



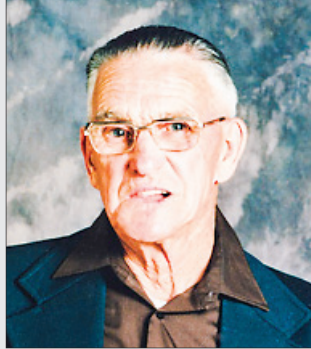
Shifting Shores: The City is poised to become dominant waterfront owner in Yellowknife. See page 13.



Critics ask for obligatory fracking fluids disclosure
The Council of Canadians' NWT chapter is concerned that NWT's environment minister is letting fracking companies off the hook. See page 2.



CNRL confident future bitumen leaks solvable
The company behind the Cold Lake bitumen leaks says it is confident the cause was well-bore failures and is "totally solvable." See page 6.



Author uses Twitter to tell tale of Trapper Bud
A Canadian author is using Twitter to publish the diary adventures of his grandfather and NWT trapper, Cyril "Bud" Murphy. See page 9.



Fort Smith actor recognized at L.A. Film Fest
Joel Evans from Fort Smith has beaten out celebrities to win the title of outstanding actor for his role in *The Lesser Blessed*. See page 19.

NORTHERN Journal

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Pressure Ridge Powder: A kite skier enjoys a warm spring day near a pressure ridge on the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, approximately 18 km from Yellowknife. The photo, taken by Kevin Klingbiel of Yellowknife, is one of the winning entries in CPAWS' Love the Land photo contest, featured on pages 10-11.

Alberta's top doc confirms toxins in coal slurry heading down Athabasca River

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
With Alberta Environment following one of the largest coal tailings spills in North American history, the province's Chief Medical Officer piped up last week, confirming toxic levels of hydrocarbons and metals have polluted the water and raising the ire of opposition in legislature.
Dr. James Talbot revealed water quality test results last week, highlighting alarming

concentrations of heavy metals and cancer-linked polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).
Mercy levels were reported as being nine times higher than normal and PAHs four times the allowable limits for Canadian drinking water.
A tailings pond at Sterritt International's Obed Mountain coal mine near Hinton burst on Oct. 31, releasing one billion litres of slurry into the Athabasca River system.
The provincial government

previously confirmed "impacts" to fish and fish habitat, but refused to divulge specifics, stating a full investigation would be done in the spring after being postponed by winter weather.
Though neither Alberta Health nor Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development (ESRD) responded to requests for comment last week, communities are being advised not to drink the water from the river as the plume is passing by.

Community water treatment plants were given enough notice that none drew from the polluted river water, and the water following the plume has largely returned to normal, according to Alberta Health.
The mine's tailings, which included coal dust and sediments in process-affected water, potentially contained damaging hydrocarbons and metals, including arsenic, mercury, cadmium, lead and manganese, according to Environment Canada.

According to Alberta Health's data, water immediately near the plume had levels of benzo (a) pyrene, a PAH linked to elevated rates of skin cancers and reproductive disorders, of 0.01 micrograms per litre, or four times the Canadian drinking water standard.
Though mercury levels were nine times higher than baseline data, they were still within allowable limits for human consumption.
See Coal on page 3.

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ENR seeks moose meat waster

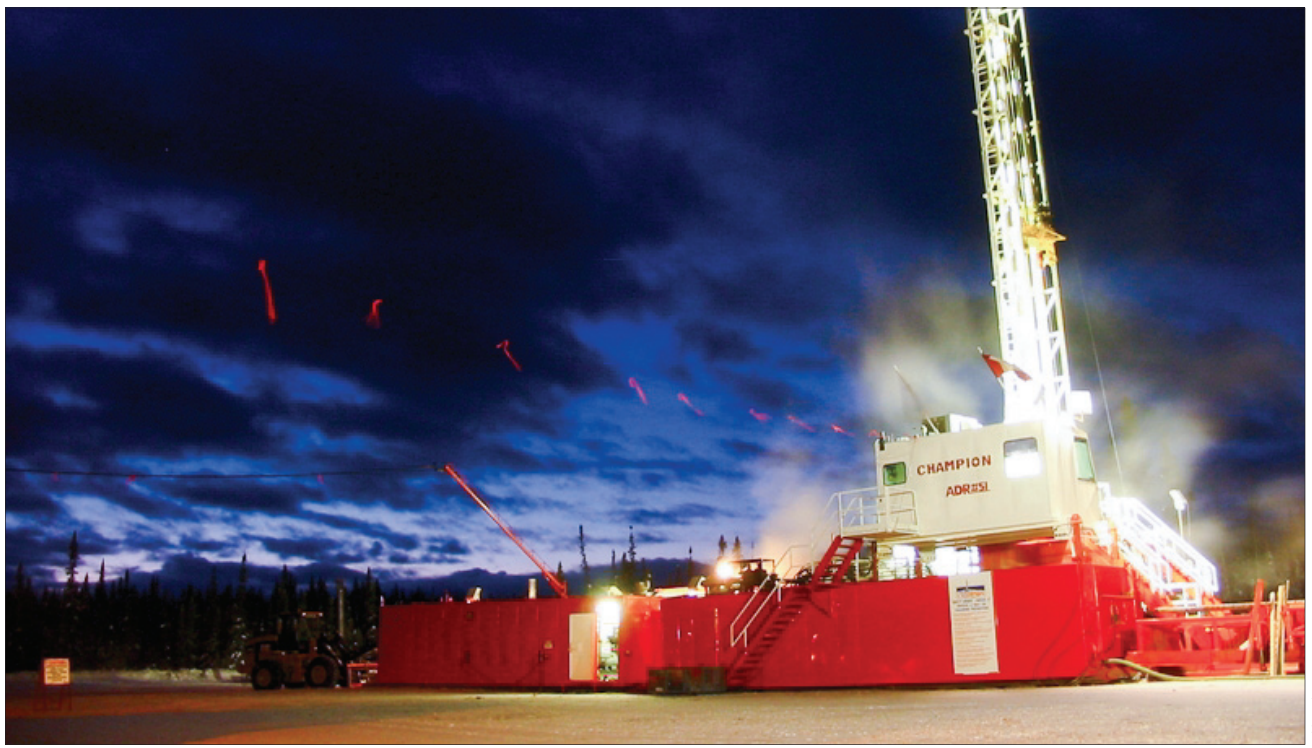
The department of Environment and Natural Resources has appealed to the public for help finding those responsible for wasting moose meat after a rump of a moose, including part of the backstrap and tenderloin, was found dumped at the Yellowknife Sand Pits in late October. According to NWT law, it's illegal to waste, destroy, abandon or allow to spoil any meat from big game, except the head, lower legs, internals and meat damaged from the gunshot. ENR officers believe the moose abandoned was harvested this fall and ask that anyone with information contact their North Slave office at 873-7181 or the Report a Poacher toll-free line at 1-866-762-2437.

TRC mandate extended by one year

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has been given a one-year extension to complete its mandate of finding a resolution to the legacy of Indian Residential Schools, according to a statement from Bernard Valcourt, minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. The government granted the extension at the request of the TRC, which will now have until June 30, 2015 to finish reports and access government documents held at Library and Archives Canada. The TRC was formed in 2008 as part of the court-ordered Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

NWT MP appointed Arctic Council critic

Dennis Bevington, NDP MP for the Western Arctic, has been appointed the official Opposition critic for the Arctic Council. In a statement following the appointment, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair said the party recognizes the Canadian Arctic will play a major role in the future of Canada. Nunavut MP Leona Aglukkaq is the Conservative MP responsible for the Arctic Council, which is currently under Canadian chairmanship until 2015. Bevington will take on the role of Arctic Council critic in addition to his current position as official Opposition critic for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. The Arctic Council, established in 1996, is an intergovernmental forum of Arctic States, indigenous communities and Arctic inhabitants to promote cooperation and work towards common goals.



A shale oil rig horizontally fracks north of Fort Nelson in the Horn River Basin of northeastern British Columbia.

Environment Fracking

Frac fluid disclosure must be obligatory, critics warn

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT's environment minister may be convinced that voluntary disclosure of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing is sufficient, but critics of the controversial method of petroleum extraction say industry's short track record in the North is already pointing away from transparency.

Peter Redvers, co-chair of the Council of Canadians' NWT chapter, said the entire debate over frac fluid disclosure arose in the territory because oil company ConocoPhillips, recently approved to drill two exploratory fracking wells in the Sahtu region, asked permission to keep some chemicals secret through a proprietary rights clause.

"There will be some privilege taken with respect to trade secrecy because it was ConocoPhillips that asked for that. After the draft license was floated, ConocoPhillips indicated that it would be wanting to withhold information and the Sahtu Land and Water Board essentially agreed to that in the final permit," Redvers said.

New filing requirements laid out by the National Energy Board (NEB), which is currently tasked with regulating fracking in the NWT, do not obligate companies to disclose the chemical makeup of their frac fluids, but instead make the decision a voluntary one.

Though ConocoPhillips has promised publicly to disclose the chemicals it plans to use in the Sahtu, along with the list of chemicals used after each frac, Redvers said he simply does not believe that information will be to the detail the public wants.

"We know that ConocoPhillips is not particularly open to revealing those chemicals to the extent that we want, which is the full chemical analysis as well as the volume," he said. "Voluntary just doesn't cut it. It's not reasonable that citizens of the NWT should have to rely on the generosity and goodwill of companies to disclose what it is they're

doing on the land because, frankly, the record hasn't been all that great in that area. Disclosure has to be mandatory and it has to be done at the pre-screening, as a component of an environmental assessment."

Redvers, along with Council co-chair Lois Little, recently requested Environment and Natural Resources Minister Michael Miltenberger look into the chemicals planned for use in ConocoPhillips' fracking project under the Environmental Rights Act, which demands the minister investigate potential threats to the environment or public health and safety.

Though originally indicating he would look into the matter, Miltenberger later flip-flopped following the NEB's decision to approve the ConocoPhillips project in late October, saying federal legislation trumps that of the NWT.

The minister was later challenged in the legislature by MLA Bob Bromley, who asked the same question posed by the Council in its disappointed letter to Miltenberger following his refusal: "Is the minister of the opinion that the release of unknown contaminants into the environment does not constitute a threat to the environment and the public trust?"

Miltenberger said he had faith in the existing regulatory regime to address the concerns being raised by the Council.

"What I am satisfied with is that we have a process under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, with the boards, with the environmental assessments that were done, the Sahtu Land and Water Board, with the NEB that addressed the issues," he said.

"(The Environmental Rights Act) does not have the ability to overrule federal legislation just from a legal point of view, and even if it did, I don't believe that would be a requirement because I don't think there are the concerns raised."

But Redvers argued that an environmental assessment never took place in the case of ConocoPhillips - a "major failing" that casts doubt on the minister's certainty that environmental and public safety concerns do not exist.

"How do we know what the impacts are if we haven't assessed those, and if we don't even fully know what the chemicals are or the volumes are? All of that needs to be on the table upfront, prior to any permit or license decisions, and that didn't happen with ConocoPhillips," he said. "That was a failing on the part of a number of agencies."

Redvers said the Council is awaiting a formal response from Miltenberger addressing its questions and has contacted all the territory's MLAs to urge movement at the political level on the issue. Legal recourse is also under consideration, he said, though he noted that it may be more realistic to look at ensuring better accountability when it comes time to assess the next fracking proposal.

"When we look at future fracking applications, and there may be some coming up in the relatively near future, then I think it's absolutely imperative that those go to environmental assessment, at minimum. You just can't allow industrial development that has such huge impacts on freshwater resources in the NWT to sort of sail through," Redvers said.



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Alberta won't appeal ruling of bias in review process

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A recent court decision that called the Alberta government's public reviews "biased" and "tainted" in its exclusion of environmental groups will not be appealed, Alberta's environment minister announced last week.

"Justice Marceau's ruling has provided us with an opportunity to assess the work my staff does relative to statement of concerns," Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Minister Diana McQueen said in an official statement last Wednesday.

"Albertans can have confidence that directly affected decisions made by my staff are unbiased and meet all the legal requirements set out by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and the Water Act," she said.

Marceau, an Alberta Queen's Bench judge, ruled in early October that the provincial government was wrong to block the Pembina Institute and the Fort McMurray Environmental Association from participating in the review process for Southern Pacific Resource Corp.'s proposed MacKay River in situ oilsands project.



An Alberta judge ruled that excluding environmental groups from the review of Southern Pacific Resource Corp.'s MacKay River in situ oilsands project (above) was biased. The Alberta government has chosen not to appeal the ruling.

Based on a briefing note obtained through the court challenge, the judge found both groups were "targeted" because they withdrew from the Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) and published negative media about the oilsands.

Marceau said the government's stated reason for rejecting energy policy think tank Pembina's statement of concern - that it was "less inclined to work cooperatively" - was "fatally flawed."

"The principles of natural justice clearly require the decision maker to not consider

irrelevant and improper reasons," he wrote.

"It is difficult to envision a more direct apprehension of bias," Marceau said.

McQueen said the government has assessed its decision-making with respect to statements of concern filed for project reviews.

"It is important that all directly affected Albertans share their environmental concerns with us on industry projects. Moving forward, we will continue to ensure that each and every potential Statement of Concern is reviewed on its own merits and decisions are made in

accordance with the policies and legislation," she said.

Wildrose environment critic Joe Anglin said the announcement signals a "flip-flopping" by McQueen, who first claimed her ministry was without fault in the matter.

He said the decision not to appeal is an admission of guilt, but falls short of establishing concrete measures for stopping future political interference in the regulatory process.

"By not appealing the decision, this PC government is admitting guilt, but is also failing to convince Albertans and our international partners that lessons have been learned. This is the second time in five years the government has tainted a regulatory process with the apprehension of bias," Anglin said.

"The Minister's performance ever since this ruling has been handed down has been inconsistent and disappointing. We need a regulatory system that can attract investment, but this government's indecision has left a black mark on our record. There's simply too much at stake when it comes to extracting our resources and protecting the environment."

Photo: Southern Pacific Resource Corp.



Photo: Alberta Environment

One billion litres of coal slurry travel down the Athabasca River after spilling Oct. 31.

Environment Tailings

Coal spill to reach Slave River by end of month

Continued from page 1.

As of Wednesday last week, the plume was more than 100 km long and "dissipating," continuing to move at a pace of 5 km per hour. It was expected to reach Fort McMurray by mid-week before heading north towards Wood Buffalo National Park.

The contaminated water should reach the Slave River near the end of November.

Opposition critics in the Alberta legislature harangued the provincial government for withholding details on the contents of the holdings

pond and potential for environmental damage last week.

ESRD spokesperson Jessica Potter told *The Journal* in a recent interview that results would only be reported if they were seen to pose an immediate human health risk.

"I think there is a major credibility issue," chided Liberal Leader Raj Sherman. "Alberta's chief public health officer is concerned about the safety of drinking water and the minister of Environment is saying there is no problem. I am going to hedge my bets in favour of the chief health officer."

NDP critic Rachel Notley expressed similar frustration.

"They are about to bring in legislation about monitoring and transparency at the same time they are refusing to release the information they have," she said, referring to the province's recently announced arms-length oilsands monitoring agency.

The Wildrose environment critic, Joe Anglin, added his doubts.

"The idea that you could put a billion litres of coal waste into a river and think it's not toxic defies logic," he said.



The GNWT Financial Shared Services Centre is opening in Fort Smith

The Government of the Northwest Territories is pleased to announce that the Department of Finance is launching:

The Financial Shared Services Centre in Fort Smith

The new centre opened on Monday, November 4, 2013, and will provide our business partners with a convenient one stop contact for processing all GNWT Departments and the NWT Housing Corporation financial transactions.

To ensure the GNWT continues to maintain a high level of service to our business partners, please ensure financial information is rerouted to the Financial Shared Services Centre at:

Financial Shared Services Department of Finance

Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 876
182B McDougal Rd.
Fort Smith, NT X0E

If you are interested in learning more about the Financial Shared Services Centre please contact (867) 872-2450.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to being of continued service to you and hope you will enjoy the benefits of the GNWT, Financial Shared Services Centre.

Visit the Journal online at www.norj.ca

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



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Eagle Plains	Hay River	Tulita
Ekati Diamond Mines	Inuvik	Ulukhaktok
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Fort Liard	Nahanni Butte	Wrigley
Fort McPherson	Norman Wells	Yellowknife
Fort Providence	Paulatuk	

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Chateh	Glenevis	Red Earth Creek
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A new Northern way of life

The Devolution Agreement between the NWT and federal governments will transfer the administration and management of public lands, water resources, mineral resources and oil and gas management. It will also allow royalties flowing from those projects to accrue to the NWT government. Implementing and managing all that is the NWT's number one priority.

Those new powers will mean a dramatic change in how the NWT operates. It has to pay its own way. Since its economy is dependent exclusively on exploiting natural resources, the incentive to increase development rapidly will be powerful. Want more roads and schools? More mines are needed. It is by design. New projects will mean more revenue, fat budgets and loosening the belt of restraint.

More development will also mean more problems, but such concerns are for later,

always. The need for corporate profit, government revenue and a better material life for all is paramount. Sacrifices are necessary, impacts are inevitable. Pay it forward. Messes can be cleaned up some other time (at great expense - but let's not mention that). "People need the jobs" is the mantra and fast tracking to expedite development is the priority.

The message has been clear from the federal government that the regulatory system in the NWT is broken. Too ponderous they say, over and over. It must be trimmed and skinned and pared. That, in spite of the fact that in the past it was always the feds who slowed the regulatory process. Development decisions took forever to be processed by Ottawa - it was a problem. Yet the message has been twisted masterfully and the process is now controlled by the federal government, based on their priorities.

In the Sahtu the environmental assessment of fracking has been set aside as "unnecessary at this time" and ConocoPhillips, the company doing the initial drilling, is allowed to keep secret the identity of all the chemicals it will be pumping into the ground. Fast tracking and expediting is important. Proper assessment and transparency is not. Due diligence was set aside in order to reap rewards.

Four other multinational oil companies are poised to drill into Sahtu shale, eagerly awaiting the results of the ConocoPhillips program. Indications are that sweet, almost pure oil will be the product, with less fracking infrastructure required for extraction than in other shale gas formations. That's good news.

Sahtu communities will enjoy a flood of activity; wealth will flow. Life will change dramatically. The financial rewards to the government of the NWT will be huge. It's all good, right?

A new NWT energy regulator

Yellowknife MLA David Ramsay, the NWT's minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, is responsible for oil and gas industry regulation under the NWT's newly acquired powers over land, resources and development. He was in Calgary last week meeting with petroleum companies active in the NWT, assuring them of his government's support and getting their feedback.

Ramsay is taking the lead in creating a new energy regulatory body for the NWT, so he was also meeting with Alberta regulatory officials. He has indicated he likes the model of the new Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) set up in December 2012 by their "Responsible Energy Development Act."

The role of the AER is "to make decisions on applications for energy development, monitoring for compliance assurance, decommissioning of developments, and

all other aspects of energy resource activities" (www.aer.ca). Its responsibilities include all oil and gas wells, pipelines, coal mines and oilsands projects. There are a lot of all of those in Alberta, so the AER has a lot of responsibility, and power.

The AER is set up to facilitate the oil and gas and oilsands industry in Alberta. It is part and parcel of their very streamlined regulatory system. The Alberta government has shown over time that the health of people, impact on the land, effects on animals and the rights of First Nations people are secondary priorities when it comes to industrial development. The AER is part of that environment.

In a recent court decision that was uncontested by the province, the judge called the Alberta government's public reviews "biased" and "tainted" after an attempt to exclude environmental groups

and agencies critical of how the oilsands industry is allowed to operate.

Muzzling critics is not something to aspire to in what is supposed to be a free and democratic society.

The NWT government, under its old, cumbersome, non-streamlined regulatory system, negotiated agreements with three huge multi-national corporations wanting to open diamond mines. They are model agreements - the people of the NWT were involved and had a say, the land and animals were properly looked after and the process, even today, is transparent and accountable - in contrast to the way things are done in Alberta.

Looking to Alberta for guidance is the wrong thing to do. The NWT should create its own regulatory model - one that cares about people, and is transparent and accountable; one to be proud of.



Roxane Poulin of Tait Communications leads a consultation with residents of Fort Smith on behalf of the NWT Francophone Federation and the territorial government on how to improve French language services in the NWT on Nov. 9.

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Goodbye to the Boundaries Commission

After an extended and heated debate in the Legislative Assembly last week, the government of the Northwest Territories decided to reject recommendations from the Electoral Boundaries Commission that Yellowknife be given two extra seats in what will be a new Northwest Territories government.

Issue: November 17, 1998

20 Years Ago...

Keeping the Cree language alive

For the second year, Cree language classes are being held at Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre and this year's class seems just as it was last year.

Helen Tootoosis, originally from Saskatchewan, will be teaching the class in an attempt to bring the Cree language back into everyday usage before it's left and forgotten by younger generations.

Issue: November 17, 1993

30 Years Ago...

Bedrock blasting

Surface blasting is underway on the east side of the Slave River as part of the preliminary studies into a hydro dam near Fort Smith.

Geo-physi-con Ltd. is carrying out seismic operations to determine how far down the bedrock goes near the riverbank.

Issue: November 17, 1983

Plan to be Smoke Free

Whether you're a social smoker or a lifetime pack-a-day smoker, quitting can be tough. The more you learn about your options and prepare for quitting, the easier it will be. With the right plan you can break the addiction, manage your cravings and join millions who have kicked the habit for good.

Smoking tobacco is both a physical addiction and a psychological habit. Nicotine from cigarettes provides a temporary and addictive high. When you remove that regular fix of nicotine your body will experience withdrawal symptoms and cravings. Because of nicotine's "feel good" effect on the brain, you may have become accustomed to smoking as a way of coping with stress, depression or even boredom.

Smoking is often a highly ingrained ritual. You may have a cigarette after a meal, while taking a break from work or

school or talking on the phone. In order to quit you need to address both the addiction and the habits that go with it.

Some smokers successfully quit cold turkey, but most do better with a plan to keep themselves on track. A good plan will address both the short-term challenge of quitting and prevent relapse on the long term. It should be tailored to your specific needs and smoking habits.

Take a bit of time to develop your own quit plan that will:

Anticipate the challenges – What are triggers that make you want to light up? You will need to change your routine to avoid these as much as possible. If coffee reminds you of smoking, switch to tea or water.

Address withdrawal – How will you handle withdrawal cravings? For example, if you are feeling irritable a strategy could be going for a walk. Being prepared for withdrawal

symptoms will make dealing with them easier.

Identify supports – Speak to your health care provider to learn about nicotine replacement therapies and stop smoking medications. The NWT Quitline (1-866-286-5099) is good. It offers confidential support for the quitting process by trained counselors. Identify family and friends you can count on for help to avoid tempting situations or keep you distracted when a craving hits.

Set a date – The final step of your quit plan should be to set a date to begin your life without tobacco. Choose a date within the next two weeks so you have time to prepare without losing your motivation to quit. Let others know about your quit date.

A big part of quitting is changing your thinking. It is important to keep in mind all your reasons for wanting to

quit and use them to refocus your thoughts whenever you crave a cigarette.

Most people try to quit several times before kicking the habit for good. Don't beat yourself up if you slip. It is important to regain control and learn from the experience.

There are excellent smoking cessation resources available online to help on you be smoke free. On the Road to Quitting, produced by Health Canada, provides a detailed step by step guide to cessation. You can order one at gasmokefree.ca

Finally, never stop reminding yourself of all the positive reasons why you want to quit smoking: improve your health, be a good role model for your children or grandchildren, saving money etc. By preparing yourself in advance you can make that goal a reality!

*Dr. André Corriveau
NWT Chief Medical Officer*

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) gained a small victory last week in its ongoing efforts to slow oilsands development on its traditional territory with a month-long delay on Shell's Jackpine open pit mine expansion imposed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA).



Shell mine expansion delayed at First Nation's request



Roger Deranger: if the people in fort Chipewyan and fort mcmurray lived or hunt in that area I could see why its a victory for the time being but no one does so the industries can keep on expanding, even though the acfn says its a threat to their treaty rights and existences, and on the other hand, the acfn owns a company that does work for the very industries they say is a threat, that company is call 'ACDEN,' and it employs 99.99% non-natives, plus, the CEO, gary flett, fires any acfn members who speaks up against their non-native supervisors because they say the acfn members are a threat, this is really confusing, who is the real threat?

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THE NORTHERN JOURNAL'S Unanswered Question of the Week



THE TOPIC

Managing ongoing bitumen leaks at Cold Lake



THE JOURNAL'S QUESTION

(posed to Julie Woo, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.) What efforts are being taken to prevent future leaks?



THE ANSWER

"We have a plan going forward that is robust."

CORRECTION

In a story on the recent GNWT cabinet shuffle in our Nov. 5 edition, the writer attributed the same quotes to MLAs Daryl Dolynny and Wendy Bisaro. It was Dolynny, not Bisaro, who, when asked about the need and reason for changes, said voters are "smart enough to connect the dots." What Bisaro said was; "I am hoping that we will now have better accountability and transparency within the guiding principles of the 17th Assembly, as we prepare for devolution roll-out." *The Journal* apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

White Girl

The Indian Agent: Part 3

By DAWN KOSTELNIK

Porridge arrives in school after singing O Canada to the Canadian Red Ensign with the Union Jack Flag (no one had bothered to replace it with the Maple Leaf yet), as well as Our Father; this is a Catholic school, a Catholic community. We get fed porridge and vitaminized biscuits; these we call dog biscuits, because we are pretty sure that if there ever could be such a foolish thing they would taste like this. Can you ever imagine making cookies for dogs? Such a thing! Chocolate covered, liquid centered vitamins were so good that you could use them to trade for bread.

On exceptional days, we have caribou soup and home-made bread that Fred Gaudet makes. This is my favourite; it

is so good. Mr. Gaudet blinks his eyes in amazement when the little White Girl asks him for his recipe. "I just throw stuff in the pot!" I am patient. I ask, "How much stuff?" He shakes his head and walks away. He is not used to talking to little girls. Later he comes up to me and bends over: "caribou parts, a can of tomatoes and macaroni, other days it's what we got hanging around." He turns on his heel and walks away. So now I know.

Once a week, our heads are inspected and combed through with a lice comb looking for nits. If the comb didn't come back with bugs and eggs you went into the shower. If the little critters were discovered, the comb was dipped in kerosene and run back through

your hair, you sat for a few minutes, then you went into the shower. This was an individual shower, so in order to get the whole class smelling of Sunlight bar soap it took a full day. Cases of lice weren't as prevalent as I hear parents complaining about today. Before you wonder at the use of kerosene for de-lousing, check the ingredients of the stuff you use today on your kids heads that doesn't work.

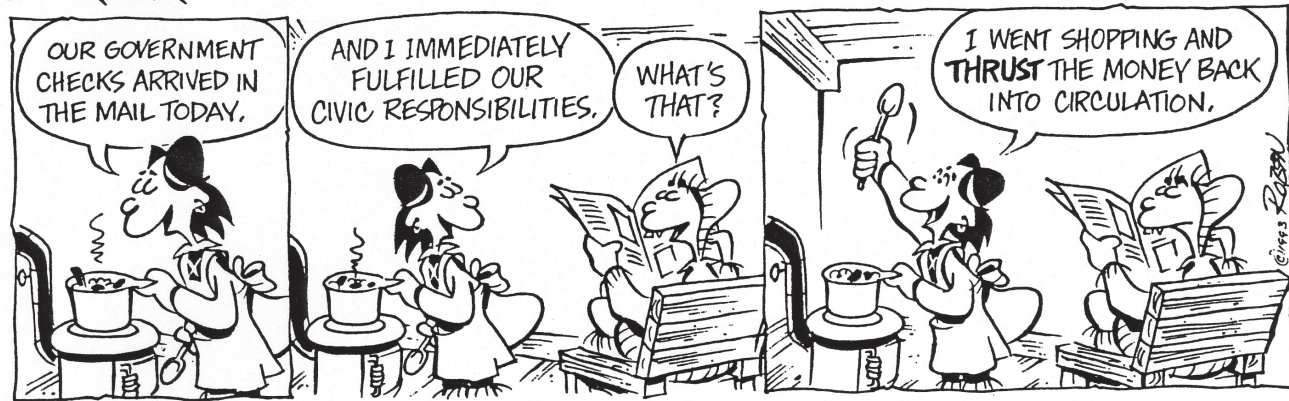
My classroom held grades from beginner to Grade 2. The classroom next door went from Grades 3 to 5 or 6. After that you went to residential school in Inuvik, Yellowknife or Fort Smith. Usually white families that ventured North in those years either didn't have kids or made sure that they left before

their kids were of school age. We were unusual. My brother Joel was in Grade 1, I was in Grade 2.

I love my teacher, Miss Web. She is very gentle and kind to the little kids and she likes to do artwork. Beginners was primarily an English class for the tiny kids. English was spoken at school; Slavey was spoken at home. Playing with the other kids, we spoke English until it got easier to speak Slavey. Swearing was done in Slavey cause we were Catholics. Ours was a collaborative language with broken English and combinations of river Slavey, which changed depending on the community a person came from. We knew what we were talking about.

Stay tuned for Part 4 of 4 in the Northern Journal.

MUKLUK



Forecast

Inuvik Yellowknife

-18 High	Sun	-26 Low	Wednesday	-15 High	Sun	-22 Low
-18 High	Sun	-21 Low	Thursday	-17 High	Sun	-18 Low
-19 High	Sun	-21 Low	Friday	-22 High	Sun	-23 Low
-13 High	Cloud	-18 Low	Saturday	-14 High	Cloud	-22 Low
Norms: -18°C and -27°C			Norms: -12°C and -20°C			

Hay River Fort Smith

-21 High	Sun	-25 Low	Wednesday	-19 High	Sun	-24 Low
-17 High	Cloud	-24 Low	Thursday	-16 High	Cloud	-23 Low
-18 High	Sun	-24 Low	Friday	-21 High	Sun	-25 Low
-10 High	Sun	-18 Low	Saturday	-14 High	Sun	-22 Low
Norms: -10°C and -18°C			Norms: -10°C and -18°C			



Photo: Cold Lake First Nations

Clean-up of bitumen-affected areas around Cold Lake is now 80 per cent complete with berms in place to prevent leaks from entering nearby water bodies, according to the company.

Environment Oil Spill

CNRL confident Cold Lake leaks are ‘totally solvable’ First Nations say safety should be considered before oil spills

By MARIA CHURCH

New statements from Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL), the company responsible for ongoing bitumen leaks at an oilsands site near Cold Lake in north-eastern Alberta, say cleanup

is now 80 per cent complete and the challenge of preventing future leaks is “totally solvable.”

Julie Woo, public affairs advisor with CNRL, told *The Journal* in an email that the company has obtained access

to the leak sites, removed vegetation where necessary and built berms to contain the seepage.

“No incremental environmental surface damage is expected going forward,” she said.

Preventing future leaks is a “technical operational challenge that is totally solvable,” Woo said.

CNRL was issued a cleanup and remediation order by Alberta’s Environment and Sustainable Resource

Development (ESRD) in September, four months after the company reported bitumen surfacing in four separate areas on its Primrose and Wolf Lake oilsands operation sites.

Jessica Potter, communications officer for ESRD, confirmed that the surface sites have been cleaned with the exception of the fissure area where CNRL has built structures to contain the ongoing release of bitumen.

Potter said CNRL has submitted a detailed plan for determining the impacts to groundwater and the root causes of the leaks as part of the enforcement order, which has been approved by the department.

While a timeline has not been released, “there is an expectation of expediency,” Potter said. “There’s always a possibility of further enforcement action if needed during the investigation.”

CNRL stated it is confident that wellbore failures are the root cause of the Primrose seepages, not blows to the caprock integrity of the area caused by steam injection procedures, as was suspected by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) in 2009 after a similar incident in the area involving another CNRL project.

“To date, we have identified four legacy wells as the most likely wellbore failures that are the root cause of seepages,” Woo said. “Two of these four wells have identified mechanical failures and we will be undertaking additional work to prove this conclusively.”

Another well is currently under review and the last is awaiting approval for access, she said.

Prevention not cleanup, say First Nations

A spokesperson for Cold Lake First Nations (CLFN), whose treaty territory surrounds the leak sites, said the incident shows that the AER is not doing enough to prevent faulty technology from being used by oilsands companies.

“The technology they are using, the steam assisted gravity system, we used to always say it would cause adverse effects once this development comes ahead,” said band councillor Cecil Janvier.

“We used to be given acknowledgement that it’s all fool proof, safe, all that, but our elders told us to be watchful of what goes on around us,” he said.

CLFN has been kept in the loop as far as remediation efforts are concerned by both CNRL and the AER, Janvier said; however, he said the conversation should have started long before the leaks were ever a possibility.

He said an incident like the Cold Lake leaks shouldn’t be the reason the AER decides to consult with the First Nation.

“We want to be included in the regulatory process, meaning at the time of signing leasing and signing permits,” Janvier said. “This is our traditional territory.”

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Yellowknife joins in national climate change rally

Climate change a growing focus for residents, government in NWT

By MARIA CHURCH

Concerns about fracking and pipeline developments in the NWT were hashed out in Yellowknife last weekend as a crowd gathered in response to a national call to action on climate change.

Defend Our Climate, a nationwide opposition movement against pipeline and oil-sands development, sparked events and demonstrations in more than 100 communities across the country.

The movement spread to the NWT with an event on Saturday spearheaded by Ecology North in Yellowknife that was designed to open a dialogue about Northern concerns on climate change and industrial development.

"It's about recognizing the need for responsible policy development when it comes to deciding our current and future energy resources and what exactly we want to be investing in," Christine Wenman, Ecology North coordinator, told *The Journal*.

Recent oilsands development bids and exploration in the Sahtu were a lengthy topic of discussion at the event. Wenman said many people are dissatisfied with the information available and concerned about the future.



NWT residents gather outside MP Dennis Bevington's office to support Defend Our Climate, a nationwide movement to oppose pipeline and oilsands development.

"We're not seeing that planning for the regional scale of development that's likely to be seen in the Sahtu, so what is that cumulative impact going to be and how's it going to be managed?" she asked. "There are some pretty big questions that remain unanswered."

Participants were encouraged to correspond with their elected officials and invited to sign a carbon tax proposal petition by Ecology North that will be given to the GNWT in a matter of weeks. The proposal, based on Quebec's carbon tax model, would see a \$3.50 per tonne carbon levy

on greenhouse gas emissions in the NWT.

Wenman said she believes public interest in climate change has been growing, as is evident by the number of events that have recently been held across the territory.

Last week, the Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop

was held in Yellowknife to discuss challenges and ideas about dealing with melting permafrost in the North. In Dettah, last week's NWT Roundtable on Emergency Preparedness asked residents to discuss how they believe climate change is affecting emergency response.

"The message from the scientists and from the community members who are out there witnessing all of this is just that climate change is extremely real, the impacts are dramatic, they're expensive and we're just not seeing that urgency that clearly exists from those working on the ground being reflected in policy at the decision making level. There's a disconnect," Wenman said.

Warming climate on government's radar

Brian Sieben, a climate change adaptation specialist with the department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), said climate change is of growing interest to the GNWT.

Current data from ENR shows the territory has seen an average warming of three degrees over a period of 50 years, which has had a wide range of impacts, including

melting permafrost, coastal erosion and thinning sea ice.

"The greatest climate warming in Canada is occurring in the North and NWT," he said, particularly during the winter season when the average temperature increase is closer to four degrees.

Climate change adaptation strategies are now being considered and implemented across several departments in the government to address foreseeable problems caused by increasing temperatures, including the departments of Transportation and Public Works.

Sieben said recent suggestions have been to redraw building codes to factor in heavier snowfall and softer ground, and to build permanent bridges over areas where thawing is forcing ice roads to close early.

"I want to hear suggestions for what programs we should do and also what they observe. Lots of people are on the land and if they are seeing things they haven't seen before, let us know, or better yet, take a picture," he said. "We have this great resource of all of those observers on the land; if they let us know what they observe, we can respond to that."

Bookkeeping Basics for Small Businesses

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Aurora College, in partnership with Industry, Tourism and Investment, is offering a two-day course, "**Bookkeeping Basics for Small Businesses.**" The course is tailored for small businesses and will take you through the basics of accounting and bookkeeping.

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Where: **Thebacha Campus, Aurora College**

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Students from Samuel Hearn Secondary School in Inuvik participate in the Take a Kid Trapping program.



ENR officer Jerry Hordal teaches trapping skills to youth in the Take a Kid Trapping program.

Photos: Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs, GNWT

Industry Traditional Economy

Territory sees best trapping season in decades

Government recognizes territory's best trappers for hard work

By MARIA CHURCH

Trappers in the NWT have set records for the highest number of sales and volume of pelts seen in the past decade.

This past season, trappers brought in a total of more than \$2.3 million with around 2,500 pelts sold, according to records from the GNWT.

John Colford, manager of traditional economy, agriculture and fisheries for the department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, said market price was a factor in the high sale numbers, as well as the emergence of new trappers.

"I think people recognize this as a good opportunity, especially in communities where there are limited employment opportunities," he said.

Market value on an international level determines the prices of pelts in the NWT. The territorial

Colford said worldwide demand for furs appears to be growing with expanding markets in countries like

Trappers' Committee and a life-long trapper, said there had been a steady decline of people trapping for a living

the young upcoming trappers, too, to make that choice to do trapping more and more," he said. "It costs lots to be a trapper because you have to get a lot of equipment to be out on the land."

The government's response to the declining future of the trapping industry was to launch the Take a Kid Trapping program in 2002. This past year, more than 3,000 youth went through the trapping program.

"There are a number of youth who have come out of that program who have gone into trapping," Colford said. "We now have people out there now who are in their 70s and we have younger people out there in their teens and preteens."

The number of females participating in trapping has also been growing, especially young women, Colford said. "They've always been there; it's just been a matter of recognition and I think we are seeing a lot more of that now."

Colford said that the government has been boosting trappers with the awards for close to a decade now to acknowledge their hard work.

"Trappers are very hard working individuals and when you just think about the effort that goes into trapping and what they do in terms of their lifestyle and how they do the job, it's an incredible achievement to, for example, achieve the highest number of sales or of pelts," he said.

Trappers are very hard working individuals and when you just think about the effort that goes into trapping and what they do in terms of their lifestyle and how they do the job, it's an incredible achievement to, for example, achieve the highest number of sales or of pelts.

John Colford

NWT Industry, Tourism and Investment

government facilitates the sale of pelts through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs marketing program, which contracts with a private auction house.

Japan, China and Korea, which have recently become a major buyer of pelts from the NWT.

Hank Rogers, president of the Inuvik Hunters' &

over the past decade, but the increase in price has had a turnaround effect.

"They've been going up for a few years now and it makes it better for us trappers and

Trapper award recipients named

The GNWT has named this year's recipients of the Trapper Recognition Program awards, given out in each of the five regions.

In the South Slave region, Sheldon Boucher from Fort Resolution won the award for the highest number of sales, while Donovan Boucher from Fort Resolution won for the highest number of pelts, Frederick Elleze of Fort Providence won for senior trapper, and Ty Martin from Fort Smith won as youth trapper.

In the North Slave, Jimmy Mantla from Behchoko won

the award for highest number of sales and pelts, Louis Simpson from Whati won for senior trapper, and Augustus Casaway from Lutsel K'e took the youth award.

In the Sahtu region, Michael Jackson from Fort Good Hope won for highest number of sales and pelts, Hyacinthe Kochon from Colville Lake got the senior trapper award, and Keenan McNeely from Fort Good Hope brought home the youth trapper award. McNeely also won the award for the most productive youth trapper in the territory.

In the Dehcho, Charlie Tale

from Wrigley won the award for highest number of sales and pelts, William Norwegian from Jean Marie River won the senior award, and Jarrett Oskenekisses from Wrigley won the youth award.

In the Beaufort Delta, Jim Elias from Tuktoyaktuk won for the highest number of sales and pelts, with Neil Colin from Fort McPherson and Robert Cole from Inuvik winning the senior and youth awards, respectively.

Award recipients are given a signature jacket from Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs.

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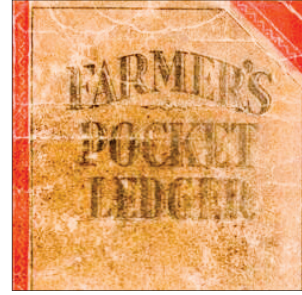
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From left, Matt Murphy, Jim Cooley, Martin Peterson, Bud Murphy, Clarke Croft and Neill Murphy, circa 1937 in Ft. Reliance.



The Murphy men traveled North up the Peace River by barge, like this one photographed in 1925, carrying (from left) Matt Murphy, Jim Cooley, Frank Buckley, and Malcolm and Allan Stewart.



Bud would write on anything he could get his hands on, like this farmer's ledger used in 1929.



Cyril "Bud" Murphy died in 2004 at the age of 92.

Photos courtesy of Derryl Murphy

Arts & Culture Heritage

Historic trapper diaries emerge, one tweet at a time

Author uses social media to publish grandfather's journals from NWT

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

In the footprints of his grandfather, one Canadian author is exploring new literary terrain by publishing the old man's historic diaries, recounting the travails and triumphs of trapping in the Northwest Territories during the 1920s and '30s, one post at a time on Twitter.

Inspired by other historic Twitter accounts, writer Derryl Murphy, a closet history buff known for his sci-fi and fantasy stories, set foot on a lengthy adventure last week by committing to post four diary entries each day on his Twitter account, TrapperBud, from his late grandfather Cyril "Bud" Murphy's travel diaries documenting life as a young trapper in the NWT.

"I do have an interest in and a love of history, and this is a personal family history that I think is worthy of being shared," Murphy told *The Journal* from his home in Saskatoon.

Murphy decided to launch the project initially as a way to share with family members from afar; but with some promotion by other social media sites, within days he had already collected over 500 followers, mostly strangers.

What has followed is not just the telling of a tale, but something more akin to conversation as Murphy asks for help identifying place names like "Red River" - which a stranger helpfully suggests points to the Little Red River Cree Nation in northern Alberta - and shares old photos that help illustrate his grandpa's story.

"I'm hoping that we'll see more interaction as time goes on," said Murphy, noting that it's been a fun learning experience for him so far. "That's key, I think, to this. If someone can say, 'Hey, I know that place,' or 'Hey, I had a distant relative who was up there at the same time,' anything like that

would be of interest to me and I'm sure of interest to a lot of the followers, as well."

The entries start with Bud and his father, Matt Murphy - whom Derryl affectionately calls "Gamp" - taking off from Peace River, Alta. on Aug. 30, 1929 and spending weeks traveling down river, challenged by bad weather, broken barge engines, lost supplies and near death to finally wind up "Up North" in time for trapping season.

McNamara Hotel - "the Mac" - and was a fur trader," Murphy said of his great-grandfather.

"But Peace River was, from what I understand, too busy a place for him. He wasn't the type that liked to hang out with a lot of people, so he left his wife behind - he'd come and visit her every once in a while, they were still together - and he went up North and began to trap. Then he came back in '29 when my grandfather was either 17 or 18, and took him

That stalwart strength, Murphy said, also turns out to be a motivating factor underlying the project.

"If he decided to do something, he did it. He dug in and he followed through, and therefore I intend to do the same. I haven't always matched up to that sort of expectation that he put on

himself, but this is partly in his memory and I'm going to follow it all the way through."

So far, Murphy said he's been receiving many thanks from other history fans looking to follow Bud through his trapping years.

For that, Murphy gives full credit to his grandfather's own fascinating existence.

"I think we all live important lives in one way or another, but who they're important to can often vary. But I think my grandfather's life had, if not a significant impact, then a significant series of intersections with the lives of many others. And I think his memory deserves being taken out to a broader world."

I haven't always matched up to that sort of expectation that he put on himself, but this is partly in his memory and I'm going to follow it all the way through.

Derryl Murphy

But where they end, even Derryl has yet to find out.

"I'm not reading ahead, aside from setting up the tweets a few days in advance," Murphy shared. "I want to sort of feel like I'm in it for the first time just like the people who are following the Twitter account. To me, that's much more interesting. So as I'm typing something in, my eyebrow will be raised, or I'll remember that one time when he told me about that, and that's kind of a neat feeling."

Though Murphy has yet to learn all the specifics of his two patriarchs' adventures in the subarctic, he is familiar with general pieces of the family history.

It all started with Gamp, who took his oldest son North to trap at Artillery Lake and eventually set up a line along the Back River, which they'd return to over the next decade.

"He did a lot of things in his life, spent a little bit of time in Peace River and even for a short amount of time managed the

North with him, and grandpa went for about 10 years."

The Murphy men were even joined by Bud's younger brother Neill near the end of Bud's Northern exploits, but the traditional trapping lifestyle tuckered out when Bud came back south to rest in Edmonton and start a family. He passed away in 2004.

"Once grandpa was done with it, he was done with it. I think he was very proud of that time in his life, but he'd moved on and had other things he was proud of."

Murphy's initial feelings about the journals include pleasant surprise, not about Bud's personality but at what he describes as "the decent grammar and spelling" of his teenage grandfather, who he said was "not a reader."

What is not surprising, he said, was Bud's tenacity in keeping the journals, considering the weather, cramped quarters and exhaustion he must have felt at the end of each day.



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JANUARY 23, 2014

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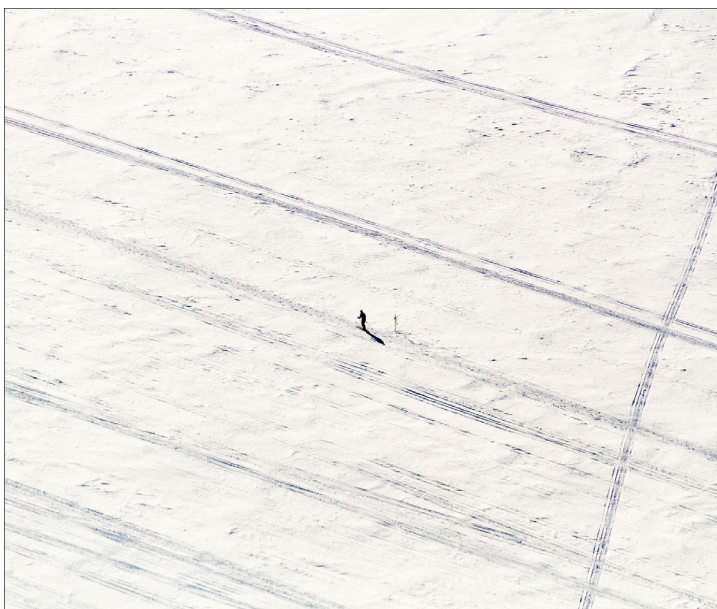
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January - From Above (Yellowknife Bay) by Riley Veldhuizen



February - Ice Fishing on Defeat Lake by Riley Veldhuizen



March - Pressure Ridge Powder (North Arm, Greby) by Kevin Klingbeil



May - Hikers Descend Dodo Canyon by Malcolm Campbell



July - Rafting the Mighty Nahanni by Martha Drake



August - Team Dirty Face (Tibbitt Lake) by Tina



June - Late Night Walk (Squalus Lake) by Brian Kinzie

Arts & Culture Photography

Photo contest shares Northerners' love of

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Land and culture are dear to the hearts of Northerners, as showcased once again by the winning entries of the

second Love the Land photo contest, organized by the NWT branch of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-NWT).

Twelve winning photos will be featured in the 2014 Love the Land calendar, along with an additional dozen runner-ups included as insets.

Erica Janes, conservation outreach coordinator for CPAWS-NWT, said the contest is a way for NWT residents and visitors to express

their love of the land. "Love the Land" is a way for NWT residents and visitors to express their love of the land.



October - Moose Skin Boat Bound For Tulit'a (Begádeé/Keele River) by Tee Lim (Pembina Institute)



November - White Fox Jamboree Fun (Sachs Harbour) by Tanis Simpson



December - Traveling on the frozen bay by sled by



Great Slave Lake)



April - Peering into the Past (Alexandra Falls) by Richard McIntosh



Locke-Setter



September - Mmm! Char Delight! (Ulukhaktok) by Peggy Jay

S f the land

love of "this place we
home."
love of the land is why
CPAWS-NWT does what
we work with NWT

residents, public and Aboriginal governments, communities and organizations to conserve the land, water and wildlife for current and future generations," Janes said.

"Being able to share photographic expressions of love of the land is a community-builder, and we and many others really enjoy these little windows into others' incredible experiences out on the land and water."

Janes said judges looked for photos depicting people - or evidence of people - out on the land, along with representations of the different seasons, various land-use activities and subject matters. Originality of the shot, as well as technique and composition, were also considered, she said.

According to Janes, this year saw a greater variety in the entries, something she hopes continues to grow from year to year.

"For this second year of the contest, we received entries from a greater diversity of NWT communities than last year, and entries showing a greater variety of activities on the land, especially traditional activities, which was really exciting to see. We hope that as the contest gains momentum, we'll receive even more entries, and more variety next year."

The winning photographers were formally celebrated with prizes from local businesses at a launch event last Thursday evening at Java-roma in Yellowknife, where the choice photos will be on display until Nov. 21.

All proceeds from the calendars, which sell for \$15 each, go toward supporting CPAWS-NWT's conservation work and are available in Yellowknife at the Book-Cellar, Northern Frontier Visitor Centre and Overlander Sports.



by Carole Musialek

2014 CPAWS-NWT Love the Land Calendar Narratives for Winning Photos

January - From Above (Yellowknife Bay) by Riley Veldhuizen

I shot this aerial photo of a skier and the tracks left behind by others while flying in a helicopter during the Frostbite 45, a 45-km foot or ski endurance event that takes place in and around Yellowknife every winter. You have to love a place and its people who, for fun, will travel 45 km across the land and frozen water on snowshoes or skis, and usually around the frigid temperatures of -40°C.

February - Ice Fishing on Defeat Lake by Riley Veldhuizen

A two-hour skidoo ride out of Yellowknife, we spent the day fishing under a few feet of ice on Defeat Lake. I love this land for its vastness and abundance of fish! We caught five northern pike on this day, sitting huddled around the holes with our ice fishing rods, taking turns to sit in the propane heated shelter and coming out under the warmth of the winter's sun in -30°C.

March - Pressure Ridge Powder (North Arm, Great Slave Lake) by Kevin Klingbeil

On a warm spring day, a kite skier harnesses the power of the wind with a 14 square-metre kite. To the left in the photo, a pressure ridge made of huge ice chunks is a natural occurrence on Great Slave Lake that happens as the ice shifts and pushes edges of cracks upward. This spectacular formation was located approximately 18 km from Yellowknife and was accessible by kite skiing, snowmobile or sometimes even by truck. For me, it was a bit unnerving getting right close beside it to take the photo, as the cracks reach down into the depths of the Big Lake.

April - Peering into the Past (Alexandra Falls) by Richard McIntosh

While visiting Twin Falls Territorial Park, I was greatly impressed by the natural environment and the interpretive walk. The signage shares a story of the traditional Dene trading route along the Hay River. The story is delivered from the different perspectives of members of the group. Although today we often neglect to pay our respect to nature, both Louise and Alexandra Falls demand our respect out of sheer necessity of safety. It is hard to look at the falls and not think about what it would have been like to encounter them while traveling down river by canoe.

May - Hikers Descend Dodo Canyon by Malcolm Campbell

The NWT section of the Canol Trail is over 350 km long, and follows the route originally constructed during WWII to build and service an oil pipeline from Norman Wells to Whitehorse. It is an arduous hike with difficult river fjords, but it is very much worth the effort. In some places, the construction crews, working to a wartime schedule, went right down the river valleys - a choice that affords Canol hikers spectacular views. Our trip started at Devil's Pass, and we reached the Mackenzie River after trekking for nine days. It was mile after mile of stark and beautiful scenery with many chances to see wildlife, especially caribou and bear. Dodo Canyon, which begins within 50 miles of the north shore of the Mackenzie River, is one of the most challenging and beautiful sections.

June - Late Night Walk (Squalus Lake) by Brian Kinzie

I was two weeks into my first canoe trip, which turned out to be an upstream, upwind journey with an interminable 55 portages. It was also my first time North of 60 and I was enthralled by the long sunsets and late evenings. This photo was taken at our camp on Squalus Lake, at 10:30 p.m. after another long day of paddling, and for me it represents the beauty and solitude of the North - in three weeks of paddling we never encountered another person.

July - Rafting the Mighty Nahanni by Martha Drake

This is Emily, Sylvia, Hannah and Mary; they are obviously very happy to be out in the wilderness of the South Nahanni River on a rafting trip. The scenery is nice and quiet with the exception of the roar of the river and the young peoples' occasional laughter. Being in the wilderness without amenities did not seem to bother the girls as they were so enthralled by the vast beauty of Virginia Falls and the canyons we rafted through. It was a trip of a lifetime for these girls, and they will forever treasure their experiences of rafting the mighty South Nahanni River.

August - Team Dirty Face (Tibbitt Lake) by Tina Locke-Setter

As a child I grew up spending my summers at the lake in and on the water, and knew that this was something that I wanted to share with my children. Our 5 year-old twins have been camping and canoeing since they were toddlers and love being outdoors. This photo was taken after spending the weekend camping on an island on Tibbitt Lake, NWT where we spent our time catching water bugs and making "mud soup."

September - Mmm! Char Delight! (Ulukhaktok) by Peggy Jay

This photo was taken during the Billy Joss Open Golf Tournament where there is always an abundance of Arctic char, whether caught by nets or fishing rods. Fresh char! Delicious! What a bonus for visitors! However, for residents, char is an important part of their diet and food security. Harvesting is a tradition as well as a necessity. All over the community, char can be seen hanging to dry into the wonderful Northern delicacy of *biffi*. Come see for yourself!

October - Moose Skin Boat Bound For Tulit'a (Begádeé/Keele River) by Tee Lim/Pembina Institute

It was an incredible privilege to witness this moose skin boat up close and in action on the Begádeé (Keele River) as it made its way to Tulit'a in August 2013. In this photo, Ricky Andrew and fellow community members paddle the boat toward Tulit'a. The Shúhtagot'ıne (Mountain Dene) have built moose skin boats for many generations, and a group of dedicated community members worked tirelessly on this boat for weeks - the first to make this journey in over two decades. This moose skin boat, and all that it represents, renewed my appreciation for the strength of Dene culture and Dene relationships with the land.

November - White Fox Jamboree Fun (Sachs Harbour) by Tanis Simpson

During the White Fox Jamboree in May 2013, residents of Sachs Harbour enjoyed a fun-filled day playing traditional games. The events were hosted on the snow-covered beach of Banks Island, which is surrounded by the Arctic Ocean. Harpoons have been used by the Inuit people as a hunting tool for many generations. This photo shows an Inuvialuit woman releasing a harpoon during one of the traditional games.

December - Traveling on the frozen bay by sled by Carole Musialek

During my first winter in Yellowknife, I was amazed by the different ways people travel on the land and enjoy the outdoors. That day on Yellowknife Bay, I saw people skiing, snowshoeing, skiing or dashing past me on snowmobiles, sleds and even weird machines like Bombardiers. In this photo, the trees covered by hoarfrost, the pinkish light of the sun, the sled on the frozen lake and the early rising moon illustrate a typical winter day on Yellowknife Bay.

POWERING INNOVATION, IGNITING CREATIVITY

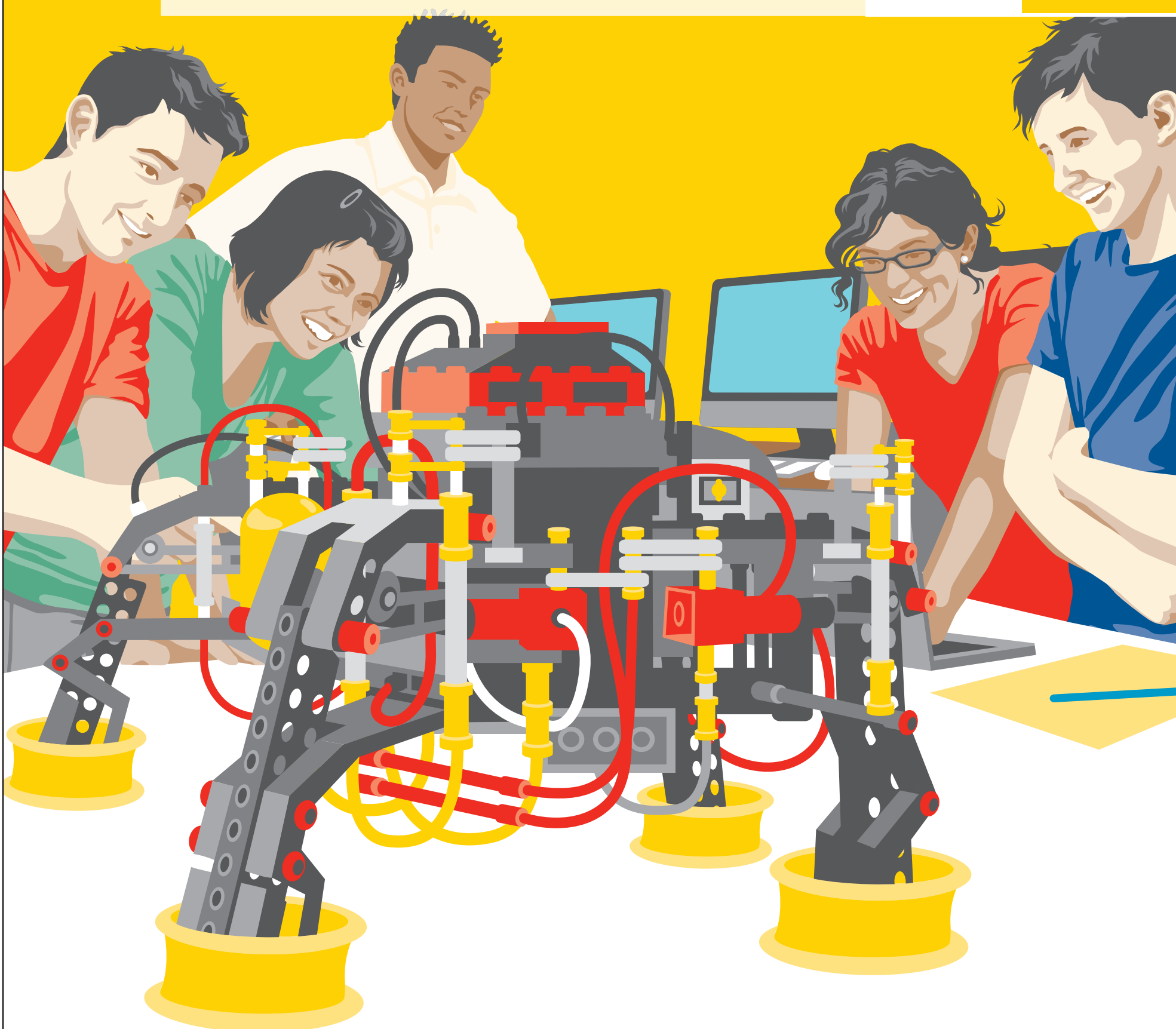
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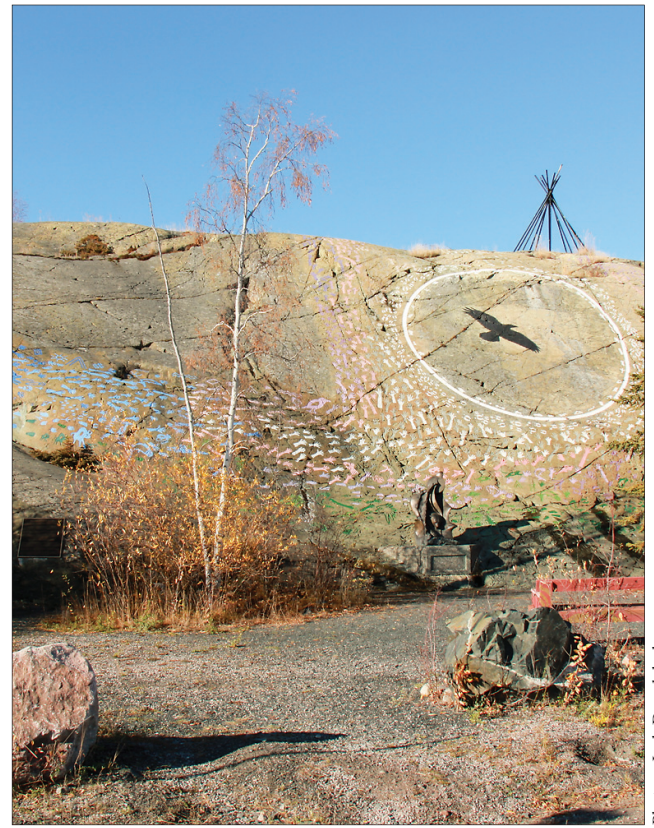
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Athabasca Oil Sands Project is a joint venture between Shell Canada (60%), Chevron Canada Limited (20%) and Marathon Oil Canada Corporation (20%).



The City of Yellowknife is seeking ownership of the Willow Flats bird sanctuary, which also serves as a beach for Woodyard and houseboat residents.



The city is applying for ownership of this corner of McAvoy Rock, and its sculpture garden created by Armand Vailancourt.

Photos: Jack Danylchuk

Politics Municipal

City poised to become dominant waterfront owner

Proposed change in ownership casts new gaze on long-ignored squatters

By JACK DANYLCHUK

A proposed transfer of 390 hectares of Commissioner's Lands could instantly transform Yellowknife from among the least to the largest single owner of waterfront property within the city's boundaries.

If the territorial government agrees after devolution is official next April, Yellowknife could gain control of over 76 land parcels scattered across the city, among them key stretches of shoreline on Latham Island, McMeekan Channel, the Willow Flats bird sanctuary and the Woodyard.

And if Municipal Aboriginal and Community Affairs approves a separate application, the city could become one of the few municipalities in Canada with jurisdiction over lakebed within its boundaries, which would allow it to manage houseboat anchorages.

The city also stands to inherit the results of a long-established custom of ignoring squatters, including upland property owners who use the Back Bay shore of Latham Island for private docks, and more recent invaders in McMeekan Channel.

Whatever happens, "extensive public consultation would take place," Mayor Mark Heyck told *The Journal* in an email, and would unfold over the next "one to five years, depending on the will of council."

In the meantime, there are "no plans to sell or get into long-term leases for the Back Bay lands on Latham Island," but council could ask administration to explore the lease or sale to adjacent property owners, he said.

Past land applications produced mixed results for the city: it received 596 hectares out of an application for 1,300 in 2005 and in 2007, it got 72 hectares from another request for 1,300, which Heyck said made "long-term planning rather challenging."

That didn't stop the city from preparing the Smart Growth Development Plan in 2010, the General Plan By-law in 2011 and the Harbour Plan in 2012. All of

Plan to include a boardwalk access and mooring facilities," Heyck said, and noted that sale of the narrow strips of shoreline would not be recommended.

"It's a little premature to say what the terms of mooring or leasing of this space would be," he said.

The Woodyard's collection of shacks and vintage vehicles squat on Commissioner's Land at the edge of the Willow Flats bird sanctuary, where MACA is

expansion of the landfill and new residential growth on the former Con Mine site, which is due to be returned to the territorial government when remediation is completed next year, Tin Can Hill

and a wedge between Grace and Kam Lakes on the city's southern boundary.

"We're in a position now where Niven Lake phase seven is quickly filling up and phase eight, which was

the next development area, carries high development costs because of the topography, so we'd like to provide a range of housing in different parts of the city," Heyck said.

We're in a position now where Niven Lake phase seven is quickly filling up and phase eight, which was the next development area, carries high development costs because of the topography, so we'd like to provide a range of housing in different parts of the city.

Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck

them identified "potential growth areas including the waterfront, natural areas and lands adjacent to built-up area," according to a report prepared in October by city administrators.

Yellowknife's Smart Growth Development Plan proposes a makeover for Old Town that would transform the city's historic waterfront from a sleepy backwater to a bustling year-round centre for tourism, transportation and the arts, and the Harbour Plan released last year added detail.

"The lands along the McMeekan Causeway are envisioned under the Harbour

currently trying to evict the last of three houseboats that moved in last summer.

Rather than chase out squatters and raze the shacks, the Harbour Plan proposes finding ways to "legitimize" the Woodyard and explore heritage preservation opportunities, Heyck said.

"If the City acquired these lands, we could establish leases while still allowing public access to the waterfront in this area. This would allow us to collect taxes (we may be for some buildings currently), but would also provide revenue potential."

But most of the land covered in the application is for

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By telling the stories of Northerners, we're making our communities stronger!

Indigenous youth tackle HIV through film

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Tackling the issue of HIV/AIDS in indigenous communities is one that takes courage, but 18 brave youth leaders from across the country are doing just that through a video project championed by the Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN).

Five films or “video stories” created by indigenous youth from across the country, including one by Kiera-Dawn Kolson of the NWT, premiered at Northern United Place in Yellowknife last Thursday evening during a community launch aimed at starting the discussion around indigenous communities’ experiences of HIV/AIDS.

Featuring a variety of perspectives and angles, from prevention and services, to HIV’s links to violence, colonization and cultural loss, the stories were intended to hit every demographic and give insight into the unique ways indigenous communities and youth are dealing with the unfortunate statistics that place them at highest risk for contraction of the deadly sexually transmitted infection.



Photo: Renee Monchalain

Renee Monchalain, an Algonquin/Huron/Métis youth from Fort Erie, Ont., discusses the disproportionate statistics of HIV impacting indigenous communities in her film.

Kolson’s film, called *Life Through Love*, featured interviews with her mother, who does research and program development around HIV prevention and awareness, along with a two-spirited Tlicho youth about self respect and knowing the dangers of unprotected sex, and an NWT elder about the sacredness of love.

Another film was told from the perspective of a young

Saskatchewan man who contracted HIV through intravenous drug use. One featured a young man writing a letter to his mom thanking her for being sober. Another followed a young woman rediscovering her indigenous roots.

“There’s an array of different perspectives from indigenous youth on what HIV prevention means to them,”

said Kolson, who also helped organize the event. “For some youth it means sobriety, for some youth it means reconnecting with their culture, for some youth it means understanding the statistics and the recognition of what these tools are that can help us prevent further harm.”

Kolson said she made the film as a way to pass down intergenerational knowledge

to youth through a medium that creates a safe space for dialogue on what can be a difficult issue to address in many communities, where trauma often exists around sex and relationships.

Because statistics around HIV are not as high in the North as they are in southern jurisdictions, Kolson said it’s even more important to get the discussion around prevention started now before those statistics start to rise, as they could with changes in the population related to industry.

“It’s important to have a dialogue before a boom takes place,” Kolson said. “There are going to be a lot of people migrating to the North...so it’s important that we control the statistics that may start to infiltrate our communities and there’s no time like the present.”

Having indigenous youth lead that dialogue is even more crucial, said Erin Komsmo of the NYSHN, who was in Yellowknife for the launch.

“HIV is affecting young people the most, and indigenous communities are much more affected by HIV

than non-indigenous ones, which is reflective of the challenges in our lives. So it’s important that it comes from indigenous youth because it’s affecting us the most,” she said.

“We know that peer-to-peer conversation works best in this case, when it comes to talking about sex or drugs. When you have young people talking about this together, that’s where you see the best results.”

That said, Komsmo noted that HIV prevention is still a community responsibility that needs to be addressed at all levels, and has to incorporate a holistic interpretation of wellness that considers experiences of colonization and cultural loss as it relates to self respect.

“When you talk about HIV, it’s being reflective of other symptoms in the community,” Komsmo said. “What it’s going to take is to confront all the issues... Empowering young people to know their bodies and take care of each other - that’s where you overcome the challenges.”

A selection of the digital stories can be seen online at takingaction4youth.org

Justice Missing Women

Billboard hopes to solve murder of Fort Chip woman

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

More than a year after the remains of Amber Alyssa Tuccaro were found south of Edmonton near Leduc following two years of search efforts, RCMP unveiled a billboard on the highway calling on the public to help solve her murder.

The billboard, located at the intersection of Hwy. 814 and Airport Rd. near Nisku, asks the public to listen to the audio recording of the voice belonging to a man believed to have been with Tuccaro shortly before she disappeared in August 2010.

It reads, “Have you heard the voice?”

Vivian Tuccaro, Amber’s mother, attended the billboard unveiling to lead a healing ceremony in honour of her daughter, where she wept and told reporters her daughter’s murder is “a parent’s worst nightmare.”

Police first made the cellphone call public back in August 2012 to help track down the man in connection with



A new billboard near Nisku, Alta. urges the public to assist in locating a suspect in Amber Tuccaro’s disappearance in 2010.

Photo: Project KARE

Tuccaro’s disappearance, just weeks before her body was found on Sept. 1, 2012 on a rural property near Leduc.

Tuccaro left her hotel room in Nisku, south of Edmonton, at 8:00 p.m. on Aug. 18 to catch a ride to the city after flying to the airport from Fort McMurray a day earlier with

her 14 month-old son and a female friend.

She got into a vehicle with a man and was not heard from again.

In the two-minute phone call recording, a man’s voice can be heard during Tuccaro’s conversation with another person, trying to convince

Tuccaro he is driving east from Nisku to enter the city from 50th St., but RCMP believe he drove south instead, ending east of Nisku in rural Leduc County.

Tuccaro asks frightened questions, demanding to be taken to the city and wondering where they are going.

The man tells her they are taking gravelled back roads to 50th St. in Edmonton before the sound becomes unintelligible.

“We’re asking the public’s assistance to listen to the tape in hopes that someone recognizes the male voice of the driver and phones investigators

with that information,” said Cst. Ray Shelton, an investigator with Project KARE, an RCMP-led unit that investigates unsolved homicides and vulnerable missing persons.

“This audio clip may be disturbing to some listeners, but it’s important that the public listens to the voice and helps investigators identify the driver of that vehicle.”

Shelton said he believes the unknown male may have information that would assist in the investigation.

Tuccaro had been a resident of Fort McMurray and was 20 years old at the time of her disappearance.

The recording is available at www.kare.ca and www.albertamissingpersons.ca.

Anyone who can help identify the voice or who has other information related to Tuccaro’s disappearance is asked to call Project KARE toll free at 1-877-412-KARE (5273) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Edmonton residents can also call KARE at 780-509-3356.

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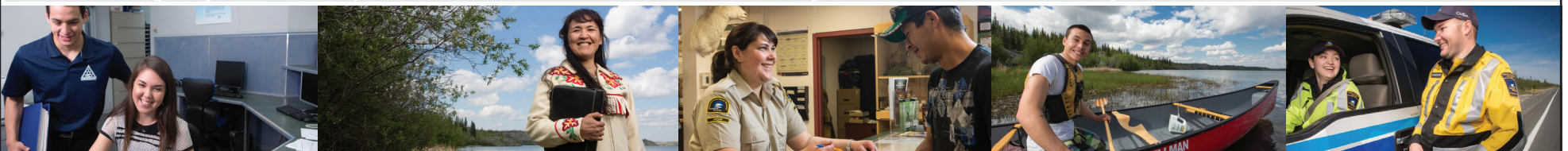
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SPORTS BRIEFS

Three inductees announced for NWT Sport Hall of Fame recognition

Inductees for the NWT Sport Hall of Fame have been announced and will soon join the ranks of the territory's great athletes, builders and teams. Vic Mercredi, Father Mouchet and the 1964 Yellowknife Junior Merchants have been selected for this year's recognition event that kicks off Sport North's Sport Forum on Nov. 22 at the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre in Yellowknife. The NWT Sport Hall of Fame was started last year by the Sport North Federation to showcase NWT's sport heroes and inspire youth to set goals and live healthy active lifestyles.

Eight students selected for Sport North scholarships

Eight students were awarded with scholarships of \$1,500 from the Sport North Federation last week for their academic excellence, dedication to sport and volunteer commitment. All students who received the 2013 scholarships are in sport-related studies in the NWT. Recipients include Tyler Comeau, Matt Craig, Alexandra Letzing, Kent Nilson, Spencer Rivers, Laura Ross and Alea Stockton. Alyssa Ross received the Scott McAdam Scholarship, also valued at \$1,500.

Coaches wanted for Indigenous games

The Aboriginal Sports Circle is teaming up with the NWT Volleyball Association and the NWT Soccer Association to find head coaches and assistant coaches for the territory's teams competing in the 2014 North American Indigenous Games in Regina, Sask. next year. Candidates are required to have either their Active Start or their Community Coach Child certification, be willing to obtain a criminal record check, and complete a three-hour online "Respect In Sport" course. Applicants are asked to apply online at <http://www.nwt-kicks.ca/coaching-applications>. The North American Indigenous Games will take place on July 20-27, 2014.



Flanked by Falcons, St. Pat's assistant captain Sarah Hart takes a shot at Sir John's net.

Sports & Recreation Hockey

Yellowknife's Challenge Cup celebrates classic rivalry

By MARIA CHURCH

Stands packed with parents and students on the edge of their seats, sporting either blue and yellow or green and white, can be overwhelming

for first time hockey players at the Challenge Cup in Yellowknife, but it's one of the most exciting games of the year, says one coach.

Yellowknife's high schools and long-time hockey rivals, Ecole St. Patrick High School and Sir John Franklin, went head to head in Yellowknife last week at the annual Wade Hamer Challenge Cup boys and girls games.

This year's games were nail biters for players, coaches and fans with both won by only one goal, said Rob Hart, a coach for both the boys and girls St. Pat's teams.

"It was definitely, I think, the most exciting Challenge Cup I've ever seen for both games put together. It was just tossed with excitement there," he said.

The girls teams were the first to battle it out in the Ed Jeske arena. Sir John's Falcons were favoured for the win after last year's

game ended in a clear victory, but the St. Pat's Irish were not about to go down without a fight this year, Hart said.

The stage was set after St. Pat's brand new goalie, Tamara Tsetta, faced off against St. John's assistant captain on a breakaway and managed to snatch the puck from mid air, he said.

"It just kind of set the tone; it wasn't going to be that easy for them. First save was a big glove save on a ripper of a shot - that was a pretty good way to start the game," Hart said.

In the end, Sir John kept up pressure on the St. Pat's girls and won the game 3-2.

The boys were next up in the rink and it was anyone's game, Hart said. Back and forth, each team got the upper hand as the goals climbed. St. Pat's managed to tie it up with only a minute left, sending play into overtime

where they scored again to win the game 6-5.

"All these moments of excitement - saves from goalies, defence plays - it's a whole jumble of awesomeness," Hart said.

"I'm just extremely proud of all the players on both sides for how they played. I think it's just a shining example of what that day's supposed to be: two teams of friends that for one day are rivals and are going head to head and absolutely battling it out on the ice and yet staying within limits of sportsmanship," he said.

"They're playing good, clean, hard, passionate hockey and giving the 1,000 or so people that are watching 80 minutes of beautiful hockey to watch."

The Challenge Cup, which has been played every year by the two schools since 1985, wraps up the high school hockey season in Yellowknife.

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The Irish and Falcons battle it out for possession of the puck during the boys' game.

Photos courtesy of St. Patrick's High School

Historical novel on Tulita was a struggle to write: author

By MARIA CHURCH

For Canadian novelist Susan Haley, her latest book based on a French Oblate priest who lived in Tulita in the mid to late 1800s was one of the most difficult books she's ever written.

The historical novel, called *Petitot* after its main character Father Emile Petitot, one of the first Catholic missionaries to arrive in the Mackenzie Valley in 1862, was just released this September after nearly 10 years of research and writing.

The delay had a lot to do with what Haley uncovered about her main character, she said.

"I initially started out thinking I was going to be writing a book about a huge character who I admired, and then I discovered I was writing a book about somebody I couldn't admire," she told *The Journal* in an interview.

The Canadian author, currently based in Nova Scotia, spent 15 years living in Tulita in the 1980s operating a small airline with her late husband Martin Hartwell.

"I loved living there," she said. "The reason I initially got interested in *Petitot* was because he was the first



Photo: Joane Dadson

Susan Haley said *Petitot*, her eighth book, was difficult to write.

missionary in Tulita; he's the founder of the mission of St. Therese there."

Haley's interest in *Petitot* was further piqued when she received copies of the historical diaries in the priest's own hand, still untranslated from their original French script.

"I thought, why have we never heard of this guy, this is just amazing because he's sort of an explorer. He writes

a lot of ethnic information, as well. He really lived with the people and traveled with them over the land," she said.

With the diaries in hand, Haley launched into research for a book on *Petitot* in 2004 while she was a writer-in-residence at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife.

"I had an office in the library and I spent every

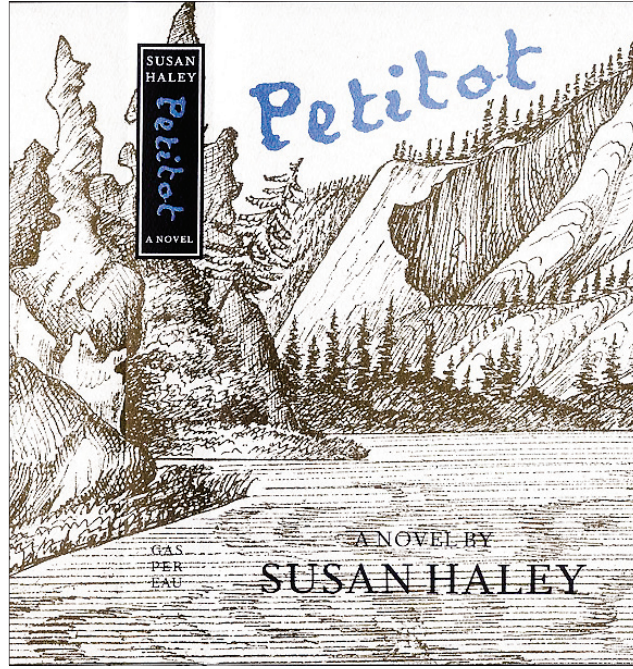


Photo: Gaspereau Press

Petitot centers on an Oblate priest, Father Emile Petitot.

morning in the Northwest Territories archives working on this book," she said.

After moving to Nova Scotia, she continued research on the priest and his adventures, uncovering more and more about his personal life and relationships with the people of Tulita. Eventually, her opinion of him began to sour.

"I got a hold of his letters and I found out the real

scoop on him," she said. "He does turn out to be one of the bad guys."

Haley said she discovered her character was a pedophile and suffered from what she believes was bipolar disorder, evident from wild bouts of insanity.

"He's a wonderful writer, a very compelling writer, very entertaining, funny, charming or whatever, but

I decided that he was completely unreliable. He just paints a good picture of himself. So I decided to write the book from the point of view of the people he affected, some of whom he tried to protect and some of whom he certainly damaged," she said.

After that pivotal decision, Haley began writing the story from the eyes of a Dene boy and a young Cree-Métis woman. The book evolved into a picture of an abuse of power that affected many Northern Aboriginal people, she said.

In September, shortly after *Petitot* was released, Haley made a personal trip back to Tulita with her daughter. During the trip she stopped in Yellowknife for a book reading at Prince of Wales.

"That was fabulous, actually; it was wonderful. A lot of people came and a lot of people who lived in Tulita came," she said.

Petitot is Haley's eighth book. Her repertoire of novels includes *Getting Married in Buffalo Jump*, which was made into a CBC movie in 1990.

Arts & Culture Film

NWT actor beats out stars for best actor award

The Lesser Blessed lead named outstanding actor at L.A. film fest

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Beating out superstars Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro, first-time teen actor Joel Evans from Fort Smith, NWT won the title of "outstanding actor in a leading role" last week at the 10th annual Red Nation Film Festival in Los Angeles for his portrayal of Larry Sole in *The Lesser Blessed*.

The film was featured in a special screening at the month-long festival on Nov. 8, with the awards ceremony taking place Monday evening in North Hollywood.

Evans said he was excited about the nomination and surprised at the win, but credited director Anita Doron's filmmaking talents and Richard Van Camp's story with the recognition.

"The story that Richard had to tell and that Anita picked up, the way

they studied the character transition from story to screen, they just laid it out so well that Larry was just an easy person for me to jump into. He's also from the North and just had similar feelings that you can relate to that make it easier to jump in."

Van Camp, who helped produce the film that was based off his acclaimed first novel, said Evans was absolutely deserving of the recognition.

"I think Joel just nails every scene: from his voice, to his timing, to that unforgettable smile, to that light he carries with him," Van Camp said. "I also think we may be growing a bit tired of seeing the same faces in Hollywood movies and we're all rooting for new talent that comes out of nowhere to astonish us, and Joel Evans has done exactly that."

More recognition for film

Evans isn't the only star getting recognition for his role in *The Lesser Blessed*.

Co-stars Kiowa Gordon and Tamara Podemski were both nominated for their supporting roles at the Red Nation Film Fest, along with Anita Doron for best director. The film was also nominated for best picture.

Just a day earlier, Gordon took home the award for best supporting actor at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, where Evans also received a nomination for best actor.

The film has been screened at a number of festivals over the last year, including Weaving Words, ImagiNative and the Toronto International Film Festival, where it made its premiere.

Van Camp said the film will likely be returning to the NWT next spring as a fundraiser for the PW Kaeser high school grads in Fort Smith.

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"Mother" Febule Bohnet

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