

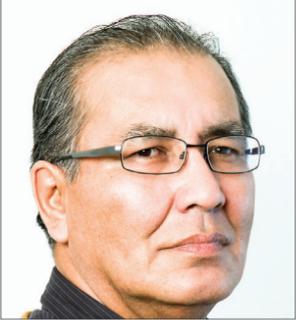
Visit www.norj.ca

Not the last moose skin boat: Tulita teams up to launch a piece of the past. *See page 22.*



Buffalo air crew carry out safe crash landing

No one was injured after a crash landing when the engine of a Buffalo Airways DC-3 burst into flames shortly after take-off in Yellowknife. *See page 6.*



Gwich'in Tribal Council talks cutbacks at AGM

How to save money - including a retroactive pay cut for delegates - was a hot topic for the council's meeting last week in Inuvik. *See page 8.*



ACFN calls for five-year oilsands moratorium

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam demanded a stop to development during the Teck hearings in Fort McMurray. *See page 9.*



Fort Smith family starts globe trotting escapade

The Johnsons trade one wild-fire hotspot for another as they begin their year travelling the world in Idaho. *See page 23.*

NORTHERN Journal

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Children from the Fort McPherson Youth Dancers kick up their feet for the ribbon dance during Inuvik's 10th annual End of the Road Music Festival over the weekend. The festival featured a number of Northern artists and family fun activities. *See page 21 for more.*

Harper re-announces funding for NWT mine training on first Hay River visit

By SCOTT CLOUTHIER
A re-emphasis on existing federal funding for mine training in the North was the focus of Stephen Harper's message during a visit to Hay River on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister cited his government's \$5.8-million investment in the Mine Training Society (MTS) in his public speech at the Don Stewart Recreation Centre Tuesday morning.

The money was originally set aside in the government's 2013 budget, part of the Skills and Partnership Fund established to support skills and development training for Aboriginal people across Canada.

After quoting Lord Tweedsmuir, a former Governor General who described Canada's North as "a great

treasure house," Harper said his government's goal is to ensure Northerners share in profits earned from treasures buried in the rock under their feet.

"Our government's commitment is to make sure we open the doors...to Northerners and that all Northerners benefit from this," he said.

The \$5.8-million specifically supports the MTS' Mine the Future project, which aims to train 400 Aboriginal people from the NWT and Kitikmeot region of Nunavut with the goal of landing them jobs at Northern mines.

The program, delivered by Aurora College campuses across the territory, is 25-months long and began in February 2013. It has yet to be offered at the Aurora College Community Learning Centre

in Hay River, but Harper announced that an "Introduction to Underground Mining" is set to begin there next month.

"In order to benefit from Northern opportunities, Aboriginal peoples must have greater access to education and skills training," he said. "The evidence overwhelmingly shows that the Mine Training Society approach works and it works well."

Stacie McSwain, a MTS graduate, was included in the photo opp with Harper at Aurora College prior to the event. She said the program was key to her finding employment at the De Beers Snap Lake diamond mine.

McSwain is a 2005 graduate of Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River, and said if it weren't for the MTS,

she would likely have moved south to seek higher education and work after high school. She graduated in 2008 from the Mineral Processing Operator program based in Fort Smith. She now works as a control room operator at De Beers and is one of over 850 MTS graduates who have gone on to find work in the mines, according to the society.

Training Northern Aboriginals to fill an ever-expanding need for skilled workers at mines is crucial to mining success, said Bob Gannicott, chairman and CEO of Dominion Diamond Corp., who was at the event along with other mine representatives.

"It's a much better proposition for the mining company to use local people, because they're long-term employees.

They're not just coming to work for you for a couple of years, to put some money away, pay off a mortgage and then they disappear."

Dominion Diamond Corp. owns 40 per cent of the Diavik diamond mine and purchased the Ekati diamond mine from BHP Billiton in late 2012. Gannicott said labour amounts to about 30 per cent of operating costs for mines in the NWT.

NWT Premier Bob McLeod, in a speech following Harper's address, said the mining sector "continues to be the most important driver" of the territory's current and future economy, noting its underground metals and minerals are in demand worldwide, including the largest rare earth deposits found outside of China.

See Visit on page 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

Northwestel's directory art contest opens

Telecommunications company Northwestel is inviting Northern artists to enter its annual art competition, where winning entries will be featured on the front page of next year's phone directories. This year, the company will be awarding \$2,000 to each winner from the three regions where it prints directories: Nunavut, the NWT and Yukon/northern BC/High Level, Alta. Northwestel has been featuring artists on its phone book covers since 1983, including Tedd Harrison, Chris DeWolf, Dawn Oman and Tanya Tagaq Gillis. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 20. To apply or see full contest details, visit www.nwtel.ca.

MACA calls for fire service merit nominees

The department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) is currently seeking nominations for the 2013 NWT Fire Service Merit Awards. These awards, based on nominations from fire chiefs and departments, as well as community members, honour and recognize individuals and fire crews for their contributions to fire safety and service across the NWT. To make a nomination, visit www.maca.gov.nt.ca. The deadline is Sept. 6. Recipients of the awards will be announced during National Fire Prevention Week, which runs Oct. 6-12.

Hay River wins free Leela Gilday concert from Buckle Up NWT

Hay River is the winner of the Buckle Up NWT community challenge. The prize is a free concert from Dene contemporary singer/songwriter Leela Gilday on Sept. 7 at the golf course. After a recent survey, Hay River had the highest percentage of residents wearing their seat belts at 84 per cent, beating out five other communities. Hay River will also receive a \$5,000 contribution to the town's fire department. Seat belt use in the NWT is now estimated to be 75 per cent, still significantly lower than other jurisdictions. The next phase of the Buckle Up campaign will focus on the NWT's 28 smallest communities with the objective of bringing overall seat belt usage in the NWT to at least 85 per cent by the end of 2015.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper addresses members of the public and media during a public event Tuesday morning at the rec centre in Hay River.

Politics Federal

Indigenous media complain of being 'left out' of Harper visit

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Indigenous media in the NWT are complaining about once again being "left out" of a press conference with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, this time on his annual Northern tour.

Journalists from the Native Communications Society's CKLB radio station in

Yellowknife, the only territorial indigenous media organization, were for a second time not permitted to engage the Prime Minister or his cabinet ministers during a question and answer period in Hay River last Tuesday.

Harper was in Hay River for a brief visit Tuesday to host a private luncheon with the Western Arctic Conservative Association and local business people at the golf course following a public event at the rec centre where he announced federal funding for mine training in the NWT.

During the morning's press

what he felt was a diplomatic letter to Harper's press secretaries expressing his disappointment and hope that next time the Prime Minister visited the North, his staff would be more accommodating to Aboriginal media.

"Perhaps in the future, our little radio station will not be singled out amongst the rest of the media outlets for the opportunity to ask the leader of our country at least one question," the letter stated.

In order to prepare for last week's visit, CKLB contacted Harper's press secretaries to ensure they would be recognized

they turned me away because they knew these decisions were being made and it's safer to keep me out of them," Kassam said. "My questions aren't going to be skewed or annoying in any way just because I'm with an indigenous media source. They're still legitimate questions; they just focus on indigenous people."

The Prime Minister's Office did not return requests for comment.

In total, six questions were asked, with one each by CBC North, CBC National and CBC Radio-One. The three others were from national print media and wire services following the Northern tour.

APTN was not present at the event in Hay River.

"So three CBC outlets got to ask questions and no indigenous media got to ask," Kassam said. "Out of the six questions, one or maybe two were Northern specific."

After the press conference, Kassam was eventually allowed to interview Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Bernard Valcourt.

Though Nakehk'o said he initially gave the Prime Minister's office "the benefit of the doubt," assuming time restrictions, more than anything, left his reporter off the list back in March, he said this second occurrence signals something more deliberate.

"I thought that it was just a one-off thing because usually at those high level press events, everything's pretty choreographed and orchestrated...It's very strict," he said. "I was hoping that he'd be open to hearing from all perspectives from across the country. This last incident just goes to prove a point that by not allowing us to ask a question, it shows how much they really care about other perspectives of media out there other than the mainstream."

I was hoping that he'd be open to hearing from all perspectives from across the country....By not allowing us to ask a question, it shows how much they really care about other perspectives of media out there other than the mainstream.

Dēneze Nakehk'o
Native Communications Society/CKLB

briefing, Northern media were told to band together to come up with one question to ask the Prime Minister, but according to CKLB reporter Iman Kassam, she was told by Harper's press staff to go elsewhere while this discussion took place.

This is not the first time CKLB has complained of being silenced during a press conference with the Prime Minister. In March when Harper was in Yellowknife signing off on devolution negotiations, both CKLB and the national Aboriginal Peoples' Television Network (APTN) - the only two indigenous media organizations present - were also the only two unable to ask questions.

At that time, CKLB radio director Dēneze Nakehk'o sent

at the event. But when Kassam arrived at Tuesday morning's pre-event photo session, she was told she couldn't attend because she didn't have a camera.

When the rest of the media rejoined her, she was told by the press secretaries that it had already been decided during this session what question was going to be asked and that it would be asked by CBC North.

Kassam said repeated attempts to give input or ask a question of Harper regarding land claims were dismissed by press secretaries, who she said eventually told her that she should have "shown up earlier."

"It was at that point that I clued in that they didn't turn me away because I wasn't allowed into the camera session;



NWT SENIORS' SOCIETY

NWT SENIORS' SOCIETY

Everyone is Invited

by the

Board of Directors, NWT Seniors' Society

to attend the

Annual General Meeting, September 3 at 9:30 AM

Special Guest Speakers from
Alzheimer Society of Alberta & Northwest Territories
and HelpAge Canada, Ottawa

Agenda Discussions Include:

Review of Audited Financial Statements
Bylaw Review Committee Report & Bylaw Revisions
Appointment of Auditors
and

Knowledge Exchange Events & Resource Material Displays

on

Tuesday and Wednesday

September 3 & 4, 2013

at the

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Barb Hood, Executive Director, seniors@yk.com; Dale Thomson, nwtseiors@yk.com

www.nwtseiorsociety.ca



Idle No More protesters watch as Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cavalcade goes by on the way from the Hay River Merlyn Carter Airport to the hotel. Organizer Beatrice Lepine said she had hoped Harper would stop to be presented with a symbolic eagle feather, but no such meeting occurred.



Hay River resident Julia Pokiak-Trennert holds up a sign at an Idle No More demonstration along the Mackenzie Highway in Hay River. About two dozen Idle No More supporters gathered to mark Prime Minister Stephen Harper's arrival to Hay River in a peaceful display involving singing, drumming and round dancing last Monday evening.

Politics Federal

PM's visit triggers small Idle No More protest

Continued from page 1.

While the Prime Minister's message appeared to be well received by the crowd, some Hay Riverites took the opportunity to express disappointment with his policies on the environment and

with respect to Aboriginal peoples.

Beatrice Lepine was one of about two dozen concerned residents who welcomed Harper's cavalcade from the side of the highway as he and his entourage were

transported to their hotel from the Hay River airport on Monday evening, after landing in a Canadian Forces Hercules plane.

Lepine said many locals are worried that provisions put forward in the C-45 omnibus bill, which are alleged to streamline the environmental review processes and have a negative effect on environmental protection.

She said Northerners are specifically worried about changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act, which reduce its ability to protect Canadian lakes and rivers from industrial encroachment. Documents obtained by the *Canadian Press* in February revealed those changes were made following lobbying by the Canadian

Energy Pipeline Association in Ottawa.

"There's an awful lot of... lakes and rivers that make up this watershed and we think it's important that it have protection," Lepine said.

She added she does not wish to stand in the way of new jobs in the North, but pointed out the need for a balance between economic gain and environmental stewardship.

"We understand that jobs are important, but our waters are more important than that," she said.

When asked by local media what assurances he could give Northerners that their natural resources would not be exploited at the expense of traditional

lifestyles, Harper said his government has protected more land and marine areas than any in Canadian history through the creation and expansion of national parks and national park reserves.

He also said ensuring proper environmental standards are followed at each step of the resource development process is important to "make sure we avoid the kind of thing we're dealing with now with the Giant Mine."

The Giant Mine site, once a large gold mine on the outskirts of Yellowknife, is now plagued by soil contamination due to arsenic used in the gold roasting process. The estimated cost to clean the site currently

stands at \$903 million – all of which will be paid for by taxpayers.

Harper also faced questions from the media about his recent announcement that he will again prorogue Parliament.

He called the move "completely normal" and insisted the break of Parliament business in Ottawa – expected to last between six to eight weeks – is necessary to "refresh legislation."

Harper also briefly addressed the Senate spending scandal, saying it is the Senate's duty to hold senators accountable for their spending of taxpayers' money.

"There are rules and all senators are expected to follow those rules," he said.



Photo: Diana Smith

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks to an invite-only audience during a private luncheon at the Hay River golf club last Tuesday.

Harper holds private partisan luncheon

The Hay River visit was Harper's second stop on his eighth annual Northern tour, after Whitehorse. It was his first trip to Hay River and he thanked Mayor Andrew Cassidy, Chief Roy Fabian and locals for a warm "Northern welcome."

While in Hay River, Harper and his wife Laureen visited Alexandra Falls, and were joined by federal minister of Natural Resources Joe Oliver, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Bernard Valcourt and Nunavut MP and Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq. Yukon Conservative MP Ryan Leef was also in attendance.

Harper's public appearance was followed by a private

Conservative party fundraising luncheon at the Hay River Golf Course hosted by the Western Arctic Conservative Association.

A source told the *Northern Journal* the Prime Minister gave an "entertaining speech" to the partisan crowd of about 250 people, taking some swipes at NDP Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington before leaving for the airport to fly to Gjoa Haven, Nunavut for an evening appearance.

Bevington took the opportunity to hit back in a following press release that criticized Harper's tour of wasting millions of tax dollars to re-announce funding promises made last year.

"Photo-ops won't solve the North's problems," Bevington said.

Balance Life. Experience Living.

The GNWT has launched a new Careers website for job seekers, **gnwtjobs.ca**, to provide information on the benefits of a career with the GNWT.

Browse the available job opportunities, join our talent community and apply to work with a diverse group of Northerners to make a difference! As a member of our talent community, you receive automated emails about jobs with the GNWT in the areas you are interested in.

Be sure to check the Careers website often; available jobs are updated on a regular basis.

www.gnwtjobs.ca

The Northern Journal is an independent newspaper covering news and events in the western Arctic and northern Alberta.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

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



The Northern Journal is available in the following NWT communities:

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

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Atikameg	Fort McKay	Kinuso
Brownvale	Fort McMurray	Lac La Biche
Cadotte Lake	Fort Vermillion	Mornville
Chard	Frog Lake	Peace River
Cheteh	Glenevis	Red Earth Creek
Cold Lake	Goodfish Lake	Saddle Lake
Conklin	Grande Prairie	Slave Lake
Driftpile	Grouard	St. Paul
Duffield	High Level	Valleyview
Edmonton	High Prairie	Wabasca
Enilda	Hythe	
Enoch	John D'or Prairie	

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Death of bills and a waste of work

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has once again decided to prorogue Parliament, pressing the reset button and wiping clean all that was underway. The new startup date will likely be in mid-October, one month after the scheduled Sept. 16 session commencement.

We are so used to the concept of proroguing Parliament now that we think little of the consequences. In truth, it results in the waste of a lot of taxpayer money – our money.

Prorogation, which is different from a recess or adjournment, brings to an end all proceedings before Parliament. With certain exceptions, unfinished business dies on the Order Paper and must be started anew in a subsequent session. This applies to the House of Commons, the Senate and all committees of both. Bills which have not received Royal Assent before prorogation are terminated. In order to be dealt with in the new session, they must be reintroduced as if they had never existed.

Many Canadians feel the Senate should be eliminated, that it does not serve sufficient purpose and costs far too much, yet it does do some good work. We generally have a better feeling about the House of Commons. Members of Parliament work hard, albeit on partisan agendas, and sacrifice a great deal living a challenging lifestyle. They have to represent their constituents and so are accountable. MPs and senators are very well paid. The bureaucracy that supports them is huge and also well paid. That considerable investment in the

process of governing, the maintenance of our cherished democracy, should not be taken lightly. Yet it seems that in order for the Conservative government to get rid of some inconvenient issues, all that matters about Parliament and a great deal of the work it has been doing, and all the costs that go along with it, has been set aside.

Proroguing Parliament is not uncommon and it is almost always done for partisan reasons – typically when the governing party is in trouble. In 1873, during the second Parliament, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald asked the Governor General of the day to prorogue Parliament. That stopped the work of a committee investigating allegations of bribes being accepted by members of Macdonald's Conservative government to influence bidding for a national rail contract. In 2002, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson agreed to prorogue Parliament for Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. That avoided the tabling of a report to the public accounts committee regarding the sponsorship scandal that had plagued Chrétien's government.

Harper has prorogued Parliament four times. He did it first in 2007, but it was when he invoked it in 2008 and 2010 that the public really noticed. In 2008, he used it to quash the opposition's plans to form a coalition government that would have removed him from office. He did it again in 2010 amidst a controversy over the Canadian treatment of Afghan prisoners.

For what reason was Parliament prorogued this time, and why only for a month? The opposition says the Prime Minister is

doing it so the Senate expenses scandal will have time to blow away. The Conservatives will hold their party convention in Calgary (the one postponed by the floods) at the end of October. Maybe the timing of that, right after the start up of Parliament, is attractive to them, part of a longer term strategy. The government apparently managed to pass much of its priority legislation before breaking for the summer, including the dramatic changes in the cobbled together finance ("omnibus") bills. Are they willing to sacrifice the rest so they can start fresh, unencumbered?

When asked in Hay River last week why he is doing it this time, Stephen Harper commented that proroguing Parliament is "completely normal" and it is being done now "to refresh legislation." It would be nice if he was being truthful and this was not simply a cavalier and wasteful act by a government interested only in its own partisan agenda, and wanting to dispense with inconvenient criticism. Is he?

Here is the list of the government's own bills that will be lost as a result of Parliament being prorogued: C-4, C-5, C-7, C-12, C-14, C-17, C-21, C-49, C-30, C-54, C-56, C-57, C-61, and C-65. Bills that had originated in the Senate including S-6, S-10, S-12, S-13 and S-16 will also cease to exist. Notable among the 19 soon-to-be dead Acts: C7-A Senate reform Act respecting the selection and term limits of senators; C12 - An act safeguarding Canadians' personal information; and, C30 - An Act protecting children from Internet predators.



Members of the extensive Evans family gather for a reunion in Fort Smith on the weekend of Aug. 23. The family tree began in Fort Chipewyan where David Maskegon (Evans) had journeyed from Norway House, Manitoba and met Helen Sakeskanip (Gibot). Both their surnames were changed. They married in 1885 and had 10 children, six of which survived to adulthood. The children of Phillip, Charlie, John James and Maurice reunited first on Facebook. Through genealogy records and Facebook they were able to find about 330 of David and Helen's descendants, scattered across Canada. The Fort Smith Evans clan are predominantly descendants of John James. The image of the family tree at the reunion measured 32 feet long.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

It's the most wonderful time of the year...
As cooler air begins to drift in at night around the South Slave region, the signs of fall are beginning to appear.

It's apparent in the slight changes in the trees, fewer mosquitoes, politicians returning to legislatures and families coming home from vacation. But the biggest indicator that fall has finally arrived is the sight of backpacked students taking their daily trip to school.

Issue: August 25, 1998

20 Years Ago...

Computers automate town's water treatment
Fort Smith's water treatment has gone almost totally computerized. Everything from chemical treatment to the operation of pumps is now fully automated in the new water treatment plant.

The new water plant is two blocks from the river bank. It includes a totally computerized water flow control system compared to the old plant's system of relays.

Issue: August 25, 1993

30 Years Ago...

Grocery stores go metric
Retail food stores in the Fort Smith and Inuvik regions have been given the Dec. 31 deadline to convert by the Metric Commission of Canada. Items that are individually weighed in stores will now be purchased in metric units. This includes meat, poultry, fish, fruit, cheese and vegetables.

Issue: August 25, 1983

Walking to school brings benefits

Another school year means (potentially) another year of frustrations as you deal with traffic congestion and parking issues while driving your child to school. This year, have your child “miss the bus” and take an adventure as you walk to school.

If you live within walking distance to your school, there are many benefits to letting your age-appropriate child walk to school. Better yet - if you can, join them for the journey to school. Here are the benefits and tips on walking to school:

- It takes the same amount of time. You always arrive at the same time; there are no traffic delays when you walk.
- It's healthy. Walking to school keeps you fit and healthy, and wakes you up for a day of learning. Walking to and from school can help your child get some needed exercise. As outlined in the Canadian Physical Guidelines, children aged 5 – 11 should accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity each day.
- Improves school performance. There is a link

between academic performance and physical activity. Children who are physically active are more likely to do better at school. Children who walk to school arrive alert and ready to learn.

- It's free. Walking costs nothing and you can explore your local area. Walking to school can also mean significant reduction in cost for fuel and car maintenance. Leaving the car at home will help save the environment by cutting

down on car emissions and reduce levels of air pollution.

- Walk'n' talk. Walk with your friends and family, and get talking on the way to and from school. It is a great time to take the opportunity to talk to your child. If your child is old enough to walk to school with friends, walking will give them extra time to build friendships, or if they are walking alone, it can be a great time to think, relax and reflect on the day.

• Safety. If you are worried about safety, rally together with neighbours and organize a walk-to-school program that has a responsible older child or adult leading the group.

If you require health advice, please contact Health-Link Alberta at 1-866-408-LINK (5465).

Carolyn Evancio
Alberta Health Services
Health Promotion Facilitator

THE NORTHERN JOURNAL'S

Unanswered Question of the Week

THE TOPIC

Indigenous media complain of being “left out” of Q&A with Prime Minister on his Northern tour visit to Hay River last week

THE JOURNAL'S QUESTION

(Posed to Julie Vaux, press secretary for Prime Minister Stephen Harper):

Would you be able to tell me if this is being done as part of a mandated decision by the PMO, or what kind of selection process is undertaken in determining which media are able to ask questions of the Prime Minister during these Q&As?

THE ANSWER

No response provided

A Senior Moment

Seniors Helping Seniors

Now that we have reached the end of August and a glorious summer as far as the weather served us, it is time for all, from children to seniors and all in between, to look ahead to a “new season” with the many new experiences coming to our communities.

As an ending to our summer activities, last week the Fort Smith Seniors played host to a group of members of Friendship Force International, guests of the Hay River chapter of that organization, by opening our centre for “time out” after driving the interesting trip from Hay River, which included encounters with bison and lunch. This is the second time Fort Smith has played host to this organization representing members from the US as well as Canada. You may have read the full report of their visit to Fort Smith in

last week's *Northern Journal*.

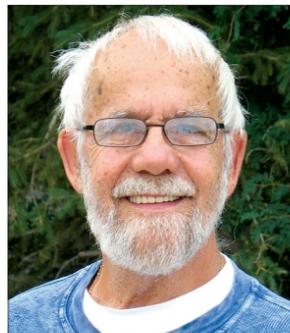
The Fort Smith Seniors will start out their new season by organizing a bus journey to Hay River on Sept. 7, a follow up to a similar successful trip last fall, which included taking in the famous fish fry experience right at the wharf, taking time to visit the Hay River Fall Fair and still having time to socialize with the seniors at their centre before returning to Fort Smith. All this in one day! Should you, the reader, wish to come along this year, please give this writer a reservation call at 872-5455. The charge will be \$20.

Of further events: Fort Smith is planning a berry picking tour to Salt River, perhaps a visit to Fort Resolution and an annual trip to Fort Chipewyan via the winter road, unless they, in Chip, decide it is their turn to visit Fort Smith. Our

work with “Kids and Seniors in the Classroom” started late last spring and will resume as schools start again.

Congratulations from all of us go out to Florence Barnaby of Fort Good Hope for being awarded the 2012 Sister Agnes Sutherland Award for her proactive support of victims of family violence and elder abuse throughout the Sahtu and Beaufort-Delta regions. For longer than 20 years, Florence has been at the forefront, contributing aid to older adults in the NWT through her work with the NWT Seniors' Society and other organizations.

In the meantime, throughout the territories and indeed in all of Canada, reports of abuse of older adults and of family violence are all too frequent. From communities we also hear that many such incidences are never talked about, nor reported to



Ib Kristensen

authorities for action. Much more about this during the upcoming NWT Network Partner meeting scheduled for September, which now has been re-scheduled till Nov. 6. Notices of this change have been sent out.

I just have to let you know that the seniors in Fort Smith again won 1st prize for our July 1 Canada Day parade float. I think it's the seventh time we won a prize in this event. Great decorating job, crew!

Notice to Fort Smith members: our general meeting in September has been re-scheduled to Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 1:20 in the Seniors' Centre. Make sure to attend!

Seniors are “Foundations” in their communities.

MUKLUK



FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

A man is recovering in Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife after a stabbing incident outside a bar in Fort Smith early Friday morning.



Man suffers stab wounds outside of Fort Smith Bar



Brad Tuckey: Being on holidays and seeing things like TSN being in the community has been great but then something like this, very sad how this brings our town down.



Quentin T Desjarlais: Holy



Tommy Clarke: Brutal



Ed Hunter: Isn't this the second time he has stabbed someone

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Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
16 High	4 Low	17 High	7 Low	15 High	10 Low	14 High	7 Low
13 High	7 Low	16 High	5 Low	18 High	10 Low	16 High	8 Low

Norms: 13°C and 4°C

Norms: 16°C and 8°C

Hay River Fort Smith

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
14 High	8 Low	19 High	7 Low	19 High	10 Low	17 High	9 Low
14 High	11 Low	18 High	6 Low	21 High	9 Low	19 High	8 Low

Norms: 18°C and 8°C

Norms: 18°C and 6°C



Photo: Dave Connelly

Firefighters put out the blaze aboard Buffalo Airways' vintage Douglas DC-3 that crash landed shortly after takeoff from Yellowknife last Monday evening on its way to Hay River.

Transportation Aviation

'A near-death experience and two hours delayed'

Buffalo Air pilots salvage crash landing of DC-3, leaving none injured

By SCOTT CLOUTHIER

The fate of passengers aboard a Buffalo Airways DC-3 that crashed shortly after takeoff in Yellowknife on Monday may have been worse if not for the actions of its pilots, say two who were aboard.

Stephane Millette and Dave Connelly were among 18 passengers who boarded C-GWIR, a vintage Douglas DC-3 aircraft headed for Hay River on Monday evening.

About 30 seconds after takeoff, passengers on the right side of the cabin noticed flames coming from the right engine.

The stream of fire coming from the engine was about three to four feet in length, said Connelly, a board member for Avalon Rare Metals, who was on his way to Hay River to attend the Prime Minister's visit.

"It was that classic thing that you see in the movies," he said.

At that point, Connelly said the flight attendant went into the cockpit to alert the two pilots about what was

happening. They reacted immediately, he said.

"You could see the co-pilot was reading through the checklist, which is what you're supposed to do, I gather," Connelly said.

Millette, who is principal at Hay River's École Boréale school, also felt at that point like he was in good hands.

"It just seemed like they were doing everything perfectly," he said.

They then began to bring the aircraft around to return to the airport.

"It was a long, slow turn and by this time the prop on the right-hand side was dead and the one on the left was giving it everything it (had)," Connelly said.

Once the airport was in sight, Connelly said it became apparent that the plane was descending too quickly to make it back to the airstrip.

"I speculated at that point that he was going to ditch or go for a road, because the

other option at that point was rock or rock with trees on it."

But, Connelly said, the captain kept the plane on course for the Yellowknife airport.

he just cleared the power lines."

Connelly said he's heard stories of airplanes hitting power lines with disastrous results.

I think the most heart-stopping, gut-wrenching moment was...in my view he just cleared the power lines.

Passenger Dave Connelly

"He made...a good decision to go for the airport," he said, despite the plane having to clear two sets of obstacles before making the airport grounds: power lines and trees.

"It started to get a little bit tense because it was clear that we were descending no matter how much thrust he put on," Connelly recounted. "I think the most heart-stopping, gut-wrenching moment was...in my view

"My understanding is that when you hit the power lines, plane loses, power line wins."

After clearing the lines – only by mere feet, Connelly attested – the plane began to descend into the trees.

At this point, he said he was happy to be aboard a heavy old plane.

"The trees didn't slice through the plane; the plane sliced through the trees" in a manner that was reminiscent of "a weed eater cutting through grass," Connelly said.

Buffalo's Mikey McBryan expressed a similar sentiment on Twitter following the accident:

"Everyone is ok. The crew was amazing. The DC-3 is the strongest airplane in the world," he said.

Once the plane got through the trees, Connelly said it eventually landed on its belly on the grass infield at the airport, short of the runway.

When the plane hit the ground it began to spin, likely due to the propellor digging into the soft earth. Connelly said the G-forces were quite tremendous, likening them to an amusement park ride.

Once the plane stopped, Millette said the crew was quick to get everyone safely off the aircraft.

"The staff got right in charge right away and got everybody out of the plane quick," he said.

Connelly said everyone exited through the rear door of the aircraft, where there were no steps, so he aided other passengers down to the ground.

Firefighters reached the aircraft within five minutes of the passengers evacuating, according to Bill Mercer, another passenger, and began to douse the still-flaming engine.

Despite the severity of the situation, both Millette and Connelly said all passengers remained calm for the most part. "Nobody was panicked," Millette said. "The only time it was a little more nervous is once the plane came down and we had to get out quick to let the firefighters spray the plane down."

Connelly, for his part, said only when the plane started hitting the trees did he notice other passengers "(expressing) themselves emotionally."

Both agree the outcome could have been worse if not for the actions of the crew.

"The pilots and the staff did an awesome job," Millette said.

After being checked out by ambulance staff, the passengers were given a ride back to the Buffalo Airways hangar, where they were offered coffee and pizza while they awaited "Buffalo" Joe McBryan, who had piloted an earlier scheduled flight to Hay River, to fly back and pick them up to complete their journey across Great Slave Lake.

Aside from pilot heroics, Connelly felt a bit of serendipity may have contributed to the passengers' good fortunes that day. The previous flight had been loaded with all checked luggage from both flights, saving perhaps hundreds of pounds of extra weight from being aboard the ill-fated plane.

Connelly said a few passengers were also transferred from the later flight to Hay River to the earlier one – among them Premier Bob McLeod.

"From that point of view, I think the premier saved our lives," he said.

Passengers complain of long wait on runway

Although he had nothing but compliments for the flight crew, firefighters, police and ambulance, Connelly said when it came to getting the passengers away from the landing strip and back to the

hangar, "it just didn't seem to come together."

Connelly said passengers were left standing on the airport infield for close to 45 minutes before being offered rides back to Buffalo's hangar in the ambulances.

"What eventually drove it is there was an airplane circling with only 20 minutes fuel left and at that point they reckoned they had better get the people out of there."

Michael Conway, regional superintendent for the NWT department of Transportation in Yellowknife, said the airport staff were simply following protocols, which require them to wait for the nod from the Transportation Safety Board before moving passengers or the aircraft.

"17:15 is when the plane actually came to rest," he said. "Within 30 seconds, we had firefighters there...But we can't move anyway until the Transportation Safety Board states that. So they told us at 17:41 that the passengers could be returned to Buffalo Airways. At 17:42, the first shuttle was requested to take the passengers there. So there was certainly no delay on our part."

Despite the harrowing experience, Connelly said everything was back to normal very quickly, as once McBryan was able to return for the stranded passengers, they made it into Hay River by 8:00 p.m.

"A near-death experience and two hours delayed," he said.

Both passengers said they have no hesitation about flying in a DC-3 again in the near future.

"Those planes were built to (survive a) crash," Millette said.

Connelly, who said this was his first major incident in 30 years of flying in the North, was also undeterred, but did say that a bottle of scotch greeting him in the arms of a friend as he finally arrived in Hay River was a welcome sight.

"That was greatly appreciated."

The Transportation Safety Board investigation into the crash is currently ongoing.

*With files from Meagan Wohlberg



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Legislative Assembly is inviting public comment on the *Territorial Emblems and Honours Act*.

This Bill will establish an Order of the Northwest Territories. The Order will be a way to officially honour current and former NWT residents for outstanding service and achievements. The Bill also recognizes the existing flag and territorial emblems of the Northwest Territories.

We Want To Hear From You.

For a copy of *Bill 22: Territorial Emblems and Honours Act*, visit our website www.assembly.gov.nt.ca and click the link to the Bill on our homepage.

Please send questions or comments to:

Don Couturier, Public Affairs and Communications Intern
Telephone (867) 669-2218 | Toll Free 1-800-661-0784
Fax (867) 873-0222 | E-mail: don_couturier@gov.nt.ca

Submissions must be received by 5 pm October 4, 2013.



Five youth arrested for crimes in Fort Chipewyan *Community sees two break and enter cases within a week*

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Two teens have been arrested after allegedly attacking a group of people, including an elder, with a can of bear spray in Fort Chipewyan.

RCMP members were approached by "several" individuals during the early morning hours of Aug. 17 who said they had been hit with the eye-tearing deterrent substance. Police began an immediate investigation.

It could not be confirmed exactly how many individuals approached police at this time, said Cst. Natasha Lytwenko, media relations for Wood Buffalo RCMP.

As a result of the investigation, two male youths, both of Fort Chipewyan, were arrested and charged for breaking and entering into a residence. They were also arrested for assault with a weapon.

That weapon was bear spray, Lytwenko said.

"Some members came upon people covering their faces and when police asked what was going on, they said they'd heard a noise at their house when two teens had kicked in the door," Sgt.

Al Boulianne with the Fort Chipewyan detachment told *The Journal*. "When the house residents approached the door to investigate, one of the youth bear sprayed them and the spray also hit a 90 year-old elder. It was a chaotic scene for a bit."

One of the suspects was arrested on scene and the other a short time later, he said.

As of last week, one of the youths remains in custody. The other has been released to his parents with conditions.

Both are scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 5., Boulianne said.

Those suffering from the potent spray were treated on scene by paramedics. No serious injuries were sustained, police reported.

Second break and enter within week's time

A break and enter was also reported at Chief's Corner store on Aug. 10 in Fort Chipewyan.

Police said a rock was thrown through a window and \$1,800 worth of cigarettes was stolen.

After a search warrant was executed at a private

residence on Aug. 19, three male youths were arrested and charged with theft as well as break and enter. A portion of the stolen

property was recovered.

One of the youth remains in custody while the others have been released to their parents with conditions.

All are to appear in court at a later date.

Members of the public who have more information on either of these two

incidents are asked to contact Wood Buffalo RCMP at 1-780-788-4000 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 to remain anonymous.



Photo: Danna Wiedrick

Fort Smith RCMP receive surprise cookie basket

Hannah Porter (centre) of Fort Smith delivers a basket of homemade chocolate pecan cookies to Cst. Landry-Cote (left) and Cst. Murchie. Porter and a friend included a note that said "thank you for keeping our town safe."

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Gwich'in Tribal Council looks for ways to save money

Delegates take a retroactive pay cut, reduce number attending assemblies

By JOSH LONG

Cutbacks dominated the discussion at the Gwich'in Tribal Council's (GTC) annual general assembly in Inuvik last week.

"We are spending more than we are allowed and we have to stop that, and we will take steps over the next couple of months to curb all our spending, and we'll take that to our people," said GTC president Robert Alexie Jr., shortly after the final closing prayer at the Midnight Sun Complex.

Already, delegates went home with lighter wallets as they passed a resolution reducing their pay by \$100 a day for the two-day meeting – down to \$300 a day from the \$400 they'd set it at just one year earlier.

That resolution applied retroactively starting at the beginning of the meeting and passed without opposition, but another to cut the number of delegates attending assemblies was initially greeted with some concern.

That resolution spoke to reducing the number of delegates from each Gwich'in community and cutting delegates from the territorial capitals entirely – a move that



Gwich'in Tribal Council president Robert Alexie Jr. is focused on ways to solve their financial woes.

would have saved an estimated \$60,000 each assembly.

But the Yellowknife delegate saw things differently.

"Yes, we're outside the GSA (Gwich'in Settlement Area) and yes, Whitehorse is out of the GSA, but you can't give us seats and take them away," said

Christine McLeod, referring to the four seats held by the two cities since 2010.

More than half of all Gwich'in participants live in Yellowknife, McLeod pointed out.

But Alexie countered, saying every participant is already

That's been a big downfall of our organization – too many politicians doing business. Politicians got no business in business. That's the bottom line.

Robert Alexie Jr.
GTC president

represented by his or her home community.

Whitehorse delegate Victor Stewart offered a compromise – make it one delegate from each city.

"If you bring one delegate in from Whitehorse and one from Yellowknife, one could sleep and the other one can tell her what they talked about later," said Stewart, who joked more than once when talks got tense.

"You look and around and you see so many long faces, you gotta say something," he said after a previous joke.

In the end, the delegates saw things Stewart's way, and the motion was passed unopposed. Delegates from each Gwich'in community were also reduced to seven per community, down from 12.

Much of the talk concerning the financial woes was in camera where only Gwich'in participants could hear. Alexie explained the rules at the start of the assembly, saying participants could not even discuss what they heard when they returned to their homes.

In an interview, Alexie was able to comment on publicly available financial information.

Alexie said \$19 million that had gone from the Gwich'in Settlement Corp. to the development corporation hadn't brought back enough bang for its buck.

"The investments that we've made did not give us any return to date," he said. "Do the math. Three per cent interest per year, we could've made

more if we'd kept it in the Settlement Corp., but we didn't."

He also talked about a need to separate business from politics, saying mixing the two contributed to overspending within the council.

"That's been a big downfall of our organization – too many politicians doing business. Politicians got no business in business. That's the bottom line."

As such, he'll be stepping down as president of the development corporation while retaining his position on the tribal council.

A new board of directors for the development corporation has also been appointed.

"They're not politicians; they're businesspeople. They have a mandate to go out there and make us some money," Alexie said.

Previously, some members of the board of directors had simultaneously sat on the settlement, development and tribal council – a move that Alexie calls a conflict of interest.

"They're basically giving themselves direction; you cannot do that," he said. "We're separating the three, and hopefully that will make it better for our tribal council."

First Nations ask minister to put brakes on Gahcho Kué

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Four First Nations in the Northwest Territories are asking the federal minister to halt approval of the Gahcho Kué diamond mine until stronger measures are implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of the project.

In four identical letters dated Aug. 20, the Tlicho Government, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Deninu Kue First Nation requested Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Bernard Valcourt refer measures back to the review board for further consideration before approving the mine.

The Gahcho Kué mine, which would be the fourth diamond mine operating in the territory, was given the green light by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on July 22.

Following a technical review of the review board's report, all four First Nations argued that the board "failed to assign measures in almost every area considered significant to our nation and others," along with measures identified by the federal government.

Attached to the letter is a long list of concerns raised by the technical review, including the board's failure to make Ni Hadi Yati, or "People Watching



The proposed Gahcho Kué diamond mine northeast of Yellowknife would drain Kennady Lake to drill kimberlite.

the Land Together" – an oversight committee for environmental monitoring composed of the impacted Aboriginal governments – a binding measure, despite requests from all Aboriginal parties and all federal departments to do so.

"The Aboriginal parties are extremely concerned that this governance arrangement for environmental monitoring and adaptive management is left to a future negotiation of a contractually binding agreement between the Aboriginal parties and the developer, and that the

Board has not addressed any alternatives should those negotiations not prove successful," the document states.

The First Nations expressed concern at the omission of binding commitments for water quality, along with identified gaps in the company's remediation plans for Kennady Lake, which will be drained to mine the kimberlite deposit and re-filled when the project is completed.

According to the technical review, no timeline has been given for refilling the lake or

what measurable characteristics need to be achieved to bring the lake back to a reclaimed status.

On the issue of caribou, as well, the First Nations argue the review board did not adequately address cumulative impacts the mine's access road could have on the dwindling Bathurst herd.

"There is no commitment to alter mitigations in order to minimize the zone of influence; and there is no commitment to monitor the winter access road as a barrier to

caribou movement," the review states, adding:

"The panel appears to believe that the developer will self-regulate and be a good corporate citizen, and required no further commitments to conduct monitoring or research as noted, which given the regulator and consistent spills at (De Beers' existing diamond mine) Snap Lake, seems misplaced."

They also argue that concerns regarding the release of contaminants like furans and dioxins, considered extremely toxic to humans and wildlife, were left out of the report, along with measures to mitigate permafrost issues and the project's impacts on culture.

While De Beers has committed to incorporating traditional knowledge into its monitoring programs, encouraging Aboriginal language use at the mine site and hosting cultural gatherings – commitments the board found sufficient to state there would not be adverse impacts to cultural values, provided they are followed – the Aboriginal parties concluded those promises are "altogether insufficient" and "frankly insulting to the elders and other Aboriginal experts who contributed time and energy to this process."

The chiefs also expressed their view that adequate social and economic assessment had

not been conducted, as impact benefit agreements (IBA) between the four Aboriginal parties and the developer remain incomplete despite more than three years of negotiations.

Only one IBA has been concluded with the North Slave Métis Alliance.

Chuck Hubert, senior environmental officer with the review board and lead on the Gahcho Kué file, said the board could not comment on the recent letters because the report is before the minister and that he did not wish to speculate on what the scope of additional review would look like.

"It's difficult to comment further prior to the Minister's response back to the Panel," he told *The Journal*, but said there are recent examples of referrals back from the minister requiring more consideration.

"For the NICO project, in June the Minister referred the report back to the Board for further consideration or 'consult to modify' for one measure in the report. This was done by the GNWT presenting new evidence. Meetings were held to discuss the new evidence and a resolution to the measure in question was reached to the satisfaction of the Minister," he said in an email. "A hearing was not held in that instance."

De Beers did not respond to requests for comment.

Chief calls for five-year moratorium on oilsands

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

For the first time publicly and on record with the government, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) Chief Allan Adam articulated a demand for a five-year moratorium on oilsands exploration and development north of the Firebag River in northeastern Alberta last week before a provincial review panel.

Adam, who presented oral evidence at a hearing of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) regarding a proposal by Teck Resources to drill 138 exploratory oilsands wells in the Poplar Point area north of Fort McMurray, said neither the board, nor Canada or Alberta, have the authority to grant companies license to use ACFN traditional territory for exploration.

"Our ancestors did not sign the treaty to cede and surrender lands. We want a five-year moratorium on any further development and we want a comprehensive study of these lands. A moratorium will not cripple Canada," he said, calling for reclamation to take place prior to any more development.

"The cleanup must start now. Reclamation does not



Photo: Meagan Wohlberg

ACFN Chief Allan Adam speaks about his First Nation's concerns with oilsands development at the Tar Sands Healing Walk in July.

work. Teck said five to 100 years just to reclaim their exploration sites. What right does Teck have to say that their project does not affect the ACFN? We will be the ones most impacted by their project; we assert our rights to reclaim the lands in

question that Canada holds in trust."

ACFN communications coordinator Eriel Deranger said the big issue for the First Nation is the health of Roland Lake wood bison found in the region where Teck has proposed drilling. The herd is

the last remaining disease-free population of wood bison, which are considered a species at risk, in the province.

Second, she said, is the issue of reclamation and cumulative effects raised by the chief.

"Hundreds of thousands of acres of land have been disrupted and disturbed by projects. The Teck reclamation project alone, they say, could take anywhere between four and 100 years to fully reclaim, which is a ridiculous number that First Nations are supposed to just sit back and accept," she said.

"The track record of industry is, I think, 0.01 per cent of land has been fully reclaimed in the region, and yet they're still granting more and more leases and applications for projects in the region. We need to be focusing on reclamation, not new projects."

Adam was previously party to a resolution by Treaty 8 chiefs calling for a moratorium on development in the region back in 2008, but no specific time limit was given.

Besides Adam's presentation, ACFN brought forward a number of elders and land users as witnesses to attest to changes and problems experienced due

to Teck's ongoing exploratory drilling projects on their lands.

Raymond Cardinal and James Ladouceur complained of having their snowmobiles destroyed by roads and ice bridges damaged and made unsafe by Teck's equipment, which they said limited their access to hunting and ability to provide for themselves and their families.

"They have experienced a lot of disruption," Deranger said. "The areas are almost directly across the river from the Poplar Point reserve that Teck's proposed for development. Even just with the machinery coming in, it's scaring the large game away and making it difficult for them to access large game. The drilling would only exacerbate those issues."ww

Teck responded at the hearings by saying many of the concerns raised by ACFN refer to cumulative effects of oilsands industry, and are not specifically related to the company's own practices.

The company also submitted correspondence with ACFN's Industry Relations Corp. (IRC) obtained through the Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) act, highlighting

discussions about the project that it said showed there had been consultation with the First Nation and, thus, eliminated the need for last week's hearing.

But Deranger said formal consultation never took place.

"Issues around the drilling project had been discussed but hadn't been formally consulted on, so they were trying to use those discussions as justification that full consultation had actually happened," she said. "So of course, our IRC staff were taken aback by it because, 1) they didn't know that correspondence was going to be used as evidence at all; and 2) they were manipulating correspondence to make it look as though it was consultation when, in fact, it wasn't."

Teck spokesperson Doug Brown said it would be inappropriate for the company to comment outside of the ongoing hearing process, but said the company "is focused on ensuring our proposed drilling program is protective of the environment and respectful of First Nations and communities in the region" and is working cooperatively with both government and First Nations through the hearing process.

Politics First Nations

Alberta's new Aboriginal consultation policy criticized First Nations, Métis say new rules undermine rights, self-government

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Alberta government's newly proposed rules for consultation between industry and Aboriginal groups are already drawing heavy criticism from First Nations and Métis in the province who say it undermines their rights.

The third draft consultation policy, released silently on the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 16, comes after years of talks with both industry and First Nations on how to improve what was agreed to be a faulty system, and the new rules will affect nearly every company seeking to advance new resource projects in the province.

Under the new policy, which is expected to come into effect this fall, Alberta plans to set up a single window office to establish standards for what projects require consultation, which First Nations are to be consulted on specific projects, and what level of consultation will be required.

That office will also be the only party able to address the adequacy of consultation in the province, as Aboriginal governments will no longer be able to bring questions of Section 35 constitutional law before the new provincial energy regulator that, according to the policy, was established with no jurisdiction over constitutional challenges.

"The duty to consult rests with the Crown. The Responsible

Energy Development Act simply clarifies that the regulator cannot determine the adequacy of consultation," said Kevin Zahara, press secretary for Alberta's Aboriginal Affairs Minister Robin Campbell, noting that First Nations will still be able to bring project-related concerns before the regulator if they are considered to be directly and adversely affected by the development.

'A step backwards'

For Jesse Cardinal, a member of Keepers of the Athabasca from one of Alberta's Métis settlements, the new policy is a step backwards.

"It seems to be taking more and more rights away," she said, noting that the policy only focuses on rights to hunt, fish and trap and makes no mention of ceremonial or burial grounds, or places used for harvesting berries or medicines.

Cardinal said her main concern stems from the fact that the policy will override any existing consultation protocols established by Aboriginal governments in the province. Although encouraging companies to be aware of those protocols, it does not require proponents to comply with them while consulting, and notes that in cases of conflict between protocols, Alberta's new policy will prevail.

"It's not honouring self-governance and the fact that there are

communities that already have their own consultation policies or are in the process of creating them," she said.

Under the rules, First Nations will be subject to new timelines

It's not honouring self-governance and the fact that there are communities that already have their own consultation policies.

Jesse Cardinal
Keepers of the Athabasca

prior to being notified about their inclusion in the consultation process. For projects with the potential for "low adverse impacts" on treaty rights or traditional uses, Aboriginal governments are required to respond with a comprehensive listing of potential adverse impacts within 15 working days; for those projects the consultation office decides could have more significant impacts, First Nations are given 20 working days.

The policy also creates a new funding model, whereby industry will be levied for funds to allow First Nations to participate in consultation with those funds going to the government to dole out.

Cardinal said that funding arrangement reinforces an outdated colonial relationship.

"Right now, if a community needs to do certain things to be properly consulted, like TK (traditional knowledge) gathering and different things, they'll do up a proposal and take it

units on a project by project basis, the levy enables them to plan their consultation activities for each year on the assumption of a budget that covers their costs," he said. "All First Nations in Alberta will receive funding. The amounts will be based on the level of consultation activity each First Nation is required to carry out. Alberta will be proposing a method of calculating those amounts during engagement sessions with First Nations and industry through the fall. We want to ensure that all First Nations have the capacity to do a proper job on consultation."

No consultation on land leases

Leasing of lands or licensing rights to Crown minerals continues to be left out of the realm of what is considered necessary grounds for consultation, despite recent complaints by First Nations that consultation between industry and Aboriginal governments needs to begin at the land tenure stage.

Last week, a provincial hearing process was triggered after three Aboriginal governments - the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation and Fort Chipewyan Métis - all launched challenges to Teck Resources' proposed

No change in ongoing bitumen leak near Cold Lake

First Nation sources say there are now six sites oozing from ground

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Things have not improved in the region around Cold Lake, Alta. as bitumen continues bleeding into the surrounding boreal forest and wetlands, three months after the first leak at the in situ oilsands operation was reported.

The leak is ongoing, though the "emergency phase" of the incident was said to be over on July 17 when bitumen oozing from a fissure underground was contained - not stopped - within a double-lined control curtain, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) stated on its incident reporting web page.

Four separate leak locations from underground wells have been detected on the Primrose and Wolf Lake sites, run by Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL), on the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range in northeastern Alberta and traditional Treaty No. 6 territory belonging to Cold Lake First Nations (CLFN).

The first one was discovered in May and the fourth at the end of June.

Members of the First Nation have now been told by their own sources that there are actually six sites of bitumen emulsion seeping to the

surface, councillor and former chief Walter Janvier told *The Journal* last Thursday.

The AER's most recent report on Aug. 16 said "cleanup continues" on all four sites, approximately 45 km northwest of Cold Lake. This includes skimming water bodies, vegetation cutting and soil removal.

"To date, the total wildlife impacts between all four sites have been reported with two beavers, 31 birds, 82 amphibians and 31 small mammals deceased," according to the regulator.

CNRL has installed fences and wildlife "deterrents" such as air horns, effigies and kites to manage the situation, and a "subsurface investigation" has begun, the AER said.

As of Aug. 16, over 1,275 cubic metres of bitumen emulsion have been recovered from all four sites (the equivalent of 8,024 barrels or 1.27 million litres of oil), while 397 cubic metres of oily vegetation have been removed from one of the affected locations. In terms of impacted soils, 5,096.66 metric tonnes have been removed from three of the sites. In total, 20.7 hectares have been impacted, as reported by the AER.

The company's most recent

official statement was on July 31, claiming CNRL staff were busy remediating the spills.

"Each location has been secured and cleanup, recovery and reclamation activities are well underway," the company said. "The bitumen emulsion does not pose a risk to health or human safety."

The rate of bitumen emulsion seepage in all four locations now totals less than 20 barrels per day, Zoe Addington, CNRL's public affairs advisor, told *The Journal* in an email last Friday.

First Nations want answers

Nikki Booth, a communications representative with Alberta's Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) department, said they are continuing to investigate the incident.

"We have been doing soil and water sampling. Obviously, we are also assessing aquatic vegetation and we're looking at the impacts on wildlife. If we believe a law was broken from what we determine in our investigation, then compliance and enforcement action will ensue," Booth told *The Journal* last week. "However, it's

How did the project design fail so significantly - especially given the fact that there was an investigation into the cause of the first leak?...This shouldn't have happened again.

*Chris Severson-Baker
Pembina Institute*

Similar blowout in 2009

too early to speculate at this time if that is the case."

Members of Cold Lake First Nation are concerned about how this will negatively impact the environment and future hunting in the area.

"It affected our treaty right to hunt, fish and gather in that area and right now, the access is limited and our people can't go hunting or fish, which is having an impact on those who rely on the land," Janvier said.

Janvier took a helicopter survey of the area and said "it looked just awful, all that oil on top of water."

He also took part in a tour the company offered a few weeks ago.

"They only showed us two of the original four sites...The two they didn't show us were apparently in worse conditions," Janvier said.

A meeting between the AER and the First Nation is to take place later this week, according to Janvier.

"We have minimal information right now," he said. "We want hard facts. The company say they have it contained but, from our perspective, that's only contained on the surface. We're concerned about what's happening below."

repaired), steaming strategies can be modified to prevent these types of incidents from occurring," Addington said in an email.

But this conclusion, according to Severson-Baker, "directly contradicts" the official findings of an investigation by the AER (then the Energy Resources Conservation Board) into the cause of the 2009 incident, he continued.

The report from that case stated: "The ERCB agrees that the bitumen emulsion pathway cannot be identified with certainty based on the available data. However, the ERCB is of the view that the Clearwater shale was likely breached by high-pressure steam injection not related to a wellbore issue."

This links the spills to the company's high-steam process and weaknesses in cap rock formation.

The report also goes on to reveal the ERCB found that the steam volume injected at the Primrose East site was "significantly higher on a pore volume basis" than in past high pressure cyclic steam stimulation (HPCSS) operations at the site and that "this likely contributed to the bitumen emulsion surface release."

However, CNRL was still given the green light to continue operation at the sites after the cleanup of the 2009 spill.

"The major concern is: is there something about this technology that has created this problem? How did the project design fail so significantly - especially given the fact that there was an investigation into the cause of the first leak?" Severson-Baker asked. "This shouldn't have happened again."

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL!

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO DRIVE SAFE

Please keep to the speed limits. School zones are 30km/hr. Drive with caution in school and neighbourhood zones. Beware at all times and drive safe.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE WHEN BIKING

Remember to wear a fitting helmet. When crossing roads look both ways. Have reflectors and lights so others may see you. Make sure your brakes work to prevent accidents.

DID YOU KNOW?

That three out of four bike crashes result in some kind of head injury? Helmets prevent permanent brain damage and even death.

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Call for Nominations

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is now accepting nominations for the Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle.

The Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle recognizes youth, individuals, Elders and groups in the Northwest Territories who exemplify excellence and dedication to the promotion and preservation of the arts, culture and heritage in their community or region.

Nomination forms are available at:

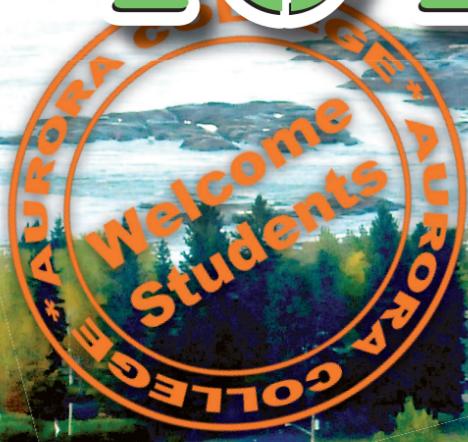
- www.ece.gov.nt.ca
- the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre website (www.pwnhc.ca);
- your local band office; or
- a Regional ECE Service Centre.

Deadline for nominations is August 30, 2013.

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

MINISTER'S CULTURE AND HERITAGE CIRCLE
PRIDE IN THE NORTH

AURORA COLLEGE STUDENT GUIDE TO FORT SMITH



Fort Smith welcomes Aurora College students

Our community has a long and proud tradition as the "Education Capital of the North." Each year at this time, the people of Fort Smith welcome students like you from across the North to join our wonderful community while you are studying at Thebacha Campus of Aurora College.

We are pleased and proud to have you with us for the winter session as you strive for excellence in higher education. You have chosen a worthwhile path, one that will challenge you in the coming months. Your hard work in the classroom can result in achievements that will better the lives of you and your families.

The North will be stronger for your success. We wish you the best of luck.

You are a part of our community now. Please, feel at home. Know that this is now your town too, and together with us, please, make the most of what it has to offer.

Have a great winter!

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Emergency Numbers

RCMP872-1111
 Fire872-2222
 Ambulance872-3111
 Fort Smith Health Centre...872-6200

For The Family

Mary Kaeser Library.....872-2296
 Recreation and Community Centre872-4732
 Fort Smith Cooperative Nursery School.....872-4029
 L'association des francophones
 de Fort Smith.....872-2338

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Saturdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. only at the Catholic Church basement. Bring your own shopping bag. For more information call Linda at 872-2692.

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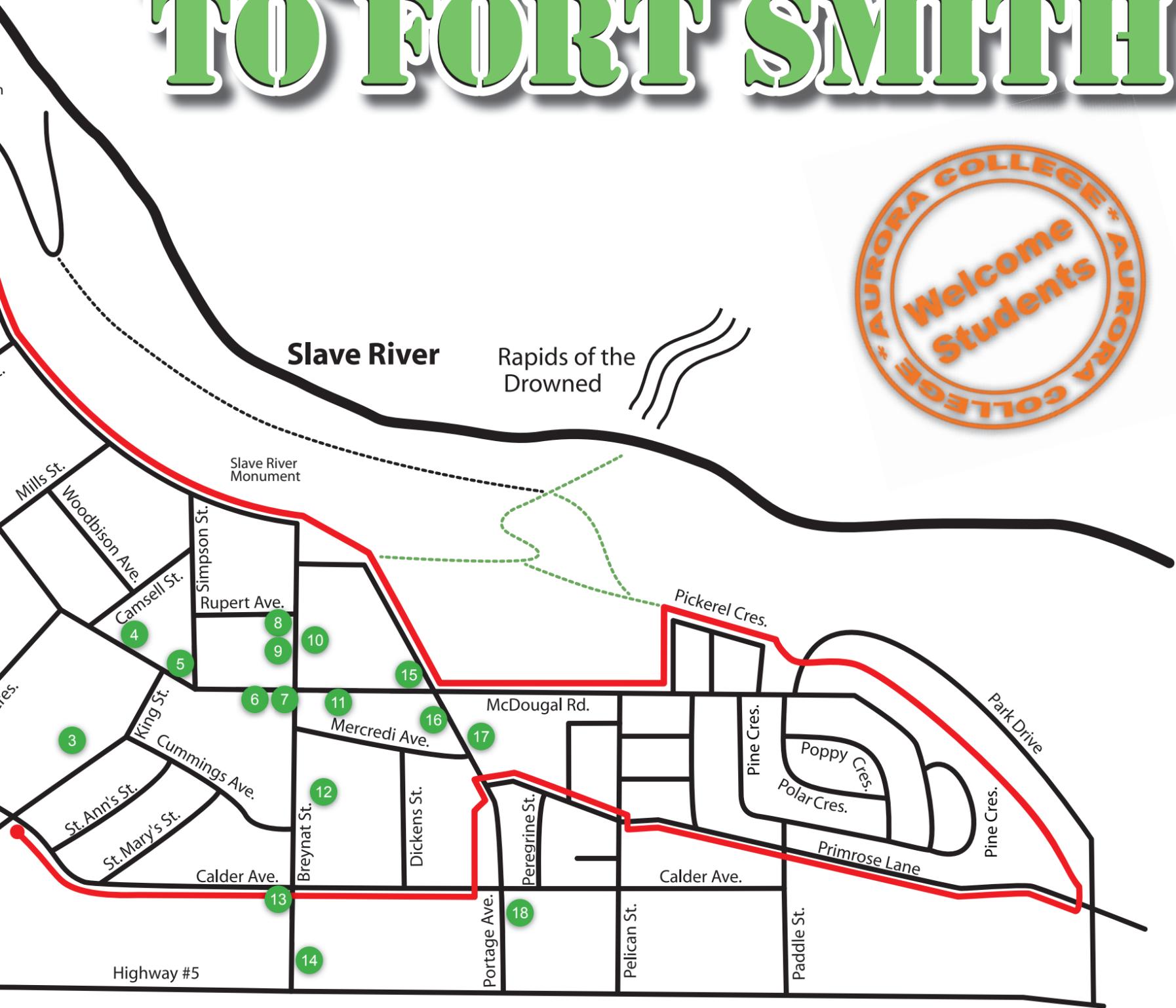
HOURS OF OPERATION
 Monday-Friday
 9:00 a.m.-7 p.m.



Legend

- 1 Aurora College
- 2 Rapid Corner Store
- 3 Rec. Centre
- 4 Office Solutions
- 4 The Northern Journal
- 5 Berro's Pizzeria
- 5 Kobaisy's Dental Clinic
- 6 Mary Kaeser Library
- 7 Wally's Drugs
- 8 Bank of Montreal
- 9 Kaeser's Groceries
- 10 Northern Groceries
- 11 Pelican Restaurant
- 12 Hospital
- 13 Anna's Home Cooking
- 13 Joan's Health & Fitness
- 14 TDC Petroleum
- 15 Post Office
- 16 Rusty Raven Gifts
- 17 Laundromat
- 18 Kelly's Convenience

AURORA COLLEGE STUDENT GUIDE TO FORT SMITH



NWT / ALBERTA Border

To Fitzgerald and Wood Buffalo National Park
To Pelican Rapids Golf and Country Club (1km) →

TDC

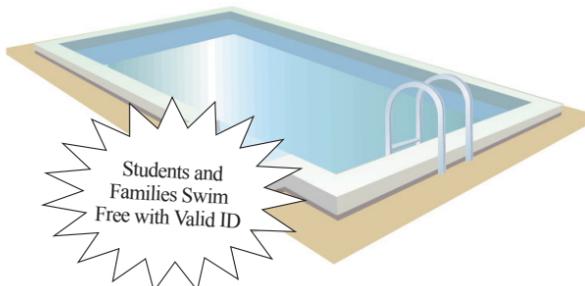
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and Community Centre



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or by phoning 872-4REC (4733).

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Message from the President

WELCOME to all new and returning students and staff to Aurora College for the 2013-14 academic year! I am pleased that you have chosen the college of the Northwest Territories to further your education. Whether you're with us for a few months or for several years, I know your time with Aurora College will be exciting and memorable, and will help prepare you for a successful future.

As long as I can remember, I have loved the beginning of a new school year. It brings with it a blank slate full of opportunity and promise: new classes, new instructors, new classmates and new challenges. The one word that always comes to mind for me is "possibility."

The new academic year provides each student with a range of possibilities and opportunities. Will you become involved in activities, committees or clubs? Will you study hard and get good grades? Will you be seeking balance: mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually? Will you invest yourself fully in your educational

experience and take advantage of everything that is offered? The choices are all up to you.

Think about what you want to get from your time at Aurora College. Think carefully, as your time will fly by quickly. Make the most of your time in ways that are meaningful for you. Take some time to write down your goals. You will find yourself being much more successful if you set goals and steps to achieve them.

My final words to you are: get involved, try new things, become part of the community, study hard, look after your health, be curious, ask questions, take advantage of

every opportunity you can, don't be afraid to ask for help, learn lots, be safe and enjoy your time at Aurora College. The best of luck to every one of you!



Jane Arychuk
President, Aurora College

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Town Council and our fellow citizens of Fort Smith, I would like to welcome the students of Aurora College and their families to our community.

Fort Smith is a vibrant, active town with many activities for families. We encourage you to make use of our trails, walkways and recreational facilities.

The Town of Fort Smith is very proud of the great facilities it operates:

- Recreation & Community Centre – swimming pool, Pete's Gym, gymnasium, squash court, fitness room, theatre, family programs, public use computers.
- Fort Smith Centennial Arena – public skating/pickup hockey are offered. Figure skating, hockey (youth, rec, ladies, oldtimers) and speedskating are offered by volunteer organizations.

- Mary Kaeser Library – a great selection of books, DVDs, music, magazines and newspapers are available to borrow, as well as programs for users and public use computers.
- Outdoor facilities – over 20 parks, playgrounds, play spaces and green spaces, including the new paved track, ball diamonds, soccer pitch, tennis courts and Thebacha Trail (paved).

Additionally, there are sports offered by organizations such as curling, golf, ski and biathlon, shooting, Cadets and a seniors centre. Historical and cultural programs are offered at Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre, Mission Park and at venues during artistic and musical events. Tours are available at Wood Buffalo National Park and Town Visitor Centre. Our business community has many offerings and we

encourage you to support local businesses.

For more information about facilities and programs, please contact 872-4732 or 872-8400 and check our website at www.fortsmith.ca.

There are also lots of opportunities to volunteer by contacting these numbers.

We look forward to meeting you and we hope you will enjoy your stay in Fort Smith.



Brad Brake
Mayor of Fort Smith



AURORA COLLEGE Welcome Week 'Building Connections'

Thebacha Campus Schedule of Activities

Pre-Welcome Week Activities

Breynat Hall Residence BBQ - Thursday, Sept. 5 at 5 pm
Aurora Gardens Residence Family BBQ - Friday, Sept. 6 at 5 pm

Monday, September 9

Welcome Ceremony with Guest Elder - Foyer at 10 am
Free Hotdog Roast - Courtyard at 12 noon (families welcome)

Tuesday, September 10

Dene Hand Games Demo
& Complimentary Lunch - Foyer at 12 noon

Wednesday, September 11

8th Annual Community Services Fair - in Foyer 11 am - 1 pm
Lunch Buffet for Sale - Foyer at 12 noon

Thursday, September 12

Welcome Week Campus BBQ - Foyer
Feeding the Fire and Elders' Prayer at 4 pm
Feast begins at 4:30 pm

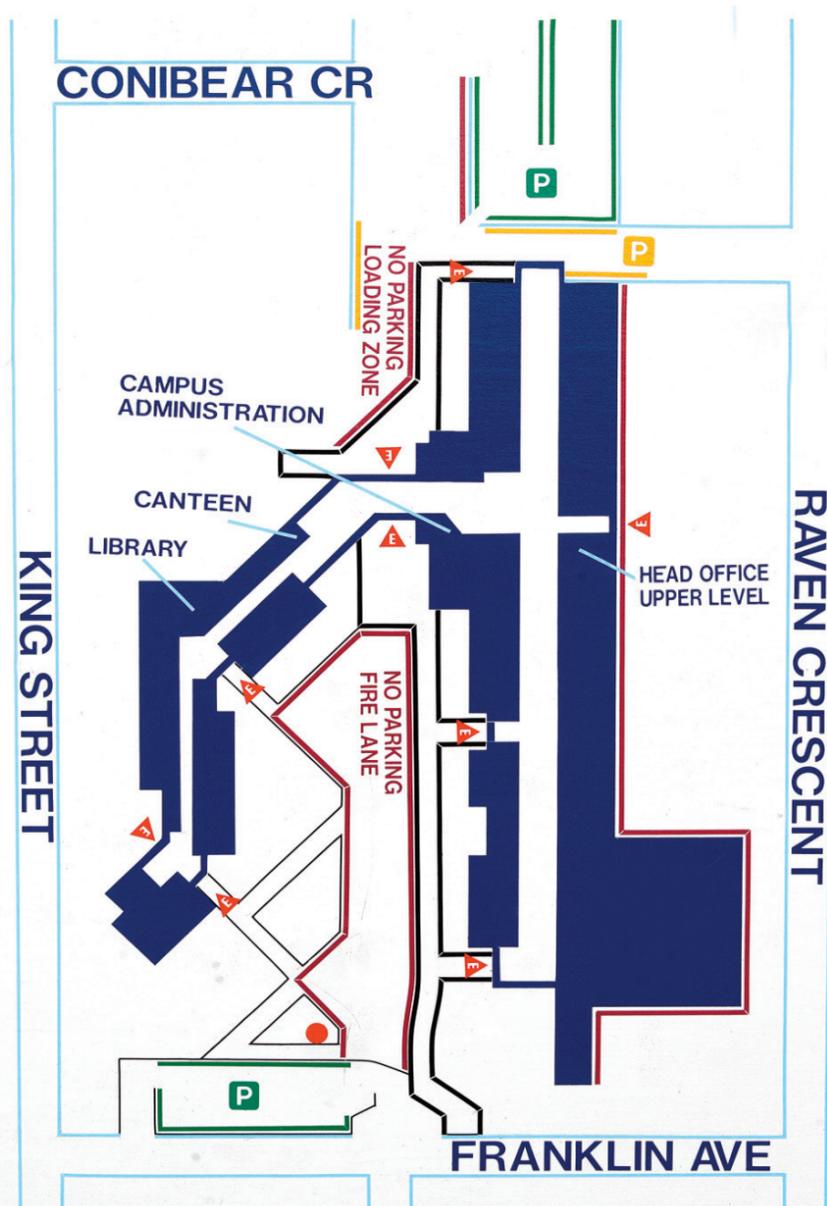
Friday, September 13

Closing Ceremony at 10 am
Family Hike & Cookout at 4:30 pm (location TBD)

For more information,
contact Glenn Bourke
at (867) 872-7500

www.auroracollege.nt.ca

Thebacha College Map



Hay River youth centre to launch nutrition program

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The Hay River Youth Centre is looking to gather all young foodies for a new nutrition program that will not only offer workshops on how to eat better, but also hands-on lessons right in the kitchen.

"It's all based around cooking because we've noticed youth are consistently interested in food and food issues," Alice Coates, a youth centre volunteer, said. "In Hay River, where there are so many people passionate about locally grown, hunted and trapped food, it's not overly surprising."

Volunteers such as Coates are getting things underway to bring the program, appropriately titled For the Love of Food!, to the centre by the end of October, but they need help. "Base wise, we need at least \$5,000 we think for supplies and everything," Coates told *The Journal*. "But if we don't get that, that doesn't mean we're not going to run the program. Every little bit helps and we plan to make this happen with whatever we get."

For the Love of Food! applied for a spot on the Field Law Community Fund Program, a "pay it forward"



Photo: Alice Coates

Girls from the Hay River Youth Centre give a thumbs up during winter activities earlier this year. Alice Coates, a volunteer with the centre, says they've noticed a high interest in food and cooking from the youth over recent years.

initiative for Alberta and the North that will give out \$15,000 to the NWT project that receives the most on-line votes.

As of Monday, 248 votes had been placed. Voting closes Aug. 31 and winners will be announced sometime in September.

For the Love of Food! will run two times a week. One class will take place in the newly renovated Diamond Jenness high school's scullery where teens can get messy mixing up the food groups, creating meals and healthy

snacks from scratch, and gathering new recipes from others in the community.

"Cooking skills often don't have a place to grow with youth," Coates said. "They maybe know how to make cookies, but not how to prepare fish for dinner, things like that. Our cooking classes will get kids thinking about where their food comes from, too."

Sourcing food and economics will have a strong place in the program to give youth the life skills needed to make wise decisions when it comes to nourishment and

providing for families in the future, Coates said.

"We want to look into food knowledge, too, and how to budget for healthy food for a family - things everyone struggles to do and are not always conscious of when they're at the supermarket... We approached a local dietitian and she was thrilled about it. She mentioned how there is quite the problem with early-set, type two diabetes in adults as young as 30."

Topics such as diabetes would be discussed at the second weekly session

We want to look into food knowledge, too, and how to budget for healthy food for a family - things everyone struggles to do and are not always conscious of when they're at the supermarket.

*Alice Coates
Hay River Youth Centre*

presented by the project, held in a classroom-type setting at the youth centre.

There will be room for 20-25 students per session. Many community groups have also expressed an interest in partnering with the program, Coates said.

Lights On, a community organization providing safe Saturday evening activities to at-risk youth, is already on board.

The project also proposes working with local health-care professionals, parents, hunters, trappers, fishermen/

women and Aboriginal elders around Hay River to establish a "link between understanding nutrition, confidence in the kitchen (and balancing household budget) and improved health throughout life" for kids, reads the project's mandate online.

About 150 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18 walk through the youth centre's door each week.

To vote for the project, visit www.fielddlawcommunityfund.com/ideas/for-the-love-of-food.

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The rains stopped around 10:00 p.m. and the clouds parted an hour after to reveal a beautiful, star-speckled sky and silvery moon - perfect for Dark Sky Festival viewers.

Science & Technology Astronomy

Stormy clouds part for Dark Sky Festival

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR
The Dark Sky Festival in Wood Buffalo National Park saw a larger turnout this year, following recent news that

the park is now the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada earlier this month.

Over 80 people registered for the second annual festival celebrating astronomy and all things space and science through a series of telescope



Mike Couvrette, chair of the Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Astronomical Society, fine tunes one of the telescopes during the second annual Dark Sky Festival at Pine Lake.



Over 30 children unleash their creative sides at the cosmic t-shirt craft station where they learn about the effects of rubbing alcohol when mixed with ink.

the park is now the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada earlier this month.

Over 80 people registered for the second annual festival celebrating astronomy and all things space and science through a series of telescope

(and one new solarscope) viewings, workshops and fun activities.

Last year there were 20 registrants.

"The designation has certainly helped with our numbers," said Mike Couvrette, chair of the Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Astronomical Society (TAWBAS), the body that presents the festival. "We've had five more members over just the last two weeks."

For the first time, the festival hosted constellation storytelling in a massive, inflatable planetarium shipped up from the Telus World of Science Centre in Edmonton at the Fort Smith recreation centre on Friday - a popular event for families and children, Couvrette said.

There was also a space and science fair at the main festival site at Pine Lake in Wood Buffalo National Park on Saturday afternoon. The fair was open to the public and featured a cosmic t-shirt creation station and film-canister bottle rocket launching among other activities that were fun for all ages.

Genevieve Côté and John Blyth of the Fort Smith Paddling club were on site with kayaks, canoes and the popular stand up paddle board for more fun times in the water. As the afternoon drew to a close, the skies darkened and the festival received a downpour - just in time for their barbecue (complete with jello resembling the universe).

"But that didn't dampen people's spirits," Helena Katz,

a TAWBAS member, said. "Folks were running around wearing glow sticks around their necks, heads, ankles and wrists. The festival area looked like a happy little glow stick village against the dark sky."

Around 11:30 p.m. the clouds parted, Katz said, revealing "beautiful, dancing aurora" just above the festival's tents and a bright moon that lit up the still lake.

Everyone took turns peering through the various collection of telescopes to see the moon up close.

Couvrette said he hopes the many families who came out to the festival left with a better understanding of the night sky and maybe even the ability to pick out a constellation or two on their own.

Deh Cho Bridge to open with party Nov. 30
Who will be the first to cross remains the final surprise

Northern inmates get first visit from TRC
North Slave first in Canada to open doors to commissioner

NWT rivers lose protection under new bill
MP critic 'dism' over lack of protection for Slave River

Keeping language and culture alive
Cultural ambassadors thankful for preserving heritage

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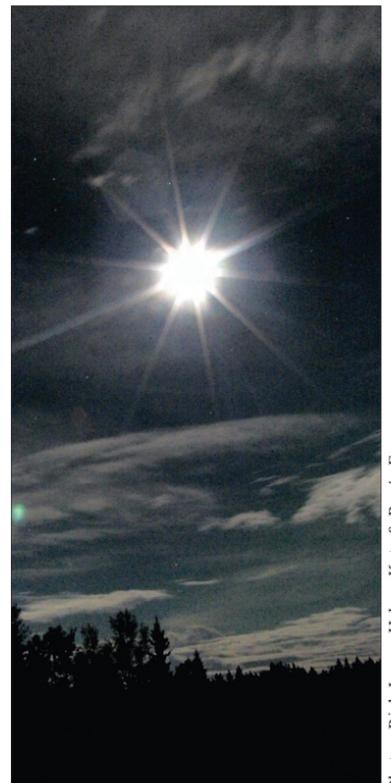
NWT, Nunavut launch first mandatory residential schools curriculum

Deline concludes self-government talks
First in the NWT for community self-government agreement

PM opens new NWT national park reserve
Harper beats sovereignty drum on Northern tour



Lynn Napier-Buckley launches a rocket Saturday afternoon just before a downpour as part of the space and science fair at Pine Lake.



The bright moon casts its light over the group of astronomers - some of whom stayed up until 3:00 a.m.



A greenhouse teeters on the edge after the devastating landslide in Fort Smith on Aug. 9, 1968 that took one life.



The Jones' garden is cut in half. Baby's breath still growing in the area today are remnants from the gardens that fell down.



The old NT Power Corp. building is also ruined by the slide, which gobbled up many NTPC pipes and equipment.



Only a wall stands as a house balances on the unstable edge.



A view from the west reveals a mountain of sliding, sandy soil and damage below, including a shed and fences.

Photos courtesy of John Dougherty

Arts & Culture Heritage

Fort Smith residents want 1968 landslide commemoration

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A devastating landslide ravaged part of the Slave River shoreline and a residential section of Fort Smith 45 years ago this month.

It was a natural disaster and monumental tragedy for the small town, sweeping away three houses, a greenhouse, shed and part of the power plant. It also took one life on that shattering evening of Aug. 9, 1968.

Kay Ferguson was a woman beloved by the community for her tireless volunteering and compassionate personality, said Toni Heron, who was a neighbour and 20 years old at the time of the disaster. Ferguson was killed when the earth gave out underneath her home. According to a newspaper article at the time, her body was found under the wreckage 80 hours later.

"It changed a lot of lives," Heron, the manager at Queen Elizabeth Campground in Fort Smith, said. "It changed the landscape of the community."

Heron is urging the community and town council to do "something" to honour Ferguson's memory and commemorate the horrific event that left such a scar.

"It's still fresh in the minds of those who were here. You still have nightmares of that day. It will never be forgotten and it can't be forgotten...It should be something that is told to the next generation, because it happened here - it happened to us," Heron said. "When you go to the river, you know something took place there...I have

so many tourists that have questions about the steep edges of the bank and there's just a little blurb about the landslide at the Lookout. There needs to be more because memory is in the mind and if it's

I saw the ground giving way and the trees going down like tooth picks. It was horrible.

Toni Heron

not spoken it is forever forgotten."

For Heron, an eyewitness, the landslide is still a poignant memory. She was on her way to the old baseball field to meet her husband and had just turned the corner into her parents' house when she heard a thunderous noise and turned to see the Ferguson house had disappeared.

"I remember as if it was yesterday. It had stopped raining and was clear that evening; everything seemed so peaceful," she said. "I suddenly heard a loud thud and turned to see the power lines swaying. Thinking Billy Bourque must have hit a telephone pole, I ran to the corner to check the road and saw nothing but an empty space. I was shocked and began to scream."

Heron ran to the edge of the hill and all that was left of the Ferguson house were the stairs leading up to the

front door. The Ferguson dog was running up and down the stairs in a panic; it's an image that has stayed with her all these years, Heron said.

"I saw the ground giving way and the trees going down

like tooth picks. It was horrible. I felt so helpless as I watched Mr. Ferguson speed into his driveway, getting out, looking, then getting back in and speeding down the road that went towards the bottom of the hill," she said.

Afterwards, many of the residents along the bank were relocated from the unsafe neighbourhood known as "Indian Village" to elsewhere in town, Heron said.

"Many of us had come from Fort Fitzgerald to the Indian Village...It was a happy place, with gardens and kids running around and many berry bushes," she said. "It was torn apart - children were removed from a familiar place - and people were forced to move again and start all over."

There had been a road going directly down to the river, where boats docked and float planes landed.

"You'd never know that all had been there now by

looking at it," Heron said.

Heron's call for something to be done in memory has not gone unheard, as seen through the Facebook comments on her recent post about the anniversary.

Many shared their own memories of that day, recalling the baseball game that was going on and how the Jones' garden was sliced in half by the slide. Shannon Coleman was only 4 years old, but said she remembers that day clearly. Wilfred Paulette, who was 8 at the time, and Mary Benwell commented how sad it was to see the end of Indian Village, with neighbours scattered across Fort Smith.

Heron wanted to have a barbecue or a least a small gathering at the Lookout to remember the landslide this Aug. 9, but with so many things going on and people on summer vacations,

nothing panned out, she said.

Next year, she wants to make sure that doesn't happen again, so she's on the hunt for interested members to start a committee that could brainstorm ideas on the best ways to commemorate the landslide.

"It would be great to have a big rock with a plaque on it to honour Mrs. Ferguson and symbolize strength and foundation. Also a billboard that tells the story of what happened with photos set up at the site would be awesome," Heron said. "We'd like there to be a full-day event on Aug. 9 with a community feast and incorporate a kind of Fort Smith homecoming into it for everyone who has moved away. There could be a CD with photos and a book that's a collection of people's stories and memories from the landslide. But I want to

hear more ideas from others, too."

Mayor Brad Brake said he agrees that something should be done.

"I think that if a group of community members came up with a suggestion such as a monument or a plaque that explains the event and commemorates the loss of life that happened it could be entertained by council in its next round of budget deliberations, which will begin in the next month or so. This would allow us to budget some funds for such a project," Brake said in an email. "I feel that given the significance of the event we should have some acknowledgement of the landslide as it affected the entire town."

As to why there was zero activity this year to celebrate the 45th anniversary, Brake said nothing formal was brought before town council within an appropriate time span to plan something.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



of the Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board

When: Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Where: Cumberland Room, Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife

For further information, contact Mark Fenwick at (867) 766-3682.

COMMUNITY TRADING POST

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Announcements

NOMINATE OUTSTANDING local volunteers for the provincial Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards! Deadline for nominations is September 16, 2013. Full details at culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars.

Auctions

MEIER GUN AUCTION. Saturday, August 31, 11 a.m., 6016 - 72A Ave., Edmonton. Over 150 guns - Handguns, rifles, shotguns, wildlife mounts, hunting and fishing equipment. To consign 780-440-1860.

MEIER-2 DAY Classic Car & Truck Auction. Saturday & Sunday, September 21 & 22, 11 a.m. both days. 6016 - 72A

Ave., Edmonton. Consign today, call 780-440-1860.

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COLLECTOR CAR AUCTION. 6TH Annual Red Deer Fall Finale. September 20 - 21, Westerner Park. Last year sold 77%. Only 100 spaces available. Consign today. 403-396-0304. Toll free 1-888-296-0528 ext. 102; www.egauctions.com.

SUNTAIRA GROWERS INC. Greenhouse Auction, Trochu, Alberta. Sat., September 7, 10 a.m. 11 greenhouses, equipment & supplies, 2010 Case 430 skid steer, 2011 T/A 18' trailer, White 1370 tractor, acreage & lawn equipment, vehicles, grain bin, coal boilers, shop tools & more. See montgomeryauctions.com or call 1-800-371-6963.

BANKRUPTCY AUCTION. Swarm Enterprises Printing & Embroidery Shop. High volume copying, large format printing & laminating. Thursday, September 5, 81 Ave. - 45 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Foothills Equipment Liquidation, 780-922-6090; www.foothillsauctions.com. Bidspotter online bidding & live.

AUCTION SALE. Dispersal for Double B Logging. Saturday, September 7, 2013, 10 a.m., Whitecourt, Alberta. Check website for listings: www.rainbowauctions.ca. Sale conducted by: Rainbow Liquidators and Auctions, Stony Plain, Alberta, 780-968-1000.

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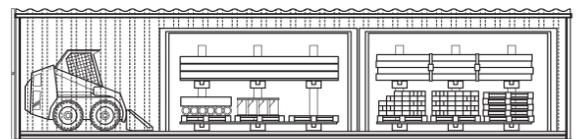
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Fort Smith's Friendship Festival to make comeback

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

The celebrated South Slave Friendship Festival may have been cancelled this year - on what would have been its 25th anniversary - but the annual summer music fiesta isn't on any permanent type of hiatus, according to organizers.

"There's been a lot of recent discussion going on about what to do next year," said organizer George Kurszewski, one of the three "founding fathers" of the festival. "The festival would not have been possible all these years if it wasn't for the volunteers, and there's still a willingness among the volunteers to make it happen and look at the best way we can do it next year."

According to Kurszewski, the show will go on with the 25th Friendship Festival officially being celebrated next August.

The fire at the community's arena in May sealed the deal when it came to the cancellation, he said. The completely volunteer-run festival hosts its "Super Shaker" dance there every year, an event that covers a huge percentage of overall costs.



George Kurszewski, behind on the drums, takes part in the 2012 South Slave Friendship Festival in Fort Smith

to cover their costs when they're here."

While the team is still working out the details for how to make next year's festival extra special, Kurszewski said they will be looking into other options if the arena is not available by summer 2014.

The festival started out as a reunion and homecoming type of celebration in the high school gym, according to Kurszewski, who established it along with Pat Burke and Dennis Bevington.

"We had about 10 bands or so...People really liked it and wanted something similar the next year, so we put it on again and it took off from there."

The Friendship Festival wasn't the only summer summer party cancelled this year. Earlier in July, Fort Providence's Mackenzie Daze, which features jiggging, canoe races, handgames and more, was also squashed. It would have been celebrating its 40th year.

"It may be a bit stressful running things," Kurszewski said, "but the music makes it worth it in the end."

"Without the arena, things really weren't looking good," Kurszewski said. "We'd have to make it a smaller event, bring in less musicians, and for the 25th anniversary we really didn't want to do that...We decided to postpone things, take this time to reorganize and re-evaluate."

A fire in early 2012 in Conibear park - home to the festival headquarters - hasn't made things easy, either, he added. The festival

crew lost all its files, computer, performers' contact lists, tents, office supplies and new kitchen cabinets, among other things.

The four-day celebration is one of the town's biggest highlights, drawing musicians from across the Northwest Territories and beyond, many of whom once lived in Fort Smith or have some connection to the community on the Slave River's shores.

"One year we had up to 130 musicians who came to town for the festival," Kurszewski said. "It's not like Folk on the Rocks - there's no headlining act; there's no main stage. Everyone is equal and gets equal time. It really does promote the friendship component that way."

Audiences were treated for the past 24 years to a range of music, from traditional drumming to country crooners to jams from

old school rock and rollers, punk numbers and jazzy blues melodies.

"There's really something for everyone," Kurszewski, who used to play in many local bands himself, said. "Performers come back year after year. People plan their family vacations around it...The musicians really step up and help us out when we need it...It's so important for us to raise enough revenue

Photo: Don Jaque



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK the following people, and organizations, for their help in making this year's End of the Road music festival **A GREAT SUCCESS.**

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Especially to the volunteers who made this event such a success! We could not have done it without every single one of you!

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Comedian "Gramma Suzy" makes Keenan Carpenter blush as she tells the crowd how handsome she thinks the young Inuvik drummer and dancer is.

Arts & Culture Festivals

Tunes on full blast at End of the Road festival

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

Inuvik's 10th annual End of the Road Music Festival had the community breaking into song as crowds gathered over the weekend for good music and a drop of comedy. "What a magical night," country singer/songwriter Jason Kirkness from Manitoba, the headlining act for the three-day event, tweeted Sunday afternoon.

The celebration kicked off Friday at the curling rink with a talent show where the grand prize winner took home \$500 in cash. Saturday featured a community barbecue prepared by Jerome

Gordon and the festival's first "family day" in Jim Koe park, with a number of children's games and face painting for all ages.

Weekend performers included Louie Goose and the Big River Band, Delta Flood, James Rogers, Mumford and Friends and rockers Priscilla's Revenge.

The Inuvik Drummers and Dancers, the charming Fort McPherson Youth Dancers and many other special guests also made attention-grabbing appearances, belting it out and making the walls of the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex shake.

Leanne Goose, president of the festival's board and talented vocalist, grabbed a mic too, and gave a big thumbs up to Frannie Klein, who joined Kirkness, as "an amazing up-and-comer."

For comic relief, audiences were served up a bellyful of laughs from Northern comedy act Gramma Suzy - sporting her trademark red kerchief - and Grampa Charlie.

The festival wound down Sunday evening at the Royal Canadian Legion with the "monster jam," also known as the open mic night and volunteer appreciation celebration.



Up-and-coming performer Frannie Klein from Manitoba joins headlining solo artist Jason Kirkness (left) on stage for a country tune Saturday night at the End of the Road festival.



Children from the Fort McPherson Youth Dancers share a laugh as they perform entertaining traditional dances in front of a packed crowd Saturday afternoon.



Jimmy Kalenik of the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers is light on his feet during a performance at the Midnight Sun Recreation Centre.



Inuvik fiddler James Rogers strikes up a knee-slapping melody Saturday night.

Sports & Recreation Paddling

Paddling pioneer honoured at Latham Island race

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Sixty-five paddlers in 39 kayaks and canoes circumnavigated Latham Island Sunday afternoon, many of them introduced to traditional Canadian watercraft by Cathy Allooloo, who was honoured following the annual event.

Yellowknife mayor Mark Heyck was at the barbecue to recognize Allooloo on behalf of the NWT Kayak Association, where he presented her with a soapstone carving of an Inuit woman with a baby on her back in an amouti.

In her career as an outfitter, which spans decades, Allooloo has imparted canoe and kayak skills, along with confidence on the water, to hundreds of appreciative paddlers.



Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck awards outfitter Cathy Allooloo for decades of contributions to the paddling community.

"Cathy's name is practically synonymous with paddling in the Northwest Territories," Heyck said.

The sixth annual "informal" Latham Island Paddle is all about bragging rights and having a good time, with

Cathy's name is practically synonymous with paddling in the Northwest Territories.
Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck

no big prizes other than the chance to mingle at a barbecue after and maybe win some swag.

Philip Boulton and Yellowknife city councillor Dan Wong crossed the finish line in McMeekan Channel in 26 minutes, 42 seconds - the best time for a canoe.

"It was challenging to keep your balance and deliver power," Wong said, describing the brisk east wind that dogged paddlers on the first leg of the race along the east shore of the island.

"But my bow partner is a machine; I just flipped the 'on' switch and that took care of it."

Boulton praised the sleek Kevlar canoe they paddled.

"It cut through the waters well," he said, "and I think that gave us an advantage."

It wasn't enough to beat kayaker Denis Légère, though, who crossed the finish line first in 26 minutes, four seconds.

"It was a great event," he said. Last year, Légère finished a scant two seconds out of first place honours.

"This year the wind made the race completely different; a lot of energy was spent on the first leg," he said, and headed for the barbecue where the event sponsors, the Yellowknife Multi-Sport Club and Sombe K'e Paddling Club, were dishing out burgers and hotdogs.

Tulita moose skin boat ready for take-off

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

An impressive recreation of bygone times is set to cascade down the Mackenzie River this week.

Tulita elders and community members have been working long hours every day for the past three weeks to create a traditionally built moose skin boat. The boat is scheduled to make its star appearance via waterway at the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. Annual General Meeting in Tulita on Tuesday.

"Traditionally, it's so significant for the community. It's about bringing back the tradition and keeping it, making sure it's not lost," said Sasha Doctor, who is helping coordinate the project. "It's been so long since we've had a boat come down from that area. There was a moose skin boat built a couple years ago, but it was a smaller version and it was built just at the school... We want the families and the youth to be a part of this, especially the youth, so it will continue on."

In the past, the Dene of Tulita were well known for their moose skin boat-making skills. These huge vessels were used for hundreds of years by the



A large group of Tulita community members, youth and elders show off their hand made moose skin boat, ready to hit the water after weeks of building.

Mountain Dene to transport people and trade goods through the challenging Mackenzie Mountains. A similar boat, called "the last moose skin boat," is on display in Yellowknife at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

The intense, sweat-inducing construction of this boat is taking place in a traditionally-known, pristine little hideaway on the Keele River, up from the sacred site of Red Dog Mountain, close

to a place known in Tulita as "the Whirlpool."

Groups arrived at the spot in nine jet boats on Aug. 8. About eight elders were flown out by helicopter the next day to join the process of selecting the proper trees to make the wooden frame and to scrape and clean the moose hides.

According to Doctor, with the rapids and landscape, it can take up to seven hours to make it to the Whirlpool by boat. The way back, however,

only takes about 3.5 hours.

Tulita Chief Frank Andrew is also out on the land, helping stretch the hide, as well as Jessie Campbell, a local teacher who helped source and gather many of the materials needed for the project. They are joined by many youth and Husky Energy representatives, as Husky is the main company sponsoring the undertaking.

"A project like this requires many dollars, especially when they are all camped out there. Husky was a big part in that and local businesses really chipped in, too," Doctor said.

"They are putting in long hours - seven to eight hours a day - to get this boat ready."

Much of the material came from surrounding communities, including the babiche or sinew, made of rawhide. Staff and students at Chief Albert Wright School in Tulita collected the moose hides from local hunters over the past several months, as well.

As of last week, the skeleton of the frame - made of spruce trees - was in place and the group was working on sewing the moose skins together with sinew to stretch

across the frame, Doctor said.

Doctor said one boat - which can be up to 60 feet long - uses about nine to 10 moose hides.

As to plans for the boat after its journey to the Sahtu meeting, nothing has been confirmed, Doctor said.

"There is the museum in Norman Wells, but because of the size of the boat, it can't hold it, so it's still up in the air as to what will be done with it."

As of press time, it was still being discussed who would be travelling in the boat to Tulita.

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Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources



Fort Smith Conservation Association

Fort Smith family swaps wildfire hotspots

Johnsons in Idaho, ready to leave continent for trip around the world

By RENÉE FRANCOEUR

A Fort Smith family has kicked off an international year of travel, spending most of the month of August in Idaho before boarding a plane bound for Nicaragua next week.

Kirsten Bradley, Kris Johnson and their two sons, Olie and Finn, will be globetrotting for the next 12 months, watching sea turtles nest in Costa Rica, exploring craters and underground tunnels in the Galapagos Islands and volunteering in Assam, India.

For Johnson, the fire science manager with the Northwest Territories' Forest Management Division, the first leg of the journey was almost like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. He wrapped up his NWT fire season only to hop into a state being ravaged by the monster Beaver Creek wildfire, which has eaten up over 108,000 acres of timber and brush and caused hundreds of evacuations in the swanky resort region of central Idaho since the blaze took off on Aug. 7.

"If I was a fire cause investigator, I would start wondering," he told *The Journal*. "It seems everywhere I go there are big fires...Now that I am here in Idaho, Kirsten is doing



Left to right, Kris Johnson, Kirsten Bradley and their two boys, Finn and Olie, prepare to pedal the Hiawatha bike trail near Wallace, Idaho earlier this month, as the family kicks off their 14-month globe trotting journey.

Photo courtesy of Kirsten Bradley

a fine job keeping me away from burning trees."

Bradley said the Beaver Creek fire and various other blazes sparking in the dried-up state have not impacted the family, who have spent the majority of their time in northern Idaho.

"The fires are really far away from us; we don't even have smoke where we are," Bradley said.

The family still managed to get its share of fire activity, however, through hot tourist spots such as hiking the Pulaski Trail on the weekend of Aug. 16, a

route historically known as the place where "Big Ed" Pulaski saved all but six of his 45-man firefighting crew in the devastating forest fire of August 1910.

"While hiking the Pulaski trail - commemorating the 1910 wildfires - I heard that the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise upped the national wildfire preparedness level to the highest level for the first time in five years and that the US has spent more than a billion dollars already this fire season," Johnson said.

The family also toured Wallace, the hometown of

Pulaski, who was an assistant ranger with the United States Forest Service. Pulaski invented the special hand axe used in wildfire fighting which is named after him.

Global venture not without initial challenges

The boys and their parents are also doing plenty of swimming, biking and paddling McAbee Falls on the Priest River, Bradley noted.

"We went to Wallace to bike the route of the Hiawatha bike trail, which is a great trail that

used to be a railroad. It's really beautiful with tonnes of tunnels and trestle bridges," Bradley said. "The trail is 26 km and both boys rode the whole thing - it was awesome. The first tunnel is 2.5 km long and it's totally black inside there. We bought our flashlights at the dollar store, but I think that next time I'd like to try real bike lights."

While the trip started off rocky - including a speeding ticket near Enterprise, a vehicle breakdown outside Peace River on the August long weekend and a minor

collision with Bambi right after the truck was finally repaired - it's been smooth sailing since, Bradley said.

She is most looking forward to the volunteering they will be doing in India.

"We'll be helping to build a new organic demonstration garden at a school there. I think that staying in one place for a while and working with Indian families and children will be a real eye opener for the kids. For all of us, really," she said.

The couple hopes the adventure will help stretch their sons' comfort zones and expose them to new cultures and languages.

"I really hope that the boys come away with a deeper understanding of how lucky we are as a family, as Northerners and as Canadians," Johnson said.

"Most people in the world don't live like us. I hope the boys come away from the trip realizing that we don't need as much stuff to be happy. I think that experiences are more important than possessions, and I hope that the boys feel the same by the end of the trip," Bradley added. "Also, I hope they start to understand that because we do have so much wealth in North America, we have some responsibility to look after the Earth and help other folks out."



Annual General Meeting

NOTICE

OF GENERAL MEETING DATES FOR ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION MEMBERS

- August 27, 2013 - Edmonton
Chateau Nova (Blatchford Rm)
- August 28, 2013 - Fort McMurray
Merit Hotel (Emerald Rm)
- September 3, 2013 - Fort Chipewyan
E/Y Lodge
- September 4, 2013 - Fort Smith, NT
Roaring Rapids Hall

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.



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- Gardening supplies and tools

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