

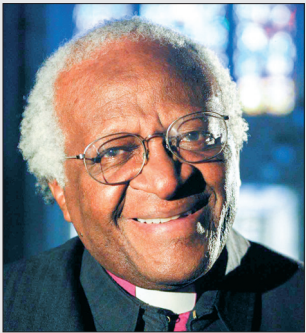
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Emotional Goodbye: Former students remark on the end of Sir Alexander Mackenzie School. *See page 17.*



Chiefs weigh in on wood harvesting charges

Dene Chief Bill Erasmus and N'dilo Chief Ernest Betsina say Ed Sangris' wood harvesting charges intrude on Aboriginal rights. *See page 2.*



Desmond Tutu to speak at conference on treaties

Archbishop Desmond Tutu will be the keynote speaker at a conference in northern Alberta that aims to increase treaty awareness. *See page 3.*



College grads celebrate milestone in Yellowknife

Some 44 graduates from Aurora College's North Slave campus celebrated an emotional convocation last week-end. *See page 13.*



Team North brings game to Quebec for tournament

Team North players from Nunavut, the NWT and Yukon bonded at the Northern Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Quebec. *See page 23.*

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Joined by young supporters to help him through the last leg of his journey, Brad "Caribou Legs" Firth keeps his focus as he approaches Whitehorse on Apr. 29, capping an epic 1,200-km run from his home in Inuvik to help save the Peel watershed from industrial development. *See page 10 for more.*

Photo: Mary Walden

GNWT says Husky fracking project could bypass environmental assessment *Project 'unlikely to have significant adverse impacts'*

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The territorial government says it is confident Husky Energy's application to drill and hydraulically fracture up to four exploratory shale oil wells in the Sahtu should not require a full environmental assessment if it follows a number of recommendations.

A submission sent to the Sahtu Land and Water Board on Wednesday said despite receiving a number of letters and a petition calling for a full public review of the proposed fracking project, the GNWT is of the opinion that Husky's application could proceed directly to the permitting phase

following the preliminary screening.

"The GNWT has reviewed this application in relation to

significant adverse impacts to the environment within these areas," stated the letter from land use and sustainability

The SLWB has until May 19 to decide whether or not to refer the application to environmental assessment or

for a regional vote on fracking in the Sahtu, and helped to submit a petition of over 800 names to the GNWT calling for an environmental assessment on all future fracking projects.

She said a report released Thursday by an expert panel of scientists commissioned by Environment Canada to review the impacts of fracking, which advises regulators to move at a cautionary pace, shows there are legitimate concerns with leaking fluids and greenhouse gases contributing to water pollution and climate change.

See MLA on page 7.

The GNWT...is confident that implementation of the attached recommendations will ensure that the project will not have significant adverse impacts to the environment.

*Terry Hall
NWT department of Lands*

areas within its jurisdiction and is confident that implementation of the attached recommendations will ensure that the project will not have

director Terry Hall, which includes accompanying recommendations on waste management, spill contingency planning and monitoring.

give it the green light, as is. The response from the GNWT has angered Tulita resident Sheila Karkagie, who championed a petition calling

Court rules Yellowknives wrongfully dismissed former N'dilo chief

A ruling by the Federal Court of Canada has found the Yellowknives Dene First Nation were wrong to remove former N'dilo Chief Ted Tsetta from power after he requested an audit of the First Nation by the federal government. Tsetta was dismissed without pay in 2012 after he sent a forensic audit request to the Prime Minister's Office alleging corruption and mismanagement of the First Nation and its development corporation funds. The court ruled the First Nation's dismissal of Tsetta was beyond its power based on the reason and ordered it to pay for the former chief's legal costs and just over a year of salary and benefits.

Fort McMurray hospital completes \$13-million renovations

Renovations for the Northern Lights Health Centre in Fort McMurray are now complete after a \$13-million investment from the Alberta government. Renovations for the hospital that serves all of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo include a doubling of the ambulance bay, a redesigned registration area, a new trauma room and six new patient care areas. According to Alberta Health Services, the upgrades focused on improving patient care and comfort. The renovations came following a scathing report from CBC's Fifth Estate program that gave the Northern Lights a D grade for nursing care post-surgery in a 2013 national hospital survey.

GNWT opens up applications for youth ambassador program

The government of the Northwest Territories has once again sent out a call for the territory's youth to apply for a new round of the NWT Youth Ambassador Program. The program, now in its seventh year, aims to engage youth in special events and volunteer assignments to build confidence and leadership skills. Past youth in the program have represented the NWT at the Arctic Winter Games, Canada Winter Games and the North American Indigenous Games. The application deadline is June 16. To apply for the program, call (867) 873-7329, email dawn_moses@gov.nt.ca or go online to <http://www.nwtyouth.com/apply-now>



Fred Sangris holds the axe he used to harvest fire wood to heat his home in N'dilo. Sangris was charged for not having a permit.

Politics First Nations

Wood cutting charges intrude on treaty, Aboriginal rights: chiefs

By JACK DANYLCHUK
Fred Sangris sees humour and irony in the charges that will take him

to Territorial Court later this month.

A government program aimed at reducing heating costs and carbon emissions once helped the former Yellowknives Dene chief buy a wood stove for his home in N'dilo.

"Now they've charged me with harvesting wood without a permit," Sangris chuckled.

Sangris has yet to enter a plea on the charge brought earlier this year under NWT forestry legislation, but his cause is being championed by Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus and current N'dilo Chief Ernest Betsina.

Both leaders appeared in court last week for Sangris who was attending a first aid course. Judge Garth Malakoe adjourned the case to May 27 for plea.

Erasmus sees the wood-cutting charge as a breach of treaty and Aboriginal rights by a territorial government that has been flexing its legal muscle since acquiring new powers under devolution.

Steve Cooper, a lawyer familiar with First Nations issues, said that devolution doesn't affect treaty or Aboriginal rights that existed before contact with European culture.

"You can't delegate rights you don't have," Cooper said. "The Supreme Court ruling of 2006 in the Paulette case established that existed before contact with Europe."

The territorial government can regulate natural resource in the public interest, he said, and cited protection of the whooping crane as an example.

"It's still a developing area of the law, and there is no absolute that treaties and regulations could not extinguish Aboriginal rights answers, but if the federal government could not extinguish a pre-existing right, then neither can the territorial government," he said.

Cooper was baffled as to why the territorial government would even consider bringing charges on harvesting wood from traditional land for home heating.

"A Yellowknives Dene was charged with shooting a duck. The judge ruled that he was hunting food, exercising his Aboriginal right. It cost a lot for the government to find that out."

Sangris said all of the Yellowknives Dene cut wood in the area near Dettah where a government official ticketed him earlier this year.

"We've been doing it for years, and the government has known about this. The

We've been doing it for years and the government has known...It's no secret; everybody in N'dilo and Dettah cuts wood there.

Fred Sangris

"Sangris would even be able to sell wood harvested in Yellowknives' traditional area and sell it within the community," he said.

The Forest Management Act requires harvesters to obtain a permit, which is free, or face a fine of up to \$1,000 and a year in jail. But it also states that none of its provisions should infringe on Aboriginal rights.

In an interview at his home in N'dilo last Saturday, Sangris told *The Journal* that if the government doesn't withdraw the charge, "it's going to cost taxpayers a lot of money. It will be just like the million dollar duck," he said, recalling a court case of 50 years ago.

forest there has gone 200 years without a fire and we've been clearing out dead, dry wood to make fire breaks," Sangris said.

"So the resource officers knew where to find me. It's no secret; everybody in N'dilo and Dettah cuts wood there."

Sangris attributes the charges to a change in senior government management ranks and a new attitude among officials.

"We never had these situations in the past," said Sangris, who thinks that Aurora College should add a legal component to its training program for resource officers.

"They need to know the regulations and the rights of Aboriginal people," he said.

Fort Smith's Residential Spring Clean-up is scheduled for the period of May 20 to May 30, 2014

Residents may have large items, washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc., and yard work debris collected by the Town – **for a cost of \$40.00, from the curb side only.**

- Smaller items must be boxed/bagged.
- Brush & willows must be bundled.
- Trees must be limbed and cut to 4-foot lengths.
- All items must be placed at the property roadside.

NO VEHICLES WILL BE COLLECTED, however tipping fees at the Landfill are waived for residential customers for the duration of the Spring Clean-up.

NO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE such as propane tanks, batteries, paint, used oils, etc., will be collected.

NO CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS such as demolished buildings or construction sites/projects at residential locations will be collected.

TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT OR CALL THE TOWN OFFICE AT 872-8400 WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Name and Residence Address
- Material(s) to be picked up
- Contact phone number(s)
- \$40 payment.



DURING THE SPRING CLEANUP DAYS THE LANDFILL WILL BE OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

Registrations close at 5:00 p.m., Friday May 30, 2014.

Nobel laureate to speak at conference on treaties

High-profile event meant to create dialogue on treaty relationship

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

One of the world's foremost human rights advocates is lending his voice to a conference in northern Alberta aimed at getting more people talking about - and honouring - the treaties with First Nations people.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a social justice activist from South Africa most known for his role in ending apartheid, will give the keynote address in May at "As Long as the Rivers Flow," a conference aimed at "coming back to the treaty relationship."

The conference, running May 31-June 1, is being organized by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) along with the legal office of Olthuis Kler Townshend LLP, and is designed to bring moral and political leaders, First Nations, lawyers, scientists and the general public together to network and discuss issues in a practical way.

"The conference will explore how resource development can take place in a way that honours the treaty relationship with indigenous people by placing environmental sustainability front and centre - an issue at the



Photo: Elke Weitzig

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu will speak at an upcoming conference on treaties organized by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and Olthuis Kler Townshend LLP.

core of treaty rights in Canada," Eriel Deranger, ACFN's communications coordinator, told *The Journal*.

Deranger said the conference builds off of Neil Young's "Honour the Treaties" benefit concert tour last January, which raised money and awareness for the First Nation's legal fight against encroaching oilsands development on its territory and the government's alleged

failure to properly consider treaty rights.

"It's very easy for a First Nation in the middle of all this to have a lot of criticism around industry and development and the lack of recognition and integration of treaty rights into industrial development in the region," Deranger said. "But we really wanted to bring some prominent voices into that discussion; voices that have credibility and weight."

Apart from Tutu, the conference has scheduled addresses by other notable speakers, including former federal Liberal Party leader Bob Rae, former NWT Premier Steve Kakfwi, former Syncrude president Jim Carter, renowned watershed scientist Dr. David Schindler and Aboriginal leaders Annita McPhee, Miles Richardson and Francois Paulette.

We want to be looking at progressive solutions to the issues we're facing in the region. It's not just about being 'no, no, no' people; it's about how we can move forward.

*Eriel Deranger
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation*

"We want to have a really wide cross-section to talk about the fact that these issues aren't just one-sector issues; this is something that is talked about at the highest levels of government to industry leaders all the way to the grassroots," Deranger said.

"Treaty rights aren't just a First Nations issue; they transect every aspect of this country. You can't have one without the other...particularly when it comes to resource development and environmental sustainability, but we deal with the treaty rights very separately."

ACFN has worked with Olthuis Kler Townshend for a number of years in its legal struggles against both government and industry. After many years fighting what has

largely been an uphill battle, Deranger said the two groups decided to do something to bring more attention to the basis of that struggle, which is not opposed to development but wants to see inherent Aboriginal rights properly recognized.

"We want to be looking at progressive solutions to the issues we're facing in the region," she said. "It's not just about being 'no, no, no' people; it's about how we can move forward."

The conference will take place at the ACDEN building in Fort McMurray and will be webcast for people who cannot attend physically.

For more information, such as registration costs, visit <http://www.aslongastheriversflow.com/>

Industry Hydro

Site C dam report to be made public this week

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The report that could decide the fate of BC Hydro's \$7.9-billion Site C dam on the Peace River has been submitted to the federal and provincial governments and is expected to be made public later this week.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) submitted its final report last Thursday on what will be the third hydro dam on the Peace River if given final approval by Ottawa and BC's environment ministers.

Though the final decision on the proposed project rests with the government, the recommendations contained within the panel's report are anticipated to play a significant role in whether or not the 1,100-megawatt dam, which would flood 3,000 hectares of agricultural and Aboriginal land, will be given the go-ahead.

The report is expected to be made public online this Thursday.

The ministers have until this fall to make a decision on the project before referring

that recommendation back to BC's cabinet.

The completion of the report follows the more than two-year review, including 26 days of public hearings held on both the BC and Alberta sides of the border.

The panel received more than 1,500 comments and examined more than 1,000 documents over the five weeks of hearings.

Among those who gave statements were a number of northern BC First Nations who stated their firm opposition to the project advancing, noting it would flood sacred burial sites, hunting grounds and communities, and impact wildlife.

Alberta Environment and Parks Canada also submitted statements of concern with respect to the project, stating it is bound to have drastic adverse impacts on life downstream.

Parks Canada officials with Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) said the Peace-Athabasca Delta, which is already feeling the effects of drought caused by regulated river flow

from existing upstream dams and climate change, will be further negatively impacted by another hydro project.

Community members in Fort Chipewyan have spoken out against the project since its proposal, stating their traditional way of life is being destroyed by decreasing water levels, which see less wildlife inhabit the delta region.

"Local people are reporting that changing plant communities, water levels and use by wildlife have affected their traditional use of, and connection to, the area," states the submission from WBNP.

Those changes have seen a disappearance of wetland and the almost complete extirpation of muskrat from the delta.

If approved, the dam would stretch across the Peace River near Fort St. John, BC, measuring 1,050 metres long and 60 metres high, and would create a 83-km-long reservoir.

The electricity produced - about 5,000 gigawatt hours per year - would be enough to power 450,000 homes.



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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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| Behchoko | Fort Simpson | Sachs Harbour |
| Colville Lake | Fort Smith | Trout Lake |
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| Ekati Diamond Mines | Inuvik | Tulita |
| Enterprise | Jean Marie River | Ulukhaktok |
| Fort Good Hope | Kakisa | Wekweeti |
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'Paradigm shift' needed for First Nations

Children of the Northwest Territories, most of them from First Nations families, are being failed by the NWT Health and Social Services. That is what deputy minister Debbie DeLancey testified last week, along with the fact that her department is not effectively improving the health of Aboriginal Northerners. Her candid admissions are unique. Not often do senior government officials serve notice that their jobs are not being done well.

Unfortunately, lack of success by government departments is too often the rule rather than the exception. For Aboriginal Northerners in particular, in addition to health and social services, the education and economic systems leave too many of them behind.

The NWT's Health and Social Services department has been chastised numerous times in the past for not living up to its responsibilities to Northern children. Be assured, this won't be the last. What DeLancey did was courageous, standing alone to take the heat as MLAs vented their frustrations over revelations of ongoing systemic failure revealed in an auditor general's report. She "took it on the chin" for her minister and department. The report addressed mistakes from the past, but that cannot be an excuse for inadequate performance over time. The problem is ongoing. Admitting to it is only a first step.

Many children who are wards of the government had what we all value above all else taken from them - their families and culture - when they are "taken into care." Those changes are permanent. Children cannot be recalled like vehicles and have new parts plugged in. The system that did that is as broken as the homes the kids

came from. Both must be fixed.

DeLancey has promised that the way her department deals with children will improve, noting several key points in interviews with The Journal (Mar. 17 and Apr. 29):

- "We have to do the short-term fixes in the way we're administering the system today, because clearly it's failing children";
- "It's more important that we make this paradigm shift where we're supporting families to keep kids in their homes rather than having them come into care";
- We must recognize the difference between children who are at risk due to outright abuse versus those at risk due to neglect, and develop new ways of addressing that difference;
- We have to continue working with communities to establish child and family services committees across the territory (An initiative that has admittedly "failed" so far).

DeLancey also said Aboriginal people in the NWT - 50 per cent of the population - have significantly more health problems than non-Aboriginal people, as well as higher rates of mental health and addictions. The impact of changing lifestyles, moving from healthy traditional foods to unhealthy processed foods, the role that physical activity plays in their daily lives - a fundamental shift from living on the land to sedentary lifestyle, as well as historical and ongoing external factors like colonization, residential schools and rapid cultural change over the past 100 years, all contribute.

None of that is new information. It is common knowledge those same causal factors apply to issues with kids in government care and the failings of the

education and economic systems - the list goes on. For real change to happen, that "paradigm shift" she talks about is needed everywhere.

First Nations people are marginalized across Canada. Even in the NWT where there is a majority of Aboriginal representation in the legislature, colonial thinking is still apparent in how governments operate. Only when First Nations government structures, starting with community councils, are respected and thus empowered, will they be able to be engaged in solutions for the ills they are mired in - an essential ingredient for success.

Look at the way Fred Sangris, former chief of the Yellowknives Dene, was treated last week - fined for cutting firewood, as he has been doing all his life, to heat his home in N'dilo. His case will be fought in court on his Aboriginal right to harvest wood, but the issue runs much deeper. As Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus pointed out, if where or how or why Sangris was cutting wood was in any way inappropriate, the matter should have been taken up with his own government, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.





The approach by the government of the NWT, whether toward Sangris or kids in care, is too often a continuation of the remnant colonial mentality from a hundred years ago. Canada's Aboriginal citizens need to be dealt with by Aboriginal governments - their way - to successfully address their issues. Local First Nations authorities have to be engaged. That will only happen if they are empowered. They will become empowered only if they are respected. The only way they will be respected is if they are included in the process of governance - all of it.



MS Walkers raise dollars, awareness

More than 60 Yellowknifers joined together Sunday for the city's second annual Multiple Sclerosis Walk and Run event, linking with some 40,000 Canadians in 160 towns and cities in a nationwide campaign. They walked 1-5 km courses through downtown Yellowknife, shrugging off -10C weather and raising more than \$25,000. MS is a debilitating and unpredictable disease of the central nervous system. The Canadian MS Society says about 100,000 Canadians have the disease, which strikes another 1,000 Canadians every year, one of the highest rates in the world.

WEATHER

| Inuvik | Yellowknife | Hay River | Fort Smith |
|--|--|---|--|
|  Weekly Norms: High 2°C Low -7°C |  Weekly Norms: High 8°C Low -2°C |  Weekly Norms: High 10°C Low -1°C |  Weekly Norms: High 13°C Low 0°C |

Injuries are preventable

By TAMMY NOVAK

According to Parachute, a youth injury prevention group, more than 700 Canadian youth die every year because of a preventable injury. That's the size of an average Canadian high school! When an injury is preventable, it is usually predictable. This means that individuals can choose behaviour that will reduce the risk of injury.

Every day, young people are faced with choices and decisions that put them at risk. This is not necessarily a bad thing - taking risks is a normal part of growing up and an important part of gaining the experience and confidence necessary to make good decisions. It helps teach children to become more independent, to challenge themselves and to understand the consequences of their actions.

The danger results when young people don't think ahead, and haven't learned how to properly manage

risks. Young people need the opportunity to make decisions. However, they need to be mentally and physically prepared to manage risks by being able to identify potentially dangerous situations.

SMARTRISK, a national injury prevention organization, addresses this by teaching teens how to effectively handle situations and reduce the risk of a potential life altering injury. SMART-RISK includes simple, yet

effective messages that encourage young people to identify a risk, assess the situation, and make good, safe choices. Preventable injuries don't just affect teens - they are the third leading cause of death for

Canadians ages 45 - 64 and those who survive may be left with a permanent, life-changing disability. We can all learn from the SMART-RISK messages.

Make good choices and reduce the risk of injury!

To receive more information about the SMART-RISK program and injury prevention, please visit www.albertahealthservices.ca/injuryprevention.asp and www.parachutecanada.org/

Their messaging includes:

- **LOOK FIRST** – Stop, think, check out the situation and plan ahead. Ask yourself questions such as: Is your route safe? How are you getting home? How deep is the water?
- **WEAR THE GEAR** – Wear the proper protective gear during activities. This can include helmets, safety goggles, knee pads or life jackets.
- **GET TRAINED** – Learn from the professionals. Take a driver's education course; get on the job training, and practice.
- **BUCKLE UP** – Always, always wear your seatbelt. Buckles are not just in vehicles. Helmets, life jackets and harnesses also have buckles designed for protection
- **DRIVE SOBER** – In order to operate any motorized vehicle, you must be in full control of your mind and body. This means driving without the impairment of drugs, alcohol or lack of sleep, and without the distraction of cell phones.
- **SEEK HELP** – Ask for help when you need it! It's ok to ask for support if you are feeling overwhelmed and don't know what to do.



White Girl Missionary: Mrs. Grace Priest Part 1 of 3

By DAWN KOSTELNIK

Summer is gone, fading quickly into fall and falling faster into winter. School has begun once again. Older students return to schools in the big "cities" of Inuvik, Yellowknife and Fort Smith, NWT. There had been doubt that we would have a second teacher for the Grades 3, 4 and 5 kids. Without a second teacher, the kids in these junior grades would then have to attend school, probably in Inuvik. This means having to live in residential accommodation for 10 months, with no family contact other than postal mail during this time. Letters can be sent but many of the older people in the communities cannot read or write, and

they still sign their name with an X.

In the 12th hour, kids show up from bush camp. We now have enough students to qualify for a teacher and one is found. Parents receive the family allowance cheques from the government for kids that attend school. If you weren't a Treaty Indian it could be the only money you had to live on.

Older kids are happy to be returning to the bright lights of the big towns. Similar I suppose to trying to keep the kids on the farm once they've tasted the glamour of "city" life. Younger kids are more apprehensive about leaving home for the first time. It is an old tradition in Great Britain to send young children off to boarding school and for

some not to return home for years at a time. "Residential" school or boarding school is still widely attended in the countries of the Common Wealth of Nations. Some things gained, some things lost; choices have to be made, living in the bush is a hard way to go.

The town feels empty as the planes soar off into the skies. The propellers on the planes seem to suck up the last bit of wild and reckless that follows in the air behind the teenagers, and it is too quiet on the dusty streets. We are lost, those of us left behind. We kick up rocks in the dust as we straggle home from the airport; we are weighted down in silence and loneliness.

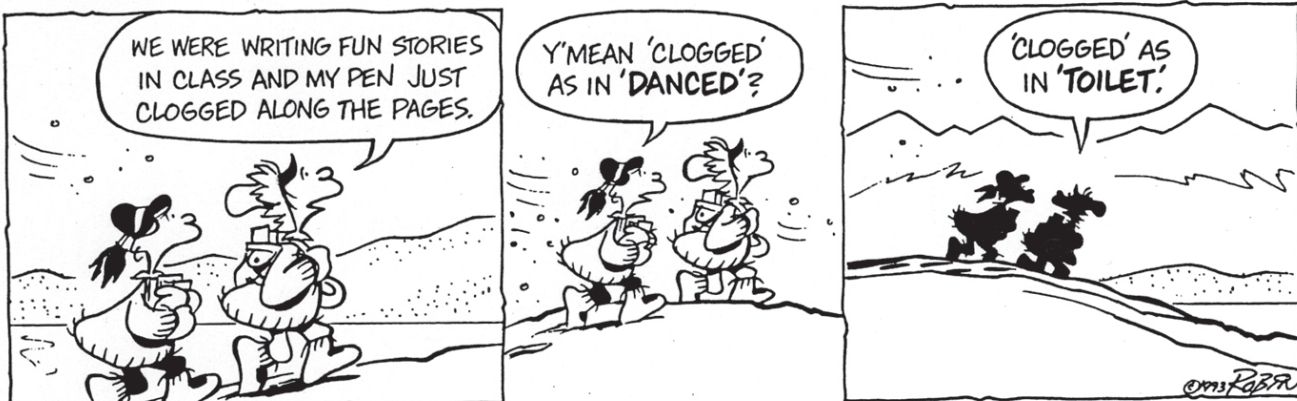
TCK, or trans-cultural kid,

refers to children that have lived in two cultures and have assimilated both cultures. This term is generally used on children that are army "brats" or children of diplomats and missionary children that have lived in a totally different culture other than their passport country.

A period of only one year has been proven significant enough to cause assimilation depending on the age of the child. Having a foot on either side of a cultural canyon that leaves your tender middle parts exposed to conservative ideals that disallow variance of any form causes tummy aches, I assure you. There are many of us in the North.

Visit www.thewhitegirl.ca for past stories.

MUKLUK



FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2014

'We're failing children': NWT Health



There is no denying that the NWT department of Health and Social Services is failing to support families and protect children, deputy minister Debbie Delancey voiced again last week following meetings on a recent report by the auditor general exposing major gaps in services



Anne Gill: For the love God, do not make CEO's responsible for child protection. One of the huge problems in the Department is having Authority's be responsible for Social Services. Too much focus on health and management positions; not enough on children. We need people who have a background in child welfare to be responsible: not Health. This is just another band aid fix!

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ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Fire abatement project around Power Corp. alarms residents

Fort Smith residents expressed shock over the weekend when they noticed a whole lot of trees had disappeared at the corner of Hwy. 5 and Pelican St. By Monday night pretty much all of the trees had been knocked down on both the lot adjoining the NTPC lot and the lot directly east of there.

Issue: May 5, 1999

20 Years Ago...

Moves afoot to combine rec with schools

There is growing support in Fort Smith for the idea that the town's proposed recreation complex could somehow be combined with renovation and expansion plans at JBT and PWK. The idea got another nudge at Tuesday's town council meeting, when Bill Mawdsley suggested the idea be out to the community.

Issue: May 4, 1994

30 Years Ago...

Opposition to fish plant

Several residents of Fort Chipewyan are opposing the development of a fish processing plant at its proposed site. One local resident is sending a letter to the Alberta department of Municipal Affairs, asking that a zoning change that allows the plant's construction be rescinded.

Issue: May 3, 1984

Scientists urge caution on fracking until more known

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A report by a panel of top Canadian scientists is warning regulators to exercise caution in advancing the already booming industrial practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, due to a suite of potential accompanying environmental and human health impacts that are currently not well understood.

The 260-page report, commissioned by the federal government and released last Thursday, concludes that not enough is known about the impacts of fracking - an unconventional shale oil and gas extraction method - to consider it safe, and that provincial regulations for the practice "are not based on strong science and remain untested."

Environment Canada asked the Council of Academies in 2011 to conduct an assessment of the state of knowledge on potential environmental impacts from fracking, outside the realms of safety or economic benefits.

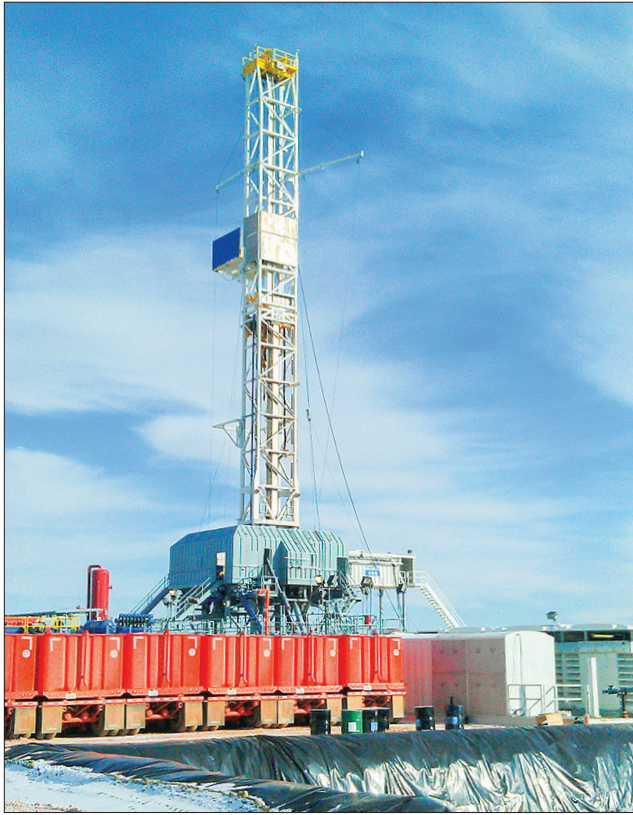


Photo: Joshua Doubek

A natural gas rig fracks for shale gas in the booming Bakken play of North Dakota.

Despite the existence of tens of thousands of wells across North America, the

multidisciplinary panel found that ultimately more targeted research and

monitoring is required to gather data and draft effective regulations, as existing data about impacts is "neither sufficient nor conclusive."

"Society's understanding of the potential environmental impacts has not kept pace with development, resulting in gaps in scientific knowledge about these impacts," the report said.

"In most instances, shale gas development has proceeded without the collection of sufficient environmental baseline data. This makes it difficult to identify and characterize impacts, or to dismiss impacts that are inappropriately associated with development."

Though much is not known, the scientists did warn that enough evidence exists to raise concerns about impacts that might not be fully understood for years.

"Past monitoring indicates that gas leakage into aquifers and the atmosphere

is frequent enough to raise concern. Nevertheless, possible environmental and health effects of shale gas development may take decades to become apparent, underlining the need for long-term monitoring."

That work on proper monitoring, management and oversight will have to be done collaboratively by government, academics, industry and the public to be effective, the panel concluded.

Water of 'greatest concern'

The scientists found that impacts on water "raise the greatest environmental concern" when it comes to shale gas development.

Threats to groundwater include gas leakage from wells, either in use or abandoned, which can depend on a host of factors not currently known, or leakage of wastewater containing a plethora of toxic chemicals.

"The potential impacts of

leaking wells are not being systematically monitored, and predictions remain unreliable," the report states.

Over the long term, gas or fluid leakage into groundwater "could result in potentially substantial cumulative impacts on water quality."

Beyond groundwater, the panel raised the amount of water required for shale gas development as grounds for concern in some regions, not only based on volume but timing.

"Depending on location, season and pre-existing uses, the additional demand related to hydraulic fracturing may stress available water resources," the panel wrote.

Apart from water, the panel also assessed available information on greenhouse gas emissions, which like water concerns well integrity, along with land impacts, seismic events and human health, all of which it said require more research.

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ConocoPhillips fracking application ‘incomplete:’ board

Application to frack 10 wells leaves out key information on water

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

A recent application by ConocoPhillips to drill and hydraulically fracture up to 10 more horizontal wells in the Sahtu has been deemed incomplete by the regional land and water board, which said the submission lacked “sufficient information” to decide whether or not it would require a full environmental assessment.

Tony Morris, regulatory specialist with the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB), notified the company on Apr. 25 that its application contained inadequate information on water sourcing, raising questions about the proposed volumes and sources of water needed for the exploratory drilling project.

According to Morris, details have changed inexplicably from what ConocoPhillips said it required to drill and frack its first two exploratory wells near Norman Wells over the winter to what it is asking now.

While ConocoPhillips’ previous water licence determined the volume of water required for each well to be 9,000 m³, the new application states approximately 30,000 m³ of water will be needed per well, solely for hydraulic fracturing.

Though the new wells would complete 20 fracture stages rather than 10, Morris said the numbers don’t add up. For example, Husky Energy’s application to frack up to four wells in the same area requests 12,000 m³ for 12 fracture stages, or around 1,000 m³ per stage.

Furthermore, Morris said ConocoPhillips had originally



Photo: Roger Odgaard/Facebook

ConocoPhillips’ application to frack up to 10 more wells on its lease near Norman Wells was deemed lacking in necessary information on water sourcing, consultation and well sites.

stated during public consultations that 10,000 m³ would be required.

“Why the drastic increase from the previous horizontal wells?” Morris asked in his letter.

“After reviewing the full application it is unclear how volumes have been determined for each water source.”

Additionally, ConocoPhillips is currently licensed to use 214,280 m³ sourced from the Mackenzie River and eight lakes, yet the new application requests close to 900,000 m³ from all sources, despite indications that some volumes are no longer needed.

“While ConocoPhillips may be requesting this to allow for flexibility in how

much can be withdrawn from each source year to year, given the community concerns around using lakes, it is uncertain whether these potential volumes are sustainable for certain sources,” Morris said.

The board also said the company had failed to provide adequate information on its public consultation regarding water sourcing, including discussion of additional volumes being requested or what that water is being used for.

One map provided to the community didn’t show the water sources currently licensed.

“The presentations given to communities in both

January and February do not identify the additional four water sources being requested under this application,” Morris wrote.

He said the information provided to date indicates ConocoPhillips did not properly consult.

“There is no record of... how the communities were consulted on choosing these additional four water sources. Given the repeated community concerns regarding the use of lakes and assertions from ConocoPhillips in applications that communities will be consulted on water sourcing and volumes, consultation on these matters is essential.”

Well-site locations not clearly identified

Apart from gaps in details on water volumes and sourcing, the board also said the application omitted pre-disturbance assessment reports and archaeological surveys for its well sites, which Morris said seem to be undecided.

“It is unclear if ConocoPhillips has even provided the exact locations of the first five wells...It states ‘exact well locations as proposed may change,’” Morris wrote. “This application cannot be assessed for disturbance, access requirements and associated water use for that access without these locations.”

Further information gaps exist in the company’s waste management plan, and emergency response/spill contingency plan, which the board said does not reflect the current post-devolution regulatory system.

ConocoPhillips must now complete its application in order for the preliminary screening to take place.

Fracking chemicals not identified

A separate letter requesting clarification on matters outside of the completion check was also forwarded to the company the same day with respect to ConocoPhillips’ chemical risk management plan.

According to the board, ConocoPhillips references the previously submitted plan and material safety

data sheets (MSDS) for each fracking chemical, but does not explicitly include this in its current application.

“Does this mean that ConocoPhillips intends to use the exact same combination of fracturing fluids approved under (its previous water licences), since no fracturing chemicals were disclosed in this current application?” the letter asks.

Further questions of clarification were asked with respect to how traditional knowledge was incorporated into project planning and whether or not the company was looking into alternatives to transporting waste from its operations out of the territory.

“In Husky’s recent application they mention the option of using something called ‘steam clean’ technology to reduce the volume of liquid wastes from drill waste, flowback, and produced water,” states the letter.

“In light of all the public concerns around waste volumes and the dangers of long distance transport, is this an option ConocoPhillips considered? What are the environmental risks or potential mitigation measures of using this technology?”

Responses to the requests for more information are not required to consider the application complete, but will be useful in the eventual review of the application if completed, the board concluded.

MLA ‘pleased’ with GNWT support for project

Continued from page 1.

“Fracking does leak. What are they trying to do without an environmental assessment? Are they in a rush to kill everything off? I can’t believe that,” Karkagie said.

She said she has little faith the review board will refer the project to public review if it has the government’s backing.

“Right now, it seems like all our pleas are being ignored.”

While the final decision still rests with the board, Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya said he is “pleased” with the GNWT’s response, which supports the Sahtu in creating “economic freedom” for its residents.

“What will be the alternative for jobs, businesses and economics if the EA is considered? Really, what would

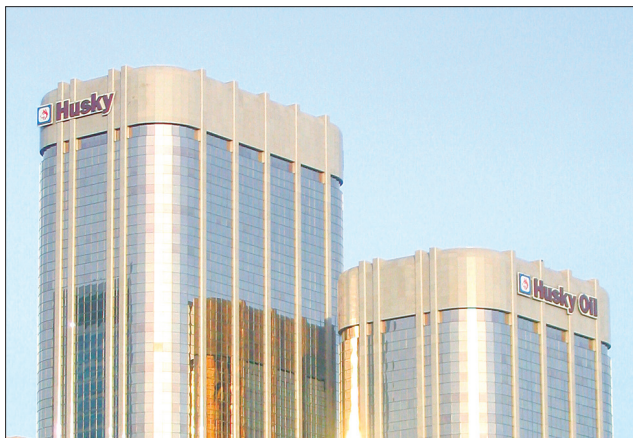


Photo: Kevin Cappis

The Sahtu Land and Water Board has until May 19 to decide whether or not to approve an application by Calgary-based Husky Energy to frack up to four exploratory wells in the Sahtu over the next five years.

support communities other than GNWT programs and services?” he said. “Realistically, we are moving into a new era of our lifestyle.”

Husky has applied to conduct year-round exploratory drilling for five years on its Slater River lease southeast of Norman Wells, where the company

What will be the alternative for jobs, businesses and economics if the EA is considered?...Realistically, we are moving into a new era of our lifestyle.

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya

already has two vertical well-sites, a base camp, airstrip, winter access road, all-weather road and barge access.

If approved, the company plans to begin construction on the two new well pads this summer. The program is slated for completion by summer 2018.

Husky anticipates the drilling program will require a total of 29,240 cubic metres of water per year for two wells, to be drawn from the Mackenzie River and one groundwater well.

Should the project proceed to permitting, Hall said the GNWT recommends the board require Husky to post securities for over \$2 million for the water licence and over \$3.6 million for the land use permit.

The GNWT is recommending that Husky’s water licence application be modified to reflect the company’s intention to deal with the fracking wastewater on-site through “clean steam” technology

rather than by transporting it out of the territory via truck. While the dehydrated waste byproduct will be transported out to a sump, the treated water will be returned to the environment.

Husky already entered into access agreements with the Tulita District Land Corp. in 2011.

The Slater River lease is adjacent to ConocoPhillips’ drilling property, where the first horizontal fracking was done this winter.

MP calls for better aviation safety standards in the North

By MARIA CHURCH

In light of a new survey highlighting increasing concern among Canada's aviation inspectors over gaps in Transport Canada rules, Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington has renewed calls for an airline operational inspector to be stationed in the North.

The survey, released Apr. 24, was co-sponsored by the Canadian Federal Pilots Association (CFPA) and the Union of Canadian Transportation Employees. It found that 67 per cent of aviation inspectors believe Canada's current system for airline inspection under Safety Management Systems (SMS) increases the chances of a major aviation accident, up from 61 per cent in 2007.

"Minister (Lisa) Raitt should see this as a major red flag. We've already seen the major accident inspectors feared when a First Air jet crashed in Nunavut in 2011. The next crash could be in Toronto or some other major Canadian city," Daniel Slunder, president of the CFPA, said in a news release.

According to the CFPA, SMS was introduced in 2008 as an additional layer of support on top of regular operational oversight by Transport Canada, but faced with a "serious shortage of inspectors," the department now relies almost



Photo: Abdallah

A new survey of Canada's aviation inspectors points to the 2011 First Air crash in Nunavut as an indication that the current inspection system is inadequate.

solely on SMS audits and interviews with airline staff.

The survey found 85 per cent of respondents believe air travelers are now exposed to higher risk under Transport Canada's aviation SMS, up significantly from 67 per cent in 2007.

Karine Martel, media relations officer with Transport Canada, said in an email to *The Journal* that the department inspects thousands of small and large airlines each year and is confident they have enough inspectors to "maintain Canada's strong aviation safety record."

Review needed in the North

Bevington, who served as federal transportation critic from 2008 to 2011, said the survey highlights a growing concern surrounding Transport Canada's operational safety standards, which keenly affects the North where flight is a main method of transportation to remote, fly-in communities.

"I've always had concerns about the fact that there are no operational inspectors in

the Northwest Territories," he said in an interview with *The Journal*.

Bevington said with the current SMS system, inspectors come up from the south to perform audits on Northern airlines, but those inspectors are "understaffed and overworked."

"They've always been short of inspectors...throughout the system, even to do the paperwork let alone getting people out there actually engaging the pilots and doing the intermittent inspections," he said.

Bevington pointed to a number of fatal crashes in the North as evidence of the need for a review of operational inspection procedures. Ideally the North would have an operational inspector based in one of the three territories, he said.

"Mechanical inspections are done and that's good, but if you look at the past record of the airplanes that crash... we haven't had a mechanical (failure) fatality," Bevington said.

In 2011, three fatal airplane crashes occurred in the North, all due to factors that included pilot operational error.

A recently released report from the Transportation Safety Board in April found that human error and the absence of "clear policies or procedures allowing a first officer to take control" contributed to the August 2011 crash of a First Air Boeing 737 during an attempted landing in Resolute Bay that killed 12 people onboard, including the two pilots.

According to CFPA, Transport Canada's review of First Air's SMS in 2009 gave the airline the OK.

Survey should be taken with 'grain of salt'

Stephen Nourse, executive director of the Northern Air

Transport Association (NATA) representing airlines in the North, said the survey results should be taken with a "grain of salt" and are not the view across the industry.

Specifically, the idea that SMS has limited aviation inspectors' abilities is wrong, he said.

"The reality is that a Transport Canada inspector coming into a SMS system actually has more tools to conduct an inspection. They never lost any of their old ones," Nourse said.

He said NATA's concern is not about airline safety, but that Transport Canada is underfunded, which results in a backlog of federal approval processing for each airline's internal safety inspections, checks and training.

"Because they've been cut so lean and the safety and inspection side of course has to take priority, it's crippling the industry on a commercial basis," Nourse said.

The CFPA survey was conducted online by Abacus Data through emails in English and French to licensed pilots and technical inspectors between Feb. 13 and Mar. 14. The response rate among licensed pilots was 60 per cent, and 23 per cent for technical inspectors.

Politics Municipal

Buyers spurn discounted lots in Yellowknife's Engle business district

By JACK DANYLCHUK

With just a handful of tenants since it opened almost a decade ago to meet anticipated demand for industrial and commercial land, the Engle Business District has become Yellowknife's white elephant.

Last week, 18 lots in the industrial park on the city's southern flank again failed to attract a single bidder despite the offer of price discounts, tax breaks and extended development time.

A sale in 2009 also failed to draw buyers. The economy was in recession, and city officials also pointed to the lack of a completed road to the district from Hwy. 3.

Deh Cho Blvd. is now paved and provides quick access through the quiet district to the bustling Kam Lake industrial zone, but the result was the same.

Five lots in the first of the business district's three-phases have been developed: RTL Robinson's tank farm, a storage area for ARS Trucking, Superior Propane, the SPCA animal shelter and a rock pile are clustered on a single block.



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

Only a handful of tenants have bought land in the Engle district.

On the day the latest land offering closed last week, Deh Cho Blvd. was quiet and lightly traveled. A municipal enforcement officer manning a speed trap had little to do but enjoy the sunny day.

When he announced the latest sale, Mayor Mark Heck presented the district as "strategically situated and competitively priced, making it ideal for commercial or industrial businesses looking to establish or grow their operations in Yellowknife."

Lot prices haven't budged since 2009 when the city asked \$177,307 and \$440,015 for 1.2-acre and 3.7-acre lots. The latest offering was \$177,307 for a 1.5-acre lot and \$411,610 for a 3.6-acre lot, with a discount

of 5 per cent for one lot and 15 per cent for three or more.

To sweeten the deal, the city doubled the time for acquiring a development permit to two years from the possession date. It also gave buyers as long as four years to complete construction, and discounted taxes for seven years, starting with a full holiday in the first year.

The city previously loosened landscaping requirements and gave developers the option to preserve natural areas in lieu of planting trees and blasting away rock to level the entire lot.

An ATV trail parallels Deh Cho Blvd. and the city has plans to develop the area's recreation potential with more trails and link it to other green zones in the capital.

National Emergency Preparedness Week

May 4 to 10, 2014

Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. After a long, cold winter, residents want to head outside to enjoy the warmer weather. It's also a time to remind residents of the importance of being personally prepared. In springtime, there is an increased risk to residents from unpredictable weather, and melting ice and snow. Don't let spring enjoyment turn into tragedy.



There are many things you can do to be prepared; make a plan, make a kit, check the weather forecast, and tell people where you are going and when you will be back.

For more information and resources about emergency preparedness, or to enter the Emergency Preparedness Week Contest, visit www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

Be prepared and enjoy your springtime activities!

Robert C. McLeod
Minister, Municipal and Community Affairs



Avalon granted land use permit for rare earth mine

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Avalon Rare Metals jumped another regulatory hurdle last week for its Nechalacho rare earth elements mine in the NWT, but moving forward is still contingent on the project receiving sufficient financing.

The company was awarded its Class A land use permit last Wednesday to begin pre-construction work at its proposed mine site east of Yellowknife at Thor Lake, on the north shore of Great Slave Lake.

The permit, issued by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, allows Avalon to start phasing in “low impact” activities, including site preparation, setting up a camp and early development on the mine and infrastructure, such as roads, power and water treatment.

Avalon’s CEO and president said the permit represents “another milestone” in the ongoing development of the project, though much still hangs on the mine attracting the necessary investments.

“This permit allows us to proceed with the work necessary in 2014 to keep the project on schedule to achieve commercial operations by 2017/2018,” he said. “Realizing this goal will ultimately depend on when all project financing



Photo courtesy of Avalon Rare Metals

An exploration camp rests at Thor Lake, the site of Avalon’s proposed Nechalacho rare earth elements mine, situated approximately 280 km east of Yellowknife.

is in place. Certainly, timely receipt of all necessary permits and licences helps mitigate perceived investment risk.”

Capital expenditures to build the project, including hydrometallurgical processing and refining capacity, are expected to amount to approximately \$1.575 billion. Currently there are 111.8 million outstanding shares for the project with a market cap of \$70.4 million.

Since acquiring the property in 2005, Avalon has invested over \$95 million to

further explore and develop Nechalacho, changing its plans over the last couple of years to make it more attractive to investors.

While the initial plan for Nechalacho was to set up a hydrometallurgical plant at the defunct Pine Point mine site in the NWT, the company announced last year it would be shipping mined ore directly south to Louisiana for processing.

Costs were reduced by about \$350 million in early March when the company entered

into a 10-year partnership with French rare earth refining company Solvay to process the company’s rare earth concentrate into pure rare earth oxides.

Under the binding agreement, Avalon will ship concentrate from its plant in Louisiana to La Rochelle, France to be refined, and providing Solvay with first dibs on purchasing the metals. Those not bought by Solvay will be sold by Avalon and delivered from the plant in France.

Bubar said the agreement “reduces the technical risk

Realizing this goal will ultimately depend on when all project financing is in place. Certainly, timely receipt of all necessary permits and licences helps mitigate perceived investment risk.

*Don Bubar
Avalon Rare Metals*

and costs associated with building, commissioning and operating a dedicated REE (rare earth elements) refinery for the Nechalacho project, making the whole project a less risky and more attractive investment opportunity.”

The new plan will be incorporated into an updated technical report in mid-2014.

Company awaits water licence

Avalon anticipates a Class B water licence, to draw water and dispose of waste as part of the later phases of the project, will be issued in the “near future” and is hopeful it will secure full construction and operation permits by early 2015.

“Based on the co-operative approach and responsiveness

experienced to date with the MVLWB staff, we do not anticipate any significant delays in achieving this goal,” said Mark Wiseman, Avalon’s vice-president of sustainability.

A comprehensive feasibility study, a full environmental assessment and subsequent federal approval for the mine were completed last year.

The expected mine life of the project is set at 20 years, based on 14.6 million tonnes of proven and probable mineral reserves measured and indicated at the site.

If completed, the project will be the first large producer of heavy rare earth elements outside of China.

Rare earth elements are used in the manufacturing of electronics, such as cell phones, computers and LED lights.

Kennady unearthing high quality NWT diamonds

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Toronto-based Kennady Diamonds is happily advancing with exploratory drilling work at its 100 per cent-owned Kennady North diamond project located 280 km northeast of Yellowknife.

The company announced last week that over 16 tonnes of high quality kimberlite had been recovered from the Kelvin site, located near the Gahcho Kué diamond mine currently under development by De Beers north of Lutsel K’e.

“We continue to make encouraging progress with the larger diameter drilling underway at the Kelvin kimberlite and have to date recovered over 16 tonnes of the planned 25 tonne mini-bulk sample,” Kennady Diamonds CEO Patrick Evans said in a statement last week.

“While unusual, a 4.3-tonne sample recovered from the Kelvin kimberlite in 2013 did return a sample grade of 5.38 carats per tonne, which is exceptionally high,” Evans said.

Evans said the company is “particularly excited” about

the unusual recovery of a single colourless, transparent diamond, measuring 1mm in diameter, from the core of the Kelvin hole at a depth of approximately 114 metres.

That sample is being sent to Saskatchewan for lab analysis where it will be weighed, measured and photographed.

Approximately 5,500 metres of drilling have been completed at the Kelvin site to date, resulting in over 16 tonnes of recovered kimberlite, despite having yet to discover the root of the kimberlite pipe, known as a feeder dyke. Evans said the results are quite positive. “The Kelvin larger diameter drilling is continuing to recover wide intercepts in vertical and near vertical holes, which is very encouraging,” he said. “We are hopeful that the vertical drilling will help identify the feeder pipe system of the Kelvin kimberlite, which has yet to be discovered.”

More “encouraging” anomalies have been identified above a second kimberlite, called Faraday. Evans said the company is pleased with

what has been discovered so far, and is aiming to establish continuity across the 1-km strike by moving one of its drill rigs from Kelvin to the Faraday corridor.

Based on the drilling completed to date, Kennady is hoping to find between 5 and 8 million tonnes of kimberlite in the Kelvin-Faraday corridor, as well as other kimberlites.

A drill program conducted last year returned “exceptional grade samples,” according to the company, returning a grade of 5.38 carats per tonne from a 4.3 tonne sample of Kelvin kimberlite. A smaller, 116-kg sample from Faraday returned a grade of 11.23 carats per tonne.

The three largest diamonds recovered from Kelvin thus far have been a 2.48 carat off-white transparent octahedral, a 1.06 carat off-white broken aggregate and a 0.90 carat off-white transparent irregular.

“The recovery of diamonds of this size and quality from a 4.3 tonne sample is very encouraging,” noted the company in its statement.

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Caribou Legs keen to carry on Peel protection run

By MARY WALDEN

After knocking off 1,200 km in 28 days on a run from Inuvik to Whitehorse, you'd think Brad "Caribou Legs" Firth might want to hang up his caribou hide shin pads, strapped neatly on with leather lashing, at least for a bit.

But you'd be wrong.

No sooner had the Gwich'in long distance runner arrived on the banks of the Yukon River in downtown Whitehorse last Tuesday than he was chatting up plans to extend his Run for the Peel awareness campaign over the summer.

Come the end of May, Firth plans to lace up again and triple the distance - this time from Vancouver to Inuvik, which is about 3,850 km by road.

"I want to bring this to a national level," he told supporters, who turned out to give him an unofficial hero's welcome to the Yukon's capital.

Just that day he'd clocked 70 km to complete the run. He said he'd "hit the wall" around the 50-km mark and had a tough time continuing on. Luckily for him about a half-dozen keen, young runners showed up about then to join him for the final leg.

Firth wrote on his Facebook page that receiving that kind of support during the toughest part of the journey was "overwhelming."

"I had to hold back my tears two times while running with the youth," he wrote. "They carried me into Whitehorse



Photo: Mary Walden

Brad "Caribou Legs" Firth stays true to his namesake, sporting genuine caribou hide shin pads as he runs over one of the many bridges crossed on his 1,200-km journey from Inuvik through the Peel watershed to Whitehorse.

like young warriors when I wanted to throw in the towel."

Most days he ran at least the equivalent of a marathon

- 42 km, or 26 miles - or more. On average, he kept a steady pace of about 10 km an hour.

His faithful four-legged companion, Trixie, who had matched him step-for-step for much of the trip, was relegated to the support vehicle for the final day due to heavy traffic. Instead, the small dog rode shotgun over the bundle of letters from Peel supporters in the Mackenzie Delta, which were destined for the desk of Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski, with whom the runner was expected to meet on Monday.

Although Firth has deep family ties to the watershed, he's taken a roundabout route to advocating for its protection. Raised in Inuvik, he later moved to Vancouver and was soon sucked into the abyss of the notorious Downtown Eastside. He credits a renewed interest in running with helping him crawl out of the addictions hole and now stay clean.

Last fall, he returned to the North and made headlines with a 720-km run from Fort Smith to Yellowknife.

After spending the winter training in Inuvik, he started down the Dempster Highway Apr. 2 on his run for the Peel. He visited communities along the way, including Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Dawson City and Mayo.

Several days after arriving in Whitehorse, his supporters held a feast in his honour. A rally was also held outside the Yukon government building Monday when he delivered the letters.

Yukon portion of the trans-boundary region violates the Yukon First Nations' land claim.

Represented by leading Aboriginal rights lawyer Thomas Berger, the First Nations argue the government violated the

I had to hold back my tears two times while running with the youth. They carried me into Whitehorse like young warriors when I wanted to throw in the towel.

Brad 'Caribou Legs' Firth

His run from Vancouver to Inuvik will likely take him most of the summer. He'll be on the road when the Peel land use plan lawsuit goes to trial in Yukon Supreme Court, July 7-11.

Two Yukon First Nations - Mayo's Na-cho Nyak Dun and Dawson's Tr'ondek Hwech'in - along with the Yukon Conservation Society and CPAWS-Yukon, filed the suit in January after the territorial government decided to open most of the region to industrial development.

They say the government's new land use plan for the

land use planning process, laid out in the constitutionally-protected land claim agreements, when it rejected a jointly-developed plan to protect the watershed and replaced it with a pro-development blueprint.

The precedent setting case is expected to have implications not only for the future of the Peel watershed, but for modern-day treaties across Canada's North.

The NWT's Gwich'in Tribal Council says it also plans to take court action, but is still deciding which legal route to take.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the 2014 Aurora College graduates across the territory.

You have achieved a significant milestone in your lives and we wish you the greatest success for a bright future.



Hon. Jackson Lafferty
Minister, Education, Culture and Employment



Fort Smith students get crafty for water protection

By MARIA CHURCH

Polka dots, swirls and stripes in an array of bright paints have given life to hundreds of wooden fish that will soon adorn Joseph Burr Tyrrell (JBT) elementary school's chain link fence, but the students know their art project is about more than just decoration.

The soon-to-be, outdoor mural of fish is also a statement about watershed protection.

"The whole idea of the mural is meant to be a visual reminder for the community to help take care of our water and stay informed of it," Stephanie Yuill, project organizer and public education specialist with Environment and Natural Resources, told *The Journal*.

The art project is part of an eco-education program called Stream of Dreams that began in Burnaby, BC in 1988 after an unidentified person dumped toxic material down a storm drain resulting in the death of 5,000 fish. A chain link fence was erected around the affected area and residents organized to have children paint 5,000 wooden fish and attach them to the fence to remind people of the fish habitat nearby.

As more and more people jumped on board, the Stream of Dreams Murals Society was born with the goal of educating communities on the importance of watersheds.

Since then, hundreds of schools in multiple provinces



JBT elementary students check out their handiwork for the Stream of Dreams environmental education project.

and the United States have participated in the Stream of Dreams project, including JH Sissons elementary school in Yellowknife, which attached its mural last fall.

Yuill was in Fort Smith last week to bring the program to JBT school with the

help of Fort Smith's watershed management students Dalton Beamish, Jeremy Beamish, Alex Marie and Ryan David Evans. The four Fort Smith students are part of a program by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Research that empowers



Joy Benwell (right) adds stripes of colourful paint to her cardboard fish at JBT elementary school in Fort Smith last week.

youth to take a leadership role in protecting Canada's watersheds.

Yuill and the four young water leaders introduced the concept of watersheds to the elementary students and oversaw the painting of each bright, aquatic masterpiece.

The end goal for the mural of fish is to make waves in the community, Yuill said.

"We have to think about our own behaviours. What happens to Fort Smith goes to Fort Resolution and eventually can end up in Tuktoyaktuk," she said. "We just happen to be

downstream of the oilsands, but we are also upstream of lot of other communities."

Yuill will be back in Fort Smith in June after the wooden fish have been thoroughly shellacked to assemble the Stream of Dreams on JBT's chain link fence.

Environment Climate Change

Researchers look to skies to predict climate change

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

European researchers are collecting data in the skies above Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk with the hopes of better predicting the effects of climate change.

More than 20 researchers from Germany and France are currently in the region as part of the Radiation Aerosol Cloud Experiment in the Arctic Circle, dubbed the RACEPAC campaign.

Their goal: collect data on the warming and cooling effects of clouds to better predict decreasing sea ice cover and rising temperatures.

"Global warming is amplified in the Arctic," explained Prof. Manfred Wendisch of the University of Leipzig, who is leading the research effort. "The Arctic is a hot spot for climate research."

Sea ice cover in the Arctic has decreased dramatically



German and French researchers are visiting Inuvik this spring to research the properties and reflectivity of clouds in the hopes of better predicting climate change.

since 1950, and average temperatures have increased more in the region than almost anywhere else in the world.

Wendisch called this phenomenon "Arctic

amplification," and said it's one of the reasons researchers have traveled so far to collect this data.

There are some special conditions in the North, including low sun, high reflection of

solar radiation at the ground, low temperatures and, most importantly to the RACEPAC researchers, unique cloud conditions.

"Clouds act in different ways here," he said. Low

clouds in the Arctic almost always have a warming effect, compared to further south where they usually have a cooling effect.

The RACEPAC team is using two airplanes, one to fly through clouds and another to fly above them. The first collects information on the clouds' properties, whether they are made of ice, raindrops or both, and the second measures the reflectivity, or radiation, of the clouds.

It will take about two years to analyze and publish the data, Wendisch said, but once investigated, the findings could help explain why global warming is amplified in the Arctic. The findings could also provide much-needed data for climate change prediction models, some of which estimate that by 2050 Arctic sea ice could disappear completely.

"You can never trust the model without having some measurements. Without more data it's pure speculation," Wendisch said.

"These clouds make a lot of trouble. That means we need to know what's inside the clouds."

The planes can log up to 60 hours of flight time each, translating to roughly 15 expeditions over the coming weeks.

The RACEPAC campaign is a combined effort of the University of Leipzig, the Alfred Wegener Institute, the Jülich Research Centre, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, the German Aerospace Centre, the Max Planck Institute, the University of Mainz and the Laboratory of Physical Meteorology, a part of the Observatory of the Physics of the Globe at Clermont Ferrand in France.



Anna Cunningham, a self-described bike enthusiast, displays the travel mug she won at a free bike workshop held by the Town of Hay River.



Ecology North program manager Kim Rapati services a bicycle chain at a free bike tune-up workshop outside the library in Hay River on Saturday afternoon.

Sports & Recreation Cycling

Cyclists hit the streets for fun ride in Hay River

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Bikes are tuned up and ready to ride this summer in Hay River thanks to a fix-up and fun ride event on Saturday, put on by Ecology North and the town.

Around a dozen cyclists gathered in front of the library Saturday afternoon to work on their bikes with the help of volunteers skilled in the art of bicycle maintenance before taking off for a joyous afternoon group ride about town celebrating the end of a long winter.

Grease, cleaning supplies, tools and all sorts of extra equipment, from tire patch kits and inner tubes to extra

pedals and chains, were available to the cycling enthusiasts with the hope that a better ride will lead to more two-wheeled transportation out on the streets and trails this summer.

“Your bike not being in shape is a huge deterrent, especially if people have left it outside over the winter and it’s gotten all snowy and maybe a little rusty,” said Kim Rapati, manager of Ecology North in Hay River.

“I’ve heard people say before, ‘I’ve got a bike, but it’s not working well’ or not easy to ride. Bikes are pretty simple machines and if you know a little bit about how it

works, it can be fairly simple to tune it up and to adjust a few things...and make it run really well again.”

Rapati said the popularity of bikes is growing in the community, but she wants to see more people take up greener ways of getting around.

“There’s a few really dedicated people I know who bike across town, and lots of kids who have fun on our trails with their bikes, but Ecology North really wants to encourage more people to get out and bike, especially in the summer if they’re going to work because our town’s not that big, so it’s totally bikeable,” she said.

Besides the environmental benefits of reducing greenhouse gases and the use of fossil fuels, Rapati said cycling is also good for people’s health and bank accounts.

“This event is meant to kick-start people into getting into the habit of biking around more. It’s not only good for the environment; you are also spending way less money at the gas station and you’re also getting in shape and getting some sun, which is always important,” she said.

Saturday marked the second time Ecology North has hosted a bike workshop with funding from Environment and Natural Resources, but

the first time the Town of Hay River has been on board.

The town’s recreation programmer Emma Harper said she likes to team up with other groups to pool resources for events, especially those that provide opportunities for physical activity.

“I’m always looking for events that we can run that are physically active and geared towards families, so this event just seemed like a really nice fit,” she said.

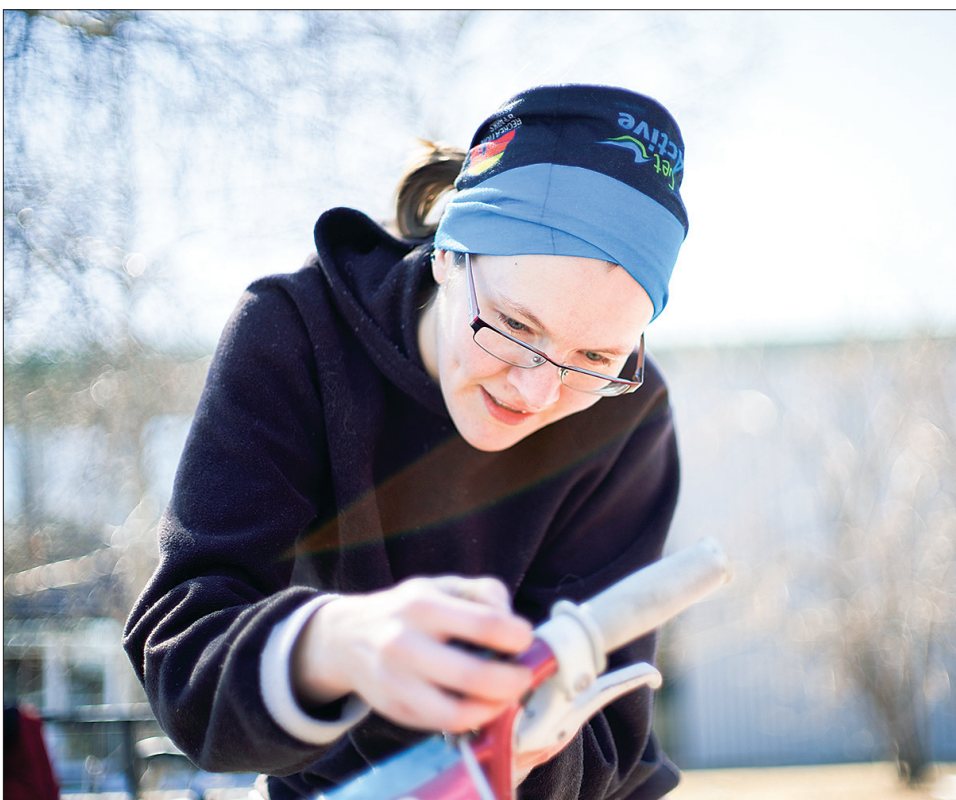
While Hay River suffers from some of the same problems as other smaller Northern towns, like a lack of sidewalks, disconnected trails and narrow streets, Rapati said getting

more people out on the existing road and trail system is a good incentive for the town to begin more work to improve its bike-friendly infrastructure.

“When there’s a gap in the trail, it’s also a deterrent because you don’t want to bike that certain part of town where the road narrows and there’s lots of traffic,” she said.

“The more people that are out using the trail system, the more demand there is to develop some better biking conditions.”

Harper said the town currently has money allocated for fixing up the trails system and is actively working on upgrades to the Trans Canada Trail.



Town of Hay River recreation programmer Emma Harper attaches a safety bell to the handlebars of a bike in preparation for the group fun ride.



Daniel Mauricio, 13, cleans last year’s mud and dirt from his bike to get ready for the trails at the spring bike tune-up workshop.



Yellowknife elder Be'sha Blondin embraces her friend Maria Mc-Swain, a Personal Support Worker graduate from Fort MacPherson.



Jessica Field of Fort Providence brims with pride and tears after receiving her Community Health Representative Certificate from Governor Dave Miller and college president Jane Arychuk.



Hugh Moloney embraces his daughters as he accepts the College's Innovation and College Improvement Award from Governor Dave Miller and president Jane Arychuk.

Education Aurora College Grad

Aurora College grads celebrate emotional milestone in Yellowknife

By BILL BRADEN

Two and half hours of teary joy and high energy swept the Explorer Hotel last Saturday, as hundreds of family and friends celebrated the commencement of Aurora College's North Slave Campus classes of 2014.

Toddlers ambled up to the stage to join their moms for formal photographs, and whoops, applause and ululations followed each graduate as they accepted scrolls from College President Jane Arychuk, College Governor Dave Miller, their program leaders and Dana Heidi, Associate Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Staff and students also awarded their peers with several special awards.

Tanya Silke of Yellowknife earned the Student Leadership Award for outstanding volunteering, notably for leading the Life-guards for Lodune campaign. The Innovation and College Improvement Award went to Developmental Studies instructor Hugh Moloney for his work in starting Aboriginal language schooling.

The Instructional Excellence Award was presented to long-time educator Mieke Cameron, the campus Senior English Instructor, and the

Clinical Excellence award from the nursing faculty went to Lori-Ann King of Yellowknife. The Avens Seniors' Sheila Broders award, honouring the memory of a dedicated nurse, was presented to Deline graduate Helen Menacho, who will be joining the Avens staff full time.

The graduates hailed from eight NWT communities along with Yukon, Newfoundland, Quebec and British Columbia. In all, 44 students were celebrated: 15 in Business and Leadership, three from the school of Education and 26 in Health and Humans Services.



Faculty members and Business and Leadership graduates anxiously await the start of the ceremony on Saturday afternoon. A total of 15 students graduated from the program, along with three from the school of Education and 26 in Health and Human Services.

Photos: Bill Braden

Destination Deline a 'poster child' for community tourism

By MARIA CHURCH

A newly-launched community tourism initiative in Deline that will soon see the community showing off its culture and natural beauty will hopefully become a trendsetter for remote tourism projects in the North, say its backers.

Destination Deline, a tourism partnership of the Deline Land Corp., Grey Goose Lodge and BC-based tourism consultants Hotkey Marketing Group - with support from the GWNT department of Industry, Tourism and Investment - has been in the works for just over a year and will begin welcoming tourists this summer.

Jackie Frederick, president of Hotkey, said Deline is pioneering a Northern introduction of community tourism that encourages visitors to "immerse themselves" in a remote culture.

"I believe that Deline will be the poster child for what these communities can do. There's nothing quite like it and Deline is doing it with a lot of thought," she said.

Frederick said the tourism project is unique in that it came about after extensive consultation with the people of Deline who stipulated there would have



Women learn to bead in Deline last year, one of several activities the remote community will offer to teach tourists this summer.

to be minimal impact to their day-to-day lives and that the environment would be protected.

In order to ensure those fundamentals are met, the tourism program will only run during the summer with hand-picked groups that follow a structured schedule.

"For only four weeks a year, we are going to ask (Deline) to welcome outsiders in and to just walk alongside them. They are not developing a program for them, they are just allowing people to come in and participate," Frederick said.

Picking the right guests is essential, she said. One of the groups pre-selected for the Destination Deline package is Elderhostel - an international, not-for-profit organization that connects seniors with educational tourism and travel opportunities.

Chief and council on board

Deline Chief Leonard Kenny told *The Journal* that the tourism business is simply an extension of welcoming visitors, something the community has always enjoyed.

Kenny said a few years back the community had a surprise visit from a group of around 15 canoeists making their way up the river to Great Bear Lake. Without any pre-planning, the people of Deline threw together a welcoming party, complete with a barbecue, drum dance and storytelling, to welcome the visitors.

"It's from those experiences that we wanted to get more involved with tourism. It's not a new idea," Kenny said.

"We always talk about economic development in our community and there is lots of opportunity in our region, but we are looking for something that is going to sustain us in the long-term. Tourism is an obvious one," he said.

ITI happy with tourism push

Andy Short, regional superintendent with ITI in Norman Wells, said the project is exciting

for the region, which has been pigeon holed in recent years as solely an oil and gas mecca.

"This is a brand new thing in the entire Northwest Territories that we are getting tourism in an Aboriginal community," he said.

Short said ITI has been pushing for more tourism industry in the North for years, but it's up to each community to make it happen.

According to Frederick, Destination Deline came together in record time for a tourism program because the community already had the necessary infrastructure on-hand with Grey Goose Lodge, as well as the pristine natural environment and a preserved cultural way of life.

"The people of Deline - the chief, council and community - they just want to share who they are and what they do, but they're remote so they don't have a chance to share their stories with many people. This is a great way for them to - in a very controlled environment - share their stories with groups of people that are interested, curious and will definitely be respectful. It's just a perfect blend," she said.



Town of Fort Smith

Emergency Preparedness Guide

The Evacuation & Registration site for Fort Smith is the Rec. Centre

Your best protection in any emergency is knowing what to do before the emergency happens

EMERGENCY KIT - BASICS

- First Aid Kit
- Small fuel driven stove and fuel (*always follow manufacturer's directions for storage and use*)
- Waterproof matches, plastic garbage bags, duct tape and paper towels
- Disposable plates and glasses, knives, forks, spoons, manual can opener and bottle opener
- Blankets
- Copy of your emergency plan and contact information
- Special needs items as required: prescription medication; infant formula; equipment for people with disabilities; pet requirements
- Check www.getprepared.ca for additional items you may wish to have on hand

SURVIVAL KIT

- Food and water
- Flashlight & spare batteries
- Crank or battery operated radio
- Candles and matches or lighter
- Whistle (in case you need to attract attention)
- Toiletries, spare eyeglasses and other personal items
- First aid kit and prescription drugs
- Extra set of keys and money (including small change for pay telephones)
- Copies of important documents (identification, personal papers)
- For winter emergencies: winter clothing, boots and sleeping bags

CAR KIT

- Matches and candles in a metal container
- Spare clothing and shoes, blanket
- Tow rope, jumper cables, windshield washer fluid
- Warning light or road flares
- First Aid kit with seatbelt cutter
- Water and emergency food
- Road maps, whistle & flashlight
- Fire Extinguisher
- During the winter: shovel; scraper and snow brush; sand, salt or cat litter;
- antifreeze; sleeping bags
- **Keep your fuel tank at 3/4 full or more at all times**

FOOD AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 3 DAYS

- At least four litres of bottled water per person per day
- Canned food: soups, stews, beans, pasta, meat, poultry, fish, fruits and vegetables
- Energy bars and dried foods
- Honey, peanut butter, nuts, syrup, jams, salt and pepper, sugar, instant coffee and tea

Pet Kit

- Food and water
- Cages and leashes
- Prescriptions

IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?

If you have any questions contact Mayor Brad Brake or SAO Jim Hood at the Town Hall 872-8400.

Contest marks 10th anniversary of Human Rights Act

NWT Human Rights Commission gearing up for comprehensive review

By MARIA CHURCH

The NWT Human Rights Commission has launched a show and tell contest to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the NWT Human Rights Act, enacted July 1, 2004.

The contest asks people to submit an image and a story in one of four categories that explore the importance of human rights legislation in Northwest Territories communities.

Charles Dent, chair of the commission, said the goal of the contest is to twofold: to start a dialogue about human rights across the territory and to gauge residents' knowledge of the territory's act.

"One of the main purposes of the commission is education awareness, so one of the goals here is to find out just how aware people are of the NWT Human Rights Act and its provisions," he said.

Dent said the show and tell contest is a good format to connect with residents because it encourages participants to learn more about the act and discuss what it means to them and to their community.



Charles Dent, chair of the NWT Human Rights Commission, says the 10 year-old commission will be undergoing a comprehensive review.

The contest has participants submit their work in one of four categories: building a healthy community, human rights heroes,

my vision for the NWT and "equality is...".

Image submissions can include multiple forms of art, such as photographs, paintings,

collages and illustrations, and story submissions can be either written or oral.

The show and tell contest closes midnight on May 11.

One of the main purposes of the commission is education awareness, so one of the goals here is to find out just how aware people are of the NWT Human Rights Act and its provisions.

*Charles Dent
NWT Human Rights Commission*

One grand prize winner will receive a 128GB iPad Air and five regional winners will receive 32GB iPad Minis. Ten awards of excellence, two in each region, will also be given out.

Commission to undergo review

In conjunction with its 10-year anniversary, the commission is moving forward with a comprehensive review on both the commission's work and the act itself.

"(The review) will try and assess just how well people are aware of their rights and our existence and how to take advantage of the commission to protect their rights," Dent said.

"We've decided after 10 years it's the right time to do this."

The commission is one of three separate entities established by the NWT Human Rights Act, along with the office of the Director of Human Rights and the NWT Human Rights Adjudication Panel.

Five members make up the commission with the goal of offering education, advocacy and advice to prevent discrimination and increase understanding of the act.

The comprehensive review is still in its initial stages, currently seeking proposals from outside sources, and will likely be launched within the next few months.



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NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Northwest Territories Municipal and Community Affairs www.maca.gov.nt.ca

KNOW THE RISKS. MAKE A PLAN. BE READY.

‘Making them into nice white kids’

Gwich’in historian explores impacts of schools on Inuvik area

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Crystal Fraser could have been sent to live in Grollier Hall for school, if she had been coming from a smaller community and not already living in Inuvik.

The infamous residential school dormitory is where her mother, a daughter of a residential school survivor, also stayed while going to school away from her home community of Tsiigehtchic.

That’s why the topic of how education was used to assimilate and colonize indigenous peoples from the Beaufort Delta region is such a point of interest for Fraser, a Gwich’in historian currently doing her PhD research on the impacts of church and state-led schooling - as well as points of student resistance - in the area.

“There certainly is an intergenerational family approach that I want to take to this,” she shared in an interview. “There’s a lot of people I know who have been touched by this subject, and I thought it was probably a good time.”

Fraser, who is in the final stages of her doctoral research at the University of Alberta, said she always knew her studies in history would address a Northern topic - “I wanted to make a contribution back to the North” - but it was in 2011 when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission held a national event in Inuvik to gather testimony on residential school experiences that Fraser found her inspiration.



Crystal Fraser spends time at a family fishing camp near Tree River, used by her relatives from Tsiigehtchic.

Photo courtesy of Crystal Fraser

“I followed the media quite closely and after long talks with my family and my supervisor, I thought what better person than one who grew up in the system, who is indigenous, who’s in the position to conduct this type of study?” she said. “I thought that would be great.”

‘Making them into nice white kids’

While she still has two years left to work on her thesis, Fraser was in Yellowknife at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre last week to present her research, compiled

from archival documents and interviews with over 60 people from the region, including former students, teachers and administrators.

The topic of the presentation, “Making Them into Nice White Kids,” honed in on the commonality of colonization and assimilation tactics employed by both church and state - including the federal and territorial systems - between 1950 and 1996, as well as moments and methods of subversive action by the students.

Her research indicates that the original church-based

school in Aklavik differed from southern residential schools in that, while religion, English and labour were the primary components of classroom education, children were still exposed to traditional culture because the administrators were dependant upon local people for survival.

That changed when the federal government took control over education in 1955 - a time of great interest in the North.

“The federal government... did a number of investigations and reports and decided to start building settlements to bring local indigenous families into

capitalism, into modernity, and a part of that would have been education,” Fraser said.

While attempts to create a “multicultural” curriculum that was region-specific began in the early ‘70s after the GNWT took over education, Fraser said those efforts largely fell flat.

“They never seemed to be able to have the financial resources or the determination to actually see it through to implementation; kind of a failed project, if you will,” Fraser said.

Though it’s difficult to make generalizations at this point in her research, as she has two years left to work on her thesis, Fraser said the title of the presentation - a quote from an Aklavik man - sums up the experience for a lot of the students she spoke with.

“Even though in some communities among some families it was not always required for students to be sent away to residential school, especially under the federal government - and the GNWT was still using this language in the 1970s - the language was that these children need to be assimilated. So it definitely was a colonial policy that was still in effect up until the 1970s,” she said.

That system of assimilation spread outside the school and into community groups like Girl Guides, as well, Fraser argues.

“One of the points I make with the Girl Guides is that it actually was an extension of colonial education, in that they were looking to create good Canadian citizens, and if Girl Guides could instill a sense of national pride in the Canadian state, if they could make these Northern kids feel closer to children in the south, if there was a unifying narrative that everyone could use, then you would have a generation of individuals I suppose

who were perhaps more assimilated than the generation before,” she said.

Moments of resistance

While she said the colonial education system has been extremely powerful in shaping the political, cultural and social landscape of the Beaufort Delta, including leaving a legacy of intergenerational trauma in some families, her studies have also unearthed moments of resistance, whether successful or not.

Those moments include attempts at fleeing school, of women becoming pregnant so they could be sent home, of outright rebellion at the residences and other small but powerful acts of subversion, like one shown by a young Gwich’in woman at Girl Guides:

“She was told by her troop leader that she had to take her braids out because it made her look like an Indian, and she refused because she wanted to represent herself in a certain way in front of her white friends,” Fraser said.

Infusing Aboriginal voices in modern history

Though her research is not intended to be a comprehensive overview of education during the timeframe, Fraser said she wants it to start a conversation and perhaps movement on intergenerational healing for people in the region, as well as give living, local people a way to include their stories in modern history.

“There’s a long history, especially among Aboriginal people, where researchers come in and take what they need and leave and you never hear from them again. Certainly that is not something that I want to reproduce,” Fraser said.

“As a historian, there’s a large emphasis on finding your sources at your archives, whether it’s the territorial or the national archives, collecting enough written documents that you’re able to piece the written history together, and oral histories are sort of left up to anthropologists or ethnologists. But I think that especially if you’re studying a modern topic and there are people who can bring lived experiences, those kinds of insights to your project, that is of critical importance.

“Not only that, it is especially important to capture the voices of Aboriginal people because for too long have Eurocentric historians been speaking on behalf of Aboriginal people. So I definitely want to infuse a local, indigenous voice into my work and let the people speak for themselves.”

PERMIT TO BURN REQUIRED from May 1 to September 30

Planning to FireSmart or clean up around your home, camp or cabin this spring or summer?

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Sir Alexander Mackenzie School opened in 1959 – one year after the creation of the town of Inuvik. Since then, it has been central to the town's history.



The demolition inspired mixed emotions from Inuvik residents.



It took four excavators four hours to demolish Sir Alexander Mackenzie School in Inuvik last Friday.

Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

Education Schools

Inuvik school demolition draws mix of emotions

Sir Alexander Mackenzie School topples after 55 years

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

It took four hours to demolish 55 years' worth of history in Inuvik on Friday.

The demolition of Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, which drew hundreds of on-lookers throughout the day, marked the end of an era and elicited strong emotions from those who attended the school.

The school, referred to simply as "SAMS" by locals, opened in 1959 – one year after the creation of the town of Inuvik.

Since then, it has been central to the town's history and a not-to-be-missed landmark.

It hosted students from both Grollier Hall and Stringer Hall hostels, who came from across the region to attend residential school.

Neta Allen, 18, attended SAMS from kindergarten to Grade 6 and said town will feel different now that the landmark has been leveled.

"I grew up in that school," she said. "It's all gone now."

Melissa Kisoun, who attended the school from 1983 to 1990, echoed Allen's sentiments.

"Those were and always will be the best years of my life," she said. "Part of Inuvik's history gone, only memories will remain."

Kisoun fondly remembers movie nights, Northern games, talent shows and teen dances held at the school, where "boys were in a straight line on one side, and girls on the other."

At the age of two and a half, she won her first gold medal for jigging in the SAMS gymnasium, and said she can still remember the words to 'O Come all ye faithful' in Inuvialuktun, which she performed at a Christmas concert at the school.

"The school where I received the best education; where I met and made lifelong friendships; the school where Roxette was the coolest played artist at teen dances," she recalled.

Vern Firth, who attended Stringer Hall from 1968 to 1972, was visibly moved as he stood and watched the structure come down, and said he wishes they could have kept it up a bit longer.

"It brings back a lot of memories. A lot of good friends went to this school. It was a good school to go to," he said.

"It takes away a lot of things when you move it. It also brings closure to a lot of things that went on with the residential school."

Demolition began at about 11:00 a.m. when four excavators started tearing down the remaining skeleton of the school.

Approximately 100 people were scattered throughout adjoining Jim Koe Park and Mackenzie Road to take in the historic moment.

Winston Moses, who attended the school from when it opened in 1959 to 1963, said he couldn't miss the demolition.

"That's the reason I come: to remember all the school children that I went to school with. I remember some of the well-respected teachers that went there and also remember those that came from far away places - and they had a harder time adjusting," he said.

Tom McLeod attended Moose Kerr School in Aklavik but, like most students in the Mackenzie Delta, had many memories of visiting the school.

"It's a thing to see," he said of the demolition.

He once stayed at SAMS for a week during an Arctic sports event and said he'll

never forget running around the spooky halls at night.

"It was so much fun, just running around at 2:00 a.m. in the pitch black," he said. "It was a nice place for what it was."

McLeod said he is excited to see what they'll do with the land, which sits in the heart of Inuvik between Jim Koe

Park and the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and Samuel Hearne Secondary School were both replaced in 2012 by East Three School, which, at the time, was the second largest infrastructure project in the territory at \$110 million.



Northwest Territories Power Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

L150 TRANSMISSION LINE CLEARING FORT SMITH, NT RFP NO. 21408

Sealed RFP's marked "Northwest Territories Power Corporation RFP 21408" will be received at the offices of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, 4 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT X0E 1G2 until 4:00 p.m. local time on **May 26, 2014**.

The RFP consists of L150 Transmission Line Clearing, Fort Smith, NT as specified in the RFP Documents.

Please note that security is being requested in the form of a bid bond and consent of surety at ten percent (10%) of the proposal price. A performance bond and labour and materials bond in the amount of fifty percent (50%) will be required of the successful proponent.

RFP Documents will be available on **May 5, 2014**. Please fax or email request for documents to:

Jamie Hunt
Contract Coordinator
Northwest Territories Power Corporation
Phone: (867) 874-5211 Fax: (867) 874-5251
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EMPLOYMENT, TENDERS AND LEGAL NOTICES



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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Sealed tender submissions addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, Bag Service #1, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0, delivered to the third floor of the GNWT Government Building on Veterans Way, will be received until:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, MAY 16, 2014.

Tender documents will be available on April 25, 2014. Tender Reference Number is 0610-17052.

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

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

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**Supply and Install Fall
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CT101408
- Inuvik, NT -**

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3:00 PM, Local Time, May 14, 2014.

Tender Documents will be available April 30, 2014. Tender Reference number is 0610-17050.

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Contracts Administrator
Procurement Shared Services
Phone: (867) 777-7146
Fax: (867) 777-7109
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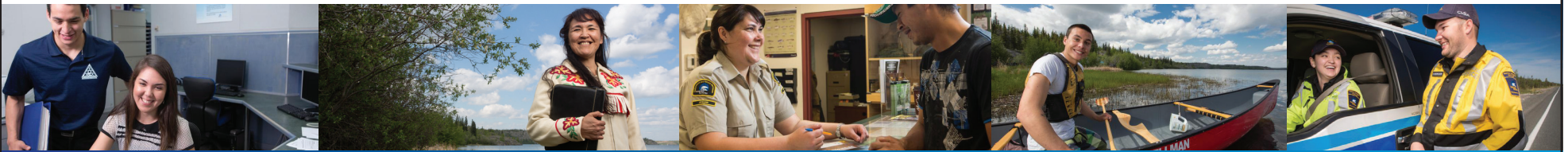
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NWT adult learners to be offered new six-week courses

By MARIA CHURCH

After successful pilot testing, Aurora College will be rolling out four of the six new embedded adult learner courses this fall that are already receiving attention across the North as advancing adult education in the NWT.

Developed by research from the NWT Literacy Council, the new courses are offered in short, six-week stints covering topics such as child care, office skills and starting your own business by teaching both literacy and soft skills that directly translate to employment.

"If you didn't do well in the school system, you are going to be afraid to go back to school, afraid of failing, so you want to create an environment that helps people overcome those sorts of barriers," Helen Balanoff, executive director of the NWT Literacy Council, said in an interview.

By providing short, basic education courses that include a work placement component, the new programs aim to attract adult learners who often struggle with multiple



Delegates from Nunavut, the NWT and Yukon attend the first-ever tri-territorial Northern Adult Basic Education symposium in Whitehorse last week.

barriers, including family responsibilities and not being eligible for student financial assistance, she said.

Territories share adult education ideas

Balanoff was one of several representatives from the Literacy Council and Aurora College in Whitehorse last week to present research on the college's new courses during the first-ever Northern Adult Basic

Education (NABE) tri-territorial symposium.

The symposium ran Apr. 29 to May 1 and saw delegates including educators and instructors from Nunavut, NWT and Yukon present and share ideas on adult learning strategies.

Much of the discussion centered on results from a five-year, \$27-million investment from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency that began

transferring to the territories in 2012 with the goal of expanding adult basic education in the North.

"We're hearing huge success stories. It's very inspiring," Balanoff said of the symposium, citing presentations on several new programs coming out in each of the territories' colleges, most of which are based on research done in the North.

Many of the programs are pushing for the incorporation

of local culture and language into the programming, she said.

Aurora College courses draw interest

Aurora College's new courses received attention at the symposium for their ability to reach adults with low literacy skills who likely struggled in the regular education system, Balanoff said.

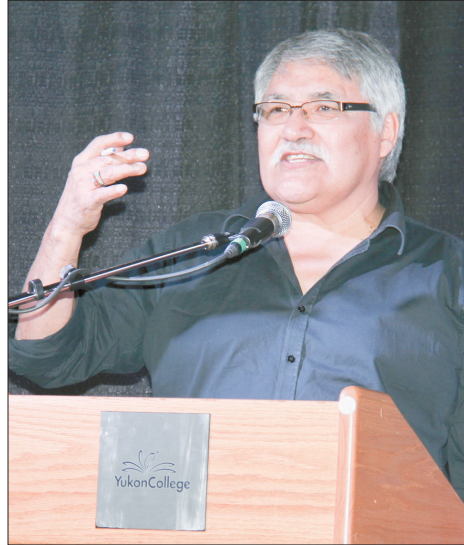
"People really liked the idea of short courses that are

drawing in people that may not go into traditional adult education programs. The other thing I think people like - and this was part of the intent of the programs - is that people experience success really quickly," she said.

"Some of the people who come into the courses are people who haven't necessarily been successful in the regular school system, so it's very important for them to experience success. It helps build confidence."

All of the new programs went through or are currently going through pilot testing in several NWT communities, including Fort Providence, Wekweeti, Tuktoyaktuk and Aklavik. In Wekweeti, the office skills pilot course had a 100 per cent graduation rate.

Four of the new programs - Introduction to Office Skills, Starting Your Own Micro Business, Introduction to Child Care and Micro Business Funding and Identity - will be available at Aurora College community learning centres in multiple locations this fall. Two more courses are in development and will likely be introduced next year.



NWT elder Paul Andrew emcees at the symposium.

Photos courtesy of Aurora College



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Aurora College adult instructor lauded with award
Bryan O'Hagan, Aurora College instructor for developmental studies at Thebacha campus in Fort Smith, receives an outstanding educator award from Aurora College president Jane Arychuk at the tri-territorial Northern Adult Basic Education symposium in Whitehorse last week.

Photo courtesy of Aurora College

Fort Smith residents hope to lose big this spring

By MARIA CHURCH

More than 90 people in Fort Smith have made it their personal goal to lose the most in eight weeks; the most weight, that is.

For the third year in a row, the Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority in partnership with the Fort Smith Recreation and Community Centre have organized a Biggest Loser competition to inspire healthy weight loss in the community.

Ranging from teenagers to elders, a large crowd of participants filed into Paul William Kaeser high school last week to sign up for the competition and step on the scale for the first of eight weekly weigh-ins.

Fort Smith dietitian and event organizer Jared Tam said he was amazed at how many people came out.

"I was expecting 20 to 45. Over 90 people showed up," he said with a laugh. "I guess people are really interested in weight loss, especially with the warmer weather when there's more motivation for them to get outside."

Participants who register have a total of eight weeks



Photo: Maria Church

Almost one hundred eager competitors line up at PWK high school in Fort Smith for the first weigh-in of the Biggest Loser contest put on by the Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority.

to lose weight, after which Tam has organized a final weigh-in event on June 24 at the high school where the Biggest Loser will be named and prizes handed out.

Bruce Buckley is one of those who signed up last week. He said his personal motivation is less about competing with others for a prize

and more about attaining personal goals.

"I participated in the last two challenges and lost a lot of weight, and judging from the scale I've been able to keep it off," he shared with *The Journal*.

Buckley said the biggest challenge faced when losing weight is being able to

maintain it post weight-loss regime. His secret was to focus on building up muscle to burn the fat, which he did by pumping iron, he said.

First-time weight-loss competitor Marsha Rankin admitted she was nervous and didn't know what to expect with the competition, but her fears eased after the first weigh-in.

Rankin said her weight-loss tactic is going to be walking it off.

Good and bad ways to lose weight

Tam cautions competitors to be smart when it comes to losing weight, noting that there are healthy and unhealthy ways to drop pounds quickly.

Starving is the classic example of a go-to diet plan that can be dangerous and even achieve the opposite result, he said.

"What people don't know is when you are starving yourself, your body looks to muscle and fat stores. When you lose muscle, you reduce your metabolism greatly, so you're not doing anything for your body when you go on extreme starvation diets. It doesn't work," Tam said.

According to the official rules of the contest, competitors are forbidden to use hormone or dietary supplements, cleanses and detoxes, starvation or "purging," among other dangerous behaviours and practices.

Healthy weight loss is different for each person, but can generally be achieved with a balanced diet of three meals a day and regular exercise, Tam said.

While shedding pounds is the goal of the competition, Tam said he hopes it also sheds light on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Health & Wellness Vaccinations

High NWT immunization rates protect population

By JACK DANYLCHUK

With an immunization rate of better than 90 per cent in the Northwest Territories, residents have little to fear from outbreaks of measles in the rest of Canada, said Dr. André Corriveau, the territory's chief medical health officer.

Corriveau marked National Immunization Week

with a warning that the greatest potential threat from diseases like measles, rubella and whooping cough is from misinformation on vaccination gone viral on the internet.

"We haven't had a case of measles in the Territories since 1992," Corriveau said last week.

"Most people have forgotten what it looks like, but we see it coming back across Canada. It's a reminder that diseases we don't see much anymore are still prevalent in other parts of the world and with travel and immigration can be brought home and create outbreaks here."

Corriveau said there has always been resistance to immunization among some groups, "but we've had very few of those. If we're able to maintain immunization rates of 90 per cent or more, that's enough protection to prevent the spread of diseases like measles."

Illness will spread in communities where immunization rates are low, "but that's not our experience in the NWT," he said.

"Northerners travel, but if we maintain high immunization rates, protection will still be there.

"The internet spreads good information and false information as well that takes on a life of its own, and we have to counteract that," added Corriveau, who emphasized that immunization serums are extensively tested before they are released in Canada.

Misinformation about immunization has not had "a significant impact in the Territories, but we have a sense that is becoming a problem across the country," he said.



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

NWT chief medical health officer André Corriveau says residents have little to fear from disease outbreaks thanks to the territory's higher than 90 per cent immunization rate.

"Europe has had major drops in immunization rates for measles and that's

where the outbreaks started. We're not immune to those influences."

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‘The Beast’ burger bests most in eating contest



Brad Fillion waves his plate in the air after devouring ‘The Beast’ burger in 8 minutes, 33 seconds.

By JACK DANYLCHUK

Confronted with a small mountain of food, Brad Fillion did what most competitors in the Coyote’s Steakhouse and Grill could not: he ate it all in record time. It was a daunting performance. A dozen of the 17 men and women who took on the burger that Coyote’s owner Edward But calls “The Beast” – two pounds of ground meat, topped with cheese, tomato and bacon, plus a one-pound serving of fries – tapped out of the contest.

Only five contestants were able to eat everything on their plates, but none could touch Fillion. The buff middleweight tore through The Beast in 8 minutes, 33 seconds, and with theatrical flourish, quaffed a glass of beer and waved his plate in the air. “I was hungry,” said Fillion, who skipped lunch last Monday – ignoring But’s advice to not skip meals and risk shrinking their stomachs. Fillion’s technique would probably bring a finger-wag

from Miss Manners. He attacked The Beast with his bare hands, drank an optional bowl of gravy and ran his finger around his plate before licking it clean. Dethroned champ Jamie Pye looked uncomfortable. Sweat glistened on the cruiserweight’s forehead as he methodically ate his way through The Beast in 15 minutes, 38 seconds – a minute over his best time. “Jaimie might have been distracted,” But said. “His wife was in hospital, in pre-labour.” Darwin Wark finished after 21 minutes, 50 seconds; Mitch Brown at 41 minutes, 23 seconds and Ben Laddell, 47 minutes, 56 seconds. Fillion won \$100 and a serving of The Beast, once a week, for the next year. The contest resumes in July with a one-pound bison burger and Fillion said he’ll be back to defend his title. Chicken wings, racks of ribs and steaks will follow later this year. “The offer is the same; winners in all categories get \$100 and a free serving once a week for a year,” But said. “It’s expensive for me, but lots of fun for everyone.”

Photo: Jack Danylchuk



Annual trade show brings out smiles in Fort Smith

Hundreds flocked to the Fort Smith recreation centre last weekend for the ninth annual trade show where dozens of vendors showed off their wares and services. Above: From left, Kristen Thackeray and Ramanda Sanderson get a feel for canoeing at the Fort Smith Paddling Club booth. Below: Fort Smith Mayor Brad Brake gets his blood pressure checked by Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority public health staff.



Photos: Paul Bannister and Maria Church

Junior Kindergarten in the NWT

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Dear Parents,
My name is Michael Duclos and I am the principal at the Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells. Our school hosted one of the few demonstration sites for Junior Kindergarten (JK), and I would like to add my voice and share my first hand JK experience with parents, caregivers, teachers and school administrators in the NWT.

We introduced the JK program in the fall of 2013 and the stakes to get it right were high. Norman Wells has no licensed daycare programs, so little availability for early childcare programming. Despite some start up challenges, JK has worked for our children and parents and we are in full support of the program. We first brought the 4-year-olds into the school in October, and the staggered start was a bit challenging at first; some of the children were not prepared for a full day and some we had to help with socialization. We welcomed these children to our school community with half days and when they were ready, all of the children in the class were at full days by December.

We’ve seen some tremendous progress with both the children

that started full days and those that needed adjustment time. All the parents in Norman Wells have elected to have their 4-year-olds registered in JK in Norman Wells! These kids have made amazing strides from when they started to where they are now. They are well adjusted, better used to routine, able to cope with and succeed in school, and able to self-direct without the teacher guiding them to tasks. They’re more interdependent and open to learning and discovering. Most of all, they are with their peers and they are having a whole lot of fun!

If any of you reading this want to speak with me directly, please don’t hesitate to contact me at Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells at (867) 587-4950.



Michael Duclos,
Principal,
Mackenzie Mountain School,
Norman Wells





Photo: Aboriginal Sport Circle NWT

Team North's boys face off against Team Ontario at the Northern Aboriginal Hockey Championships last week.

Sports & Recreation Hockey

Team North hockey players bond at tournament in Quebec

By MARIA CHURCH

For 33 Aboriginal hockey players from the NWT, Yukon and Nunavut, playing for Team North at the Northern Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Quebec last week was about more than just hockey; it was also about bonding.

Derek Squirrel of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the NWT accompanied Team North to the annual hockey championships - held for the second year in a row in Kahnawake, Que. - and said for many of the players, the tournament was an opportunity for them to grow closer to their Aboriginal roots, learn from other cultures and share their love of hockey.

"We do a lot of team bonding stuff, so it's more than just hockey to us when we have these kids, it's a chance to get them out and be able to leave their community and travel," Squirrel said.

This is the second year the three territories have teamed up to send male and female players to compete against eight other Aboriginal teams from across Canada in the annual seven-day, 45-game tournament.

Team North and its coaches arrived in Quebec four days early this year to participate in warm-up exercises that weren't all on ice.

Led by Dene elder Be'sha Blondin who accompanied Team North to Kahnawake, Team North players had a two-day cultural session before their ice time began.

"Some of these kids play hockey down south and so it was important to bring awareness of their culture, that they are Aboriginal," Squirrel said.

Squirrel said the hockey tournament was also a rare opportunity for the Northern athletes to get exposure to talent scouts in the south.

"One of the biggest things that we find is some of these kids don't get this kind of exposure. There are scouts here, there are private schools here, so it's an opportunity for them to expand their hockey career and go places if they want to," he said from Quebec.

Team North results

The Team North boys finished sixth in their pool of eight with a huge win against

Eastern Door and the North, a team from Quebec, last Wednesday. The game was tight, but the boys secured the win with a final score of 4-2. The boys' final game against Team Ontario in the playoffs was a hard-fought battle with both teams racking up points, but Ontario came out ahead with a 9-7 win.

The girls team struggled at the beginning of the tournament with four crushing defeats that kept them in the bottom of the pool, but they gave it their all and scored several goals despite the tough competition to take seventh place overall. The girls' final game against Team BC saw Team North come out strong with a goal from Davina McLeod, but the opposition fought back and ended the game 3-1 for BC.

Team Saskatchewan swept the tournament this year with a first-place finish for both the boys' and girls' teams.

NWT well represented in Team North

This year, Team North was made up of 15 players from the NWT, including forward Evan

Tordiff and Megan Evoy, both from Fort Smith, who were scouted to play for the territories at the Arctic Winter Games last February.

Her second year playing at the NAHC, Evoy said this year was an even better run than when she played two years ago for Team NWT at the championships in Saskatoon.

"Some girls have been going for a couple years so they already know each other. One person is new to NAHC so I'd say they're jelling pretty good," she told *The Journal*.

Despite ending up in last place, Evoy said the team played well and fought hard in all of their games.

SPORTS

BRIEFS

Sport North set to host 62nd annual tournament in Yellowknife

The Sport North Federation is once again hosting the annual Petersen and Auger golf tournament in support of the NWT's Rising Star program, which provides funding for training camps to youth who show potential in sports. One of the oldest continuing golf tournaments in the North, this year's 62nd annual tournament will run as a four-person Texas scramble with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. The tournament will be held on May 30 at the Yellowknife Gold Club and will include a banquet dinner, silent auction and award presentation. For more information and a schedule, visit <https://sportnorth.com/our-programs/golf-tournament>



Photo: Joe LeBlanc

Team Storm prepping for Nike High School Grand Prix track event

Less than a week before the national track and field invitational Nike High School Grand Prix kicks off in Toronto this Friday, NWT Storm and its 22 athletes are doing final preparations for their trip south to compete in high jumps, hurdles and 400-m tracks. Despite poor weather this spring hindering outdoor practice, the team was able to get some training outside last week on the track and using the long-jump pits. Last year, the NWT team brought home four medals, one silver and three bronze. The boys' team finished fifth and the girls' team finished seventh overall.



Photo: Bill Braden

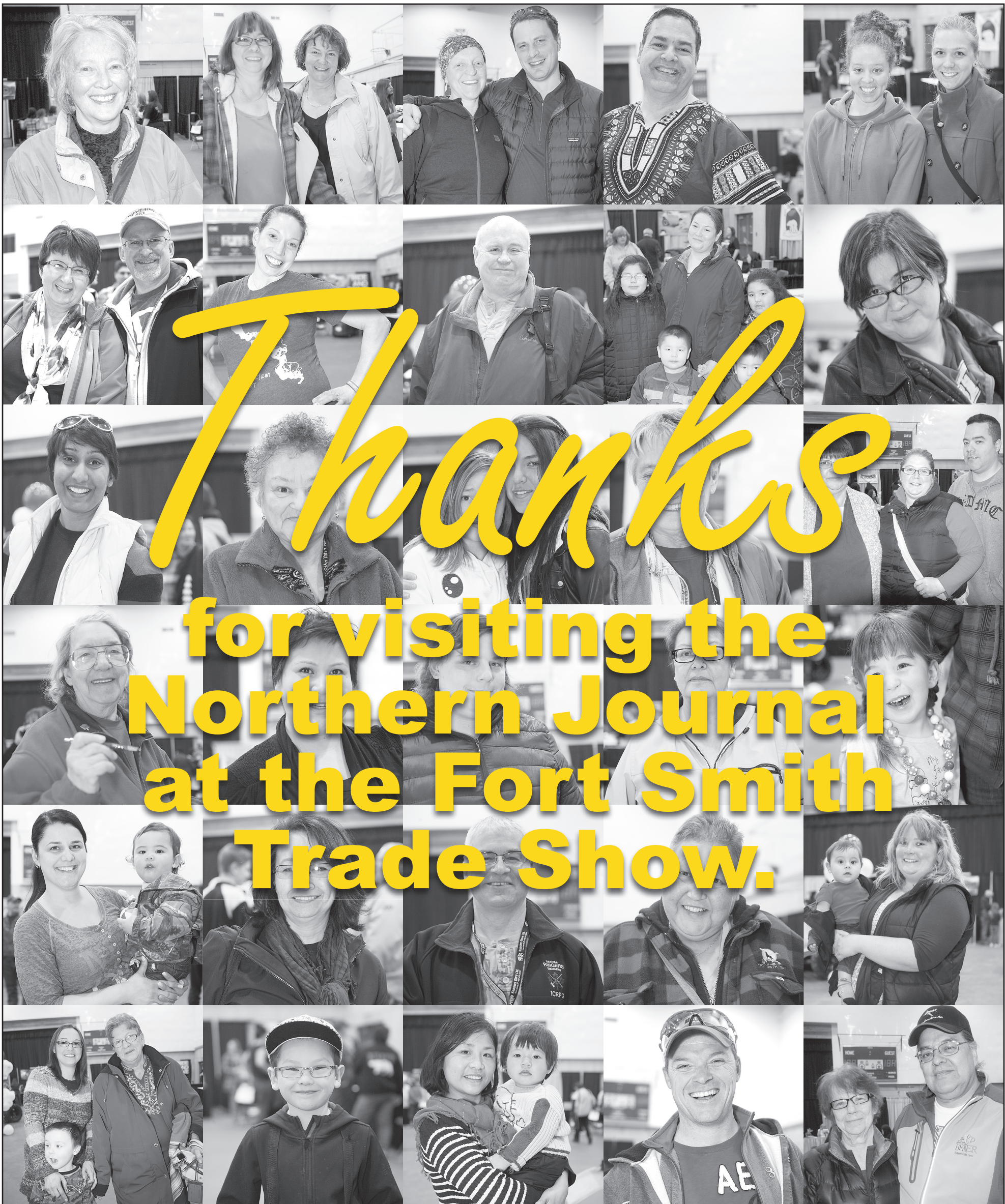
Two wheels up for bike auction

Rotarian and veteran auctioneer Tony Whitford coaxes another \$10 from a bidder as Dan Wong displays the shiny wheels at Yellowknife's Rotary Club bike auction. The service club has for years gathered and repaired used bikes, along with unclaimed bikes from RCMP storage, and held an annual spring auction. This year, 54 bikes were sold for \$5,630.

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