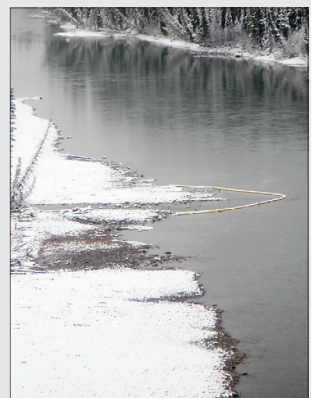


Northern Journal Songbook

NORTHERN Journal

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First Nation demands better coal spill response
The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is considering legal action against the government for failing to inform them of the coal spill. See page 2.



Third pipeline leak found in northern Alberta
Apache Corp. discovered a new wastewater leak on their property near Zama City, estimated to have released 1.8 million litres. See page 7.



Fate of Fort Mac in hands of online gamers
An online game-documentary gets players to decide the fate of Fort McMurray, asking them to run the oilsands and keep their hands clean. See page 10.



Biathlete makes podium at international races
Hay River biathlete Brendan Green's performance at the IBU races earned him a start at the Biathlon World Cup next week. See page 26.



Fort Smith friends and families gather downtown to watch Mayor Brad Brake flip the switch to light the big tree, an annual event that followed the Santa Claus parade to kick start the holidays last week. See page 23 for more photos from the parade and ceremony.

Lubicon block access road to fracking site

Northern Alberta First Nation sues Penn West Petroleum

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG
Members of a First Nation in northern Alberta who began occupying an access road to a fracking site on their territory last week announced Monday they are suing the company.
The traditional chief and council of Lubicon Lake Cree Nation filed suit against Penn West Petroleum Ltd. late last Friday following a week of protest and enforcement of a trespass eviction order from the Lubicon government.
Approximately 20 members

began peacefully blockading an access road to Penn West's site last Tuesday after they discovered the company bringing equipment and workers into the area without notice.
Chief Bernard Ominayak said the Lubicon Nation requires industry to obtain free, prior and informed consent prior to developing on their territory, which has not happened.
The statement of claim argues that because Canada never entered into Treaty

with Lubicon prior to developing on Lubicon lands, the leases issued to Penn West are null and void. It also states that oil and gas development has caused irreparable harm to the Lubicon's ability to exercise their inherent Aboriginal rights, and demands an injunction halting work until issues are resolved.
Protesters indicated Monday that despite winter storms and freezing temperatures, they unanimously agreed to

stay put until the company and province agree to respect their jurisdiction over their lands.
A group from the Lubicon Nation first visited the Penn West jobsite on Nov. 18 to inquire about the presence of equipment and personnel on location. According to Lubicon councillor Dwight Gladue, Penn West initially agreed to halt the work and meet with the First Nation on Nov. 20. The following day, the company called to cancel

the meeting and re-started operations.
Lubicon leaders then passed a council resolution and order indicating that Penn West was trespassing on Lubicon Land and had to vacate immediately.
The decision to block the road was made after Penn West representatives met with Lubicon chief, council, elders and citizens on Nov. 25, but refused to cease their operations.
See First Nation on page 3.

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NEWS BRIEFS

GNWT drowning reduction strategy gets national notice

The territorial government's efforts to reduce drownings in the NWT has received an award for collaboration from the Canadian Collaborative Centres for Injury Prevention. The award recognized the GNWT's efforts between departments and external partners to address the rate of drownings in the territory, which have been reduced by 50 per cent in the last five years. Between 2004 and 2008, there were 36 drownings in the NWT, while from 2009 to date there have been 16, still five times higher than the national per capita average.

Negotiators sign draft for Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

A draft of the Thaidene Nene Establishment Agreement was initialled by negotiators in Lutsel K'e last month, signalling that an agreement has been reached on "most subject matters" in establishing the Thaidene Nene area as a new National Park Reserve. The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada Agency signed the draft on Nov. 13, stating that they are prepared to recommend the agreement to their respective parties and move forward with the creation of a protected area. In a press release from the First Nation, negotiators expressed hope that a mutual understanding on the final boundaries could be reached in the next year.

Woman pleads guilty of careless driving in death of NWT boxer

Nicole Reid, on trial for charges of street-racing that led to the death of Jonathan Andre, a heavyweight boxer originally from the NWT, pleaded guilty of careless driving in an Edmonton court house last week. Andre died in 2011 after being hit by Reid's white Honda Civic in Edmonton where she was driving an estimated 70 to 80 km per hour in a 50 zone. A careless driving charge would see Reid pay a maximum fine of \$2,000 and avoid jail time. Andre, 31 years old at the time of his death, had moved to Edmonton four years earlier from Yellowknife to pursue a boxing career after struggling with addictions.



Representatives of the Dene Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Sherritt coal, and the territorial and federal governments address public concerns about the recent coal spill in the Athabasca River at a community forum in Yellowknife last Monday.

Politics First Nations

First Nations demand better emergency spill response

Community meeting on coal spill planned for Dec. 5 in Fort Chipewyan

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Dene leaders in northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories continue to demand answers on why they were not formally notified by government of a massive coal tailings spill heading their way via the Athabasca River.

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) Chief Allan Adam said the Alberta government's response to the release of 670,000 cubic metres of coal slurry, containing toxic heavy metals and hydrocarbons, into the river casts doubt on the province's ability to address issues of health and environmental protection in the wake of massive industrial accidents.

"It becomes a larger issue because it puts everything into question. It's not like we haven't been questioning anything before, but now from our point of view, it makes us question how development is occurring at a rapid rate," Adam told *The Journal*. "With this happening at the magnitude that it did and with no emergency response put in place, I think now it's time to say let's do something different here, because everybody was unprepared for this situation when it occurred."

ACFN government leadership held its first conference call with Alberta's Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) Minister Diana McQueen last Wednesday afternoon, one week after the First Nation asked her to step down for "failing to do her job" in response to addressing one of the largest coal slurry spills in history.

In the meeting, Adam and councillors Scott Flett and Anthony Ladouceur said they were looking for answers on the exact numbers of contaminants coming down river in the sediments, as well as an explanation for why ACFN was not notified by the Alberta government.

"We're still looking for a formal letter from them stating that this spill happened on the Athabasca River," Adam

said, adding that the only information they received was a phone call from Sherritt International, the company responsible for the spill.

Ladouceur said the minister was unable to answer ACFN's questions about what was contained in the tailings spill, beyond preliminary water quality results from ESRD. Instead, ESRD officials said they would give more information when they visit Fort Chipewyan on Dec. 5 as part of a forum being organized by the First Nation, which will also include a representative from Sherritt.

The chief said ACFN is now considering pursuing legal action.

"There has to be a quicker response - that's the one critical area that has to be addressed - a quicker response as to what's in the sediments that communities need to be aware of," Adam said.

"I think basically they're trying to downplay the whole situation, and they don't have the proper (emergency response) mechanisms in place, as well."

Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus, who held a public forum in Yellowknife on Monday on the coal spill, agreed with Adam that First Nations need to be notified sooner.

"We need to be informed right away. The GNWT were informed on Nov. 4 and we were informed 10 days later through the media," he said, adding that the government's response time on remediation was also "very troubling."

"It wasn't until Nov. 19 - 20 days later - that the company was told to clean up the spill. It should have been automatic. Why wait for sampling? They should already know what was in the tailings pond. Clearly

their response alone is cause for alarm."

Adam said the public has been receiving mixed messages from the government on the severity of the incident, telling people the water is safe to drink and also telling communities not to drink it.

ACFN, in coordination with Mikisew Cree First Nation, has already started conducting its own water monitoring near the community and is doing testing daily. That data is being compared to drinking water quality results collected by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB).

Adam said the environmental monitoring program will now likely be revamped to look more closely at the vegetation along with the water in relation to fish and wildlife health.

"Because the sediments are going to be settling in the delta, we have to take every precaution necessary," he said. "Our monitoring team has been instructed to test for all those metals. We'll likely be doing sediment samples in the spring."

The RMWB said last Friday that drinking water quality remained at normal levels in both Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan.

Water intake at Fort McMurray was closed briefly to sample water from the Athabasca, but was reopened when levels were confirmed as meeting all quality standards. Water intake is being left open in Fort Chipewyan.

"We will continue sampling at the Fort Chipewyan intake for at least 14 days," said Darcy Dragonetti, acting director of environmental services with the municipality. "If sampling indicates any impact to the water supply, the intake will be closed as required."



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First Nation divided as RCMP, province threaten removal

Continued from page 1.

“The government of the Lubicon Lake Nation is enforcing these laws as they would any other and expect the RCMP to join them to do the same,” stated a press release from the Lubicon. “Penn West has been repeatedly informed by the nation that no foreign government, including any Canadian endorsed, illegal, Indian Act formed government, will represent the Lubicon Lake Nation with regards to their lands.”

Ominayak said the Lubicon Nation has never ceded its lands nor signed a treaty with the Crown, and therefore remains sole title holder to its land and resources.

Gladue said the community is concerned about the impacts of fracking on its water. The Penn West site sits near two bodies of water, Haig Lake and Sawm Lake, which are the community’s main source of fish.

RCMP, government threaten order to vacate

Members of the Peace River RCMP detachment visited the blockade site three times last Wednesday, once with Richard Goy from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD), who said the province would be delivering an order to remove protesters from the road under the Public Lands Act.

The last time occurred in the evening, when Gladue said officers showed up wanting to see if the blockers “were happy.”

Three RCMP vehicles returned to the site on Thursday afternoon, taking photos of protesters and their



Members of the Lubicon Nation are confronted by Peace River RCMP last Wednesday at the site of the First Nation's road block to a Penn West Petroleum fracking site.

license plate numbers before leaving.

As of Friday afternoon, police or government officials had yet to return to

of claim on the land dispute, putting it currently before the courts.

The letter also referred to the Lubicon’s Charter

The government of the Lubicon Lake Nation is enforcing these laws as they would any other and expect the RCMP to join them to do the same.

Lubicon Lake Nation

the site or make any arrests.

A letter sent Wednesday to the provincial government from Lubicon’s legal counsel argued that no order could be made using the Public Lands Act because the First Nation has filed a statement

rights to peacefully assemble within their territory.

‘Recognized’ chief condemns blockade

The blockade has highlighted division within the Lubicon Nation.

The federally-recognized chief and council established in February 2013 are rejecting the acts of what they say is “a dissident group of Lubicon members” that are not supported by the democratically elected government.

“As the elected governing chief and council – recognized as such by the provincial and federal governments – we do not agree with or condone these actions,” Chief Billy Joe Laboucan said in a press release on Wednesday.

“We have been working with Penn West Exploration on an ongoing basis as the legitimate representatives of the Lubicon people and don’t want this jeopardized.”

Laboucan said Ominayak was invited to run in a



Artist Matt Whitehead joins the anti-fracking protest blocking an access road to Penn West's site on Lubicon territory.

“legitimate election” but declined. He said Ominayak’s actions are “counter-productive” and “don’t represent the approach of the recognized Lubicon government or the wishes of the majority of our people.”

Gladue said the majority of Lubicon members voted in a more recent election on May 30, 2013 in favour of Ominayak, held in the nation’s central community of Little Buffalo and under the traditional customs used to elect chief and council for generations.

He called Laboucan’s government a “puppet council” put in place by the Alberta and federal governments to “divide and conquer,” and open the door to development on their resource-rich territory. He said Laboucan

hasn’t lived in the community of Little Buffalo for decades.

“The sad thing is that some of our people have jumped on the bandwagon with Indian Affairs and are being told what to say and do on a daily basis,” Gladue said. “Now with the token chief and council, the government is going to use them to destroy what we’ve been fighting for all along.”

Laboucan said he and his council are working at mediating a solution agreeable to all parties.

“We want to resolve this issue in a way that promotes positive working relationships and long-term benefits for everyone involved, doing so as the elected and recognized government of the Lubicon Lake people,” he said.



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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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The GNWT's death blow to newspapers

The plan by the NWT government's Human Resources (HR) Department to switch to online recruitment only and cease advertising for new workers in Northern newspapers may well be the death knell of the newspaper industry in the NWT.

We should be able to have faith that the bureaucrats choosing that direction based it on the right reasons:

- Online recruitment is something that all Northerners interested in government jobs would prefer;
- The issues inherent in the GNWT workforce - lack of sufficient numbers of Aboriginal employees in particular - will be improved on, or at least not made worse;
- Effective recruitment will take place in all NWT communities;
- Those lacking computer skills or internet access will not be left out.

Assuming none of this is problematic and there is much money to be saved, the choice is an attractive one. The

decision ultimately is to sacrifice the NWT newspaper industry because this new approach will be an improvement. If not, then the plan is a very bad one.

Newspapers depend on advertising for over 95 per cent of their revenue. A large portion of that in the NWT stems from employment, legal and tender advertising. If the NWT government chooses to abandon the use of newspapers as a means of seeking personnel, it is just a matter of time before tenders go the same route. Without that revenue, newspapers cannot sustain. The NWT government constitutes most of the territorial economy and where it goes, so goes much of the rest, so corporations and other levels of government will follow. It does not take a crystal ball to see the outcome.

There are other considerations. One is the nature of consensus government. There is no political opposition in the NWT to keep leaders on their toes and offer an alternative. The role of newspapers

as watchers ensures transparency and accountability through public awareness, essential to consensus government being effective democracy.

An unusual aspect of NWT life, part of its natural charm, is the bond between communities. Newspapers are an integral part of the "glue" that keeps them together.

Ten years ago, with the advent of the internet, newspapers were supposed to be dead very soon. That did not happen. Newspapers are thriving at the community level. Social media and the internet have proven invaluable tools that strengthened the hand of journalists. Social media and the internet are also a powerful means for newspapers to disseminate their information and connect with readers. Not dying, they are in transition, better than ever. If advertisers like the NWT government create alternate solutions, however, the prophecy becomes self-fulfilling.

A fragmented future vision

If we had one criticism to levy at the NWT government, it would point to a lack of a coherent vision for the territory's future needs and objectives and how that will be achieved. We have postulated in past editorials that this flaw may stem from the consensus government format, where the government of the day is not challenged with an alternative way of doing things by an opposition that strives to present a better vision. We have suggested, too, that it may also stem from the fact the premier is not elected by the people and so the government of the day never has to present goals and objectives and detail a means of achieving them. No imperative of an election is faced where a plan's mettle must prove worthy or its authors will be rejected and replaced.

Whatever the contextual cause, one result is that the bureaucracy in the NWT government has more power and plays

a much a bigger role in determining the future than it should.

The current great challenge facing the NWT is a conundrum over large scale resource development versus the preservation of the environment and the protection, even strengthening, of Aboriginal culture. All three are commitments of the government. The chosen approach, to model the unfettered development style of the Alberta and federal governments, means those goals are mutually exclusive. Something will be sacrificed. It need not be that way.

Most governments recognize an inherent structural weakness where departments operate as "silos," each acting independent of the other - sometimes to cross-purposes. When departments operate in independent worlds, it fosters the power and heightens the role of bureaucrats. Their foremost goal above all others, by nature, is to grow their own domain. The

way to counter that is with a strong, carefully drafted future vision from the government along with a coordinated game plan for implementation. That direction is essential for any bureaucracy to function effectively and efficiently.

Whether it is culture or economy or quality of life, the big picture and long view have to be important considerations when decisions are made. The NWT's strength is the character of its people and a good government would make a point to retain and sustain that character in all that it does. The mix of small-town camaraderie steeped in Aboriginal tradition is unique in Canada. It is also at risk.

The NWT government needs to be in charge, and in that role understand and appreciate the impact and implications of decisions that alter the future, and as elected leaders ensure choices are made based on the solutions that are best for the people of the North.



From left, Diane Seals and Grace Sherwin from the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre in Fort Smith show off their Christmas tree, decorated to represent the museum, as part of the annual Festival of Trees exhibit.



Trees representing business and organizations in Fort Smith will be on display at the museum until Christmas.

Photos: Maria Church

ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Cadets come up big winners

Last week the 2748 Canadian Army Cadet Corps from Fort Smith won a drill competition that included teams within their zone from Hay River, Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife Army and Air.

This means the team will now compete in a regional competition to be held in Cambridge Bay from Dec. 11-13.

20 Years Ago...

Five more escape from River Ridge

Last Sunday night, at about 11:53 p.m., the Fort Smith RCMP were alerted by staff at the youth centre that a matron and guard were assaulted by five youths who then escaped. The staff were making their nightly round when they were jumped.

30 Years Ago...

Munro, Olson to visit Fort Smith

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro and Liberal Senator H.A. "Bud" Olson will visit Fort Smith next Friday to discuss the road south to Vermilion and the proposed Slave River hydro project.

Olson, the senator in charge of economic development in the west, will arrive in the morning.

Getting checked saves lives

"I'm sorry, it's cancer." More than one third of all Canadians will hear these words at some point in their lives. The effect is far-reaching: cancer has a major impact on the lives of people being diagnosed, as well as on their families and friends.

Cancer is complex. It is a single word used to describe over 200 types of diseases. Cancer is the uncontrolled, rapid growth of cells in the body. Cancers are usually named after the part of the body where they start. For example, cancer that starts in the colon or rectum is colorectal cancer, one of the most common cancers in the NWT.

The most common cancers in the NWT are breast, colorectal, lung and prostate cancers. These are common

cancers across Canada. However, colorectal and lung cancer rates in the NWT are significantly higher than in Canada as a whole. Colorectal and lung cancers are largely preventable. Many colorectal cancers could be prevented through a healthy diet and active living, while smoking is the single greatest contributor to lung cancer.

The increasing number of people diagnosed with cancer is a great concern for all residents of the Northwest Territories. This means more of our people are living with chronic conditions, but most importantly the human and emotional cost to those living with cancer and their families is immeasurable.

When someone is diagnosed

with cancer it is a highly visible and traumatic event in their lives, particularly in small tight-knit communities where everyone knows everyone. Many residents want to find out more about what is causing cancer, how we can prevent cancer, how we can identify and treat cancer, and how we can support patients and their families.

The good news is that more of us are surviving cancer. Cancer is no longer the death sentence it used to be. Treatments are more effective and are often less invasive, less painful and less life-altering. We can find some cancers early. The cancer journey, which is often a complex and difficult road, is also improving.

But there are new challenges ahead. The average age of NWT residents is rising, and cancer risk also increases with age. An older population, therefore, means more cancer. And, while it's true that people are living longer with cancer and after treatment, it is now the leading cause of death in the NWT. Too many cancers in the NWT are being discovered in their later stages, when it is hard to treat.

Getting checked for certain cancers before anyone suspects there is a problem saves lives. Detecting cancer early is vital for our residents. The challenge is to make sure the right people get the right



DR. ANDRÉ CORRIVEAU
Chief Medical Officer
GNWT

information and tests at the right time.

There are screening tests available for colorectal, cervical and breast cancers in the NWT. Some people are hesitant or afraid to get checked for cancer. They do not have any symptoms and feel healthy. But everyone is at risk of cancer, even if you feel fine or are healthy. You shouldn't wait for symptoms to get checked. Many cancers have no warning signs.

Going for regular screening could mean a difference between life and death. It is recommended you talk to your doctor or other health care provider about what screening options are available to you, particularly if you are over the age of 50, or sooner if you have a family history of cancer. Routine cancer screening tests are to be repeated every one to two years.

THE NORTHERN JOURNAL'S
Unanswered Question
of the Week

THE TOPIC
Beginning of Betty House construction

THE JOURNAL'S QUESTION
(posed to Revi Lau-a, NT Housing Corp.)
How many women would potentially be using the Betty House?

THE ANSWER
"I don't have that information."

White Girl

By DAWN KOSTELNIK
It is 1966 in Fort Norman (Tulita).

One hundred and twenty six dogs stretch out across the frozen Mackenzie River. Eighteen teams of dogs become thin lines of broken black thread that sew their way toward the even blacker ridge of pecker pole pine and spruce that frame out the western shore of the mighty Mackenzie. This is the western side of the NWT that borders with the Yukon Territory.

It is time for the early spring hunt. The men will be gone until they have killed enough caribou to feed us through to the last part of March and until the ice breaks up. Then everyone heads out for fish camp and rat camp. A rag tag group of kids watches in silence as our fathers, uncles and brothers head out to hunt food for us.

We stand silent on the bank, eyes straining for the last glimpse of men and dogs as our village is emptied. Little arms wave, just one more time... Our dads disappear into the distance and dark of the trees. Cold forces us to finally leave the riverbank. Women and children and old men are left to manage until the food comes home again with the men and dogs. The *Ehtee* (grandfathers) have to keep us safe from the wolves.

My dad has his own team of dogs, his boys. They are "end of their day" dogs that were going to be shot at the end of their working days. My dad brought them home to us instead. Food is used for usefulness, there is no free ride, and there are no pet dogs. These are ex-freighter dogs from Wood Buffalo National Park in Fort Smith, NWT. They have been the

Superintendent's dogs and he is happy not to have to shoot them. My dad is happy to have his own team.

The freighter dogs are gentle giants. Dogs with heads like grizzly bears, especially "Smiley." Scars cover Smiley's head from dogfights, ears bit ten off, white-faced old man, he always smiles at us kids, lowering his head in submission for an ear scratch. Whiteie is my dog; he is our lead dog. He has the presence of a wise old man, calm and always watching. Sam and Roy conclude the team of imported four.

A wheel dog has the toughest job; they are the dogs harnessed closest to the sleigh, and they have to pull hardest. Tippy, our wheel dog, is of a different ancestral destination; he is local talent. He is a black and white, blue-eyed Siberian husky, smarter than

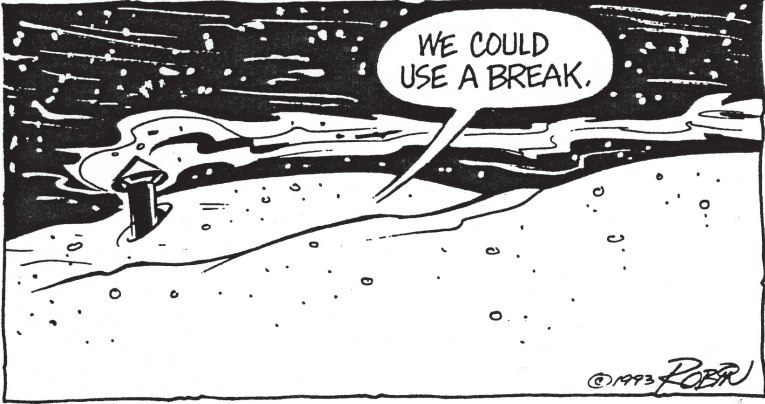
most with a hatred for other dogs that becomes legend.

Physically these freighter dogs are almost twice the size of the local dogs weighing in at 125 lbs. These dogs are twice as slow as the local teams; my dad always comes home last. They can pull double the weight of the other dogs, but they are old guys and so compensation has to be made for them. They are the perfect "starter" team. Whiteie will stop if dad falls off the sleigh; most dogs just keep on going, looking over their shoulders laughing as they run off down the trail.

Our dogs sit patiently and wait for dad to put on their tracers and stand when he needs to secure straps and buckles. They teach my dad lots about running dogs. (I never heard the term "mushing" until we moved south to Whitehorse.)

Read part 2 of "Hunting reality" in next week's Northern Journal.

MUKLUK



FACEBOOK
FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2013

A recent coal tailings spill making its way past Fort McMurray to the NWT through the Athabasca River system poses no threat to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) or Fort Smith's drinking water, both municipalities assured residents last week.

Wood Buffalo closes water intake as spill passes

Sandra McLean: It still poses a threat to the land, fish and animals that don't drink treated water!

Rebecca Beck: WHO'S GOING TO TRUST WHAT THEY SAY? I SURE DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE.

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Forecast

| Inuvik | Yellowknife |
|---|-------------|
| <div><div>-7 High</div><div></div><div>-17 Low</div></div> <div>Wednesday</div> <div><div>-23 High</div><div></div><div>-24 Low</div></div> | |
| <div><div>-11 High</div><div></div><div>-12 Low</div></div> <div>Thursday</div> <div><div>-15 High</div><div></div><div>-22 Low</div></div> | |
| <div><div>-15 High</div><div></div><div>-16 Low</div></div> <div>Friday</div> <div><div>-16 High</div><div></div><div>-23 Low</div></div> | |
| <div><div>-15 High</div><div></div><div>-17 Low</div></div> <div>Saturday</div> <div><div>-20 High</div><div></div><div>-25 Low</div></div> | |
| Norms: -20°C and -28°C Norms: -17°C and -25°C | |

Hay River

| | |
|--|--|
| <div><div>-20 High</div><div></div><div>-21 Low</div></div> <div>Wednesday</div> <div><div>-19 High</div><div></div><div>-22 Low</div></div> | |
| <div><div>-21 High</div><div></div><div>-24 Low</div></div> <div>Thursday</div> <div><div>-23 High</div><div></div><div>-27 Low</div></div> | |
| <div><div>-16 High</div><div></div><div>-22 Low</div></div> <div>Friday</div> <div><div>-23 High</div><div></div><div>-29 Low</div></div> | |
| <div><div>-17 High</div><div></div><div>-22 Low</div></div> <div>Saturday</div> <div><div>-20 High</div><div></div><div>-25 Low</div></div> | |
| Norms: -14°C and -22°C Norms: -14°C and -23°C | |

Having a VERY MERRY Fort Smith Christmas!

Holiday events from Dec. 3 – Dec. 9

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 3

Drop-in Soccer
at the Rec. Centre
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Drop-in Basketball
at the Rec. Centre
8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 4

Drop-in Soccer
at the Rec. Centre
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

National Film Board Club
The Fruit Hunters
7:00 p.m. at the Library

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 5

Drop-in Volleyball
at the Rec. Centre
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 6

Cookie Decorating for Kids
at the Rec. Centre
Starts at 3:30 p.m.

T'Rev's Drum Circle
at Uncle Gabe's
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7

Skate with Santa
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
at the arena

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8

Ann Lepine's Christmas party
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
at the Rec. Centre

Bake Sale
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
at Anna's Home Cooking

Christmas Movie
The Polar Express
2:00 p.m. at the Rec Centre

MONDAY
DECEMBER 9

Pre-School Storytime
10:30 a.m. at the Library

Community Caroling
Starts at 7:30 p.m.
at St. John's Anglican Church

Drop-in Volleyball
at the Rec. Centre
8:00 to 9:30 p.m.



Festival of TREES

Show Fort Smith your Xmas Spirit!
Design and decorate your own festive tree.

Set-up can be done 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. at the Northern Life Museum until Dec. 13

Sign up today by calling 872-2859.



Fort Smith Minor Hockey 50/50 Draws

WIN BIG IN OUR BI-MONTHLY 50/50 DRAW.
All funds go to support Fort Smith minor hockey, player development and youth athletics.

TICKETS ARE ONLY \$2.

Draw dates are December 15 and 29, January 12 and 26, February 9 and 23, March 2, 9 and 23.



Starting on December 10, watch for Santa on the streets of Fort Smith!

HO HO HO MAHSL CHO

DRIVE SAFE and HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from the Mayor and Council



For additional information on events, please contact Fort Smith Town Hall at (867) 872-8400.

Third pipeline leak discovered in northern Alberta

Apache spills additional 1.8 million litres of wastewater near Zama

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Just one week after Apache Canada announced it had determined the cause of the largest pipeline spill in recent North American history, a third leak was discovered on the company’s property near Zama City in the northwestern corner of Alberta at the end of October.

The oil and gas producer’s third spill in the area this year is estimated to have released 1.8 million litres of “produced” wastewater, containing oil and other chemicals, onto an estimated 3.8 hectares of land.

Though Apache estimates the leak began on Oct. 3, it was not discovered until Friday, Oct. 25 when a company operator went out to investigate a volume discrepancy at the company’s Shekilie site approximately 35 km northwest of Zama City south of the NWT border.

According to the company, 2,400 cubic metres of recovered fluid has been transferred off-site and disposed of at a licensed, third-party facility. A team of personnel and external environmental experts remain onsite for remediation.

“Water recovery and



Photo courtesy of Apache Corp.

A 42-hectare area near Zama City in northern Alberta was destroyed when 15.4 million litres of wastewater spilled following a pipeline breach on May 5, 2013.

sampling operations are still underway and will continue as weather permits,” Apache spokesperson Paul Wyke told *The Journal* in an email.

He said the leaked water, which comes from formation fluids extracted during oil and gas operations, had already been treated to remove hydrocarbons, but still contains naturally occurring

oil, gas, non-potable water, salt and other minerals.

“A trace amount of hydrocarbons was present in the produced water and was contained on the lease site and subsequently scraped from the surface and disposed of at a licensed facility,” he said.

“There is no danger to the public and no effect on area

wildlife has been identified at this time.”

The company said the cause is still under investigation, but is not linked to the pipeline breach spotted on June 1, which saw 15.4 million litres of wastewater contaminate a 42-hectare area.

Though the water contained only trace amounts of hydrocarbons, the high salt

content killed most impacted vegetation, including trees.

The leaked amount was originally reported at 9.5 million litres due to an incorrect meter reading, according to the company, which has installed a new meter and put in place new internal procedures “to help prevent future underestimations.”

A second spill was also detected this year, but was so small that a volume was not released.

June spill caused by ‘stress corrosion cracking’

Apache announced the findings of its investigation into the June spill on Oct. 18, saying the pipeline failure was caused by cracking due to the stress of corrosion, despite the pipeline being less than 5 years old.

Moisture that penetrated the flexsteel pipe’s interior plastic liner through a pinhole exploded when mixed with sulphur gas produced by the wastewater, causing a “sudden failure” of the pipe on May 5 – nearly a month before it was detected.

Apache says the section of the pipeline that failed has been isolated and the integrity of the system pressure tested. As

well, the company is installing real-time monitoring through the addition of SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) on nine water injection wells in the Zama area. So far, five have been installed.

More than 110,000 cubic metres of the reclaimed wastewater have been successfully treated and released back into the environment. An additional 80,000 cubic metres have been injected underground into “the formation where it originated.”

Fall remediation efforts focused on removing and disposing affected soil prior to freeze-up. According to Wyke, an excavation program has begun and the majority of the contaminated soil will be removed and disposed of at a licensed facility throughout the winter.

“Water sampling and soil testing in the spring of 2014 at both sites will help form the basis to revise the remediation plan in regards to further required removal and disposal of affected water, soil and organics,” Wyke said.

Fencing and other deterrents have been set up around the site to keep wildlife away, along with cameras monitoring wildlife activity.

Industry Oil & Gas

ConocoPhillips releases updated list of frac chemicals

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The company behind the first fracking project in the Northwest Territories released an updated list of the chemicals it plans to use when drilling two exploratory horizontal wells in the Sahtu region this winter.

ConocoPhillips submitted its revised fracking program and chemical risk management plan to the Sahtu Land and Water Board last week, outlining the list of fracking fluids and additives it plans to use overall throughout the winter, their concentrations and their environmental and health hazards.

Potential hazards listed for the majority of additives confirms them as toxic to humans and waterways, several of which are carcinogens or neurotoxins.

The company came under fire earlier this year when it was noticed that the water license granted by the board allowed it to keep trade secrets in the disclosure of its fracking fluids.

Certain chemicals included on the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the various additives are listed without

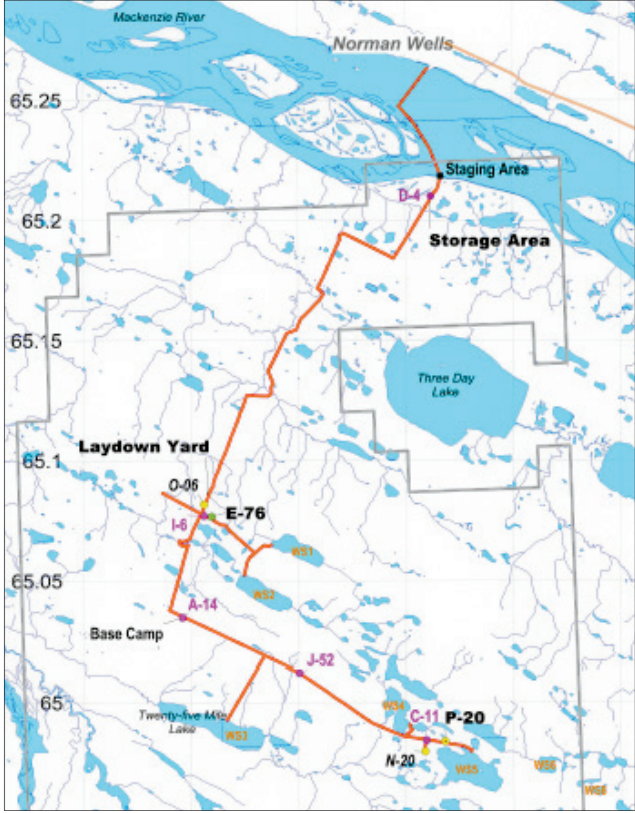


Photo: MWH

ConocoPhillips plans to drill and frack two exploratory horizontal wells south of Norman Wells before the end of the year.

their Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry numbers and instead are noted as being “proprietary.” Others have their ingredients listed with percentage volumes that

don’t add up to 100 per cent, raising questions about what is missing.

While trade secrets continue to inform the company’s chemical disclosure documents, Eric

Hanson of ConocoPhillips said every chemical being used has been disclosed prior to the program moving forward.

“All chemicals and all chemical concentrations have been fully disclosed to the Sahtu Land and Water Board. No chemicals are held in secret; we’ve fully disclosed all chemicals that we will be putting into the ground,” said the supervisor of operations in the Central Mackenzie.

“We’re not trying to keep anything secret; it’s not in our best interests to do so. We’re trying to keep the communities informed as much as possible, and to really educate people about what hydraulic fracturing is all about.”

Hanson said the company’s “fracture stimulation provider,” Schlumberger, has disclosed all the ingredients used, just not the way in which they are mixed.

“They won’t tell you exactly what is in that product, but they will tell you all the chemicals and all the chemical concentrations that will be onsite and that will be put in the ground during the fracture stimulation,” Hanson said. “They won’t tell you the exact

mixture of each one of their products, and the reason that is, is they don’t want someone to come along and reverse engineer their chemical mixtures for the products that they supply ConocoPhillips.”

Hanson said Schlumberger is responsible for choosing the chemicals that are used in the fracking project based on what will work best for petroleum extraction, rather than weighing options based on their level of toxicity to the environment or human health.

“So it’s really not ConocoPhillips selecting the chemicals that will be used, it’s more of our fracture stimulation provider that provides us with that, because there are a number of different products on the market, and we’re trying to pick the one that is going to hopefully allow us to fracture stimulate the rocks and prove that there’s the hydrocarbons there.”

Hanson said “99.5 per cent” of the mixture will be made up of water and sand, with the remainder composed of a mix of potent chemical additives, like microbiocides, friction-reducing agents, corrosion inhibitors and hydrochloric

acid at volumes of 5,000 litres per frac alone, among others.

The listed types of sand, to be used in volumes of 20,000-60,000 kg per frac, contain crystalline silica, a highly toxic respirable dust known to cause lung cancer in humans.

That mixture will be pumped underground at a rate of 10 cubic metres a minute and use 8,000 cubic metres of fresh water for each well.

Waste water is planned to be collected and trucked to licensed disposal facilities outside the NWT, or stored in temporary holding tanks in Norman Wells before it can be barged out in the summertime.

Hanson acknowledged that chemical reactions occur underground when the mixture combines with the shale formation, meaning the wastewater returning to the surface may not be the same as what was pumped below. But he said the major change that usually occurs is only an increase in salinity because of salt and minerals in the subsurface.

ConocoPhillips recently began constructing its winter access road to the fracking site and expects drilling operations to start before Christmas.

Income gap growing in NWT despite mining: report

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Resource extraction does little to address the increasing cost of living and socioeconomic inequalities faced by Northerners, says a new report by Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington, which recommends changes at the federal level that would redistribute wealth in the NWT.

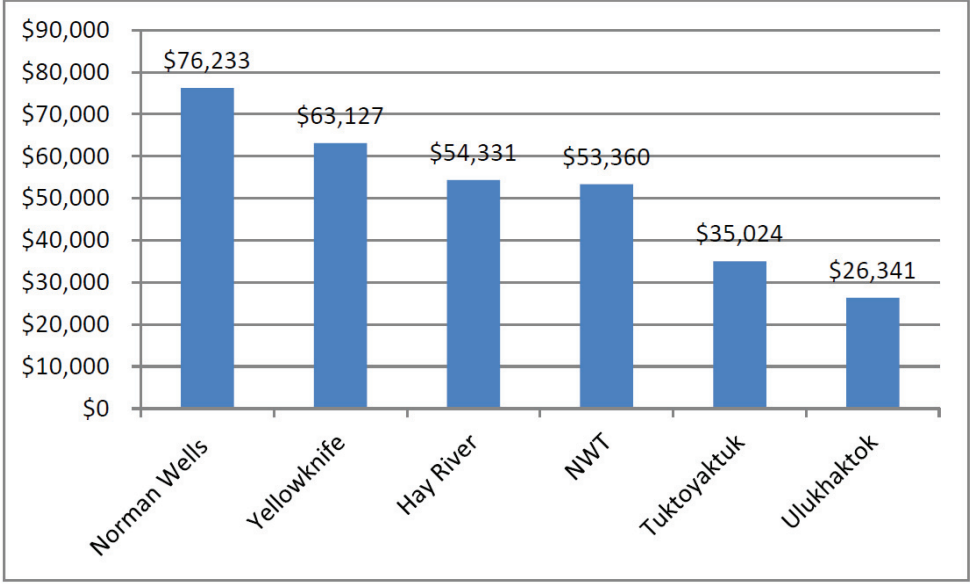
Bevington's office published a new report, *Tackling Living Costs in the NWT*, late last month aimed at identifying the causes behind the growing income gap in the North and ways it can be addressed.

In the report, the MP writes that despite experiencing a very high rate of GDP growth over the past decade, due mainly to the development and expansion of three diamond mines, quality of life has not improved for NWT residents.

While communities get some job and business opportunities, and territorial and Aboriginal governments receive increased taxes and royalties, the report states most benefits of mining flow out of the North through profits to non-Northern corporations, transient workers and royalties and taxes to the federal government.

"The statistics speak for themselves," Bevington told *The Journal*. "You take a community like Lutsel K'e that actually has been engaged with the diamond mines for

Average Personal Income in NWT and Selected Communities, 2010



Income disparity is growing not only between Canada's North and south, but between communities in the NWT, as well, shows a new report by Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington.

a whole decade and in that time, the number of families whose incomes are less than \$30,000 - which I think is at poverty line - has gone up by a very substantial percentage. And that doesn't even take into account inflation."

Bevington said more government resources need to be placed on supporting sustainable microbusiness providing for people in local economies, whether it be through the \$45 million allocated through the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

(CanNor) or territorial government initiatives.

"Yes, we need the resource development sector, but it isn't the panacea for us. It's not providing what's needed for low-income people, for those in the communities, and it's not the only answer we can have for our economy," he said.

"We should be investing as much as possible in the local economies, and the resource development economies can provide their own direction."

According to the report, typical government responses

to offsetting issues of living costs and inequality have had varying levels of success, with many failing.

Loans and subsidies for businesses aimed at encouraging job creation have had mixed results, with some companies leaving the NWT and others flopping despite government assistance. Programs designed to offset costs, such as Nutrition North - currently being audited - have been met with "widespread discontent."

Even training initiatives intended to find people a place

Yes, we need the resource development sector, but it isn't the panacea for us. It's not providing what's needed for low-income people, for those in the communities, and it's not the only answer we can have for our economy.

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington

in the mining industry's labour force are questioned in the report, which doubts whether those jobs are sustainable or address living cost inequalities.

Part of the problem is that the Northwest Territories continues to model itself after southern jurisdictions without taking into consideration the extraordinary challenges faced by Northerners, Bevington said, like "abysmal" increases to the cost of energy that haven't taken place in the south.

"We need to think of ourselves in a different fashion," he said. "We can't just transplant a southern lifestyle up here. We need to look at other solutions."

Bevington recommends - and commits to working towards - several changes to the federal tax system to redistribute wealth in Canada's North, starting with a 50 per cent increase to the Northern Residents Tax Deduction

(NRTD), which "would account for inflation."

The MP would also like to introduce a third NRTD category for household earnings that are the lowest in the NWT. Those communities would get a refundable credit rather than a deduction, accounting for their cost of living which in many cases is 200-300 per cent higher than in the south, since incomes are so low they are likely not receiving deductions in the first place.

The report also recommends the territorial government do more for sustainability, through retrofitting commercial and residential facilities and investing more in local enterprise, harvesting support programs, cooperatives and credit unions, and by holding a sustainability forum alongside its current mining and oil and gas conferences.

To read the full report, go to <http://www.dennisbevington.ca/>

Industry Economic Development

Development of North the future of Canada: report Expert calls Northern development 'a delicate dance' of stakeholders

By MARIA CHURCH

Canadians should be looking up, all the way up to the Northern marine waters, for an indication of the future of Canadian economic development, but not without consideration of the people living there, experts say.

A new report from the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North urges stakeholders in Northern industry to take all considerations into account before acting on the potential economic boom.

The report, co-written by Stefan Fournier and Margaret Caron-Vuotari, titled *Changing Tides: Economic Development in Canada's Northern Marine Waters*, was released in October of this year and states that the effects of climate change on the North has caused unprecedented access to Arctic waterways. As a result, industries such as shipping, oil and gas, fishing and tourism are expected to boom over the next several years.

The goal of the report is to



As weather warms, Arctic ice is melting, meaning greater access for marine transport.

provide a picture of challenges that are facing development of Canada's North - what Anja Jeffrey, director of the Centre for the North, calls a "delicate dance" of stakeholders.

"Delicate means if we are not considerate of the fact that this development has to benefit the people who live in the North and Northern communities, then we are missing the mark," Jeffrey said in an interview with *The Journal*.

"It's not economic development at any price; it's under

consideration, in collaboration with the people who live in the North, in particular Northern communities and sometimes Aboriginal communities," she said. "We want to make the rest of Canada aware of these complexities that are not often understood."

A one-size-fits-all approach will not work in the North because of the often extreme variations between communities, in particular Aboriginal communities, spread out across the vast Northern landscape.

"We don't know a whole lot about these local variances and we need to have a much better foundation of data to stand on in order to really be able to both predict and understand. So surveillance and data collection is one of the big things we point to," Jeffrey said.

Building the required infrastructure presents another challenge to developing the North, she said, and that infrastructure must benefit both industry and the people living there.

North-South divide impedes development

A huge challenge facing development in the North is the lack of communication between industry and locals that often occurs because of a "North-South divide," Jeffrey said.

"The country really suffers from, I think, a North-South divide and lack of understanding, which is followed by the fact that the majority of the population don't live in the North so they don't have that experience," she said.

Jeffrey drew attention to necessary collaborations between the North and south, such as the use of traditional ecological knowledge by industry and government.

The report, she said, is a "gentle reminder" to policy makers that there is a wealth of traditional knowledge available that, if they take the time to gather it, could make the difference between the success or failure of development projects.

Incidents such as the coal spill on the Athabasca River

from the defunct Obed Mine site near Hinton, Alta. that has been affecting First Nations and communities downstream are situations that have escalated because of a "lack of communication and a lack of understanding," she said.

"Finding a way to solve that problem becomes really pertinent. Things can flare up in terms of who is at fault, is anybody at fault, and who has the responsibility to rectify matters, but that is not unique to industry and Aboriginals. That's just an adverse relationship when a challenge or problem occurs," Jeffrey said.

Aboriginal populations have a right to be cautious, she said, but often times development can occur without adverse relationships between the industry and Aboriginal peoples when they communicate openly and recognize mutual benefits, mutual being the operative word.

Development in the North is not just a Northern concern, but a concern for all of Canada, Jeffrey said.

"There is a lot at stake here."



The GNWT's diamond polishing facilities on Archibald St. in Yellowknife, known as "Diamond Row," continue to sit empty as the territorial government finalizes their sale with Deepak International.

Industry Diamonds

Deepak International donates diamond from inventory

Diamond Row polishing facilities remain empty, sale not yet closed

By JACK DANYLCHUK
The winner of an annual Northern travel contest took home a 1.1 karat diamond with the polar bear trademark – but the gem did not come from a factory currently operating in the Northwest Territories.
“The diamond was cut and polished in (the) NWT

by (the) original Polar Bear Factory and we purchased (it) from the factory,” Deepak Kumar, president of Deepak International (Diamonds) Ltd. (DIL) told *The Journal* in an email.
Kumar was on hand at a tourism industry gala in Hay River last month to pick the name of the contest winner,

Sig Halwa, of Grande Prairie, Alta.
The coveted polar bear trademark was part of the package Kumar won last January when he agreed to pay \$1.9 million for two empty diamond factories and return them to production.
In April, Kumar got the keys to the buildings, at a

reduced price of \$1.795 million. The buildings are still empty and remain government property.
Kumar contacted *The Journal* and explained that the properties were found to be owing back taxes to the city of Yellowknife. The matter has been in hands of lawyers, resulting in delays.

Asked when the factories would open, Kumar said he would issue a press release, but did not specify a date.
An email from Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister Dave Ramsay’s office said last week that the government is working with DIL “towards finalizing the agreement to purchase and closing the sale.”

The GNWT has spent millions trying to initiate a diamond cutting industry in the NWT. Ramsay told *The Journal* previously that the GNWT is hoping to recoup their investments in those buildings and if 30 to 50 people were to be employed there, it would be a “good thing for the government to be doing.”

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

December 6, 2013



The White Ribbon Campaign

is the world’s largest movement of men and boys working to end violence against women, promote gender equity, healthy relationships and a new vision of masculinity.

Wear a white ribbon as a pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

Sutherland House invites you to stop by our table on December 6
Fort Smith Aurora College Foyer 10:00 a.m. - Noon and Kaeser’s Foyer 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
White ribbons and refreshments available **FREE!**

Sponsored by UNW Local 2 and Sutherland House

Northern Journal Songbook 2013



Jingle Bells
White Christmas
Christmas Time is Here
We Three Kings
Christmas in Killarney
Happy Xmas (War is Over)
Up on the Housetop
Good King Wenceslas
O Tannenbaum

Northern Journal Songbook 2013



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Good King Wenceslas
O Tannenbaum

Jingle Bells



The original version of *Jingle Bells* contains 4 verses, the last three of which are practically unknown these days.

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtail ring'
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

*Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

A day or two ago
I thought I'd take a ride
And soon, Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side,
The horse was lean and lank
Misfortune seemed his lot
He got into a drifted bank
And then we got upso't.

*Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

A day or two ago,
The story I must tell
I went out on the snow,
And on my back I fell;
A gent was riding by
In a one-horse open sleigh,
He laughed as there I sprawling lie,
But quickly drove away.

*Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

Now the ground is white
Go it while you're young,
Take the girls tonight
and sing this sleighing song;
Just get a bobtailed bay
Two forty as his speed
Hitch him to an open sleigh
And crack! you'll take the lead.

*Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

Trivia

Jingle Bells is one of the most popular and well known Christmas songs in the world. Written by James Lord Pierpont in 1857, it was originally known as "One Horse Open Sleigh". Now associated with the holiday season, it was actually written to be sung for American Thanksgiving.

Jingle Bells (in Cree)

sêwêyâkanak, sêwêyâkanak
sêwêpic(i)kêwak!
tâpwê nimiywêyih'tên
mistatim ot(â)pânâskohk, hê!
sêwêyâkanak, sêwêyâkanak
sêwêpic(i)kêwak!
tâpwê nimiywêyih'tên
mistatim ot(â)pânâskohk!

kônihk ê-pim(i)pahtât
mistatim otâpânâsk
wahyaw ê-(i)skopahtât
ê-pahpinânihkêt
ê-sêwêpicikêt
nimiywêyih'tên tâpwê
ê-nikamonânihkêt
anohc kâ-tipiskâk



Norland Agencies
would like to thank
all their clients
for their patronage,
and wish all residents a
very happy Christmas
and a prosperous
New Year.

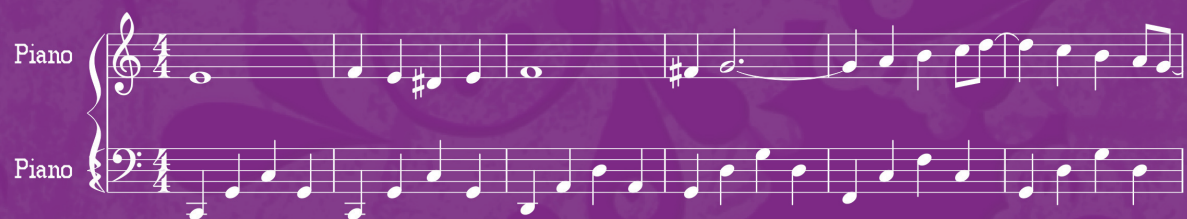
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Have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

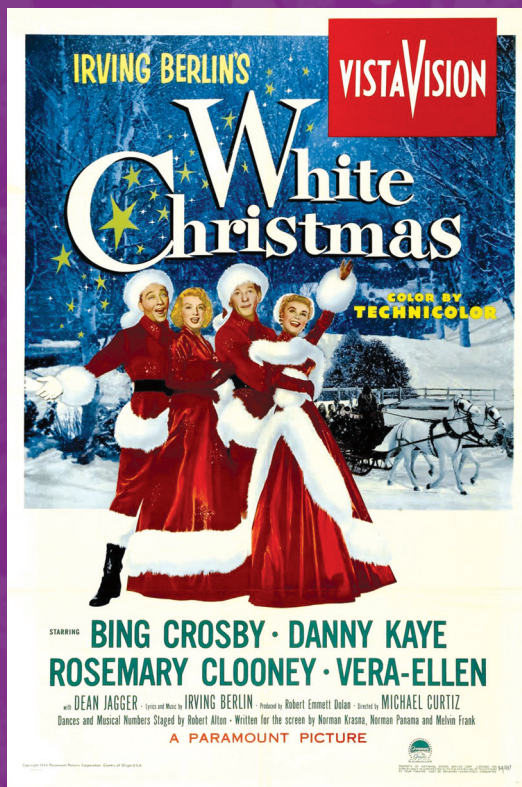
Town of Fort Smith

White Christmas



White Christmas was written by legendary songwriter Irving Berlin in 1940 in a hotel in Los Angeles.

The sun is shining, the grass is green
 The orange and palm trees sway
 There's never been such a day in Beverly Hills, L.A.
 But it's December the twenty fourth
 And I am longing to be up North....
 I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 Just like the ones I used to know
 Where the treetops glisten and children listen
 To hear sleigh bells in the snow
 I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 With every Christmas card I write
 May your days be merry and bright
 And may all your Christmases be white
 May your days be merry and bright
 And may all your Christmases
 All your Christmases
 All your Christmases be white



Trivia

White Christmas won the 1942 Academy Award for Best Original Song in the film *Holiday Inn*. The song, as performed by the movie's star, Harry "Bing" Crosby, remains to this day the best-selling single of all time. Crosby later starred in a film written to specifically showcase the song, 1954's *White Christmas*.

White Christmas was broadcast on the radio on April 30, 1975, as a secret, pre-arranged signal precipitating the U.S. evacuation from Saigon during the Vietnam War.

White Christmas is the most-recorded Christmas song of all time; there have been more than 500 recorded versions of the song, in several different languages.

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 all - a happy
 and safe
 holiday!

Moderation
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Northwest Territories Liquor Commission

Christmas Time is Here

Christmas Time is Here is a popular Christmas song written by Lee Mendelson and Vince Guaraldi for the 1965 TV special *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Christmas time is here
Happiness and cheer
Fun for all that children call
Their favorite time of the year

Snowflakes in the air
Carols everywhere
Olden times and ancient rhymes
Of love and dreams to share

Sleigh bells in the air
Beauty everywhere
Yuletide by the fireside
And joyful memories there

Christmas time is here
We'll be drawing near
Oh, that we could always see
Such spirit through the year

Sleigh bells in the air
Beauty everywhere
Yuletide by the fireside
And joyful memories there

Christmas time is here
We'll be drawing near
Oh, that we could always see
Such spirit through the year

We Three Kings

We Three Kings (also known as *We Three Kings of Orient Are* and *The Quest of the Magi*) was written in 1857 by the Rev. John Henry Hopkins, Jr., who wrote both the lyrics and the music.

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

Christmas in Killarney

Christmas in Killarney was written by the team of John Redmond, Frank Weldon in 1950 and first performed in 1950 that year, as sung by the Killarney Chorus.

The holly green, the ivy gold
The prettiest picture you could find
Is Christmas in Killarney
With all of the folks at home

It's nice, you know, to kiss
While cuddling under the tree
And Santa Claus you know
Is one of the boys from here

The door is always open
The neighbors pay a call
And Father John before he goes
Will bless the house and all

How grand it feels to climb
And join in the fun of the game
I'm handing you no blame
The likes you've never known
Is Christmas in Killarney
With all of the folks at home

Trivia

The tradition of Christmas caroling in return for alms or charity dates back to the 17th century after the Restoration. Town musicians or 'waits' would sing for money in the streets in the weeks preceding Christmas. Despite the fact that all surviving Christmas carols date only from the 19th century onwards, some traditional folk songs such as *God Rest You Merry*, *Sunny Bank* and *The Holly and the Ivy*.

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Christmas Carney

Written by the songwriting
James Cavanaugh and
and was in the billboard Top
Dennis Day.

green
I've ever seen

me
as your beau
e mistletoe
ow, of course
ome

he's gone
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k your heels
jigs and reels
ey
own

me

ty began in England in the
were licensed to collect
ite this long history, almost
onwards, with the exception
Gentlemen, As I Sat on a

Happy Xmas (War is Over)

Happy Xmas (War Is Over) was written by John Lennon and Yoko Ono and released in 1971 as a single by John & Yoko/Plastic Ono Band with the Harlem Community Choir. Originally a protest song about the Vietnam War, it has since become a Christmas standard.

So this is Christmas
And what have you done
Another year over
And a new one just begun

Ans so this is Christmas
I hope you have fun
The near and the dear one
The old and the young

A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear

And so this is Christmas
For weak and for strong
For rich and the poor ones
The road is so long.

And so happy Christmas
For black and for white
For yellow and red ones
Let's stop all the fight

A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear

And so this is Christmas
And what have we done
Another year over
And a new one just begun

Ans so this is Christmas
I hope you have fun
The near and the dear one
The old and the young

A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear

War is over over
If you want it
War is over
Now...

Trivia

Most radio stations will start playing Christmas music between October 16 and November 19. By December 25, about 400 North American radio stations will be playing Christmas music around the clock.

Up on the Housetop

Up on the Housetop was written by Benjamin Hanby in New Paris, Ohio, in 1864. Music historians believe it is the very first Christmas song to be about Santa Claus.

Up on the housetop reindeer pause
Out jumps good old Santa Claus
Down through the chimney with lots of toys
All for the little ones, Christmas joys

*Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?
Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?*

Up on the housetop, click, click, click
Down through the chimney with old Saint Nick
First comes the stocking of little Nell
Oh, dear Santa fill it well
Give her a dolly that laughs and cries
One that will open and shut her eyes

*Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?
Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?*

Next comes the stocking of little Will
Oh, just see what a glorious fill
Here is a hammer and lots of tacks
Also a ball and a whip that cracks

*Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?
Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?*




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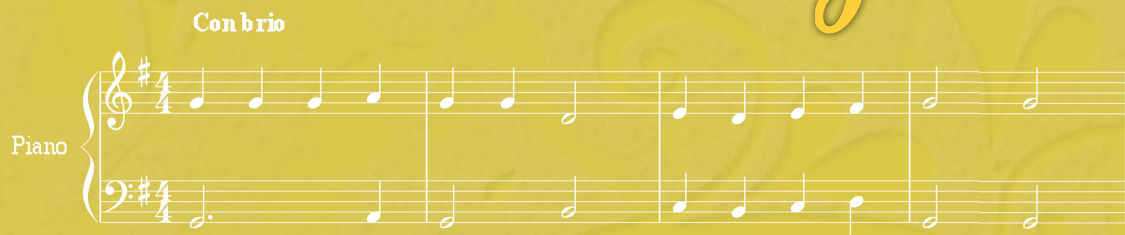
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Good King Wenceslas



Good King Wenceslas was written in 1853 by English hymnwriter John Mason Neale. The lyrics were set to music based on a 13th-century spring carol, *Tempus adest florum* (*The time is near for flowering*).

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,
You shall find the winter's rage freeze your blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

Trivia

The "Good King" in the song was the real-life St. Wenceslas I, Duke of Bohemia from 921 to 935 AD, who was so revered for his piety that the Holy Roman Emperor Otto I posthumously declared him a king. Interestingly, this song is actually a Boxing Day carol: the "feast of Stephen" in the song is St. Stephen's Day, which is on Dec. 26.



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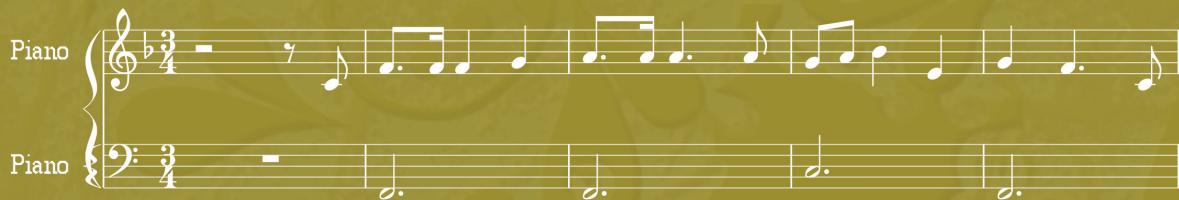
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O Tannenbaum



O Tannenbaum ("O Christmas Tree") is a traditional German folk song. It became associated with the Christmas tree in the early 20th century.

Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green delight us!
They are green when summer days are bright,
They are green when winter snow is white.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green delight us!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
You give us so much pleasure!
How oft at Christmas tide the sight,
O green fir tree, gives us delight!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
You give us so much pleasure!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Forever true your colour.
Your boughs so green in summertime
Stay bravely green in wintertime.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Forever true your colour.

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!
Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit,
Nein, auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!
Wie oft hat schon zur Winterzeit
Ein Baum von dir mich hoch erfreut!
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren:
Die Hoffnung und Beständigkeit
Gibt Mut und Kraft zu jeder Zeit!
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren!

Trivia

The German lyrics to this song, written by Ernst Anschütz in 1824, actually have nothing to do with Christmas; "Tannenbaum" literally translates to "fir tree." The tradition of the Christmas tree originated in Germany and was brought to England in the 1850s by Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert of Saxe-Cobourg-Gotha.

The last line of German in the first verse literally translates as "Your branches are so loyal." This is from an earlier version, a tragic love song where the fir tree staying faithfully green through the winter is contrasted with an unfaithful lover.

The song's music, written by Melchior Franck, is also known as "Es lebe hoch der Zimmermannsgeselle" ("Long Live the Journeyman Carpenter") and "Lauriger Horatius."



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

As 2013 comes to a close, I would like to extend season's greetings to everyone who calls the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo home.

For my family, like many others, Christmas is a time of peace, love, joy and hope. It is a time for reflection and celebration with loved ones and an opportunity to renew the customs and traditions that make this season so special.

It is also a time where I am particularly thankful to all of you, our residents, who by your hard work, generosity, and passion make this a wonderful community to live, work, play and stay.

With these reflections in mind, and on behalf of Council and staff, I wish all of you a joyful Christmas and Holiday season and all the very best in the new year.

Melissa Blake - MAYOR



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Betty House breaks ground for Yellowknife women

YWCA concerned territory strapped for housing cash

By MARIA CHURCH

With construction on the YWCA-run Betty House in Yellowknife officially launched this month, governments and organizations involved are hoping the new facility will alleviate the city's backlog on low income housing, particularly for women and children in distress.

The city's current emergency shelters are overwhelmed and transitional housing units have a six-month waiting list, Lyda Fuller, executive director of the YWCA, told *The Journal*.

"That's not very good when families are homeless, so this will take some of the pressure off, reduce the waiting list and help with that backlog in the shelters," Fuller said. "We do get women from all across the territory."

Betty House, which stands for Better Environment To Transition in Yellowknife, will be a three-floor, 18-unit building providing a home and programming to women and their children in need.

Construction of the \$4.8-million project was launched on Nov. 22 with a sod-turning event, attended by major funders of the construction, including the NT Housing Corp. (NTHC) and Dominion Diamond Corp.



Photo: NWT Housing Corp.

From left, Bob Overvold, Mark Heyck, Robert McLeod, Lyda Fuller and Charles Dent break ground on the construction of Betty House - a transitional home for women projected to be open for occupancy next spring.

Revi Lau-a, manager with NTHC, said that as a transitional facility, Betty House will provide programs and services such as counseling, education, career development and child care to help residents get back on their feet.

"At times women are not only fleeing from situations by themselves, but they're

also fleeing with children so that puts them in a very vulnerable situation," he said. "A facility like this really reaches out to these women whose primary motivation is to ensure the health and safety of their children."

Construction on Betty House has a projected completion date of May 2014. Once the building is in

operation it will be owned and operated by the Yellowknife YWCA.

NWT strapped for housing cash

Territorial and federal budgets for transitional housing in the NWT have been tight over the past several years and, in the latter's case, shrinking, Fuller said.

In order to cover operational costs, the YWCA will need to charge rent from the Betty House tenants, the amounts of which will be determined based on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) affordability criteria.

"That means only that they're cheap compared to the whole market of rent in

Yellowknife, which is quite expensive," Fuller said.

YWCA Yellowknife has been lobbying for a rent-geared-to-income system that is typical for transitional homes in other provinces, but in the NWT that system is only available in public housing through a federal government subsidy, Fuller said.

Because the NWT has been "a bit more cash strapped than the provinces," they have not been able to subsidize transitional homes.

Even the federal subsidies for public housing have been waning over the last few years, Fuller said, "which is a real issue for the North, in my opinion."

Fundraising, Fuller said, will be integral to keeping the future Betty House and the current Rockhill apartment complex, which provides transitional and emergency housing, running in Yellowknife.

"It's really critical that the community supports the work that's done. It's so important and there are many ways that that happens," she said.

The YWCA continually plans donation programs to supply food, furniture, toiletries and clothing to residents.

Politics Labour

GNWT job recruitment moves online, away from print

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The NWT government says it's following the current trend in recently moving almost all of its job recruitment efforts online, despite concerns that people in smaller communities may not have computer or internet access.

As of Oct. 1, the department of Human Resources (HR) stopped putting individual job ads or listings in print media publications, instead opting for a half-page ad promoting itself as an employer and telling people to go online to look for openings.

"The GNWT modernized its approach to recruitment advertising, including the use of print advertising in pan-territorial newspapers, to respond to current trends among job seekers," HR spokesperson Jackie Bell told *The Journal* in an email.

"Most job seekers now use online mechanisms to search for job opportunities. When individuals apply to the



Photo: GNWT Human Resources

The territorial government has switched to advertising jobs solely online at gnwtjobs.ca.

GNWT they are asked how they heard about the position, and a majority of applicants report that they found the job opportunity online."

According to the department's own statistics, of the 5,583 individuals who applied

on a GNWT job between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2013, 80.9 per cent reported that they found out about the opportunity on the internet opposed to the 2.5 per cent who found out about the job through a print advertisement.

Just over 4 per cent of applicants said they were referred by a friend and 5.56 per cent said they were referred by a GNWT employee.

Though Bell acknowledged there may be individuals in smaller communities without

reliable access to the eRecruit website, she said they are made aware of job opportunities through other means.

"Printed job posters are provided to local band, hamlet and Métis offices, government service officers, career development officers and are posted in Northern stores," she said.

Bell said the "vast majority" of the over 5,000 applicants who applied for jobs between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2013 were from Canada (96.4 per cent), with 44.6 per cent being from the NWT, followed by Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Nova Scotia. International applicants made up less than 4 per cent of website applicants.

According to the department, there are as many as 350 to 400 vacant GNWT positions in the process of being staffed at any given time - half in Yellowknife and half in the rest of the territory - though Finance Minister

Michael Miltenberger and Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Robert C. McLeod recently said the true number of vacancies was likely closer to 800.

"The true number of vacant positions reported through the PeopleSoft system can vary at any point in time. Positions may be vacant for a variety of reasons such as a temporary assignment to another position or as a result of maternity or parental leave where the work may be performed temporarily through casual employment," Bell said.

The department is currently putting together a plan for on-the-job training to help NWT residents fill the empty positions even if they don't have the qualifications, paying new hires 80 per cent of the salary and using the rest to cover the cost of training.

The program is expected to roll out in the New Year in time for devolution.

New arts NGO gets boost with startup award

Foundation intends to link youth, elders through creativity

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A budding organization hoping to connect youth and elders through the arts was given a recent financial boost as one of the winning finalists in Field Law's community fund program.

Mother-daughter team Bren and Kiera-Dawn Kolson received \$2,000 last month to help kickstart their dream of developing a collaborative art project that would bring gifted youth from remote communities or with limited finances together with elders to develop their abilities in an environment supported by traditional Aboriginal knowledge.

“We feel that there are gifted Aboriginal youth in the small and remote communities, and what we want to do is bring them to a workshop with elders where perhaps recognized and established artists would also donate their time to working with the youth, to give them information and awareness, give them some ideas about starting out,” Bren shared with *The Journal*.

Kiera said the art shop will be a multifaceted initiative, providing youth



Mother-daughter team Bren and Kiera-Dawn Kolson receive a Field Law award to help kickstart their new youth art initiative.

with leadership and self-marketing tools that can be used to help launch an

artistic career or transfer to other professions and areas of life.

I think that art is a great way for young people to find their voice and to explore their identity and engage with themselves in a way that's beyond what the statistics say our communities solely consist of.

Kiera-Dawn Kolson

The gathering will also provide a space for talking about important issues and gaining traditional knowledge from the elders.

“We’d like to provide a safe, learning, cultured space where youth can not only develop these gifts and the creativity that they have, but also find guidance from the elders who have such a profound traditional knowledge,” Kiera said.

"It's a safe space where people can be creative and express themselves, but it's also a safe space where you can address sometimes confrontational issues, where people are going to come to it with an open mind. I think that art is a great way for young people to find

their voice and to explore their identity and engage with themselves in a way that's beyond what the statistics say our communities solely consist of."

She said including elders is vital to the core of the project because of the value of their teachings as it relates to cultural identity and traditional artistic practices.

“In honour of everything that they’ve endured, experienced and survived, think it’s our responsibility in this generation to develop a passion to create a better understanding, not only of who we are to help empower ourselves, but also so it’s retained for the future generations so we

know what to harvest and take from the land for particular artistic approaches,” Kiera said.

The two women are still fundraising to get their charitable foundation off the ground, but are hoping to start off with a gathering in Yellowknife where youth and elders can come together for a first time before moving on to potentially holding artistic workshops in different communities.

"I think that when these youth have the opportunity to develop their skill sets, it would be a great opportunity for them as well to have the chance to give back to their community and share what they learned," Kiera said.

The Kolsons' project was one of several to be awarded donations by Field Law for community building. Also recognized were the Aurora Fiddle Society for performance training, the Yellowknife Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, who received money for a facility upgrade, and the community of Fort Resolution, which received the grand prize of \$15,000 for its initiative to create a soccer pitch.

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Fort Res Chipewyan teacher nationally recognized

By MARIA CHURCH

Angelina Fabien, an Aboriginal language teacher at Deninu School in Fort Resolution, has long been lauded in her community for her role in revitalizing the Chipewyan language, but those efforts recently caught the attention of a national audience.

Fabien travelled to Ottawa last week to accept the 2013 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Brent Kaulback, assistant superintendent for the South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC) responsible for the Aboriginal language program, told *The Journal* that Fabien's recognition confirms what they've known for years.

"She's very special, just in terms of the enthusiasm she brings to the job and the commitment she has for the language growth and the development of the language of her students," Kaulback said.

More importantly, he said, she is responsible for moving the language out of the classroom and into the community.

"The language that she teaches in the classroom is very functional, very authentic. It's language and sentence patterns that they can use in the hallways and at home and in the playground and all that,



Photo: Steven Lee, SSDEC

Angelina Fabien has been teaching Chipewyan to students at the Deninu School in Fort Resolution for more than eight years.

so that the students have a sense that the language has meaning to them," he said. "She's basically infected all of those kids in that entire community."

Born and raised in Fort Resolution, Fabien has been teaching at Deninu School for more than eight years as the D ne Sq instructor, a Chipewyan language spoken by the Dene of Fort Resolution.

Students at Deninu - a

100 per cent Aboriginaly-attended school - have daily lessons from Fabien, where they are encouraged to learn through everyday use of the language.

Fabien said her teaching style is no secret: she just teaches according to the seasons.

"I wouldn't talk about a pair of sandals in the middle of the winter; I'll talk about

skidoo boots, or how ptarmigans don't come in the summer, they come in the fall. It's whatever the elders will be talking about then," she explained.

When an elder calls up a student and asks them in Chipewyan how they are doing, she wants students to be able to respond in the same language.

"It's very important

because it's who the children are. It's their identity," Fabien said. "It was locked away for so long, now it's in downtown Res."

Fabien is also responsible for putting up Chipewyan signage around the school to encourage students to use the language in the context of everyday activities like addressing the teacher or asking questions in class.

Kaulback said the school board is frequently contacted by parents who are thrilled that their children are picking up the language and conversing with them at home.

There have been some cases, he said, where the students are teaching their parents. "That's how you make a language grow."

Teaching Aboriginal languages in schools is not a new initiative for the SSDEC, but has been happening for as long as Kaulback can remember.

He points to the residential school system as a factor behind the loss of language.

"I think we owe it to all the students that we serve to help them regain that love for their own ancestral language," he said.

SSDEC currently has eight language instructors on staff. With Fabien's success in mind, Kaulback said the board is looking at promoting her instructional strategy across the board.

"Things like making it very functional language, very authentic experiences, making it fun to learn the language, making it cool - those are the elements that Angie has incorporated," he said.

"Angie is basically proof that languages can grow."

Education Career Fair

Youth career fair aims to keep Whati's talent at home



Photo: Lois Stauffer

A community member from Whati checks out the NWT Power Corp. booth at the career fair last week.

By MARIA CHURCH

Whati's community government is hoping that by exposing students to career options in the area it will keep the community's talented youth at home.

This is the second year the Mezi Community School in Whati, a mainly fly-in community northeast of Yellowknife, has put on a career fair to give students a glimpse at future career options in and around home.

Larry Baran, senior administrative officer with

the government of Whati, said that students leaving for school and jobs in the south has been a problem in the community for years.

"Council is really concerned about being exporters of human resources, rather than having them here. It's a challenge that I think a lot of Northern communities have," Baran said. "I think the big thing is that kids need to know that they have opportunities and, more importantly, that there are opportunities in Whati."

The fair was attended by around 20 companies, including the territorial government, Tlicho government, NWT Power Corp., mining companies and the RCMP.

Students from Grade 7 to Grade 12 spent two days listening to presentations from prospective employers, exploring their booths and asking questions. The public was also invited to check out the career fair on Wednesday morning.

Jim Stauffer, Aurora College adult educator and fair organizer, said high school is when youth are starting to make small but important choices about the future.

"Up through junior high, the course subjects are all set. Once you get to high school, you have electives and you can choose which stream you want to follow," he said.

Stauffer said it's an "acknowledged problem" that students are graduating high school without the required courses to go on to post-secondary education. If they have a career in mind, students are more likely to make course choices that will get them there.

Planning for Whati's future

Whati is currently facing a potential development boom with the recent approval of Fortune Minerals' NICO mine, which includes an all-season access road to the mine and a hydroelectric power line, Whati Chief Alfonz Nitsiza told *The Journal*.

"We are preparing for all these changes coming to our community," Nitsiza said. "We hope to keep the

community informed of all these developments, especially the younger people, to give them opportunities to participate."

The new industrial development will mean a need for qualified tradespeople, he said.

"We hope to attract some of the young people who are home now, unemployed, to get that trades training."

Whati chief and council have asked the Aurora College Community Learning

Centre in Whati to create an accelerated program that will prepare the community for growth, Baran said. The program will focus on training for jobs that will be needed in the near future and would otherwise see companies hire from outside the community.

"One of the things we can do is make sure that the young talent that has grown up here that knows the community gets to stay up here and have jobs here," Baran said.

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Winnie Cadieux displays a rack of mini moccasins.



Birch bark baskets, sculptures and other gifts line the shelves of Winnie's craft store in Enterprise.



Brightly beaded moccasins are a popular item at Winnie's, all made by local artisans from the NWT and northern Alberta.

Photos: Maria Church

Art & Culture Aboriginal Crafts

Winnie's arts and crafts shop going on 30 years

Owner concerned Aboriginal crafters becoming more rare in NWT

By MARIA CHURCH

Stepping into Winnie's Kitchen and Gift Shop, tucked away in an unassuming building in the hamlet of Enterprise, is like stepping into a museum of Northern culture.

Rows of beaded and quilled moccasins draw the eye along the far wall, wooden and stone carvings stand elegantly on the shelves, beaded hair clips and jewelry in a rainbow of colours are stacked on the counter, and paintings, needlepoint and tuft work hang artistically on the walls.

But there's nothing dusty about these arts and crafts,

and as an added bonus, they're all for sale.

Still run by founder Winnie Cadieux after 30 years, the shop boasts a collection of work by Aboriginal artisans from communities across the NWT and northern Alberta. Each item Cadieux selects for its beauty and craftsmanship.

"We've got baskets from Fort Liard, we've got baskets from northern Alberta, Chateh. We've got pictures from Behchoko, pictures from Wrigley, carvings from Enterprise and from Fort Smith," she says, to name a few. "I like to buy anything traditional. Things made out of traditional material, whether

they are made into modern things or a traditional use."

Cadieux says her policy is to buy crafts outright, not on consignment.

"The ladies are sewing to subsidize their family incomes and whatnot, so I don't think it's fair to make them wait."

Cadieux credits community support for keeping her business running for the last 30 years. Winnie's is also a restaurant where it's not unusual to meet people from Hay River who've made a trip out to Enterprise specifically for the hearty, home-cooked meal.

In the summer months, business is mostly from tourism with the store conveniently located just off Hwy. 1,

but in the winter months she relies on the surrounding communities and orders from the GNWT or other NWT organizations.

While the gift store's goal is to sell arts and crafts, Cadieux admits she saves one cabinet in the back of the store for items in her own personal collection.

"Anything I don't want to sell I put in here," she says, pointing out a half-finished pine needle basket she once bought simply to show how they are made.

"I've had several sewers pass away and I try and keep something of theirs just for me," she explains in reference to a few hand-sewn dolls and hide purses.

Cadieux admits she "can barely thread a needle," but has a great love of traditional crafts that was born out of a profound respect for her mother-in-law, a sewer from the Sahtu.

"I use her sewing as a standard. Her sewing was just immaculate," she said, adding that her specialty was miniature moccasins and seal skin gloves, which are one of the store's best-selling gifts.

Fewer arts and crafts available

As a craft purchasing connoisseur, Cadieux said she has been having an increasingly difficult time finding craftspeople willing to sell their creations.

"It is a concern for me. Over the last few years, there's not a lot of young people taking it up because it is time consuming," she said. "When the ladies are producing them, they are keeping them or they are trading them amongst themselves. It's hard. Sometimes they just need them for their family."

Cadieux said finding traditionally tanned moose

don't have the hide to work with," she said.

Instead, a lot of products are made with pig skin or factory tan, a noticeable quality difference for warmth and durability.

Finding ways to encourage traditional tanning and quality crafting is a personal goal, Cadieux said, and one way she can do that is by providing the market for them at Winnie's.

I'm always fussy when I purchase some things; I like to see the materials they are made out of. If the material is good quality, like the beads and hide and whatnot, it's worth more and it portrays the art better.

*Winnie Cadieux
Winnie's Kitchen and Gift Shop*

hide has been her biggest challenge.

"It's a very labour intensive process. Going out, getting the moose and taking the skin off is not the big thing, but doing the actual traditional tanning is not happening, so we find a lot of times when we want to order something, the people

"I'm always fussy when I purchase some things; I like to see the materials they are made out of. If the material is good quality, like the beads and hide and whatnot, it's worth more and it portrays the art better. If I sell those things, then the crafters can purchase the materials to make the products," she said.

*I want to thank my lovely daughter
Ann Lepine for a wonderful trip to
Nashville, Tennessee.*

*It was a birthday present
I will never forget.*



GIGI'S BAKERY

872-4444





Friends and family gather around the fire with hot chocolate to watch the tree lighting ceremony.



Melrose Lamouelle and Mia Mackenna score a ride to watch the tree lighting.

Holiday spirits high in Fort Smith



Walker Wanderingspirit sits on Wesley Wanderingspirit's shoulders while Chastity Desjarlais spots him during the tree lighting ceremony.



Santa Claus heads out on his float for the annual parade through town on Sunday night, ending up at the big tree in downtown Fort Smith to participate in the tree lighting ceremony.

Photos: Maria Church



Youngsters line up to sit on Santa's knee during the tree lighting event.



Fort Smith princesses gather for a tea party at the Anglican Church during the annual Christmas tea and bake sale last weekend.

Northwestern Air

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Santa Claus is flying to town!

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Northwestern Air Lease

Christmas schedule information can be found online at www.nwal.ca or by phone, toll free at 1-877-872-2216.

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or fax it to 872-2754
or call 872-3000 ext. 26

FOR SALE: FIREWOOD. Custom cut sizes - split green, dry, bagged. Wood Gasification/Outdoor wood boilers. Delivery from Fort Smith to Hay River & Yellowknife. Contact Dave at (867) 872-3435 or cell 872-0229 or email dhehn@northwestel.net. (UFN)

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Blanket advertising reaches all 122 weekly newspapers in Alberta and the NWT with a combined circulation of over a million readers. Call our Northern Journal sales desk at 867-872-3000 ex. 26 for details.

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MEIER GUN AUCTION. Saturday, December 21, 11 a.m., 6016 - 72A Ave., Edmonton. Over 150 guns - Handguns, rifles, shotguns, wildlife mounts, hunting and fishing equipment. To consign 780-440-1860.

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WRECKING AUTO-TRUCKS. Parts to fit over 500 trucks. Lots of Dodge, GMC, Ford, imports. We ship anywhere. Lots of Dodge, diesel, 4x4 stuff. (Lloyd-minster). Reply 780-875-0270. North-East Recyclers truck up to 3 tons.

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4940 SQUARE FOOT industrial shop for sale or lease. 5140 Dixon Ave., Swan Hills, Alberta. Located on 1.95 acres. \$849,900. MLS#32267. Phone Brenda McLeod 780-268-7653.

GET FREE vending machines. Can earn \$100,000. + per year. All cash-retire in just 3 years. Protected territories. Full details call now 1-866-668-6629. Website: www.tcvend.com.

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Employment Opportunities

IRON WING HOLDINGS LTD. now accepting resumes for Journeyman Mechanic and Class 1 Tank Truck Drivers. Send resume: Attention: Laurier Laprise. Email: laurier.l@ironwing.ca or fax 780-396-0078.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Dodge and RV is now accepting resumes for the following positions: Product Advisors, Inventory Control Manager, Service Advisor. Please send resume to: salesmanager@rmdrv.com.

BOOKKEEPER REQUIRED for Whitecourt, Alberta company. Full-time, competitive salary, benefits. Complete knowledge of accounts receivable, invoicing, accounts payable, entering & paying bills, payroll & benefits. Fax resume 780-778-2444.

EXPERIENCED EQUIPMENT OPERATORS required for oilfield construction company. Knowledge of oilfield lease, road building. Competitive salary benefits. Safety tickets, drivers abstract required. Fax resume 780-778-2444.

TJ LOGGING of Whitecourt, Alberta is now taking resumes for 2013 - 2014 logging season. Experienced buncher/skidder/limber/process operators required. Please fax resume to 780-778-2428.

HOME BUILDING CENTRE, Red Deer. Building supplies Estimator/Salesperson for mostly residential construction. Building supplies experience essential. Family-owned business for 40 years. Call Rob 403-343-6422. Email: rob@executivehbc.com.



REQUEST FOR TENDERS Fuel Bowser and Operator for Into Plane JetA1 SC438356 - Fort Simpson, NT -

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Forest Management Division, Headquarters is inviting tenders from qualified bidders for the provision of services to provide a Bowser Truck and Operator for the supply of JetA1 fuel into plane, at the FMD/ENR Fort Simpson Air Tanker Base or other location, on the Fort Simpson Airport Apron, which includes the "as and when" supply of Jet A1 fuel into plane.

Submissions addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Procurement Shared Services, 1st Floor Stuart Hodgson Building, 5009-49th Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S8, will be received prior to:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 17, 2013.

Bidders may obtain tender documents by emailing pwstenders@gov.nt.ca.

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

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

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca

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REQUEST FOR TENDER



Design-Build Request Arena Repairs TFS 0519

The **TOWN OF FORT SMITH** is seeking proposals from qualified Proponents for the provision of Design-Build Services for the repair and restoration of the Fort Smith Centennial Arena.

Properly labeled, sealed Proposals must be received by 3:00 PM Fort Smith local time on December 20, 2013, at:

TOWN OF FORT SMITH
P.O. Box 147
174 McDougal Road
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

Proponents may obtain RFP documents from the above address as of December 02, 2013.

A Site Meeting will occur at 1:30 PM Fort Smith local time on December 11, 2013, at the above address.

Please all direct inquiries to:
Keith Morrison

Director of Municipal Services
TOWN OF FORT SMITH

Phone: (867) 872-8400 / Fax: (867) 872-8401
Email: kmorrison@fortsmith.ca

NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, HEIRS AND OTHER CLAIMANTS

*IN THE MATTER of the Estate of
DAVID GEORGE WILLIAMS*

Late of the Town of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, who died on the 30th day of May, 2011.

TAKE NOTICE that all persons having a claim upon the above-noted estate must file a full statement of their claim and securities held by them with the Public Trustee for the Northwest Territories, Government of the NT, Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9, by the 2nd day of January, 2014.

30x40, 40x62, 45x90, 50x120, 60x150, 80x100, sell for balance owed! Call 1-800-457-2206; www.crownsteelbuildings.ca.
STEEL BUILDING. "The Big Year End Clear Out!" 20x22 \$4,259. 25x24 \$4,684. 30x34 \$6,895. 35x36 \$9,190. 40x48 \$12,526. 47x70 \$17,200. One end wall included. Pioneer Steel 1-800-668-5422; www.pioneersteel.ca.



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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



REQUEST FOR TENDERS Steep Creek Bridge Rehabilitation CT101359

– Km 815.8, Mackenzie Valley
Winter Road, NT –

Remove existing embankment fill, remove existing concrete backwalls. Install new piles, steel abutments and precast concrete approach spans.

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

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 13, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above addresses as of November 18, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 10:00 am, November 27, 2013, 1st Floor Boardroom, Highways Building.

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

Technical inquiries to: Peter Praetzel
Phone: (867) 920-6469

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

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



STANTON
TERRITORIAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Professional Air Ambulance Services for the Northwest Territories

Reference No 13134

– Yellowknife, NT –

The Stanton Territorial Health Authority is requesting proposals from qualified contractors for the provision of Professional Air Ambulance Services on an as and when required basis. This will include both dedicated Air Ambulance Carrier Services (including Flight Crews) and Air Medical Crew Services (Clinical Care Providers).

Sealed Proposals addressed to Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Materials Management Department, 1st Floor Stanton Territorial Hospital, 550 Byrne Road, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1, must be received prior to:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 28, 2014.

Proponents may obtain the RFP document by emailing: STH_airambulanceRFP@gov.nt.ca or by calling (867) 669-4172.

Inquiries to:

Stanton Territorial Health Authority
Materials Management Department
Phone: (867) 669-4172
Email: STH_airambulanceRFP@gov.nt.ca

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

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



REQUEST FOR TENDERS Bridge Construction CT101356

– Km 211.5, Liard Highway (No. 7), NT –

Construct a new 10-meter long bridge.

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

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 13, 2013.

Contractors may obtain tender documents from the above addresses as of November 25, 2013.

Pre-tender meeting: 3:00 pm, December 3, 2013, 1st Floor Boardroom, Highways Building.

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

Technical inquiries to: Sean Smiley
Phone: (867) 920-6470

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

For contract opportunities visit
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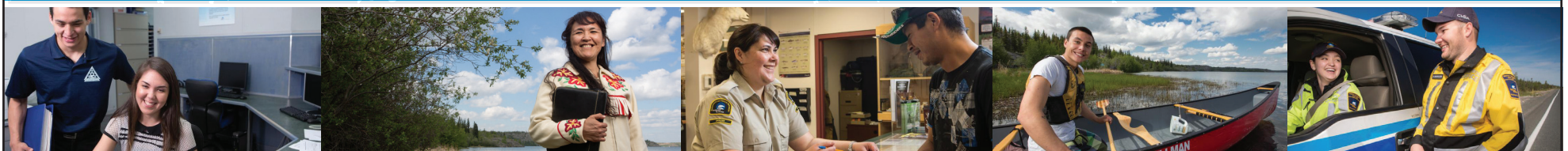
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If you are interested in working for the GNWT, consider applying by viewing current opportunities at www.gnwtjobs.ca.

Don't forget to join our talent community to receive automated job alerts so you don't miss out on our exciting career opportunities!



GNWTJOBS.CA



Brendan Green hits targets at biathlon races abroad

NWT biathlete reaches World Cup, but Olympics still uncertain

By MARIA CHURCH

As a world-class biathlete, Brendan Green has been under intense pressure before, but last week may have taken the cake when he traveled to Europe to compete in his first international races since a back injury put him out of commission last year. On the line was a potential spot on the Canadian Olympic team heading to Sochi, Russia in 2014.

“The Olympics add a ton of pressure to the season and I have a lot to try and prove this year. I wish it was a non-Olympic year that I was making my return, but I suppose this way I have nothing to lose and can put it all on the line,” Green told *The Journal* in an email.

Green competed in the IBU Cup races in Sweden and Norway last week, his first international competition since sustaining a herniated disc last year that forced him to take a break from training for much of 2012 and early 2013.

“The big question a year ago was whether he’d ever



Brendan Green, left, finishes on the podium after the 20-km individual race in Norway.

race again and here he is,” said Bruce Green, the biathlete’s father from Hay River. “He’s come such a long way.”

Missing last season because of the injury meant that Green lost his World Cup eligibility and was forced to start from scratch with races like the IBU Cup, where a top finish would

mean qualifying again for the World Cup.

The first IBU Cup race was held in Idre, Sweden where two days of racing placed Green 15th overall out of more than 100 biathletes.

“I was able to have a pretty solid result with my first race which brought with it a feeling of relief - relief that my shape is there and that I’m still

in the game and able to perform at the top,” Green said.

His fellow Canadian teammates also performed well during the IBU Cup races: Marc Andre Bedard placed 7th and Nathan Smith reached the podium in 2nd place on the first day of racing.

The second IBU Cup race was in Beitostolen, Norway last weekend where Green

placed second in the 20-km individual race, but windy conditions and several missed shots during the sprint race the next day bumped him down to 26th place overall.

Olympic future still uncertain

While a podium finish at the IBU races is a huge achievement for Green, it does not directly translate to Olympic candidacy, but brings him closer to the World Cup.

The biathlete recently learned he qualified for a World Cup start in Hochfilzen, Austria this Friday where he is expecting to enter the Sprint, Relay and possibly the Pursuit races.

If all goes smoothly at the races, Green could complete the necessary criteria for a spot on the Olympic biathlon lineup.

“He’s got to be careful. He’s got to make sure he doesn’t get sick or too burned out or jet lagged,” Green’s father said.

“If he’s at the top of his game at trials, that’s fine and dandy and he’ll make the team, but everything has to go right,” he said. “He is the kind of person who can pull

it off. We just have to hope for the best.”

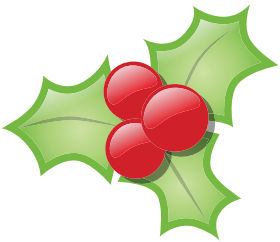
For Green, despite the added pressure of the Olympics, getting back in the competition is exactly where he wants to be after being off skis for nearly a year.

“After the first operation on my spine, I kept telling myself ‘Okay, I can do this, I can recover from this,’ but when I was told I would need another and more thorough surgery, that was hard to deal with and the recovery was painful and very long,” he said.

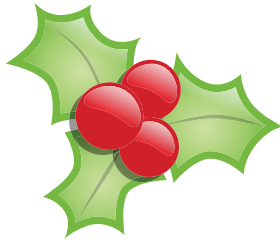
“It was almost a year-long period before I stepped on skis again. My first time out all I could manage was 15-20 minutes of basically walking on my skis, but it was the best feeling ever.”

Green threw himself into training after the initial recovery and is now close to the same physical condition he was before the injury. Much credit for his comeback goes to support from people in the NWT, he said, who are his biggest fans.

“I feel grateful to be a Northerner. Their generosity and kindness is unmatched!” he said.



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Hopping is made easy for the Grade 8 students in Fort Smith with elastic powered boots.



Amanda Grobecker, right, instructs Grade 8 students on how to balance in the Kangoo boots.



Students test out running with an extra spring in their step.



The boots are built with an elastic-powered, rebounding oval attached to the bottom.

Photos: Maria Church

Sports & Recreation Fitness

Students jump to new heights in the South Slave

By MARIA CHURCH

Students in Fort Smith had a spring in their step last Friday after the traveling Jump a Bunch program introduced them to Kangoo Boots, the newest bouncing trend making waves in the NWT.

Jump a Bunch is run by Yellowknife's Amanda Grobecker, who received a grant from the department of Municipal and Community Affairs to share the activity with communities in the South Slave.

Grobecker describes the Kangoo Boots as ski boots with elastic "clam shells" strapped to the bottom to create a rebound effect, giving a bounce to each step.

Fort Smith was the final stop on the South Slave tour,

which hit up Hay River, K'at'l'odeeche, Fort Providence and Fort Resolution last week. Schools and the public

reactions from youth have been encouraging.

"I've had kids ask if I can move to their community,"

I find you have to be really creative with kids and come up with new ways. Not that you are tricking them into fitness, but finding something that they find fun and exciting.

*Amanda Grobecker
Jump a Bunch*

were both invited to take part in the bouncing fun.

Grobecker, herself strapped into the Kangoo Boots, led the programming and said

Grobecker shared with *The Journal* before teaching a class of Grade 8 students from Paul William Kaeser High School at the recreation

centre in Fort Smith. Other students have told her it was the "best day of their life," she said.

Even the least active students can often be encouraged to take part, mainly because they don't realize they are doing the dreaded word "exercise," Grobecker said.

"I find you have to be really creative with kids and come up with new ways. Not that you are tricking them into fitness, but finding something that they find fun and exciting," she said.

"The best part is pretty much every kid when they leave is sweating and they don't realize it while they are doing it."

The Jump a Bunch program has been spreading throughout Yellowknife

since Grobecker brought it to the NWT just over a year ago and is quickly becoming a staple at the schools and recreation centres. Programming is catered to all age groups ranging from 6 years old and up.

For adults, regardless of age, Grobecker said the boots are the perfect way to get exercise with low stress on joints, particularly the knees and back.

As an added bonus for the fitness inclined, the boots burn up to 25 per cent more calories since they act as weights on the feet.

For youth, the boots challenge their fine motor skills and balance, Grobecker added.

"You'll see, even in Kindergarten and Grade 1,

they'll use them, they'll fall a few times and then get up, hold your hand and walk along the wall and then within 15 minutes they are up and running around the gym," she said.

"Even if you are a super uncoordinated person, it still works really well."

Grobecker said she is working on securing funding to bring the Jump a Bunch program to more communities outside of Yellowknife.

Slowly introducing students and communities to the Kangoo Boot has been the first step, she said.

Kangoo boots are available for purchase on the Jump a Bunch website, found at <http://jumpabunch.ca/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JumpABunch>.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NWT snowboarder starts off season with international competition

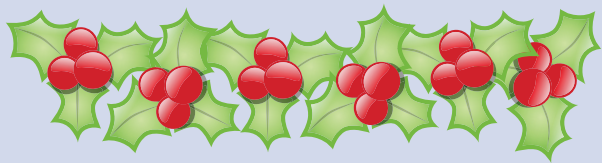
Yellowknife's Andrew Matthews headed overseas recently to take on his first snowboarding competition of the year in Dachstein, Austria where he faced stiff competition and challenging conditions on the slopestyle, just missing out on the semi-finals. Matthews is now headed to Colorado for a training camp before taking on more competitions this season.

Yellowknife speed skaters compete in Western championships

Eight speed skaters from the Yellowknife Speed Skating Club were in BC mid-November for their first competition of the season in the lead up to the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. The team was racing in the Western Canada Single Distance Championships where five of the athletes posted best personal times. Austin Miller, Tara Stockton, Lauren Eggenberger, Dominique Bennett, Ali Fleming, Camille Rourke, Monique Chapman and Kirianne Ashley, all from the Yellowknife club, made up the largest group from one club represented at the competition.

Speed skating clubs help bring Olympians closer to Sochi

The Inuvik and Yellowknife speed skating clubs are leading the territory in "lending a skate" to the Canadian Speed Skating team on its journey to the Olympics by participating in "Skate to Sochi." The Canada-wide movement asks skaters to log their skating laps with the goal of recording a distance equivalent to that between Ottawa and Sochi. Yellowknife held a public event last weekend to encourage the city's residents to record their laps, as well. The NWT's own professional speed skater, Michael Gilday, will be one of the Team Canada members making the journey to Sochi in February.



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GIGI'S BAKERY



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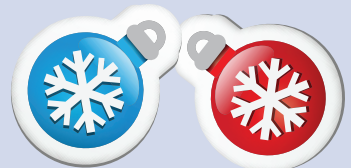


*Best wishes
at this wonderful time of year!*

FREUND

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*Wishing all a healthy
and productive 2014!*



*Drive safely
and
Happy Holidays*



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to all of you!**

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