandishing what is believed to be a knife on an empty, stationery streetcar on Dundas Street West. He was shot nine times and then his body was tasered. The policeman who did the shooting has been suspended.

It is safe to say many Canadians have been concerned that our police use extraordinary, and sometimes deadly force, too much and too often. The criticism of brutality during arrests was levelled at the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) following the riots related to the G20 conference in Toronto in 2010. What happened to Robert Dziekanski, the Polish immigrant to Canada who died when he was tasered multiple times by four RCMP officers in the Vancouver airport in October 2007 remains indelibly imprinted on the minds of most Canadians. What was particularly galling about that incident was that the RCMP impounded the video a bystander had taken on his cellphone - an attempted cover-up.

The RCMP has been seemingly under siege for some time - first the controversy involving top leadership that unfolded in 2008 and more recently accusations of a culture of sexism within the RCMP - that sexual abuse against female members is all too common, including very serious allegations by a number of female officers.

There are two sides to every story and it must be recognized that being a cop is about the toughest job there is. You have to be nice to good people and be on guard at all times in case someone is a very bad person. That being said, what must be even tougher than being a cop is running a police force - one that is effective, but at the same time respects the rights and civil liberties of all citizens.

In the case of the G20 riots, 40 businesses were vandalized and all the havoc caused nearly a million dollars in property damage. Yet there was fault found in how

some officers handled the situation. One has to wonder at the training and selection process with all those officers - did they know enough and have the appropriate skills - including emotional training - to be in a circumstance like that?

Was Lance Cutarm shot and killed by the lone officer because he was a threat? He had a criminal record, as did his brother Larron, both involving violence. Did the officer know that or does he have a bias against anyone of Aboriginal decent? The recent killing of 18-year-old Trayyon Martin in Florida that many say was a case of racial profiling against black Americans has created a serious rift in American society. Any red flag like that in Canada needs to be addressed.

To the credit of the OPP, any police incidents resulting in the serious injury or death of a civilian are investigated by a civilian criminal investigative agency (Special Investigations Unit or SIU) - not the police themselves. ASIRT also has a strong civilian presence.

Objective oversight of police is needed, but what is most important and at risk here is the trust and public confidence Canadians have in their police. No good honest citizen, no matter what they look like, should ever feel fear from the police. Similarly, no police should ever act inappropriately toward any good, honest citizen. No person or agency should want to ensure that trust more than the police themselves.

The RCMP is one of the most respected police forces on the planet. Our Mounties are one of the fundamentals in the fabric that makes Canada a great nation. All other police forces in Canada, and many internationally, are modeled after or strongly influenced by them. That integrity and trust should never be tarnished.



Drivers get a glimpse of all that remains of a gravel truck that caught on fire along Highway 3 Saturday afternoon around 3:00 p.m. Fort Providence RCMP and members of the fire department were on the scene and temporarily closed the highway. The incident is under investigation.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Confusion follows storm: twister or just wind? The Pelican Rapids Golf and Country Club in Fort Smith was the site of a major cleanup on the morning of Aug, 6, 1998 after the previous night's extremely high winds and thunderstorm blew down a number of trees onto and around the course.

But did a tornado do it or not? That is the question.

20 Years Ago...

Anthrax kills sanctuary bison

Anthrax was confirmed as the cause of death for 105 bison in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary near Fort Providence. On July 31 and Aug. 1, 1993, thirteen dead bison were discovered by renewable resources staff at Falaise Lake in the sanctuary.

30 Years Ago...

Fire season over?

The fire season wrapped up early, as wet weather and cool nights combined to quell almost all of the fires in the territories.

One spot fire about 80 miles north of Fort Smith was quickly put out by fire crews last weekend.

Issue: August 11, 1998

Issue: August 11, 1993

Issue: August 11, 1983

From the House:

PM's new cabinet brings challenges, especially in Environment portfolio

Much has been said about the composition of Stephen Harper's new cabinet since the appointments were made by the Governor General on July 14. One thing is for sure: this is, even more than before, a cabinet belonging to the Prime Minister. The veteran ministers are loyalists: Flaherty, Baird, Clement, Nicholson, Van Loan, Diane Finley and James Moore. Peter McKay, who has moved from Defence to Justice, is less a loyalist as an essential element of the Atlantic provinces representation.

The newcomers, be they Chris Alexander, Michelle Rempel, Shelley Glover, Kellie Leach, or Candice Bergin have all demonstrated a strong willingness to parrot the lines of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on their way up the ladder. One of the new faces, Pierre Polievre

has made a career in Question Period by attacking Opposition politicians that ask the tough questions of the prime minister.

For Northern Canada, the return of Minister Valcourt into the hot seat of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development likely means that the PMO will continue to control much of the action in this area. There will be important legislation coming forward from this ministry, both for Aboriginal issues across the country and for the NWT. For devolution to be a reality in April 2014, a **Devolution Implementation** Bill will need to show up in Parliament in the fall. As well, the Conservatives have continued to promise changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. My concern is that these separate efforts will be run together

in some form of a Northern omnibus bill. Another take it or leave it scenario for many people in the NWT.

The more significant change in the cabinet for Northerners is the appointment of Nunavut MP and former Minister of Health to the position of Environment Minister. In her five years in Health, her standard position was to refer most health policy issues to the provinces. To her mind the Canada Health Act was a funding device and the Government of Canada was little more than the administrator.

When it comes to Environment, a national and global issue, this approach will have to be abandoned for her to develop any credibility in the Ministry. After five previous Ministers running Environment for a non-caring prime minister, this would



Dennis Bevington MP Western Arctic

be a tough assignment for an ardent green person.

The Conservative posture on the North may have moved slightly from the "Defence of Canada's Arctic," to resource extraction and economic development, but the concerns about arctic ice melting, ocean acidification and climate change mitigation are not part of their public policy discussion.

Minister Aglukakaq has a large hill to climb if she is to make a credible effort in the Environment portfolio. This comes at a time when her constituents, most of our country and the rest of the world are demanding more in this regard.

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

Kayakers launch into the water for one of Paddlefest's most anticipated traditions, the beach ball race. Three teams compete to be the first to get their beach ball around the bend from one bay to the next before the others, while making sure to knock their opponents off course.



Sunny weather draws good crowd to Paddlefest

Myrna Blake: wow ... bet this is a riot to watch

Kris Johnson: Awesome! Who took the photo?



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OPINION

Top ten tips for smart summer eating

Being outside as often as possible during the summer months is part of our Northern culture. We all enjoy picnics and barbecues or cooking over an open fire on warm summer evenings.

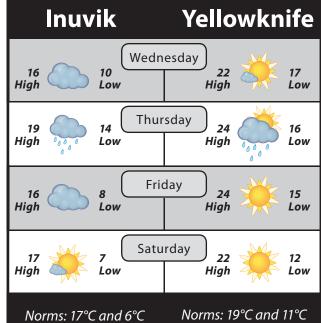
It is important to enjoy foods in season but follow a few simple tips for smart eating this summer:

- Don't get thirsty. It can be easy to get dehydrated in the summer heat. Signs that you're thirsty can include dizziness, cramps, feeling tired and lightheadedness. However be wary of sugary beverages like pop and slushy drinks. One large slushy drink can have up to 58 teaspoons of sugar!
- If you are bringing foods for a potluck or community feast, bring something refreshing and healthy. Fruits and vegetables from your home garden or fresh fruit like sliced watermelon, oranges, freshly picked berries or grapes are great to bring to any gathering.
- During summer holidays, children who sit indoors and watch television or play video games may snack more often on unhealthy foods such as potato chips. Instead, send them outside to play with some healthy snacks. Although there is no school and kids can sleep in, have some breakfast items on hand such as toast, fruit and low-sugar cereals. These are easy to make and eat.
- If you are worried about the size of your meals, keep in mind three ounces or one
- portion of protein is about the size of a deck of cards or a cell phone. Try making your own hamburgers using lean hamburger meat. Have other lean protein regularly, such as fish, moose, bison, muskox or chicken. Try kebobs that are mostly vegetables (onions, peppers and tomatoes) with your meats.
- When you are fishing for the next large catch, panfry your fish but remember that battered fish can add unwanted extra calories.
- Keep cold foods cold use ice packs for any perishable foods for your camping or day trips. Bring along as much fresh food as you can. Stay away from a steady diet of junk food and packaged or pre-made meals.
- When you are finished eating go and play or go for a walk with family and friends!

For more information on healthy eating, visit www. choosenwt.com.

Courtesy of NWT Health

Forecast



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Hay River Fort Smith Wednesday Low High Low 16 Low

27 High Thursday 26 High Low Friday 27 High Low High Low

Norms: 20°C and 10°C Norms: 21°C and 9°C

Saturday

12

Low

Keep on contributing

The Global Fund to fight aids, tuberculosis and malaria has significantly reduced mortality associated with these diseases since its establishment in 1990. But the need remains. In 2011, 1.4

million people worldwide still died of tuberculosis.

Canada's fair contribution to the Global Fund, as a developed country, would be \$750 million over three years. I am sure most Canadians want Canada to continue contributing its fair share to the Global Fund to save the lives of many of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Bruno Marquis Gatineau, Que.

MUKLUK



High

High

Low

Fort Chipewyan study culminates in documentary One River, Many Relations shares concerns over industry, environment

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

With voices expressing concern about the health of water and wildlife, pride in working for industry and an interest in collaborating with government on environmental monitoring, the perspectives shown in a recent documentary out of Fort Chipewyan highlight the complex relationship community members have with development upstream.

The new feature-length film, One River, Many Relations, set to be released this September, shares the worries and experiences of local people in the Peace-Athabasca Delta as they relate to the oilsands industry, hydro projects, changing climate and loss of traditional livelihood

Created by the University of Manitoba's Environmental Conservation Lab, it is the first documentary to come out of the region that does not involve politicians, scientists or celebrities in delivering its message, which is far from a simplistic or one-sided portrayal of life downstream, according to the filmmaker.

"A lot of the outsider support or disdain for the oilsands is so black and white. It's either an aggressive media campaign from the oilsands on TV saying everything's great and we're all working together, or it's Greenpeace or middle-class Torontonians taking to the streets in major cities decrying the oilsands with the only solution being to shut them

Videographer Michael Tyas (left), with the help of Josh Belak on sound (right), interviews Union of BC Indian Chiefs vice president Bob Chamberlin at the 2013 Tar Sands Healing Walk north of Fort McMurray for the

One River, Many Relations film.

down," said Michael Tyas, The One River, Many Relathe videographer behind tions project, which includes a monthly newsletter as well, the documentary. "Our documentary reveals was borne out of a commuthat it is not that simple, that nity-based wild foods monthe community both enjoys itoring program funded by prosperity and economic de-Mikisew Cree First Nation velopment from industry, and and Athabasca Chipewyan mourns the death of loved ones First Nation in conjunction from rare cancers. It's a comwith Health Canada and munity full of residential school researchers and videograsurvivors who have struggled phers from the University

of Manitoba.

up till now to support them-

selves after the decline of the

fur industry, so they're in a

Catch 22."

The program was the first of its kind in the community to actively and intentionally combine traditional knowledge in the form of interviews with elders and land users with data collected through scientific research - an approach sought by locals exhausted with outside studies that did not actively involve their participation or report results back to the community.

"More often than not, you find scientists come into the community and they're not interacting with the local population or, at best, there's some token involvement, such as hiring an elder to tag along or hiring land users to bring in samples, and that's where it stops," Tyas said.

"The knowledge is taken out of the community and, if it is ever relayed, it's in a manner that's impossible to decipher for most people, in a large document with very academic speech. So One River, Many Relations was an attempt to turn that around, to have meaningful

involvement with indigenous people and to relay results back in culturally appropriate ways."

Michael Tyas

Our documentary reveals that it

is not that simple, that the com-

munity both enjoys prosperity

and economic development

from industry, and mourns

the death of loved ones from

rare cancers. It's a commu-

nity full of residential school

survivors who have struggled

up till now to support them-

selves after the decline of the

fur industry, so they're in a

University of Manitoba

Catch 22.

The testimony of locals with regards to environmental changes, from the disappearance of wildlife to shrinking water levels, became a key component of written reports and newsletters along with results from a network of scientists doing research on fish health, water quality and other wildlife in the area.

"The newsletter is a response from what we've heard from people: they are tired of scientists coming in, taking information and disappearing. So we have researchers talking about actual results, which is rare to come by in today's climate of scientists being muzzled," Tyas said.

The documentary, on the other hand, is primarily intended to function as a powerful visual report back to the community, as well as a way to share their voices outside.

"Ultimately, what I've learned is that the community wants to be part of oilsands development. They want a say in economic development and the protection of Mother Earth, and that's a voice that has really not been given a chance to speak," Tyas said. "It's been an honour to be part of this project and helping to give voice to people silenced for so long.'



Dover oilsands project approved without buffer

Regulator says SAGD project won't impact Fort McKay reserve

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) signed off last Tuesday on Athabasca Oil Corp.'s Dover oilsands project with 10 conditions, bypassing requests from the nearby First Nation for a buffer zone.

The approval gives the green light to Brion Energy Corp., formerly Dover Operating Corp., to begin construction of the steamassisted gravity drainage (SAGD) project about 100 km northwest of Fort McMurray.

The Fort McKay First Nation expressed concern about the project's impacts on its traditional land use activities in the Moose Lake reserve area adjacent to the site, requesting a 20-km development-free buffer zone be established between the project and two lakes used for cultural activities.

But the regulator decided the project would not have a direct effect on the First Nation's traditional territory, stating in its 40-page report that there would be "little if any" impacts on the Moose (Namur) Lake area and that the cost to the company of establishing a buffer zone would be unacceptable.



The Dover oilsands project will use steam-assisted gravity drainage technology to extract bitumen from its site 100 km northwest of Fort McMurray.

"The adverse impact on the project is not acceptable given the benefits that would accrue from developing all of the reserves," the report states.

"The Panel therefore finds that the economic impacts on the province and regional municipality of establishing a buffer are significant and would not be in the public interest."

Dayle Hyde, communications director for the Fort McKay First Nation,

said the decision was disappointing.

"The reason we asked for a 20-km buffer area along with environmental best practices was because we had an environmental consultant do a model, and through that model it was determined those mitigations would help us protect the moose and caribou populations," she said.

"So it's not just about no development around the residences; it was also about protecting the environment, and we're obviously really disappointed the regulator didn't take that into consideration."

Despite the decision, Hyde said the First Nation remains hopeful there is still time to get more protection for the reserve area, which is located 2 km from one well pad and 8 km from another.

"We have 30 days to file an appeal, and we're also calling on the government of Alberta to consult with us before the cabinet approves the project. There are still two more processes the project has to go through before it's final," she said. "We're still hopeful that some kind of solution can be found to protect the area and

we're open to discussing the options."

Brion will be required to do "progressive reclamation" of land disturbed by bitumen extraction. Other conditions include the implementation of a leak detection and repair system, methods for reducing hydrocarbon emissions and monitoring odour indicator species. The proponent must also submit a plan to AER to mitigate sulfur-dioxide emissions.

Athabasca holds a 40 per cent stake in Dover, having sold 60 per cent of its interest in the project to PetroChina in 2009.

PetroChina will have the option of buying out Athabasca's remaining \$1.32-billion stake in the project within the next month, as it did for Athabasca's MacKay River oilsands project last year for \$680 million.

The Dover site contains reserves of 4.1 billion barrels at a 50 per cent recovery rate, according to the AER.

The SAGD bitumen recovery process injects high-pressurized steam into underground horizontal wells to heat the oil and reduce its viscosity. The heated bitumen is then drained into a second wellbore, where it is pumped out.

Environment Oil Spill

Bitumen release in Cold Lake ongoing: regulator

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Bitumen is continuing to ooze to the surface in four separate locations in the boreal forest area around Cold Lake, Alta., months after the first leak from an underground oilsands well was reported, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) said on Friday.

Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL), the company running the in situ Primrose and Wolf Lake site where the releases are occurring, said the incident is "under control" and cleanup efforts have begun.

"Each location has been secured and cleanup, recovery and reclamation activities are well underway," stated a company press release on July 31. "The bitumen emulsion does not pose a risk to health or human safety."

Bitumen emulsion was found covering an area of about 20.7 hectares. The first leak was reported in May, the fourth on June 24 and as of July 31, 6,300 barrels of bitumen emulsion had been collected.

According to CNRL, the rate of bitumen emulsion seepage in all four locations has declined and totals less than 20 barrels

a day. Groundwater monitoring activities are underway as well as aquatic and sediment sampling to determine impacts.

CNRL reports that 16 birds have died as a result of the leaks, as well as seven small mammals and 38 amphibians. Two beavers, two birds and two muskrats are currently being cared for as cleanup continues. Fencing has been put up to deter further wildlife from entering the area.

The Cold Lake First Nation, whose traditional territory in the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range has been directly affected, are "extremely" concerned about the incident.

"There is no way to calculate the damage inflicted upon us by this latest blow out," Cold Lake First Nation council member Cecil Janvier said in a press release last week.

"Cold Lake First Nations will continue to take all legally available measures to protect our lands and wildlife. Species are at risk and this oil spill is further endangering the woodland caribou and adversely affecting other animals...important to our Dene peoples."

The Dene of Buffalo River have also voiced concern, calling on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to intervene in the oil spill and force the disclosure of all information to the public about the exact spill locations and cleanup efforts.

AER said it has been working with the company to get the releases under control and understand how they happened in the first place.

"The AER's formal investigation into the cause of these incidents is actively underway. We do not currently have the evidence or data to support any conclusions," AER CEO Jim Ellis said in an Aug. 2 press release.

CNRL believes the cause of the leaks is related to "mechanical failures of wellbores."

All steaming operations (a process used to extract the oil) have been suspended at the site and will remain so until the regulator is satisfied measures are in place to prevent similar future occurrences.

A similar blowout occurred with CNRL in 2009, which the company blames on the failure of the integrity of one of its wells.

ELECTION **2013**

your community. your vote.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSIONS - WARD 2

Residents 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

Additional Candidate Information Sessions are being held in the municipality throughout August and September. Details on those sessions, as well as the Candidate Information Package, are available online at www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/elections.

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

www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca



Wood Buffalo now world's largest Dark Sky Preserve

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Wood Buffalo National Park is the world's newest and largest Dark Sky Preserve (DSP) thanks to the recent designation by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

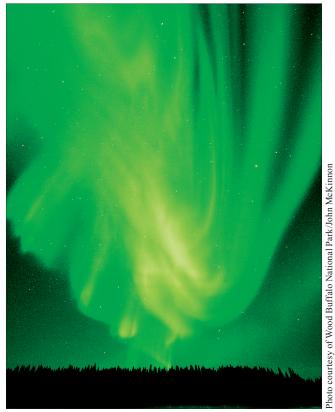
It is also the first preserve in Northern Canada.

"We're very pleased...It took a lot of work - about two years' worth - of compiling data and photos for the application," said Mike Keizer, external relations manager at Wood Buffalo National Park.

"There is such an astronomical benefit in looking up at an incredible sky. You can't do that in Toronto or Calgary or the big cities. You just see something here that you don't see in many other places."

The announcement was made on Aug. 2 by Brian Jean, Fort McMurray-Athabasca MP, on behalf of Leona Aglukkaq, Canada's' Environment minister and minister for Parks Canada, who called the designation an "international achievement."

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada defines a DSP as "an area in which no artificial lighting is visible and active measures are



The northern lights illuminate the night sky and dance over Wood Buffalo National Park.

in place to educate and promote the reduction of light pollution to the public and nearby municipalities...and sky glow from beyond the borders of the preserve will be of comparable intensity,

or less, to that of natural sky glow."

Wood Buffalo preserves night time ecology for the large populations of bats, night hawks and owls within the park, as well as providing

excellent opportunities for visitors to experience the aurora borealis and crystal clear views of the northern sky, stated a recent press release from Parks Canada.

Jasper National Park in Alberta was the world's largest DSP when it was first designated in 2011, but was soon replaced by Death Valley National Park, which spans over 13,000 square-km in California and Nevada.

At approximately 45,000 square-km, Wood Buffalo is set to remain at the top for a while.

The Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Astronomical Society (TAWBAS) was instrumental in achieving the status, working in partnership with Parks to record dark sky light levels.

"It's exciting news we've been waiting for and now we're pushing for international designation," TAW-BAS chair Mike Couvrette said. "Did you know two thirds of the world's population will never see the Milky Way at night? A typical night for us here is to see 70 stars in the constellation Orion. In other areas, they're lucky if they see 10 of those stars... This (designation) provides protection for one of the last major dark sky areas from light pollution.'

Wood Buffalo's next step is providing DSP signage at the entrance of the park and in designated observation deck areas such as the Salt Plains and the northern part of Pine Lake.

Dark Sky Festival follows on heels of Preserve status

TAWBAS is now planning a celebration in honour of the DSP status at the Salt Plains in the park on Aug. 16, a prelude event to the second annual Dark Sky Festival on Aug. 22-25.

In addition to a number of meteor and telescope workshops, the Dark Sky Festival will feature a planetarium - 12 feet high and 20 feet in diameter - showcasing a 30-minute constellation storytelling show.

Aug. 24 events will be a held at Pine Lake in the park with a science and space fair taking front and centre stage. Couvrette said there will a series of space arts and crafts and a "space olympics" competition.

Bottle rocket making is also on the list of events, followed by the launch of proper model rockets that can shoot up to 1,000 feet.

Parks will also host a youth explorers program Aug. 24 at Pine Lake, and the Paddling Club will be on site with kayaks, canoes and the popular stand-up-paddle board.

To register for the festival, visit the Parks office in Fort Smith or email tawbasfs@gmail.com.

Thebacha & Wood Buffalo Dark Sky Festival August 23rd to 25th, 2013



Planetarium shows



August 23rd (Friday ~ 3pm to 7pm) **Fort Smith Recreation Centre** \$2.00 / person *4 showings*

Experience a 360 view of the night sky. Learn the mythology of the constellations and how to recognize planets

Space & Science Fair



August 24th (Sat ~ Noon to 4pm) Pine Lake ~ Dark Sky Site

Fee may apply for some activities (supplies)

Activities include space arts & crafts, solar olympics, rocket centre, youth explorers program, canoe/kayaks and much more!

Dark Sky Festival



August 23rd - 25th (Friday - Sunday) Fort Smith & Pine Lake (WBNP) Registration includes:

Planetarium show, festival reception, space & science fair activities, evening activities & seminars, BBQ dinner + breakfast, camping

Details: www.tawbas.ca or call: Mike Couvrette @ 872-0243 Register at; WBNP Visitor Centre, Summer Splash, Kraft Celebration

















The Ride for the Cure in Calgary last year, held in pouring rain, did not phase Fort Smith resident Barbara Clark - she was set to do it again and was in Calgary in late June with her bike and gear, all reved up and ready to go. Then the floods came. With the city underwater, the two day event was postponed to this past weekend. Rather than go back to Calgary for it, she chose to do her 200 km bike ride in the NWT. She started from Fort Smith at 6:00 a.m. Sunday and rode 133 km on Highway 5 before stopping. The last 67 km will be finished off in the coming days. She is shown here (on the left) with her support crew: son Daniel Wilson (right) with his daughters Brianna and Kaitlyn from Vancouver Island and Tamara Degrow (centre) from Yellowknife.

Whooping crane chicks gear up for 2,500 mile trek

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The babies will soon be spreading their wings and on their way.

Whooping crane chicks in the nesting territory of the northeastern corner of Wood Buffalo National Park are fattening up and growing more each day in order to begin their long migration back to the wild flock's wintering grounds in Texas later this month.

Members of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and Parks Canada flew over the area two weeks ago in a joint survey of the nesting productivity of whooping cranes in the park, a flock numbering around 300.

They found 28 families with one chick each this

CWS and Parks staff did a similar survey in July to count the number of nests and found a total of 74.

"The objective of this August survey is to go back to those nests and search the area around them for whooping crane families, which consist of two parents and up to two chicks," Mark Bidwell, a species at risk biologist with Environment Canada who was on

the survey, told The Journal. "We are trying to find out how many of those 74 nests were successful at producing at least one chick."

This figure compares to a total of 31 families counted in 2012, two of which successfully produced two babies for a total of 33 chicks.

'It's a reduction in the number of chicks from 47 per cent breeding success in 2012 to 38 per cent this year," Bidwell, who has been doing the survey for three years, said. "That means 38 per cent of the nests hatched a chick that survived to this stage."

While the number may seem low, it's not a reason for concern over the population that teetered on the brink of extinction in the 1940s. Whoopers are now protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the Species at Risk Act.

Experts expect one of every two nests to have a chick by August, Bidwell said.

"Last year's figure of about 50 per cent breeding success is pretty much the long term average. We don't get too concerned about one particular year...What we



A whooping crane chick scouts the wetlands in Wood Buffalo National Park for food with a protective parent.

would be concerned about is if we saw a reduction in the number of chicks over a number of years, and we haven't seen that," he said.

According to Bidwell, this is a "small reduction" and they have "no evidence yet to suggest there is any long term decline in chick productivity."

While a number of wildfires have ravaged the park this summer, the crane territories have not been affected, Bidwell said, whereas last year, one of the breeding areas was impacted by fire.

Parks and CWS staff have no evidence to suggest wildfires are interfering with the birds' nesting productivity, he added.

Growing into North America's largest birds

The chicks are currently about two thirds the size of their parents, Bidwell said.

"They have to grow to almost full size by the time they migrate to Texas. They're rusty brown coloured, a contrast to the white adults with the black wing tips and red on their heads. They're really beautiful together. The young molt over the winter and arrive back in Wood Buffalo with white feathers,"

The next generation's main task this month is to grow quickly.

"They need to find food and avoid sources of danger like predators. So they spend all of their time in very close company of their parents, who are quite protective," Bidwell said.

That intensely protective instinct is one of the reasons the survey is conducted from at least 300 metres above ground, though the birds do look up at the plane as it passes by.

"They absolutely notice us. They will sometimes walk away slowly, but they do not exhibit protective behaviour as they would if we were on the ground. We're causing the least amount of disturbance as possible."

The whoopers begin trickling out of the park in late August, spending four to six weeks in central Saskatchewan before flying to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas.

The conservation of whooping cranes is a "real success story" for Canada and the United States, Bidwell said.

"Even though numbers are still small, there has been almost exponential growth since the 1930s," he said. "Whooping cranes are an iconic species...and staff at both agencies (CWS and Parks) are committed to building a partnership to improve research, monitoring and increase public awareness about the birds."

Environment Arctic

Northerners participate in Norwegian anti-oil rally

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Four hundred youth from across the globe, including a couple from the Northwest Territories, are demanding protection of the Norwegian Arctic from oil and gas exploration.

The youth from over 26 different countries - starting at ages as young as 10 - gathered in the small fishing village of Lofoten, Norway from July 27 to Aug. 5 for the annual Friends of the Earth-Europe Summer Camp where climate justice, the fossil fuel industry and correlative activism efforts were discussed at length.

The NWT's Kiera Kolson, a young Tso'Tine-Gwich'in activist and the Arctic Outreach Campaigner for Greenpeace Canada, was among the four Canadians who attended the camp with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition. She was joined by Nicole Labine from Fort Smith as well as one Yukon and one Nunavut representative.

"There were so many brilliant youth. It was inspiring to hear everyone's stories, to dialogue about these important issues that are impacting our resources and our rights," Kolson, 27, said.

The group spent the week networking, making "keep the oil in the soil" signs for the Aug. 3 rally, engaging

in lectures on dirty energy and training for non-violent actions to stop potential exploration rigs heading north.

The youth were specifically calling on the Norwegian government to protect the pristine areas outside the Lofotens Islands - home to cold-water reefs, pods of sperm and killer whales and some of the most abundant seabird colonies in Europe as the oil industry has been pushing for the past 20 years to open the area to drilling.

The Lofoten Islands are also the spawning grounds of the largest remaining cod stock in the world.

"If Norway, as one of the richest countries in the world, were to show that not even the valuable and unique areas of the Lofoten Islands are 'off-limits' for the oil and gas industry, it would set a disappointing precedent internationally," Cameron Fenton, National Director of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, said in a recent press release.

New clean energy alliances were formed over the week, paving the way for future solidarity, Kolson said.

"There were youth from Russia talking about nuclear waste being spilled. People from Nigeria were talking about how they can't even drink the water, which has

no fish or life in it. These things resonated with a lot of us from the Canadian North because we are dealing with a grave influx of developmental pressures... It's inspirational to hear of other youth fighting for the same causes.'

Kolson also made a presentation during her time in Norway on the Canadian oilsands and its impact on the Mackenzie River basin.

"I also talked about my trek to the North Pole and the campaign to save the Arctic...and indigenous rights and about

how water is an international human right and there hasn't been much consultation pertaining to those rights for the past 40 years," she said.

"We also had a cultural sharing evening and a media relations workshop where it was discussed how to talk with media."

A local festival in Lofoten the same week as the camp drew many of Norway's political leaders (the country is preparing for its upcoming election). Some dialogue was accomplished through a panel including leaders and a selection of Nordic youth, Kolson said.



The Government of the Northwest Territories was recently recognized as one of the Top 100 Employers as well as one of the Top 50 Diversity Employers in Canada. Visit the website below to learn all about the benefits of a career with the GNWT.

The GNWT offers unique employment opportunities. Work with a diverse group of Northerners to make a difference.

To view the jobs currently available, please visit www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment and click on the eRecruit link.





www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment



Wayne Simba performs with the Brothers in Law Band from Kakisa.



Lon Croucher from Hay River pitches the red bone during a game of bunnock.



Kathy Mouse from Enterprise makes a dreamcatcher in the crafts tent.



Jamboree master of ceremony Pat Burke (left) catches up with North Country Rock's Gerald Poitras.



George Perron and his wife Rita from Paradise Gardens enjoy the music on Saturday afternoon.



Jennifer Coleman performs with her father, Pat.



A group focuses on their bingo cards to win a range of prizes.

Sports & Recreation Festivals

Linda Duford strikes up a foot-stomping fiddle tune.

Gateway Jamboree hosts first pig roast Annual festival draws crowd for live entertainment and games

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A fat, succulent pig glistening in grease roasting on a turning stake was one of the many highlights this weekend at the 15th annual Gateway Jamboree in Enterprise.

The festival presented its first pig roast dinner this year, courtesy of Fort Smith's Sholto Douglas, owner of the Grub Box and Campfire Grill.

"We've never had one and every time Sholto would tell me about it, my mouth would water," said Winnie Cadieux, vice president of the Gateway Jamboree Society.

Part of the pig roast also included the much-anticipated raffling off of the animal's head, which can be used for head cheese.

"We try to add a little something extra every year, but we want to keep it a day of relaxation where people can sit back, enjoy good music and visit with friends," Cadieux said.

The jamboree, ushering in the final dog days of summer in the NWT, boasted an assortment of family-friendly events, including the bunnock tournament that always gleans spectators' curiosity, Cadieux said.

"It's a Russian game that was introduced maybe 10 years ago by one of our residents here who played it as a young girl in Saskatchewan and for the last five years we've been playing it at the jamboree," Cadieux said.

Traditionally, it's played with horses' ankle bones, but plastic props are used in Enterprise.

Four people make up a team and have to try to get the other team's bones knocked down - a "little like bowling," Cadieux said.

"It's lots of fun and it may sound easy, but there are rules and penalties," she said. Activities in the popular kids' tent were expanded this year. Children could take part in a barefoot jump fest in the bouncy house, hunt buried treasure in sand pits, have their faces painted and get creative at various craft stations.

An extensive list of over 20 entertainers also headed the Jamboree, including world renowned Edmonton blues artist Marshall Lawrence who performed with

former Northerner James Boraski.

"We couldn't be happier. We had a wonderful array of Northern entertainers - 98 per cent of them are Northerners. We had country, fiddling, blues, folk, old rock and roll," Cadieux said.

People came from all over to attend the jamboree, including Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Hay River and High Level.



DJ Kodiak aka Cody Punter (left) and Dan Campbell show their Pride spirit.



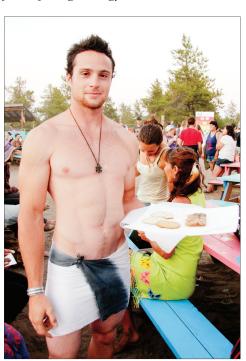
Left to right: Alina Bouvier, Jamie Look and Angela Sterritt serve up refreshing drinks at the Pride beer gardens Saturday evening.



The Cliks perform Saturday night at Pride in front of a high energy crowd.



Kelly Grrl rocks out at the beer gardens Sunday evening



Tim Asta serves up free cookies to the proud and hungry on Sunday.



Pride organizers Vanny Baron (left) and Jacq Brasseur get auctioned off to raise money for the festival.

Sports & Recreation Festivals

Pride festival highlights a united NWT

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The objective of this year's NWT Pride festival was "unite us," but according to coordinator Iman Kassam, that theme won't be necessary next year.

With dozens of happy festival-goers drum dancing hand in hand under the northern lights Sunday night to close the three-day event off, it was apparent that unity across different communities was already being celebrated.

"You come to NWT Pride and it's filled with allies," she said. "There's no visible difference, there's no segregation or separation. We are all united. Our theme was to really push unity, but maybe we don't need to; maybe that unity already exists. It was really great to see it and to highlight it.

'Looking in this beer garden, you have so many different identities and you can't make any assumptions on anyone. Everyone is here either as someone who identifies under the LGBTQ umbrella or is a solid ally. Any other Pride I've been to in the world - and I've been to a lot of Prides - this is the only one where everyone's existing, there's no polarization, no separation...I think Denendeh's community and Yellowknife's community was united before we came along."

Hundreds of all ages flocked to the Folk on the Rocks grounds under perfect, sizzling hot weather for 2013 Pride, taking in a wide variety of free workshops, local musical talent, silly contests and to groove to ≥big acts like A Tribe Called Red and The Cliks.

This year, workshop topics ranged from decolonization, capitalism and spirituality to popular culture and the healing power of the Dene drum, among others. Workshop coordinator Jacq Brasseur said Pride functions as a great venue to learn and discuss complicated issues in an open and positive space.

"I don't think that you can unite community without education and without understanding one another, and when you have more than one group of people who share similar interests or who are somewhat like-minded, you have to unite those different communities and you can't do that without them understanding one another or at least having the opportunity to understand one another, so that's why I think workshops are so important at bringing people together and just uniting people," Brasseur said.

'The fact that we're a safe enough space where you can have two completely opposing viewpoints, but people are respectful and just have really great, open dialogue and everyone learns from one another...That's really great."

Apart from the weekend activities, Pride kicked off with opening words from Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus and regional vice president of TD Canada Lorne Anderson, the event's title sponsor, at Saamba Ke Park in downtown Yellowknife on Friday night.

Kassam said the focus on love kept the event's raison d'être in close view.

"To have the Dene National Chief come up and talk about love and to have our title sponsor get up and talk about love - no one pushing an agenda, everyone just talking about why we're all here and why we're all so united. It was just beautiful. No one pushed their agenda and everyone was just really about the cause," she said.

Erasmus said his presence was about showing support to the LGBTQ community.

"Someone asked me why I was there last (Friday) night. I said, 'You've heard of the gay people; we're the allies," he told *The Journal*.

Though the organizing committee had difficulty securing funding this year, Kassam said it didn't affect the success of the event whatsoever, which saw community come through in the absence of more corporate sponsorship.

That being said, she would love to see NWT Pride expand with the help of more donors.

"Let's just say hypothetically if we were able to get more money, I'd like to incorporate more of the city of Yellowknife...and get more people and infrastructure involved," she said. "And Hay River threw their own Pride, Fort Smith was really interested, Behchoko was really interested if I had more funding, I would go out to those communities and help establish little committees to run Pride and get buses and transportation to bring people into this. We hold the title of NWT Pride and we are still so very dedicated to our mandate, which is to incorporate the territory."

Kassam put out thanks to the hardworking volunteers who made the festival possible. She said working during high-energy performances by the headliner bands must not have been easy, but their passion and commitment was not overlooked.

"I think it's really beautiful that people care for the cause that much that they just want to help as much as they can," she said.





The Midnight Sun Mosque floats down the Mackenzie on its last barge north in 2010. Film-makers Saira and Nilufer Rahman snapped this shot via helicopter just outside Inuvik.



The Muslim community in Inuvik proudly shows off their new mosque after it arrived in 2010.



Saira Rahman tries her hand at barge steering after the loaded down boat docks in Inuvik.

Arts & Culture Film

Arctic Mosque film captures epic journey

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR The Midnight Sun Mosque

The Midnight Sun Mosque in Inuvik has an unbelievable story to tell, as revealed by a new documentary.

Arctic Mosque aired for the first time on Aug. 3 on CBC North. It's an inside look at what it takes to get a 1,554-square-foot building from Winnipeg

to Inuvik to fill a vital need for a growing Muslim community along the Arctic Circle.

The mosque was built in Manitoba and began its slow

to the NWT on Sept. 1, 2010. It took 10 days by road and 12 days by barge to reach its destination, greeted by curious and emotion-wrought faces.

Hussain Guisti is the gen-

and challenging pilgrimage

Hussain Guisti is the general manager of the Manitoba-based Muslim charity, the Zubaidah Tallab Foundation, and the brain behind the endeavor.

When the Muslim community in Inuvik of about 100 people reached out to the foundation for help in building a bigger mosque (prayers at the time were being held in a small trailer), Guisti said he jumped in.

A mosque is the centre of daily Muslim life...

[It] is the first thing we look at when we

think about relocating. It's so important.

Zubaidah Tallab Foundation

Angel Films in Winnipeg.

Nilufer and Saira Rahman had two days to prepare before the basic beige mosque was set to leave Manitoba.

"It was very last minute, but we found a videographer and pulled it off," Saira, who teaches university-level English as her day job, said. "And through it all, we've grown attached to this building."

The truck hauling the "wide load" mosque was forced to take as many "backwoods routes" as possible, Saira said.

Additionally, with low rainfall in 2010, the last barge set for Inuvik was scheduled to leave Hay River earlier than usual, upping

the mosque would tip over and fall into the river," Gutisi said. "We had to take the semi's back tires off to fit through."

Even then, it was a tight squeeze and another big truck plus a backhoe had to be used to help balance the structure as it crossed.

It was all caught on tape.

"I watched the documentary twice," Guisti said.
"From everyone I've talked to in Inuvik, they all loved it, too. It's history in the making."

The Midnight Sun Mosque has made its mark as the northernmost mosque in the Western hemisphere. One in Russia is further north by just 71 miles, Guisti said.

The Rahman sisters hope the documentary also highlights the diversity in Inuvik.

"It's a great place. We were surprised how multicultural it is...and how everyone is on a first name basis," Nilufer said. "One of the many messages in the film is that people really do come together and relationships can transcend all obstacles."

Arctic Mosque, at 45 minutes, is the Rahman sisters' first full documentary. They both say they have plans to continue working with film.

"It was our first project so it was slow going because we were learning, and we did a lot of workshops to improve our knowledge so we could make it the best we could," Saira said.

Nilfer, also a photographer, is currently working on putting together a longer version of *Arctic Mosque* while Saira is beginning a mini-documentary on the life and times of a stand-up female comedian.



to Shelto and Michelle Douglas for cooking a wonderful dinner for our parents' 50th anniversary

Paul, Natalie, Nick and Christina.

gathering on August 5.

"A mosque is the centre of daily Muslim life," he told *The Journal*.

"They'd asked various Muslim organizations across the country for help and no one had yet. I wanted to help. They needed this...A mosque is the first thing we look at when we think about relocating. It's so important," Guisti said, adding that the foundation is currently building a mosque for Iqaluit.

He also thought it would be a project worth documenting, spurring him to call upon the independent filmmaking sister duo at Snow the time pressure on the mosque's road trip.

Hussain Guisti

"It took an extra five hours to get to Hay River from Edmonton because of challenges on the road, and we would have missed the barge if CBC hadn't called and got them to delay the boat," Guisti said.

Crossing a narrow bridge over Reindeer Creek just past the NWT/Alberta border proved to be the most nail-biting obstacle of all and one of Guisti's favourite parts of the documentary.

"The bridge was under construction...It looked like



Reneltta Arluk's latest performance art piece reflects a recent beluga whale hunt the Dene-Inuvialuit artist participated in off the Arctic coast.



A clip from the 30 minute performance piece, titled Anticipation, shows Arluk cutting up whale meat while discussing issues of climate change and identity.

Arts & Culture Performance Art

Beluga hunt inspires Northern performance art

Arluk's latest piece explores climate change and cultural duality

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A recent whale hunt off the Arctic coast was not only "life-changing" for NWTborn writer and actor Reneltta Arluk, but a fertile playground of inspiration for her latest performance art piece exploring issues of climate change and the duality of culture.

The Dene-Inuvialuit artist recently ventured to a whaling camp on Kendall Island, five hours north of Inuvik on the Beaufort Sea, to participate in a beluga harvest as part of the reality television show, Dene A Journey.

What she found was not only an introduction to parts of her previously unknown family and culture, but the backing for a new theatrical performance called Anticipation, which subtly examines identity and the impacts of climate change on Northern peoples.

"Everyone has an opinion about climate change and a thought about it, and me too, and I love theatre, but sometimes when you do theatre for social change, it can become too hammer on the head," Arluk said. "Performance art is more abstract, and it's image based and deals with all your senses. So I just thought it will be abstract, but also it will be quite poignant."

Workshopped with Calgarybased indigenous artist Terrance Houle last month, Anticipation is named after the ever-apparent act of waiting involved in the whale hunt Arluk observed while on Kendall Island.

"It really has to do with the experience of the hunt because it seems that the whole existence of the camp is the anticipation of whale. That's everything. People are smoking their cigarettes and drinking their coffee and listening to the radio and

looking at the water and the weather - is there a fog coming in? - and then they're going out for whale. It's just got this energy. Then they're done, and all of us are just waiting, anticipating the call of 'We've got a whale.' So then it's more cigarettes, more coffee, and then they've got the whale and it's the anticipation of the whale coming," Arluk said.

You kind of think because it's a big animal that it will take forever to carve. No. It's done super fast. It probably took about 15 minutes...Then you wait and wait again, because you have to wait for the meat and the muktuk to take a full day in the hot sun, or a day and a half in the mild sun, and then you cut it up

again. When you cut it up again,

it's another rush, rush, cut, cut,

slice, slice, wash, hang - it takes

about an hour. Rush, rush, rush,

In the 30-minute perfor-

mance, Arluk cuts up whale

meat - actually chair foam

soaked in oil - while reflecting

on how belugas are affected

at the whale camp that while

the animals and population are

in good health, their blubber is

thinning, which is a suspected

result of changing food content.

beluga is hunting fish that are

What she said is that the

Arluk was told by a scientist

then done. Anticipating."

by climate change.

probably less fatty, because they mostly feed on fish, and they're new species of fish that are coming up from the waters opening up, from the water being warmer," Arluk said.

'Climate change is so political and everyone has such a twist on it, and I really wanted to just see something for myself. And I think that conversation is really saying it: the food that the whales are eating are less fatty; therefore, the blubber that they have is less fatty. I think that is an indication in itself that things are changing.'

Arluk, through her company Akpik Theatre, plans to perform the show at an upcoming festival in Yellowknife in September being organized by

Reneltta Arluk

the Northern Arts and Cultural

Centre. It will also be performed

next February at the Carbon

14: Climate is Culture exhibi-

tion in Toronto, a collaboration

between scientists and artists

Apart from helping create a

new performance, the whale

hunt journey also helped Arluk connect with part of her

identity and reflect on the du-

ality of culture - also a theme

my mom's beliefs and teach-

ings, which is the Dene side of

me, I was never raised in my

Inuit side...So you're basically

"Because I was raised with

explored in Anticipation.

looking at climate change.

putting yourself out there completely to be open to an experience where you don't know what to expect...You're heading to camp and you've never been there; you don't know the people

there; you know they're distant relatives but you've never met them and they've never met you," she said.

"In the end, I know I left a really strong impression and

they said, 'Come back next year...We'll take you back'... It was a positive experience. I left changed and they were changed, and I just felt a part of me just got more whole."



It really has to do with the experience of the hunt because it seems that the whole Factory existence of the camp is the anticipation of whale. That's everything.

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NORTHERN.



Inuvik, NT August 23 - 25, 2013

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Talent Show Louie Goose & Big River Band Special Guests Granny Suzy & Grampa Charlie Delta Flood

Saturday, August 24 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Jim Koe Park

Family Day & Community BBQ Inuvik Drummers & Dancers Fort McPherson Youth Dancers Gramma Suzie and Grampa Charlie Priscilla's Revenge Louie Goose and Big River Band James Rogers Mumford and Friends Jason Kirkness & Frannie Klien

Saturday, August 24 10:00 p.m. to close at MSRC Hall

Priscilla's Revenge Granny Suzy & Grampa Charlie Leanne Goose Jason Kirkness 19 years+

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Territories Municipal and Community Affairs

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Assessment Appeal Tribunal

The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), invites letters of interest from residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT) who are interested in serving on the Assessment Appeal Tribunal.

The Assessment Appeal Tribunal members are appointed under the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. Members are responsible for hearing appeals based on the decisions of the Board of Revision for the General Taxation Area of the NWT. The term of appointment to the Tribunal will be for three years.

All travel, accommodation, meal expenses and honoraria are paid for members attending hearings in accordance with rates established by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest, along with a summary of relevant experience, by August 23, 2013.

For more information or to submit a letter of interest, please contact:

Secretary, Assessment Appeal Tribunal Department of Municipal and Community Affairs 5201-50th Avenue, Suite 600 Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9 Phone: (867) 873-7125 Fax: (867) 873-0309





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- Equivalencies may be considered.
- Eligibility lists may be created from this competition to fill future term or indeterminate positions.
- Certain positions may require medical clearance and/or an acceptable criminal records check.
- For copies of the job description please visit www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment.





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Northwest Territories Municipal and Community Affairs

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Board of Revision for the General Taxation Area

The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), invites letters of interest from residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT) who are interested in serving on the Board of Revision for the General Taxation Area.

Members to the Board of Revision for the General Taxation Area are appointed under the *Property*Assessment and Taxation Act. Members are responsible for hearing appeals based on assessed property values. The term of appointment to the Board will be for one year.

All travel, accommodation, meal expenses and honoraria

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Interested parties should submit a letter of interest, along with a summary of relevant experience, by August 23, 2013.

For more information or to submit a letter of interest, please contact:

Secretary, Board of Revision for the General Taxation Area Department of Municipal and Community Affairs 5201-50th Avenue, Suite 600 Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9

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Long Lake beach walkers see zero incidents

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Beach patrols at Long Lake just outside of Yellowknife have been running smoothly since a group of volunteers decided to watch the unsupervised waters, beginning on the weekend of July 20.

Advocacy group Lifeguards for Lodune was established by Yellowknife mother Tanya Silke after the tragic drowning of 7 year-old Lodune Shelley on June 27 at Long Lake in Fred Henne Territorial Park.

The grassroots group is calling for the reinstatement of official lifeguards at the beach and will walk the shores whenever they can until such action is taken. They are stressing to the public that they are not "lifeguards," but they are there to act as "first responders," Silke said.

"It's been going very well. We've been out there for two weekends now and I definitely feel a lot of support from the park staff and community," Silke told *The Journal*. "We do a head count and relay that information back to the park staff. It's been working well."

There have been no incidents to date.

"No one has even needed a band-aid," she said with



Beach walking volunteers for Lifeguards for Lodune stay cool and hydrated as they watch swimmers from the shore at Long Lake in Fred Henne park outside of Yellowknife on July 20. Left to righ: Tanya Silke, Suzanne McAstocker and Brittney King.

a laugh. "So that has been good, too."

Silke said she has also been encouraging beach users to take advantage of the free lifejacket loaner station, recently set up by the government of the Northwest Territories in partnership with the Lifesaving Society at Long Lake to increase safety.

She also talks about water safety with children whenever she can, as public awareness and education is another part of Lifeguards for Lodune's mandate.

The first beach walker shift started at 11:00 a.m. on July 20. Five volunteers stayed on the beach for six to seven hours, Silke said.

"I'm going to try not to have one volunteer out there

for longer than five hours," she said.

Volunteers have t-shirts, hats, umbrellas, food and water to keep them at 100 per cent during their shifts. A range of equipment has also been donated, including whistles, floatation devices and throw ropes. Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny also donated an automated

external defibrillator (AED). Other local businesses and residents have made cash donations to help the group purchase supplies such as lawn chairs.

"We basically have everything we need," Silke said. "I bring the food for the walkers. One day I made them taco in a bag, sandwiches, things like that."

Rain kept the volunteers at home the weekend of July 27, but six beach walkers were back pacing the sandy shores on the August long weekend.

Long Lake saw 300 people out at its peak hour during that weekend, Silke said.

"Three of us stood out in the water so that we had good views from all angles," she said. "A handful of people even came and talked to us and thanked us for being out there."

According to Silke, at least one beach walker with CPR and first aid skills will always be on the shore.

While the group does not have a definite schedule and cannot be patrolling every weekend, they do as much as they can, Silke said.

They plan to be out with their eyes peeled again this weekend.

Beach safety audit underway

The territorial government and the Lifesaving Society, the national body of experts on water safety, recently conducted a safety audit of the beaches at Fred Henne and Hay River's territorial park after public outcry following the recent drowning.

The two locations were selected because the beaches are within municipal boundaries and in close proximity to large populations, said a press release issued last month.

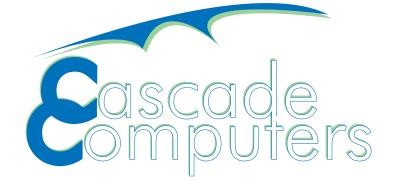
The audit focused on the use of lifeguards, beach size and access, park numbers and usage, proper signage and supervision.

The results will be compiled in a report and revealed at the end of the summer, Silke said.

The first time Silke met with the Lifesaving Society, she said they were leery about the beach walkers due to liability issues. Recently, they suggested Silke become part of their water smart program, an injury prevention educational tool.

"The second time I met with them, things went very well and they mentioned that I could become an ambassador and still be involved with Lifeguards for Lodune," she said.

Silke believes the ambassador job would come into effect next summer.





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The Inuvik Benchwarmers celebrate their victory. Top row, left to right: Donnie Hendrick (Assistant Coach), Wilma Hendrick, Courtney Larocque, Jenny Kalenik, Chelsey Larocque, Shandie Tanner, Terra MacNabb, Stacey Christie, Lisa Burnz, Justin Simms (Coach). Bottom row: Rebecca Kaglik, Sophie Stefure, Adriana Hendrick, Natasha Kulikowski, Tina Busetto.



Umpire Grant Hood officiates as Arctic Tire team member Steph Charlie cracks a ball into left field during the final game Sunday.



Sophie Stefure (left) and Shandie Tanner of the Inuvik Benchwarmers exchange a high-five during the championship game against Arctic Tire.

Sports & Recreation Slo-pitch

Benchwarmers sweep territorial slo-pitch championships

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Inuvik Benchwarmers hit it hard on the weekend to take the Women's Territorial Slo-Pitch Championships held in the team's hometown for the first time.

All four teams batting it out in the championships played "very well," Jeffrey Amos, the tournament's organizer, said.

"It was a great weekend for the championships beautiful weather, good ball, good team spirit," he said.

The Benchwarmers hit it out of the park against Arctic Tire on Sunday - a brand new team put together just the week before. They won 14-8.

Arctic Tire played "impressively" for such a new team, Amos said, and was made up of players from all over the Mackenzie Delta, including Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tuktoyaktuk.

Charlie's Angels, also an Inuvik team, slid into third place, beating out the final competing team, the Esso Ajays 16-0.

Benchwarmer Shandie Tanner was announced as being the game's most valuable player.

"I think this says a lot for

ladies' ball. I hope we see more teams come out in the future," Amos said.

The territorials - which saw around 300 spectators come out to cheer on the teams over Saturday and Sunday - isn't the last Inuvik will see of slo-pitch for the season, he added.

"There's still more to come. We're planning an Inuvik league playoff - a ladies' fun tournament or something like that," Amos said.

The Benchwarmers also emerged victorious from the 2012 territorials held in Yellowknife, defeating the Yellowknife Royals 22-13.

Sports & Recreation Canada Summer Games

Team NWT wraps up week one at Summer Games



Bronson Dolynny, 15, of Team NWT pushes hard in the pool at the Canada Summer Games. He has been ranked 13th in his age group for the 50m backstroke across Canada.



The Northwest Territories basketball team gave it their all last week at the Canada Summer Games in Sherbrooke Que. but was eliminated Wednesday after Alberta defeated them 77-17. Above, the team (in white) takes on Nova Scotia who won 104-28.

Taltson Hydro Annual Shutdown

August 12 - August 25, 2013

Taltson hydro will experience a planned shutdown beginning on

Monday, August 12 at 9 a.m. and ending on Sunday, August 25 at 2 p.m.

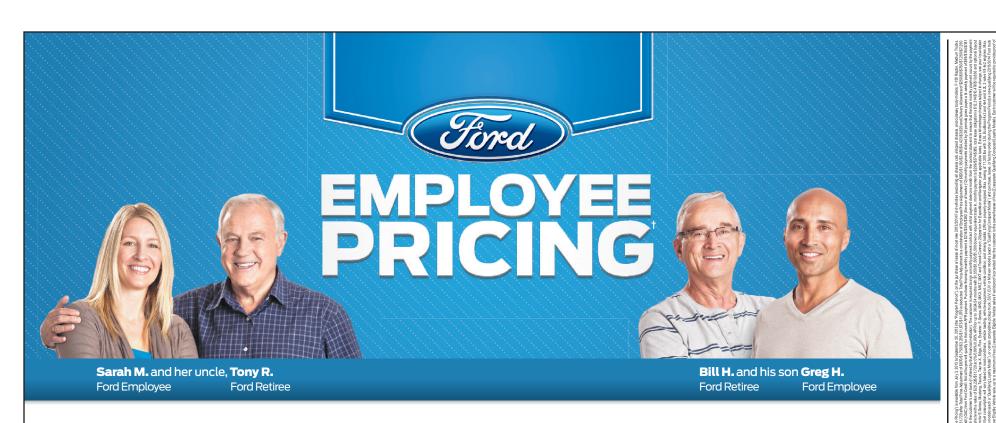
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