



Feds delay decision on NWT borrowing limit
Finance Minister Michael Milt-enberger's meeting with his new federal counterpart yielded a delayed decision on the NWT's debt ceiling. *See page 2.*



Yellowknife rallies after public benches removed
Yellowknife residents set up chairs and makeshift benches outside the post office last week to protest the city's removal of public seating. *See page 7.*



Greenhouse blooms under the midnight sun
Inuvik's green thumbs are gearing up for another season of growing in the most northerly greenhouse in Canada. *See page 10.*



Lutsel K'e learns to tan mooshides at new camp
Residents in Lutsel K'e are keeping their culture alive with a first-ever moosehide tanning camp held in the community last week. *See page 22.*

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Students cheer after a helicopter ride over the recent burn area near Hay River, one of several activities embarked upon as part of the forest ecology camp put on by Environment and Natural Resources for youth from Fort Providence and Fort McPherson. *See story on page 9.*

Photo: Stephanie Yuill

Gwich'in remember a 'strong leader'

Robert Arthur Alexie Jr., April 26, 1956 to June 9, 2014

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

Robert Alexie Jr., president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, took his last steps on June 9 surrounded by his beloved blue mountains across the Peel River from Fort McPherson.

Alexie was elected president of the tribal council two years ago, but to the community that gathered last week to mourn his death, he was considered a chief of the people – a true chief of the Gwich'in Nation.

"Robert was a strong leader," said William Koe, chief of the Tetlit Gwich'in in Alexie's hometown of Fort McPherson. "He didn't say much, but when he said something, people listened."

Alexie was a strong yet quiet force, known just as much for his achievements as a negotiator of the Gwich'in Regional Land Claim as he was for his softspoken nature and dedication to youth.

The Mackenzie Delta came to a standstill Saturday afternoon to honour his life, and tributes poured in from across Canada.

More than 500 people attended his funeral in Fort McPherson, including family, friends, colleagues and dignitaries.

Those that spoke talked about the shock of his sudden death, his work strengthening the Gwich'in Nation and the need to carry his legacy into its next act.

"When we woke up it was raining, but it was still sunshine," said Joseph Tetlich at the feast following Alexie's funeral service. "I think that's what Robert wanted."

Tetlich, like so many others, spoke about Alexie's ability to move seamlessly from meetings with bureaucrats in Ottawa to tea with elders at camps along the Peel River.

"As a Gwich'in person, I'm really happy that he was my leader," Tetlich said. "Robert has really touched a lot of us in a lot of ways."

Old Crow Chief Joe Linklater said Alexie spoke of a vision for the Gwich'in people of Alaska, Yukon and Northwest Territories at a strategic planning session earlier this year in

Yellowknife. He dreamed of a united Gwich'in, working together towards common goals.

"He was a man of few words but always swift action," Linklater said.

One of Alexie's greatest passions, along with writing and photography, was strengthening the capacity of young people so they could one day lead the Gwich'in self-government.

"Twenty, 30, 50 years down the road, he wanted us to be a self-sufficient nation who can depend on each other, help each other, and be the best nation that we could be," said sister Gladys Alexie. "Today I want you to do my brother proud. Get your education, do the best you can. Help this dream become a reality."

Gwich'in youth Bobbi Rose Koe said she hopes people remember Alexie for the work that he did and the way he led his people.

"He was straightforward, truthful and he didn't act like he was better than you. He was like any other person. He wasn't like the president."

Koe said she always tried to sit next to Alexie in meetings to watch the way he worked and to try to learn from him.

"He taught me that I could do anything. Anything is possible," she said.

Vuntut Gwich'in Norma Kassi also spoke of Alexie's legacy and said now is the time to band together.

See Chief on page 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

Western Arctic MP to become Northwest Territories MP

Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington will soon be sporting the title of Northwest Territories MP after a federal bill passed in the House of Commons to change the names of 31 ridings across Canada. Bill C-37 was passed on June 6 and is now up for review by the Senate. Bevington said in a news release that he is pleased with the name change, which will make it consistent with the ridings for the other two territories. The bill must receive Royal Assent before the name change takes effect.

Scholarship recipients announced by the NWT Legislative Assembly

Tunchai Redvers and Trisa Ngo, two young leaders in the NWT, are the recipients of this year's Legislative Assembly scholarships. Jackie Jacobson, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, along with the Yellowknife Community Foundation, announced the winners on June 6. The scholarship is awarded annually to support individuals pursuing post-secondary studies in political science or a related field. Both recipients are from Yellowknife and are heavily involved in volunteer initiatives in their community.

Charges laid in Fort Liard break and enter at water treatment plant

A 20-year old Fort Liard man is facing charges after turning himself into police following an RCMP investigation into a break and enter at the local water treatment plant earlier that morning. The man is facing charges of breaking and entering, possession of break-in tools, mischief and theft under \$5,000 related to the incident on June 12. Despite finding no evidence of tampering with the water treatment equipment, operations were suspended while the hamlet performed water quality tests. Operations resumed the next day. The man in question is scheduled for an appearance at the Fort Liard Territorial Court on Aug. 14.



GNWT Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger is expecting a federal decision on the NWT borrowing limit by early July.

Politics Finance

Still no federal decision on raised debt ceiling NWT growth 'hinges' on borrowing limit increase: minister

By MARIA CHURCH

The federal government has once again delayed its answer on increasing the

territory's borrowing limit, a move that, while expected, is no less troubling, according to the NWT's minister of Finance.

Michael Miltenberger met with new federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver in early June, for the first time since the latter took over the federal portfolio following the resignation of the late Jim Flaherty in March.

Miltenberger's main mission was to stress the urgency of the NWT's request to increase its federal borrowing limit from the current \$800 million to \$1.8 billion.

Miltenberger was well into discussions with Flaherty earlier this year and had received indications that a decision on the limit increase would come by April, but the conversation hit restart once the new minister took office.

"We are definitely making the case for how important this is and Minister Oliver is aware that the premier and prime minister support this one, and we are waiting for him and his political staff to do his review," Miltenberger told *The Journal* last week.

The paperwork has all been filed and the federal department of Finance has already completed an assessment of the request, but the political side, led by Oliver, has to play catch up, Miltenberger said.

"I'm expecting to hear back from his office at the end of June or early July that they've concluded their work and (can) tell us what

his position is on this. So, it's a wait and see," he said. "We have a lot of things riding on this borrowing limit getting through."

While the GNWT is within its goal of maintaining an unused \$100 million of federal funds for emergency purposes - currently \$145 million is untouched - the limit restricts much-needed economic growth in the territory, Miltenberger said.

"We have almost no flexibility left to make any kind

transmission line to link the Snare and Taltson hydro grids, potentially with an intertie to Saskatchewan, to provide power to multiple mines and off-grid communities.

The GNWT stands to profit significantly from connecting the mines to the grid. With the diamond industry already under financial pressure from falling resource prices, the GNWT is scrambling for ways to keep the companies investing in the territory.

It's a big issue for us. We are either going to be moving forward with considerable energy and ability to engage, or we are going to be telling people that 'yes, these are all nice ideas, but we are not in a position to engage.'

Michael Miltenberger

of investment in economic infrastructure," he said. "As a territory, we will be very hard pressed to evolve and invest in critical infrastructure. It's a big issue for us. We are either going to be moving forward with considerable energy and ability to engage, or we are going to be telling people that 'yes, these are all nice ideas, but we are not in a position to engage.'"

On the line are multiple legacy infrastructure projects, including a 900-km

"Every year we can extend mine life, for one mine, it's about \$250 million a year into our economy and there are four mines that are all struggling with the same thing," Miltenberger said. "We have a significant vested interest to work with them to try to make sure that we can, as a government, help provide access to an affordable type of energy in the form of hydro that would hopefully make their business economical for many more years."



National Aboriginal Day

In the Northwest Territories, our connections to the land and traditional ways of life thread through everything we do.

We are proud of our heritage and traditions, our Aboriginal languages, our landscapes, and our talented and innovative people that work hard to reflect the North as a vibrant and exciting place to live.

On June 21st, I encourage you all to celebrate National Aboriginal Day in your community by sharing your culture and speaking with your Northern voices!

Masi,



Hon. Jackson Lafferty
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment



Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

First Nations take Alberta regulator to court

AER ‘nothing more than a rubber stamp’: First Nations

By MARIA CHURCH
Two northern Alberta First Nations are taking legal action after an Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) decision prevented them from giving input on an oilsands expansion project near their traditional lands.

Beaver Lake Cree Nation and Whitefish Lake First Nation, both of which have traditional lands in northeastern Alberta, have filed an appeal with the Alberta courts after the AER announced the regulatory approval process for Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.’s (CNRL) expansion of its Kirby oilsands project near Conklin, Alta. will go forward without a public hearing.

“The AER is becoming nothing more than a rubber stamp for resource companies,” Chief James Jackson Jr. of Whitefish Lake said in a news release last week.

CNRL applied to expand its Kirby North and South in situ oilsands sites - which would see new wells

producing 85,000 barrels of bitumen per day by 2016 - late last year, at which time the public was invited to file hearing submissions with the AER explaining how they are affected by the project. Nine submissions were made,

“No party demonstrated that it may be directly and adversely affected by the AER’s decision on the application or that it should otherwise be permitted to participate in a hearing of the application,” the report, dated Apr. 3, stated.

The decision of the AER to skip a public hearing reflects a “deliberate move” from the regulator to exclude First Nations from the oilsands development approval process, it states.

“The government of

system silences concerns, which is more Third World than world class. Alberta is saying one thing and doing something very different,” Chief Henry Gladue from the Beaver Lake Cree Nation said in the release.

According to Jackson, concerns about the AER should not be limited to First Nations.

“This is not only a First Nation issue. Other rural Albertans are also being frozen out of the process. This should be a concern to everyone. First Nations, like other rural Albertans, live in the midst of these expanding developments. Our input is important to understanding the impacts on the land and the impacts on our communities,” he said in the release.

“Resource development can co-exist with First Nations and can happen in way that respects our traditional way of life - but not if we are frozen out of the process by the Alberta Energy Regulator,” Jackson said.

On Thursday, a group of grassroots and environmental organizations including Greenpeace International and the Sierra Club of Canada launched a campaign to raise funds for the First Nations’ lawsuit against the AER.

“Somewhere along the way the AER’s rubber stamp took precedence over due process and First Nations rights to free, prior, and informed consent,” Crystal Lameman, a member of the Beaver Lake Cree and campaigner for the Sierra Club, said in a joint media release.

“We are happy to lend our support to this initiative and encourage people to donate so that we can send a clear message to the Alberta government that this type of silencing will not stand,” added Mike Hudema, campaigner with Greenpeace Canada.

The campaign hopes to raise \$100,000 for the future legal battle.

How can a system that refuses to allow a voice for impacted communities be world class? In reality, Alberta’s regulatory system silences concerns, which is more Third World than world class. Alberta is saying one thing and doing something very different.

*Chief Henry Gladue
Beaver Lake Cree Nation*

including ones from the two First Nations. Three of the other submissions were later withdrawn.

The AER released a document in April stating a public hearing on the application had been cancelled and no parties would be allowed to participate.

The AER did not respond to a request for comment.

According to the First Nation’s press release, the Kirby expansion project will disturb approximately 480 square-km of public land where its members hunt and fish, and will “contribute to the demise” of caribou in the region.

Alberta has spent a lot of time and money in places like Washington and New York to promote the province’s so-called ‘world class’ regulatory system. How can a system that refuses to allow a voice for impacted communities be world class? In reality, Alberta’s regulatory

Northerners Obituary

Chief survived by wife, children, grandchildren

Continued from page 1

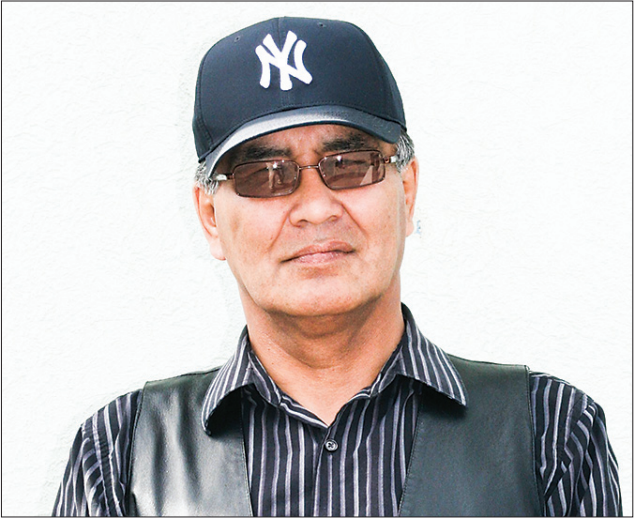
“He’s going to continue to be a good leader. Not only this side, but over in the mountains. He’s going to wake up the ancestors and say, ‘Hey, our people need help,’” she said.

“We cannot do this alone. We have to work together, stand beside each other, hold each other’s hands,” Kassi continued. “We need to walk side by side. We’re coming to some very strong changes, just like our ancestors did before. Those teachings are going to come back more important now than ever before.”

Alexie attended Peter Warren Dease School (now Chief Julius School) before transferring to Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik to complete his high school education in 1974.

He worked at airports throughout the North as an observer communicator and flight service specialist until 1981 and in 1984 completed a two-year public and business administration program.

He returned to his home community of Fort McPherson and began his longstanding service to the Gwich’in



Gwich’in Tribal Council president Robert Alexie Jr. passed away early last week.


people as band manager of the Tetlit Gwich’in Band Council. He was later elected chief in 1989 and served two years until he was appointed chief negotiator for the Gwich’in Regional Land Claim. It was signed in 1992 and was the first of its kind for a Dene group.

He served two terms as vice president of the Gwich’in Tribal Council before working as executive director of the Gwich’in Land and Water Board from 1999 to 2012.


In 2002 he published his first novel, *Porcupines and China Dolls*, which dealt with the effects of the residential school system. In 2005 he published a second novel, *The Pale Indian*, which told the story of a young man returning north after being raised by a white family.

He is survived by his wife Renie and children Krista Lynn, Branden, Travis, Caroline, Tony and Alison, as well as his father, sisters, brothers, grandchildren and countless others.

Photo: GTC



16th Annual Aurora Open



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Aurora College would like to thank the sponsors of this year’s Aurora Open golf fundraising tournament. Through the generous support of our sponsors, the 16th annual Aurora Open raised \$6,000.00 for the annual NWT Youth Symposium.

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

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

Reporter **Maria Church**
867-872-3000 ext.25 • reporter@norj.ca

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

Advertising 867-872-3000 ext.26
sales@norj.ca

Administration **Jeremy Turcotte**
867-872-3000 ext.26 • admin@norj.ca

Production & Graphics **Sandra Jaque**
867-872-3000 ext.22 • sandra@norj.ca
Paul Bannister
867-872-3000 ext.27 • graphics@norj.ca
Anna Sierra
867-872-3000 ext.20 • design@norj.ca

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EDITORIAL

Open letter to Stephen Harper

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

We are very concerned about the changes being made by the federal government, whereby more and more scientists who work in our national "public" service are not allowed to speak about their work to the public and the media, and an ever-growing layer of "communications" staff has been created to control what they are allowed to say.

We appeal to you as a champion of transparency and openness in how government connects with the public, and as an advocate of smaller, more efficient government, to change this.

There are four considerations we feel are important:

1. The work of government scientists, in most cases, should be available to the public in its purest form. There is no point in vetting, controlling, adjusting or massaging that information, especially when it is done by a "communications" person, who knows nothing about the subject.

2. Canada has a wonderful democracy - as close to a free and open society as you can find on the globe. Under your watch that information is being tweaked or even altered to suit partisan or other aims, quite possibly that have nothing to do with the intent of the government. There is no way to control how this information will be altered or shaped. We are sure you would not want to see a future Liberal or NDP

government exercise license to shape information to suit their objectives. It is a dangerous road to go down, and a precedent that must be avoided.

3. A new, costly level of bureaucracy is growing in size, becoming entrenched, gaining power. More and more "communications" staff are being placed between government employees and the public so that the message is "properly presented" to the public. They have complete license with minimal controls. These are people with the same training, and often the same way of thinking, as journalists. Some are good; some not so good. The difference is that their work is not subject to public scrutiny. Information is power and in some cases can have great value. Under the current imbalance, spokespeople are able to wield it however they wish. This is very dangerous.

4. Freedom of the press is important to our democracy. Journalists too often cannot do their jobs well because the situation, which demands they wait for and accommodate the needs and wants of communications staff. Simply put, it has become too encumbering. It gets in the way of the real story. We appreciate that you, personally, do not have a high regard for "the media." The demands put on you and your colleagues and the way you are treated must be hard to take. We ask that you look beyond those experiences. In your world,

with the spotlight of all of Canada constantly upon you, the media are voracious and unrelenting. Consider the value of journalists outside that "bubble" - those of us who serve towns and cities across the country. A free press has played a critical role in fostering most Western democracies, including Canada's. "Freedom of the press" is a fundamental tenet in most constitutions, including our own. Having communications staff inserted between all aspects of the workings of government and the press and public encumbers that. The public can longer be informed. That is not good - for anyone.

The North is Canada's hinterland - pure, pristine, special and rich with natural resources - future wealth that you have indicated will drive our nation's economy for hundreds of years. Along with that is the evolving state of Northern people - notably Aboriginal Northerners, many of whom still live, and cherish, a unique lifestyle that is closely connected to the land. We want to tell those stories. In order to do so responsibly, we need to be able to access information from government scientists without having it interpreted or massaged by communications staff. Please see to it that your government makes that change. You must know that Canada will be a better place for it. Please Mr. Harper, restore freedom of information and freedom of the press to our federal government.



Sarah Daitch of Fort Smith jumps for joy upon completing her Masters degree in Dispute Resolution at the University of Victoria last Wednesday. Daitch's research centered on evaluating the new mandatory residential schools curriculum for high school students in the NWT and Nunavut.

Photos: Daniel Depoe

WEATHER

Inuvik



Weekly Norms:
High 19°C Low 7°C

Yellowknife



Weekly Norms:
High 19°C Low 10°C

Hay River



Weekly Norms:
High 19°C Low 8°C

Fort Smith



Weekly Norms:
High 21°C Low 8°C

Tu Nedhe and the thorny issue of representation

The NWT Legislative Assembly's recent vote to merge the Tu Nedhe riding with Dettah and N'dilo has prompted much talk of lawsuits. Yellowknifers say the move doesn't go far enough, and are threatening to sue for more ridings and greater "voter parity." Tu Nedhe residents, meanwhile, are threatening to sue to retain their culturally distinct voice in the assembly. And many NWT residents are scratching their heads, wondering what all the fuss is about.

It's about a lot. How representation is divvied up has been the thorniest issue in the NWT's constitutional history. The problem is this: Unlike any other province or territory, the NWT is composed of two equal-sized, very distinct peoples – Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. Each is worried about being democratically dominated by the other.

Moreover, each has a very good legal case for greater representation.

For non-Aboriginals, mostly concentrated in Yellowknife, that case is based on "individual equality." This is a core democratic value, holding that every citizen deserves relatively equal "weight" in their assembly. Thus, Yellowknifers feel that the capital, with close to half the NWT's population, deserves close to half the seats.

For Aboriginals, however, "individual equality" is a red herring – or more like a Trojan horse. They know that by demanding voter parity, non-Aboriginals may quickly outnumber and outvote them in their homeland: a stealthy and totally legal method of colonization. Hence, for 40 years, NWT Aboriginals have called for overrepresentation – even guaranteed majority representation.

If this seems anti-democratic, think about it this way: How would Canadians feel if we were swamped by 35 million immigrants who didn't speak English or French, didn't share our culture and likely didn't have a long-term stake in our future – but who seized the democratic reins of our legislatures? We wouldn't stand for it, of course.

Northern Aboriginals don't want to stand for it, either. But – unlike in places that protect indigenous majority representation, such as Finland, Fiji and various regions of Russia – the hands of NWT aboriginals have been tied. They're frustrated by court rulings that constrain their overrepresentation, especially the 1999 "Friends of Democracy" ruling that increased Yellowknife's share of assembly seats from four to seven. They feel, fundamentally, that the individual

rights of "settlers" should not be perversely utilized to take over their Aboriginal homeland.

There's a decent legal chance they're right. While the NWT is a radically distinctive jurisdiction, the "Friends" ruling largely imported southern legal principles and plopped them into an ill-fitting context.

Other jurisdictions have acted with more nuance. In Yukon, the culturally unique village of Old Crow is guaranteed an assembly seat despite its miniscule population. Same with Sanikiluaq in Nunavut and the Magdalen Islands in Quebec. And in nearly every province, remote, Aboriginal-majority ridings are permitted dramatic overrepresentation due to what the law deems "exceptional circumstances." Indeed, the remote Aboriginal ridings of the NWT are among the few where the "exceptional

circumstances" clause has, rather inexplicably, not been applied.

Thus, there's good reason to think that Tu Nedhe has an excellent legal case. There's also the real question of whether "Friends of Democracy" was properly

decided. Those Yellowknifers calling for greater "voter parity" should be wary. The results of the next lawsuit could set a very different precedent.

Aaron Spitzer
Yellowknife

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Northern Journal 2014

GNWT defends territory-wide jr. kindergarden



The department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is defending its controversial rollout of junior kindergarten this fall after being hit with criticism over lack of funding and overlap with the federal Aboriginal Head Start program.



Carol Collins: This is a good learning experience for kids and they learn lots at a young age. Why take this away from our kids it's bad enough our kids are below average in the small communities. It's because they are not offered the same benefits as the city. I don't want this for my daughter...

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White Girl Puppy Love: Part 3 of 3

By DAWN KOSTELNIK

Sheba, the Douglass' blue-eyed Siberian female husky, is a very "loving" dog. The difference is that she outweighed Romeo the four-fou by at least 80 pounds. She was chained just off to the side of the front door, testament to the fact that other than her libido, she was a kid-friendly dog in a kid infested house.

Our challenge today is to run through her chain line and not have her "catch" us. To have Sheba as an attachment to your leg meant she was attached to the rest of your body as well, as she outweighed most of us. If you were caught in the clutches of Sheba's love, someone had to help you get out from under her (nobody was in a hurry to

volunteer). It felt like hours before you could escape the love of Sheba.

The big kids, aged eight and nine, try to escape the confines of babysitting, but not today. Today we are stuck with one of the 4 year-olds - you know the kind. If we don't do what he wants, he'll tell on us. If we don't give him the giant share of our runny ice cream, he will tell on us. We are held hostage by this little miscreant.

Sometimes revenge is so very sweet. "Does anyone want to plays that game with Sheba?" we innocently ask. "I do, I do," he yells. "But you can't, it's a game for the big kids, you are too little" "I will tell my mom on you," is his challenge. "Wel-l-l ...

OK, but you had better be sure, it can be dangerous. It's way-y-y too dangerous for a little kid."

"You have to let me!" he demands. FINE! We explain that he just has to run through Sheba's chain line and get to the other side without her catching him; it's pretty easy, after all. Sheba is jumping at the end of her chain and grabbing air in excitement. I don't know if she sensed a victim or was just feeding off the energy that this game is generating.

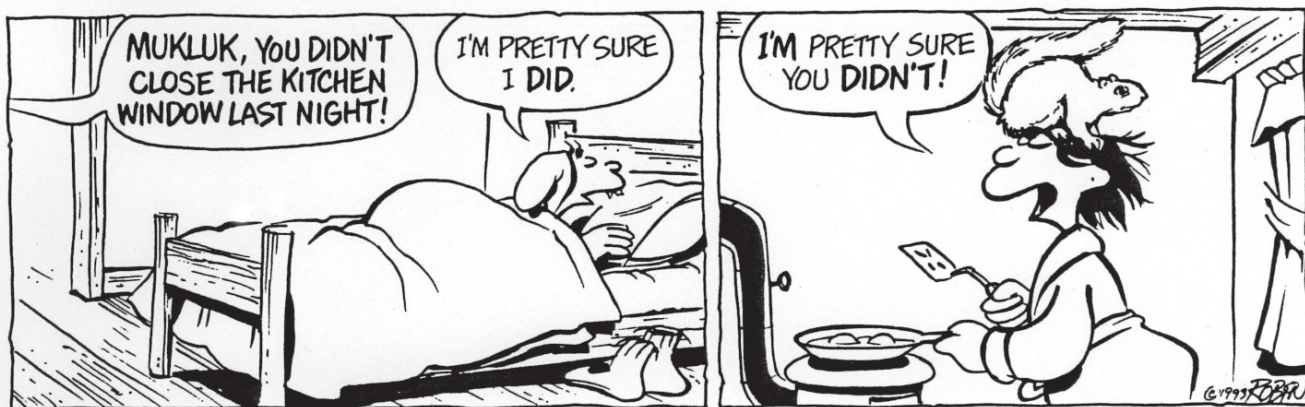
"Are you ready? Set? Let him go!" He doesn't make it two feet and she's on top of him in a frenzy of dog love. "Now what?" He's bawling like the world is ending. God, maybe she's bit him in her excitement or something; he

shouldn't be crying that hard! Quick! Get him out of there; if one of the adults hears him we're going to get the willow! Man that kid can scream!

Two of us decide that together we can distract Sheba and get this kid out from under her. We are afraid that he is hurt for real; he won't stop crying and screaming! We have him; he is safe. We search his arms and face for bites - nothing. We look everywhere for the blood and gore that will support his screaming - nothing. His mother will kill us; he is her favourite.

We have lost patience. "Shut up and tell us what's wrong!" He hiccups and coughs and finally bawls out "I DON'T WANT TO HAVE PUPPIES!" We howl...

MUKLUK



ARCHIVES

15 Years Ago...

Eight year-old boy caught shooting gun in public

An 8-year-old Fort Smith boy has been taken by Health and Social Services under the Child Welfare Act following an incident where the child was spotted by a local resident firing a shotgun in public on Thursday. No charges have been laid in the event as it is still under investigation.

Issue: June 15, 1999

20 Years Ago...

Premier shuffles cabinet

The GNWT has taken on a slightly different face after a number of changes to the cabinet were announced earlier this week. The department of Health and Social Services – scheduled for amalgamation – will become the responsibility of Premier Nellie Cournoyea. She will also retain responsibility for the NWT Power Corp.

Issue: June 15, 1994

30 Years Ago...

North to parler in French

The federal and territorial governments have reached a three-year agreement on providing French language education in the North. The agreement was announced jointly last week by Education Minister Dennis Patterson, Commissioner John Parker and Serge Joyal, federal Secretary of State for Canada.

Issue: June 14, 1984

Full time beach supervision coming to Hay River

By MEAGAN WOHLBERG

The Hay River territorial park beach will soon be supervised by full time staff, seven days a week.

As of June 21, four beach attendants working in pairs will be on-hand at all times to provide supervision and educate beachgoers about water safety through a new partnership between the Town of Hay River and the GNWT.

The town is responsible for recruiting and managing the new employees, who will provide supervision from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day throughout the summer.

“The town will advertise until suitable applicants are found,” Mayor Andrew Cassidy said of the recruitment process.

Training will be provided by the Lifesaving Society of Alberta and the NWT, and funding for the new staff and safety equipment will be supplied by the department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI).

According to ITI, the full cost has yet to be determined.

Cassidy said the pilot program will be monitored to ensure it is meeting the community’s needs.



Hay River’s territorial park beach will be supervised seven days a week by full-time staff starting June 21.

Photo: Edith Vachon-Raymond

“There were some initial concerns around potential restrictions in the public swimming area of the beach. Once the community understands the role of the beach attendants and sees the lifejacket kiosks will not change any access to the waterfront but enhance public safety, the community will appreciate this initiative,” he said.

The announcement comes following a safety audit of the beaches in Hay River and at the

Fred Henne territorial park in Yellowknife done by the Lifesaving Society last fall.

Fred Henne was targeted for the audit after a young boy drowned there last August. ITI decided to include Hay River because its beach is also part of a territorial park located wholly within a municipality.

While the public made strong calls for lifeguards on the beaches following last summer’s drowning, the Lifesaving

Society was adamant in its report that supervision should only come after a number of other steps were implemented to increase safety, like signage, beach safety equipment and a permanent lifejacket loaner station.

The 28 recommendations also emphasized better education on the importance of adult supervision, emergency response planning and the training of all park staff in

basic waterfront and local emergency procedures.

Though many safety issues were found to be overlapping between the two beaches, Hay River was specifically noted to have an unsafe buildup of trees on its beaches.

Tom Colosimo, manager of tourism and parks with ITI in Hay River, said logs will always be a concern but the department is committed to addressing the situation.

“The location of the beach at the mouth of the Hay River naturally causes wood and flotsam to deposit on the beaches from the river,” he said. “The department has a maintenance program in place for the beach, which includes the removal of these logs, and we have been doing it for quite a few years now. Every time there is a storm we get logs and trees on the beach which we have to remove.”

Having beach attendants is an additional step that ITI is taking to increase the safety level further, according to the department, which is also running a water safety awareness campaign on the radio and in Northern newspapers throughout the summer.

“Water safety is a shared responsibility for all of us and I would like to thank the Town of Hay River for showing such leadership and dedication to public safety,” ITI Minister David Ramsay said in a news release.

“We encourage parents and guardians to stay within arm’s reach of young children, even when beach attendants are present, to help ensure our territorial parks beaches are as safe as possible for everyone,” he said.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

Northern

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Homeless find friends after city removes public benches from favourite gathering place

By JACK DANYLCHUK

City hall pulled benches from the Franklin Ave. post office last week but couldn't push the homeless and their supporters from Yellowknife's most popular downtown corner.

The benches disappeared Monday, and by noon Wednesday Nigit'sil Norbert and Summer Silke set out chairs and makeshift benches, making a picnic in front of the main post office that was repeated Thursday and Friday.

"I want to raise awareness of the homeless; I don't think they should be treated this way," said Silke, referring to the closure the week before of the Dene K'o downtown day shelter.

The shelter and the post office benches have been lightning rods in the ongoing debate over public safety and behavioural issues in the city's downtown.

"The closure of the day shelter has clearly exacerbated the situation," Mayor Mark Heyck told *The Journal*.

Last fall, the city and RCMP hosted a public meeting to hear citizen concerns about public safety and



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

Nigit'sil Norbert, left, and Summer Silke bring their own chairs to protest the city's decision to remove its benches from a favourite downtown resting place in front of the post office. City officials said they were responding to a request from developer Les Rocher, who shares ownership of the building with the Denendeh Investment Corp. Rocher said he was acting on complaints about the behaviour of some people who use the area as a hang-out.

Friday, the mayor's office announced a follow-up meeting for June 17 "to continue the conversation on community safety."

Acting on a suggestion by councillor Niels Konge, the city cut back vegetation from the edges of the popular

Frame Lake trail after several sexual assaults, but initially rejected a proposal to remove public benches from Franklin Ave.

The city removed the post office benches after a complaint from Les Rocher, a partner in the

building with Denendeh Investment Ltd. (DIL), which was hotly debated on the street and on social media.

Darrell Beaulieu, president of majority owner DIL, defended the move in a press release, citing concern for public safety.

"There have been many incidents of verbal and physical abuse on the property, which will and should not be tolerated," Beaulieu said.

Former city councillor Paul Falvo said in a Facebook entry that "removing benches is a nail in the coffin for Yellowknife's

downtown," and invited people to join the sit-in and email their opinions to council.

Many who stopped to chat with demonstrators at the post office disagreed with the abrupt change to a favourite place to enjoy a sunny day in Yellowknife.

"I think they're doing it the wrong way, trying to separate people, rich from poor," said one man who identified himself only as "Jack."

Dene Nation Chief Bill Erasmus said the post office "is a public place where people have always gathered."

"I think we need to talk to Mr. Rocher and the city about how we can work this out. It doesn't seem to make a lot of sense."

Speaking as a Yellowknife resident, Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley said he was disappointed by the city's decision to remove the benches.

"This is a message from the city that they don't want people acting like a community," Bromley said.

"This is the face of Yellowknife we're talking about and I realize there are issues around addictions, but these are public gathering places."

Industry Trade Show

Inuvik prepares for post-devolution petroleum show

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

The annual Inuvik Petroleum Show will differ in one big way this year: industry leaders will be talking about development in the territory post-devolution for the first time.

"In the past it's been, 'Getting ready for devolution' and 'In preparation for devolution,' but this is now devolution in action," said Jackie Challis, economic development and tourism manager with the Town of Inuvik.

The petroleum show, which first took place in 2000 in preparation for the Mackenzie Gas Project, has shifted its focus to current developments like the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway, the fibre-optic link, offshore activity in the Beaufort Sea and oil and gas activity in the Sahtu.

The theme of this year's show, which runs June 23 to 25, is Ahead of the Curve: Arctic Energy and Resources.

The program includes two presentations on the Sahtu industry, presentations by Premier Bob McLeod and Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay, an international roundtable on global Arctic development and a speech on leadership by Gen. Rick Hillier, former chief of the defence staff for the Canadian Forces.



Photo: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

Comedian Shaun Majumder joins the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers during the 2013 Inuvik Petroleum Show's closing banquet.

Approximately 250 delegates and 125 exhibitors are expected this year, said Challis. Most come from the Northwest Territories, Alberta and across Canada, but this year will also see delegates from as far as Texas and Europe.

Denny Rodgers, general manager of the Inuvialuit Development Corp. and former mayor of Inuvik, has attended the petroleum show every year since it began.

He said he always looks forward to the friendly, almost

familial atmosphere between delegates, many of whom only get the chance to meet face-to-face once a year at the show.

"I look forward to the whole show. It's the networking, the atmosphere," he said. "Our tradeshow here is typically

head and shoulders above most trade shows of a similar size."

The petroleum show also gives an economic boost to the region with its annual influx of visitors.

"What I always like to highlight and talk about is

the benefit for the local community and local community groups," Challis said.

"We've realized that this is the biggest show that Inuvik sees every year and, whether it's 300 or 500 delegates, it's still a very substantial conference or trade show for anywhere in the territory, and with that we try our best to try and maximize what that imprint is when visitors come," she said.

Many events, including the stampede community breakfast at Jim Koe Park and trade show, are open to the public.

Students will get the chance to network with industry representatives during a youth engagement event, while Gwich'in dancers, the Northern Games Society, the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers and the Great Northern Arts Festival will all be involved in the closing banquet on June 25.

The Inuvik Youth Centre, in partnership with the Inuvik Petroleum Show and Town of Inuvik, will be hosting a Stand Up for Youth event June 27 featuring music by the End of the Road Music Festival.

Comedians Dave Hemstad and Brent Butt, who are performing at the show's closing banquet, will also attend. All proceeds raised will go to the Inuvik Youth Centre.

Headframe won't fall without a fight, supporters vow

By JACK DANYLCHUK

The NWT Mining Heritage Society has won another reprieve for the Robertson headframe.

Yellowknife city council is expected to vote June 24 to again delay a decision on demolition until it can find out if the headframe requires costly environmental remediation and if there is private sector financial support for its preservation.

The tallest free-standing structure in the territory “can be saved, but it’s going to take some work,” Adrian Bell, a councillor who sits on the city’s heritage committee, told *The Journal* last week.

A preliminary engineering report estimated the cost of maintaining the headframe at \$500,000 over the next decade – plus \$1.6 million to eventually knock it down.

Cloudworks, a crowd-sourcing company, is confident the \$500,000 could be raised, but also cautioned that a more thorough study of potential environmental hazards is necessary, and estimates that would cost at least \$30,000.

If the city decides to maintain the headframe, it might



Photo: Jack Danylchuk

NWT Mining Heritage Society president Walt Humphries recently launched a campaign to save the headframe, countering a push from city administration to demolish the building.

be able to trim the demolition cost from the budget. Newmont Mining, owner of the building, hasn’t been asked and hasn’t

volunteered funds to cover the eventual demolition.

“When Miramar Mining owned it, they offered to

put up one or two million dollars if the city would take the headframe off their hands,” said Walt Humphries, heritage society

When Miramar Mining owned it, they offered to put up one or two million dollars if the city would take the headframe off their hands...But the city kept procrastinating.

*Walt Humphries
NWT Mining Heritage Society*

president. “But the city kept procrastinating.”

Bell said he joined the city’s heritage committee to preserve Yellowknife’s mining heritage that has been slipping away with remediation of the Con and Giant mine sites.

“Many Yellowknifers don’t want our tax dollars to be the only dollars spent on this and I agree,” Bell said.

“I can’t support the city taking ownership of the headframe unless the cost is shared with private partners, be they angel investors or individual residents who care about it.”

The wrecking ball has been hanging over the Robertson for a decade and last fall Newmont Mining asked the city to come to a decision on the headframe.

City administration recommended that it be torn down, but under pressure from the heritage society, council commissioned an engineering study. Administrators again advocated demolition, which the society countered with a campaign to save the Robertson.

Newmont’s request for a decision lost urgency when the company asked for a four-year extension on its program to remediate the former Con Mine site.

“If we knock it down, we will pretty much obliterate any trace that mining was what built Yellowknife and the eclectic and unique community that came with it,” Tracey Brietbach, society coordinator, said after a recent meeting on organizing efforts to save the headframe.

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REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF **WOOD BUFFALO**



Louie Beaulieu of ENR shows youth how to put out a campfire properly.



Brandon Thom learns about plant ecology.



A student tests his strength carrying hoses.

Photos: Stephanie Yuill

Environment Education

Students learn to fight fires at forest ecology camp

By MARIA CHURCH

Some of the North’s future firefighters and forest management officers from Fort Providence and Fort McPherson may have gotten their first taste of the job after a five-day camp on forest ecology held in early June.

From June 2 to 6, eight students from the two communities camped out at Sandy Lake in the South Slave and were introduced to possible careers in forestry, some of which are unexpected, according to Stephanie Yuill, one of the camp’s organizers.

“A lot of times you only think about forest firefighters or forestry officers, but there are also people like me - I’m in public education - so there are a lot of different aspects to working with forest and fires that the kids might not even think about,” Yuill, a public education specialist with Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), told *The Journal* last week.

The camp took the students on the land to learn hands-on what’s involved in a forestry career, which included lessons in plant ecology, fire

suppression techniques, reading maps, compasses and a GPS, and being fire smart.

“We have 20 man-made fires (per year) in the NWT on average,” Yuill said. “That’s a lot. It’s a lot of money that if we can encourage people to put out their fire and take better care, it helps us.”

The camp also involved a helicopter ride for a bird’s eye view of the recent burn area outside of Hay River.

Yuill said the camp is a good opportunity for the students to walk in the shoes of those working in the forest

industry and see if it “piques their curiosity.”

“It’s putting out a buffet for the kids to choose from: Here are some life options for you, not just for your career, but also your value system. If you want to be an environmental steward, here are some things to think about,” she said.

This is the fourth year of the forest ecology camp,

which is one of the final components of the two-year Keepers of the NWT program run by Deh Gah School in Fort Providence. The experiential-based program looks to foster environmental stewardship by taking kids out of the classroom and onto the land.

According to Yuill, each year the camp is a great example of what a partnership

between ENR, Aurora College, Parks Canada and the high schools can accomplish.

“It’s really neat to see (these groups) really coming together to give these kids opportunities. We rarely can do anything on our own, but when you get these kinds of people working together and putting their energies into it, it turns out wonderfully,” she said.

Congratulations to Graduates

On behalf of Regional Council and the residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, I would like to extend my congratulations to all the students in our northern communities who are graduating from high school this year.

You have accomplished an enormous feat and should be very proud of yourselves. Speaking on behalf of Regional Council, who represent your family, friends, and teachers, I can certainly say we are all very proud of you!

It is an exciting time as you begin the next phase of your life. Whether you pursue further education, enter the work force, or take some time to figure things out, I have confidence that you will be successful in whatever you choose to do.

Regardless of what you do next, you are an important part of our community’s future. If you stay here, I encourage you to make a positive contribution to Wood Buffalo. If you move elsewhere, I hope you are strong ambassadors for the region.

Once again, congratulations and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours!

Melissa Blake
Mayor

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REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

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Thank you, Hai, Hai, Masi chok!

Greenhouse blooms under Inuvik’s midnight sun

By NATHALIE HEIBERG-HARRISON

The Inuvik Community Greenhouse is gearing up for another successful growing season underneath the midnight sun.

The most northerly greenhouse in North America has filled nearly all of its 160 garden plots and is hosting numerous fundraising events this summer to replace its ageing roof.

“It’s really important too because the roof is now going on its 16th year and its life span was only supposed to be 10,” said Kristen Callaghan, chair of the Inuvik Community Greenhouse.

Two years ago, enough money was raised to buy new panels and last year funds were raised to ship them to Inuvik, but the cost of installation still remains out of reach.

“Hopefully they can go up at the end of the growing season,” Callaghan said.

The panels have become brittle and are starting to break, she said. Last summer, the greenhouse was forced to close after a windstorm caused panels to break and fall into the greenhouse.

In addition, the clear panels, which replaced the roof



Student intern Jean-Sébastien Foré and volunteer Rosalie Driscoll take in the Inuvik Community Greenhouse flower plant sale last Saturday. The most northerly greenhouse in North America was made from a converted residential school hockey rink in the late ‘90s.

of the Grollier Hall arena in the late ‘90s, are becoming yellow and cloudy, affecting the amount of light entering the greenhouse. The cost of installing new roofing panels is in the six-digits, Callaghan said.

“It’s a very large job.” In addition to vegetable and flower plant sales held earlier this month, the greenhouse will be hosting a coffeehouse event on June 20 to launch the CD of local musician Abe Drennan.

Inuvik’s weekly Arctic Market opens June 21 and Callaghan said they hope to sell produce throughout the summer. “I love the feeling of community that we provide to our members,” she said. “And the



Some of the Inuvik Community Greenhouse’s 160 plots are already beginning to yield food and flowers. Approximately 20 garden plots are occupied by local non-profits.

markets allow us to reach out to the larger community.” On June 23, the greenhouse will host a welcoming barbecue for delegates and exhibitors of the Inuvik Petroleum Show. Other upcoming events include fundraising bingos

every Friday in July and August, a ladybug release at the beginning of July and a fall fair and harvest dinner at the end of the growing season. “We want to use the greenhouse as a community space,” Callaghan said.

Photos: Nathalie Heiberg-Harrison

GREETINGS ON NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

Our Aboriginal peoples are part of our history, our present, and will continue to be an important part of our future.

I am very thankful that First Nations and Métis customs continue to be lived, shared, and celebrated throughout the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. From Treaty Days to Métis Fest, our citizens have benefited from experiencing many traditions first hand. Your contributions to Wood Buffalo give residents a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture and are a welcome reminder of the importance of family and community.



On behalf of Regional Council and the residents of Wood Buffalo, I wish our Aboriginal community the very best on National Aboriginal Day.

Enjoy the celebrations!

Mayor Melissa Blake



Daya Bourque and Angelina Nickolson watch as Raymond Beaver teaches them how to flesh a beaver pelt, one of the activities students participated in during Culture Days.

Arts & Culture Culture Days



From left, French immersion students Amalie Aubrey-Smith, Leland Daniels, Anaise Aubrey-Smith, Joel Rhymer, Raya Berro and their teacher Mme. Cool try building a tent.

Photos: Dali Carmichael & Paul Bannister

Fort Smith Culture Days keep traditions alive

School initiative gets kids learning out of the classroom

By DALI CARMICHAEL

Maneuvering around the Aboriginal Cultural Centre, maintaining a campfire and adjusting the occasional bannock baker, Mike Beaver made sure that everything ran smoothly at the Culture Days camp, held last week at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre in Fort Smith.

The camp ran from June 9 to 13 and saw groups of Joseph Burr Tyrrell Elementary school students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 participating in activities to learn about local Aboriginal culture outside of a classroom setting.

“Our family is known to do our culture because we lived the life, we learned from our parents, so that’s why we’re passing it on to these young kids,” Beaver said, noting that he and his family grew up living close to the land and began sharing their knowledge with the local youth, a task they started in the 1970s.

“It’s very important; a lot of the stuff, if you look at it, is mostly to survive,” Beaver said. “If you’re out on the land, you remember what we taught you, you’ll survive.”

Each day, a new group of students was brought to the museum before being divided into eight learning groups. From there, they completed tours inside the building with museum staff and around the Aboriginal Cultural Centre with local experts.

The day’s activities included bannock making with Maggie Sikyea, beaver fleshing with Raymond Beaver, storytelling with Mary Schaefer, duck plucking with Jackie Emile, tent setting with Harvey Mandeville, log sawing

with Freddie Beaulieu and learning to make dry fish with Archie Smith.

Most of the students said their favourite activity was making bannock. Fifth grade student Latham Wyse said it was “awesome because everyone is always hungry!”

They were quick to share other highlights, as well.

Maya MacDonald, another fifth grader, said she enjoyed learning how to tie different types of knots during the tent-building session. She also learned some sage tenting advice.

“If it’s raining and you’re inside a teepee, don’t touch the hide, because you’ll get soaked!” Maya said. “It’s kind of cool, I never knew that before.”

Grade 4 student Kole

Lavolette said he knew about a lot of the activities done throughout the day, but still enjoyed getting out of the classroom and being able to learn with his friends.

Continued learning outside the classroom

With events like Culture Days, students and their teachers learn not only how to keep themselves alive in the bush, but how to keep traditions alive, as well.

“We learn more from the elders out here than you ever learn in a classroom,” said JBT’s principal Craig Walsh while on-site with his students. “They learn skills that you’re not going to learn in school and they love it.”

“We really rely on the local people to do this a few times

a year,” he said, mentioning that a similar winter program was held for the more senior students.

“It’s a great opportunity to connect with other community members, to

connect with the kids in the community,” museum administrator Diane Seals said.

“This is the first year where the museum tour has been part of the cultural

activities, so it’s been a great opportunity for our staff who have just recently been trained to get experience, and then to encourage kids to come back with their families,” she said.



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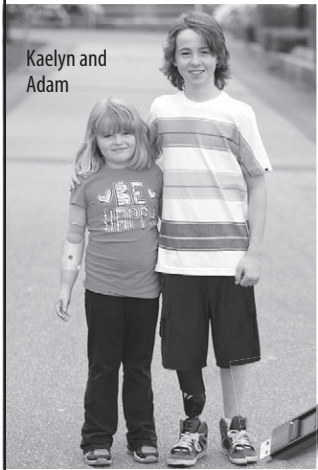
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National Tourism Week a celebration of NWT

Tourism bureau wants locals to explore their own backyards

By DALI CARMICHAEL

Northwest Territories Tourism prides itself on bringing in thousands of international tourists to explore and enjoy the stunning scenery and unique cultures of the North. In fact, in the 2012-13 fiscal year, 76,000 visitors brought in over \$100 million.

But when it comes to getting people in the North to plan their vacations where they already live, the agency admits there is some work to do.

“We have people from all over the world visiting this beautiful and spectacular place, and sometimes people don’t actually know the beauty is in their own backyard because we’re so busy living and working here,” said Cathie Bolstad, the new executive director of Northwest Territories Tourism.

As a result, NWT Tourism has launched several marketing campaigns to encourage local tourism and help Northern operators increase traffic. National Tourism Week, a celebration of Canada’s strong tourism industry from June 16 to 20, seemed like the natural time to launch the new platform.



New initiatives from Northwest Territories Tourism encourage locals to travel the NWT.

NWT Convention Bureau created

On Friday evening, a contribution agreement between Northwest Territories Tourism and Tourism and Investment (ITI) was signed in Hay River to establish a Northwest Territories Convention Bureau.

“It’s not a place, it’s not a building, it’s actually a dedicated resource,” Bolstad said.

The plan is to establish frameworks for tourism organizations, to help businesses better pursue sales leads and

prepare competitive bids for meetings, conferences, concerts and conventions hosted in the NWT.

The frameworks are to be established by the new year. In the meantime, Bolstad said the focus is on establishing protocols and processes for the larger communities throughout the five regions.

“We’re quite excited about it because meetings, conferences and conventions actually bring people to the North,” Bolstad said. “They

benefit entire communities; it’s an ability to pursue the business market in a stronger way.”

Spectacular NWT contest

In order to battle a muddled social media marketing environment where it’s easy for vacationers to get bombarded with an overload of information, NWT Tourism designed the Explore Your Spectacular Northwest Territories contest to capture the

attention of locals looking to travel.

The contest is only open to NWT residents, with trip packages to the five regions offered as prizes. Entrants fill out a ballot online and those who also send in photos from the NWT will automatically be entered a second time.

The contest is conducted in partnership with businesses, Industry, ITI and regional tourism offices and runs until June 22. To enter, go to <http://exploreyourspectacularnwt.com/home>.

Tourism training

On June 12, NWT Tourism brought together representatives from the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC), the federal crown agency for promoting Canada to the rest of the world as a tourism destination, and the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC), an advocacy organization for people in the tourism business.

They conducted stakeholder meetings in Yellowknife and Hay River with NWT tourism operators.

“We gave everybody an opportunity to see what both the CTC and TIAC are doing to promote Canada, because our product is part of Canada’s promotion internationally,” Bolstad said.

The meeting focused heavily on how to deal with the proliferation of media platforms and the spread of information using social media.

Hospitality scholarship

On Monday, NWT Tourism announced the launch of a scholarship program for local students studying hospitality in the territory.

“We want to encourage students to think about this as a career opportunity for the North,” Bolstad said.

The first scholarships awarded are worth \$1,500. A golf tournament held in Hay River on June 13 provided an opportunity for members of NWT Tourism to meet while raising money for the scholarship fund.

“Tourism is a vital industry and has the potential to drive economic growth and opportunity in every region of the NWT,” ITI Minister David Ramsay said in a press release.

Arts & Culture Aboriginal Day

An opportunity for celebration

NWAC President Michèle Audette

By DALI CARMICHAEL

With Aboriginal Day fast approaching, it is important to not only celebrate and share the cultures of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, but also to reflect on issues they still face.

This was the sentiment shared by Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) president Michèle Audette when *The Journal* caught up with her last week.

Sharing cultures, the good and the bad

“I see ourselves as bridges between the native and non-native people, great ambassadors,” Audette said.

She stressed the importance of using Aboriginal Day to share Aboriginal cultures, traditions and knowledge with people who might not otherwise have an opportunity to learn about them.

“We have to reach non-native people, to say who we were, to say who we are today, and where we want to go and if they’re willing, to paddle with us on the same canoe or beside us,” Audette said. “It’s



Native Women’s Association of Canada president Michèle Audette

an important day and for me it should be like this every day.”

For years, NWAC has been partnering with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations on a number of initiatives. Their highest profiled and most recent has been a push for an inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women in Canada. According to an RCMP report released in May, there were approximately 1,181

Aboriginal women murdered or who went missing between 1980 and 2012. Of those, 164 are still reported missing and 1,017 are confirmed homicide victims.

While stats like these are sobering, they are an important part of understanding the modern Aboriginal identity, Audette said.

“It’s a reminder to the Canadian population that we’re so alive and so dedicated to

Second annual Field Law Awards announced

Girls, gardens, schools and arts get funding for winning initiatives

By DALI CARMICHAEL
Four community organizations in the Northwest Territories will benefit from the second annual Field Law Community Fund Program after the winners were announced on June 9.

Field Law, a firm with operations in Yellowknife, Calgary and Edmonton, donated a total of \$15,000 to various initiatives in the NWT, all of which were selected through an online voting process, followed by a jury vote.

“Building strong relationships with the communities we serve is important to us,” Jack Williams, a partner at the Yellowknife office, said in a press release. “We’re happy to be able to contribute to our communities’ needs and make a difference in the lives and future of those we live, work and interact with on a daily basis.”

This year, 84 organizations throughout Alberta and the Northwest Territories applied for the contest, with 13 of those groups vying from the North.

The selections were made based on several criteria, including impact of the

initiative on the community, clarity of the idea presented, novelty within the community and the number of on-line votes.

FOXY Peer Leader Retreat

FOXY (Fostering Open eXpression among Youth) is a sexual health and peer leadership program for young women across the Northwest Territories. Its teachings are based in peer leadership and the arts.

In addition to events held throughout the year, FOXY is hosting its second Peer Leader Retreat at the Blachford Lake Lodge in July. The retreat lasts nine days and with 24 girls aged 13 through 17 attending this year, it’s set to be the biggest turnout yet.

With funding from its Field Law award, FOXY will be adding a digital element to the retreat.

The idea is to teach the girls how to use video hardware and software to share their stories.

“It’s a really tangible skill for a lot of young people in the North right now because they’re tech savvy, they know



Last year’s FOXY group at the Peer Leader Retreat. FOXY was one of the grand prize winners of the Field Law Awards this year, with funds going toward their annual retreat.

what they’re doing when it comes to creating those things, but sharing them and making them a high quality product is something that they can use some training on,” Nancy MacNeill, FOXY coordinator, said.

Lutsel K’e Community Garden

Since 2008, the Lutsel K’e Community Garden has been a place where community members can connect while working together.

“We have work parties; when we harvest, we invite everyone to the garden,”

Stephanie Poole, a volunteer with the garden, said. “In the past, we would have different kinds of workshops like composting workshops. We think about preserving, we might do some workshops on that this year, canning and drying things.”

Poole said that she and her fellow volunteers hope to expand operations within the garden.

Weledeh Catholic School

For the past two years, Weledeh Catholic School students and their community

members have made the school a better place by working together to improve their outdoor infrastructure. Their Field Law award money will contribute to a school-wide initiative: the Weledeh Catholic School Community Playground Project.

The project consists of three phases: replacing the primary school playground, installing an elementary school playground and building an outdoor classroom with extra green space to play in. With the second phase set to wrap up this week, fundraising efforts for the final \$70,000 phase have officially begun

with the awarded Field Law money.

“It’s a school playground, but where we’re located there aren’t any other playgrounds in close distances,” said the school’s principal, Simone Gessler.

“It really is a community playground and (during) non-school hours our playground is really well utilized.”

Aurora Arts Society’s Visual Arts Gallery, The Gallery on 47th St.

The Aurora Arts Society took over administration of The Gallery on 47th St. in January and, since then, has showcased several exhibitions and looks forward to showing a mix of commercial and non-commercial artists, which is where their Field Law funding will be used.

Marcus Jackson, president of the Aurora Arts Society, explained that the Aurora Arts Society and its affiliations are some of the only organizations in the NWT that offer peer-reviewed shows, necessary for a working artist’s resume if they wish to apply for certain grants.

tion, sharing and reflection discusses Aboriginal Day

We have to extend our hand to each other and say there’s great things that we do, and we have to acknowledge that day. Let’s do it together.

*Michèle Audette
President,
Native Women’s Association of Canada*

being alive, to keeping our cultural identity so alive,” Audette said. “It’s an important day to remind ourselves of all the commitments, the jobs, all the work that we do should be recognized or respected.”

Audette, who is Innu from northeastern Quebec, often travels across the country with NWAC, working to address Aboriginal women’s issues from Vancouver to Inuvik to Halifax. She said while it

is important to acknowledge the autonomy of the distinct cultures found in each Aboriginal community, it’s also important to remember that ultimately each of those communities are after similar goals, namely preserving their cultures.

“When I’m in the Northwest Territories with people who give me dry meat, or fish, or they dance, we laugh, there’s no longer thousands

of kilometres that separate myself from them because I’m from the Innu community,” Audette said.

Audette said for the first time this year, she will be celebrating Aboriginal Day with her family and her community in Uashat Mak Malinotam, Que.

“I’m going to be in my community, I’m going to be with my family,” she said. “I won’t be at a big event I think for the first time. I’ll be with the people I love and having a glass of juice and saying this is quality time just for us, which is really rare.”

For those celebrating in the territory, Audette encourages them to use Aboriginal Day to create a sense of unity.


“This event should be celebrated also with the NWT government and all the Aboriginal governments,” she said. “We have to extend our hand to each other and say there’s great things that we do and we have to acknowledge that day. Let’s do it together.”

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

JUNE 21 2014

Let’s celebrate, remember and appreciate all the members of the Aboriginal communities who helped shape Canada into what it is today.

Happy Aboriginal Day



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Lorraine Bezha
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ADCS students celebrate traditional, local grads

By DALI CARMICHAEL

Graduates from the Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) in Fort Chipewyan will soon be celebrating their second of two high school graduation ceremonies.

On May 29, the six graduating students flew from Fort Chipewyan to Fort McMurray to participate in the Traditional Celebration of Achievement (TCOA) at Keyano College, now in its 17th year.

The Traditional Celebration honours First Nations, Métis and Inuit students from the Wood Buffalo Region graduating from high school. Nine high schools from the region saw approximately 100 students participate in the celebration, selling out the college's 500-seat theatre as the audience filled with friends and family.

Kiesha Saddleback, 19, was one of the ADCS graduates who made the journey. After a busy day of flying out early in the morning, shopping for last minute necessities, dressing up for the event and doing some final organizing, Saddleback said the ceremony was well worth the wait.

"It was actually a pretty good experience. I went up on stage and got my feather and



At the Traditional Celebration of Achievement, students were given traditional gifts of eagle feathers, sweetgrass, miniature Métis sashes and, for the first time this year, an abalone shell.

sweetgrass," Saddleback said. "I'm happy that I came a long way to actually graduate from high school. One of the main things is that I got there myself."

James Piche-Cardinal, 18, also attended the ceremony.

"I'm proud of myself for being one of the only boys to graduate," he said. In fact, he was the only male student from ADCS to receive his diploma this year. Piche-Cardinal said that one of the highlights of

the evening for him was the entertainment provided by a Nunavut duo, Inuit throat boxer Nelson Tagoona and rapper Shauna Seeteenak.

Saddleback said she isn't certain what she will do following graduation, but has applied to a paramedics program at Keyano College in addition to the Edmonton-based Women Building Futures program. Piche-Cardinal says he will work for the next year, with hopes of

attending school in the south to study trades or political science in the fall of 2015.

17 years of honouring grads, traditionally

Julia McDougall, a high school teacher and one of the founding members of the TCOA board, said this year's ceremony was unique for a few reasons.

"This year was really quite spectacular because we had

First Nations dancers, we had the Métis dancers and we had the drummers on stage, and then we had the throat singers," McDougall said. "All three Aboriginal peoples were up on stage, performing in their own way."

For the first time in TCOA's history, graduates were gifted an abalone shell in addition to the ceremonial eagle feathers, sweetgrass and miniature Métis sashes handed out annually.

McDougall said the traditional gifts were much more meaningful than plaques and other items handed out in previous years and are meant to be symbols of achievement and blessings for the future, handed from elders to the graduates.

At the end of this month, on June 28, the students will get to break out their best duds for a second time in a large, community-wide celebration.



Athabasca Delta Community School graduates at the Traditional Celebration of Achievement, from left: Sierra Courtoreille, Kiesha Saddleback, James Piche-Cardinal, Madeline Marten, Kaisha Marcel and Ivanna Antoine-Whitehead.

National Aboriginal Day

June 21, 2014

Nehiyawin Kisikaw Cikeyihten

Brought to you by
The NWT Métis Nation

Fort Chip elders' care home to be staffed by community

By MARIA CHURCH

Nine new Fort Chipewyan graduates from a uniquely tailored Keyano College program will be joining the staff at the community's brand new Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders' Care Home.

After nine weeks of intensive training, which included weeks of Cree and Dene language and culture classes, palliative care, and dementia sensitivity and trauma awareness courses, the graduates were welcomed into the elders' care home with a celebration last week.

"The community is almost as excited about that preparation program for our future employees as the new ECH (elders' care home) itself," Beverly Robson, care home director, told *The Journal* in an email last week.

Janet Lowndes, project manager with Keyano College, said tailored courses are not a new phenomenon at the college, but the Fort Chipewyan program took tailoring to a whole new level in terms of community engagement.



From left, graduates Miranda Mercredi, Sarah Newman, Rhonda Wanderingspirit, Dorothy Whitehead, Donna Mercredi, Shirley Vermillion, Chevonne Dene, Karen McDonald and Rodney Marten are welcomed at the Fort Chipewyan elders' care home last week as new employees.

"The elders' care home is community owned, so it's a community-designed program," she said. "It was the level, the percentage of the community focus. It was the fact that everybody who was brought in was expected to keep that focus in mind. It was tailored to Fort

Chipewyan in a way that was explicitly and specifically for the Fort Chipewyan Elders' Care Home."

Many of the instructors selected to train the students were from Fort Chip, as well.

"Instead of Keyano College employees offering the

training, we went out into the community," Lowndes said. Trainers included Rita Marten from the Athabasca Tribal Council, who taught the Cree language course, Alice Rigney of Fort Chipewyan, who taught the Dene language course, and Pat Flett, a

Shell employee, who taught the life management and training course.

Lowndes said the program, which was a community-requested initiative of the Mikisew Cree First Nation and the government of Alberta, fits Fort Chipewyan's needs in two ways: to

create sustained employment opportunities in the community and to provide the care home residents with local staff.

"These are elders, it's a small community, and it would be nice for them to see people they know, not all strangers. It would be nice for them to hear people speak to them in their language," she said.

The graduates will fill various support staff roles in the kitchen and as housekeepers and janitors.

"The support staff will be engaged with the elders as much as the professionals are, even more so," Lowndes said.

With their specialized training in dementia and palliative care sensitivity, the staff are well trained to support the elders during their frequent interactions, she said.

The celebration to welcome the new graduates to the elders' care home took place on June 9 with elder Margorie Glanfield, Mikisew Cree First Nation Chief Steve Courtoreille and many proud community members in attendance.

Photo courtesy of Beverly Robson

Canadian Natural Resources Limited



Canadian Natural is a proud supporter of the **Fort Chipewyan Elders Care Centre**, which allows elders who require long-term and continuing care to remain in the community.

Congratulations to the community of Fort Chipewyan and the Mikisew Cree First Nation on the opening of this important facility!

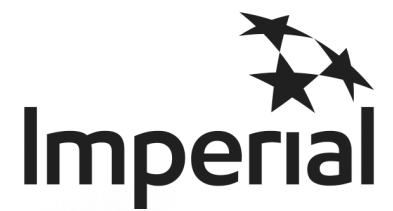
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A group photograph of four individuals in a domestic interior. In the center, an elderly woman with short white hair and glasses sits in a wheelchair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt under a black zip-up vest and is using a silver laptop. To her left, another woman with short white hair and glasses sits on a wooden stool, wearing a green sweater and a red and white beaded necklace. Behind the woman in the wheelchair stands a woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with a green floral pattern. To the right, a man with a grey beard and glasses sits on a patterned armchair, wearing a blue and black plaid shirt and grey trousers. The background features a white door, a wooden cabinet with decorative items on top, and a patterned armchair.



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- Developing cultural appropriate programs and activities;
- Managing a six figure budget;
- Administration of staff, programs and related paperwork.

Preferred qualifications for this position are:

- Early Education Diploma/Certificate or Teaching Degree/Diploma;
- Related Day Care or Pre-school Teaching experience;
- Strong interpersonal and supervisory skills;
- Ability to work independently as well as a team player;
- Excellent time management and organizational skills;
- Report writing and computer skills.

Please forward resume
along with a letter of interest to:

Lynda B. Martin
P.O. Box 306, Fort Smith NT X0E0P0
Phone/Fax: (867) 872-2945
wlmartin@northwestel.net

Closing Date: June 30, 2014

**Salary: Commensurate with education
& experience**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANT Salt River First Nation

Salt River First Nation is inviting applications for the position of Special Needs Assistant in Fort Smith NT. The Special Needs Assistant reports to the Aboriginal Head Start (AHS)Teacher and is responsible for:

- Maintaining on-going interaction with the children during classroom activities on an individual and small-group basis to enhance the children's total growth;
- Assisting the AHS Teacher with children who require extra help, i.e. speech & language delays, behaviour, and/or fine/gross motor delays;
- Assisting with classroom discipline;
- Assisting the AHS Teacher with implementing an integrated culture and language component for classroom learning activities;
- Assisting with the preparation of materials needed for the program; and
- Maintaining good communication lines with the AHS Teacher.

Qualifications:

Grade 12 or GED 12, supplemented with Special Needs Training and course work in Early Childhood Education or an equivalent of education and experience working with special needs children. The incumbent must posses First Aid/CPR certification as well as excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication skills. The ability to speak and write Cree is a definite asset.

Please forward resume
along with a letter of interest to:

Lynda B. Martin
P.O. Box 306, Fort Smith NT X0E0P0
Phone/Fax: (867) 872-2945
wlmartin@northwestel.net

Closing Date: June 30, 2014

**Salary: Commensurate with education
& experience**

NOTICE OF TENDER



Town of Fort Smith Conibear Crescent Water and Sewer Main Replacement

Sealed Tenders plainly marked on the envelope "CONIBEAR CRESCENT WATER AND SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT, will be received by the Town of Fort Smith, 174 McDougal Road, Fort Smith, NT, until 3:00 p.m. MST, Friday June 27th, 2014.

The project is located in the Town of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. This project is associated with the supply and installation of water and sewer mains, manholes, valves and construction of new granular roadway,

Project documents may be obtained from the Town of Fort Smith after June 18th, 2014 on payment of a non-refundable fee of \$50, payable to the Town of Fort Smith.

Each tender must be accompanied by the specified bid security made payable to the Town of Fort Smith.

The right is reserved to reject any or all Tenders or to accept any Tender that may be considered in the best interest of the Town of Fort Smith.

Written inquiries may be addressed to:
Mitchel Heron, C.E.T at Maskwa Engineering Ltd.
Phone: 867-872-2812 / Fax: 867-872-2813
Email: mitch.heron@maskwaengineering.ca

**Do you have something
to sell?
Call 867-872-3000**



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SURFACE RIGHTS BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Lands is seeking individuals interested in appointment to the Surface Rights Board (Board) under the *Surface Rights Board Act*. The Board will be responsible for resolving disputes relating to access to Gwich'in, Sahtu, Tlicho and Inuvialuit lands and the waters overlying those lands. The Board will also resolve disputes relating to other land in the Northwest Territories.

The Board will consist of between five and nine regular members, including a Chairperson, and five alternate members. All potential candidates must be residents of the Northwest Territories. In addition, the Board must include one member and one alternate member who are residents of each of the following regions:

- Gwich'in Settlement Area
- Inuvik or the Northwest Territories' portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region
- Sahtu Settlement Area
- Mòwhì Gogha Dè Nìt'atèè

The Board will function as an independent board and will be responsible for the statutory obligations relating to its administration. The Board will establish its own rules, bylaws and administrative functions to assume its substantive functions on April 1, 2016. Board members will receive remuneration for the performance of their functions, as well as travel and living expenses when they must perform functions away from their ordinary place of residence. Board members must be available and willing to travel for Board-related business.

If you wish to be considered for appointment to this Board, please submit a letter of intent, a resume and proof of residence in the Northwest Territories. If you are a resident of one of the four listed regions, please ensure that this is indicated on the proof of residence, and that your resume includes information about your experience or knowledge in relation to that region. All applicants should describe any relevant experience or knowledge in the following areas:

- Lands and environment
- Aboriginal traditional knowledge
- Legislative and regulatory interpretation
- Dispute resolution
- Board administration

Please submit your letter of intent, resume and proof of residence by mail, courier or email to:

Mr. Jason Steele
Department of Lands
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L8
Tel.: (867) 765-6749

The deadline for submissions is July 4, 2014.
Candidates who previously submitted applications to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada will have their applications considered and are not required to re-apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Building a Northern Evidence-based Approach to Crime Prevention SC440614 – Yellowknife, NT –

The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Public Works and Services is requesting proposals from qualified vendors to complete a comprehensive study and create a pan-territorial framework on crime prevention.

Submissions addressed to the Contracts Administrator, Department of Public Works and Services, Government of the NWT, 5009 – 49th Street (SMH-1), Yellowknife, NT, will be received prior to:

3:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, JULY 11, 2014.

Documents are available electronically from the above address as of June 13, 2014.

General Inquiries :

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

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

For contract opportunities visit
www.contractregistry.nt.ca



Spray Lake Sawmills

LOG HAUL CONTRACTORS WANTED

Experienced contractor log trucks
wanted immediately for the 2014/15
season to haul into Spray Lake Sawmills,
Cochrane, Alberta.

Contact Rob 403-851-3388
Email: woodlands@spraylakesawmills.com

IN CANADA,
A STROKE
HAPPENS EVERY

10
MINUTES



With your help, we can continue
to fund the very best research to
create and support survivors.

JUNE IS STROKE MONTH

Please give when your neighbour
knocks at your door.

**For information: 1 888 473-4636,
heartandstroke.ab.ca/strokemonth**



Three candidates are running for chief of Mikisew Cree First Nation in the June 20 election: from left, Allan Mercredi, Matthew Whitehead and incumbent Steve Courtoreille.

Politics First Nations

Candidates gearing up for Mikisew Cree election

By MARIA CHURCH

The Mikisew Cree First Nation will be heading to the polls on June 20 to elect its chief and council for the next three-year term.

Three candidates are running for chief while 18 people aim for six councillor positions.

Chief Steve Courtoreille is looking for reelection and said the driving force behind his campaign to retain office is advancing education in the community.

Courtoreille said he wants to see a new, state of the art school built in Fort Chipewyan to replace the current building for the Athabasca Delta Community School, which he said is no longer in acceptable condition for student learning.

“Education is very important. For me, it is a priority now,” he said. “We have successfully achieved the top priority for schools in Alberta and that took some time to

negotiate so I don’t want to see that going off the rails.”

Courtoreille said one of the major legacies for the Mikisew Cree during his term as chief includes the recently-opened long-term elders’ care facility, the Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders’ Care Home.

Mikisew raised \$12.5 million in funds for the facility through industry and private contributions, none of which came from government, Courtoreille said.

“That was itself a challenge, but we knew we were going to get it done and this was the time to do it. We had a good team of people working for us that were committed to getting it done and making it happen,” he said.

Throughout his term, Courtoreille has represented the First Nation in negotiations with industry, which he said requires a tricky balance of working with the companies while keeping Mikisew’s concerns front and centre.

“If I get reelected, I could spend the next three years fighting them and I’m not going to be any further ahead. In the past three years, I did not fight industry; I worked with them and look at the success we’ve had,” he said. “It’s being smart with the opportunities in front of you and at the same time educating industry about our concerns and finding ways to minimize those impacts.”

Two other candidates for chief

Matthew Whitehead, born and raised in Fort Chipewyan, also seeks to fill the role as chief of the Mikisew Cree.

Whitehead, who holds a recent master’s degree in environment and management from Royal Roads University, said he considered running in the 2011 election, but backed out in order to finish his studies.

Now, with degree in hand, Whitehead told *The Journal*

he would bring a combination of formal education and traditional and environmental awareness to office.

“I can walk in both worlds, the mainstream and the First Nations world. I can communicate with the consultants because of my graduate degree, but I can also communicate with the elders because I speak Cree and can understand the impacts to traditional land users,” he said.

Whitehead currently works as director of lands and consultation for Woodland Cree First Nation. He has previously worked as a warden for Parks Canada and in

government and industry relations for Mikisew.

Allan Mercredi is the final candidate running for chief. Also born and raised in Fort Chipewyan, Mercredi said his goal in office would be to capitalize on local business growth in the community.

Mercredi has worked for the Mikisew Group of Companies for the past 14 years and said he has first-hand knowledge of where the nation is failing to profit.

“Working within the companies, I see a lot of the opportunities out there. We are missing out on a lot of opportunities to grow and expand

our businesses and make them profitable,” he said. “Part of that reason is because we haven’t had meetings in regards to our finances. As members, we just don’t know what’s going on. We need to be transparent and accountable and consult with our members.”

Mercredi is a formal social worker and said his experience with addictions counselling also makes him a good candidate for chief.

Health in the community, whether it is counselling or pushing for independent studies on the effects of the oilsands, would be a priority, he said.

Candidates for council

Ronald Campbell
Albert John Courtoreille
Edward J. Courtoreille
Russell Kaskamin
Mary Lepine
Terry Isabelle Marten
Joseph Marten
Alice Martin
Dan Mercredi

Darren Mercredi
Rose Marie (Bing) Mercredi
Rubi Helen Sakeskanip-Shirley (Gibot)
Billy Joe Tuccaro
Paul Steven Tuccaro
Juanita Whitehead
Leon Whitehead
Marina Whiteknife
Margaret Ann Wigmore

Aboriginal Day 2014

On June 21st, we celebrate **National Aboriginal Day**. This is an opportunity for all Northerners to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of the Northwest Territories’ Aboriginal people and the role they have played in shaping the territory we have today.

Our celebration of this national holiday continues to be unique as we remain the first and only jurisdiction in Canada to recognize National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday. For this we can be very proud as it demonstrates how strongly we feel about honouring the Dene, Inuvialuit and Métis people of the NWT.

On June 21st, enjoy National Aboriginal Day in your community and celebrate the wealth of traditions, lifestyles, and languages that make up the fabric of the NWT.

R. McLeod
R. McLeod
Premier of the Northwest Territories

Northwest Territories Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

A GIANT THANK YOU!

To the many people of Fort Smith who, for over fifty years, have made room in their hearts for our mother,

Dora Jones

As she leaves, we want to thank you for all your kindnesses and good works. Our family is so grateful.

Thank you and Mahsi Cho
Michael, Peter and Eric Jones and Family

Lutsel K’e traditions kept alive with tanning camp

By MARIA CHURCH

A group of learners in Lutsel K’e got a taste of just how hard their ancestors worked to clothe themselves at a first-time traditional moosehide tanning camp last week.

“When I’m doing moosehide tanning, I often think, ‘yeah I’m doing one, it’s so hard, but what if I had to do 10 just to make sure that my family had the clothing that they needed to stay warm?’” said Stephanie Poole, a community member in Lutsel K’e who participated in the tanning camp. “It gives you a real appreciation for all of the work that our ancestors did.”

Around 10 to 15 people took part in the 10-day camp, some of whom slept on-site while others trekked out to the campsite each day, located near the townsite at the outlet to Stark Lake river.

With careful direction from Lutsel K’e elders, participants spent hours each day tanning the hides, which were not limited to moose, but included caribou, beaver and wolverine, as well.

The amount of time needed to tan each hide depends on the animal and the schedule of the tanner, Poole said.

“If you work or you have a young family, you might



From left: Rebecca Whitney, Stephanie Poole and Veronica Marlowe work together to scrape a moose hide at a 10-day traditional tanning camp held in Lutsel K’e last week.

not have as much time as an elder, but from my experience at this camp, when we’re focused and we have a camp and

we’re working on just that, it goes by pretty quick,” she said. The camp is the first of its kind in the community and

was a much-needed way for the members of the Lutsel K’e Dene First Nation to keep their unique cultural

practices alive, Poole said, as traditional tanning is done differently in each culture and each community.

“Ensuring that the way the Lutsel K’e Dene do it continues is important to us,” Poole said.


The camp also saw several people from outside of the community join in to learn the Lutsel K’e art of tanning or simply observe the traditional practice.

“We uphold the Peace and Friendship Treaty, so it’s important for us to ensure that our treaty partners understand our culture and way of life and develop a respect for it, as well,” Poole said.

Speaking as an artist herself, learning how difficult traditional tanning really is has also given her a first-hand understanding of the value of the craft.


“I often find that people can be critical of the traditionally-made clothing, thinking it has a high price, and I think it’s good for them to understand why it’s like that. All of the work that goes into tanning these hides and making a finished product that’s so beautiful, it’s probably worth a lot more than they are paying for,” she said.

With so many offshoot benefits coming from the moosehide tanning camp, Poole said it’s likely to become an annual event in the community.



**In Recognition of
Aboriginal Day**

The Town of Fort Smith would like to acknowledge all members of the Aboriginal community who make our Town whole.





Mines battle it out in name of safety

The 57th annual Mine Rescue Competition attracted teams from the three NWT diamond mines (Ekati, Diavik and Snap Lake) and Yukon’s Minto copper mine to compete in Yellowknife over the weekend. Squads of six first responders spent hundreds of hours training for the real thing at their own mines, while the competition, sponsored by the NWT/Nunavut Workers Safety and Compensation Commission, tests their skills in rigorous trials including simulated underground rescue and very realistic first aid situations. Shown here are hot tests where two-person teams attempt to extinguish fuel-fired blazes. This year’s winners in both the underground and surface categories were the two teams from the Ekati Mine, entitling them to represent the North at the National Western Regional Mine Rescue Competition in Fernie, B.C. A team of observers from Nunavut’s Baffinland Iron Mine, which will start production later this year, was there to prepare for entering their own team in the future.

Canine stylist opens up grooming shop in Fort Smith

By MARIA CHURCH

For Fort Smith dog lovers looking to make Fido a little more stylish this summer, a new grooming shop promises to be a cut above.

Chris Talbot is the first male graduate of the Alberta School of Dog Grooming and recently set up shop in Fort Smith, his home for the past two years.

“I’ve always been a dog person. I grew up with a beagle,” he shared with *The Journal* a few days after officially opening Blues Pet Grooming on June 2.

“I never thought when I was a kid that I’d be a dog groomer, but here I am,” he said.

Talbot is a freelance writer by trade, specializing in business and technology reporting, and recently ghost authored a book on business.

That knowledge of the business world made the transition to small business owner less of a learning curve, he said. As a freelancer, he was already running a type of service business.

“I started thinking about making the minor switch and adding a new business in January,” he said. “The decision was made really quickly.”

While at first Talbot thought he might jump head first into the dog grooming industry, it wasn’t long after he picked up a pair of scissors to trim a friend’s pooch for the first time that he decided formal training was in order.

“I thought about doing online training, but very quickly realized that the best way to learn was to get some professional training in person,” he recalled with a laugh.

From there, Talbot enrolled at one of Alberta’s two certified dog grooming schools, located in Leduc.

After three months of courses, hands-on training and hours of volunteering at the school-run dog grooming service, Talbot returned to Fort Smith as a fully certified professional pet stylist to open his own in-home dog grooming shop.

His repertoire of skills includes bathing, nail clipping, advanced scissoring techniques, colouring and tooth cleaning, pending a shipment of dog hair dyes and toothbrushes.

As he chatted, Talbot was working on Patches, a shih tzu to whom he was giving a classic short round cut. The style of cut involves a careful clipping technique to ensure

the hair on the dog’s head is sculpted into a perfect circle.

“It’s a challenge, definitely a challenge to learn. I had no experience, but I like working with dogs,” he shared, as sections of Patches’ overgrown beard succumbed to his scissors.

Talbot said each dog takes around three hours to groom, depending on size and difficulty of cut. He likes to take his time to make sure they are looking their best, he said.

While many dog owners are fine with simply giving

their dogs a shave, Talbot said he prefers to add style to his canine clients.

When his pet hair dyes come in, Talbot said he plans to add some colour to his own dog, Taffy.

“I want to give my dog a green mohawk, just because I can,” he said with a chuckle.

For more information about Blues Pet Grooming, to get a quote or to book an appointment, call (867) 872-0822 or visit Blues Pet Grooming on Facebook.



Pet stylist Chris Talbot trims Patches at his recently opened grooming shop in Fort Smith.

Photo: Maria Church

Thank you for many years of shared success.

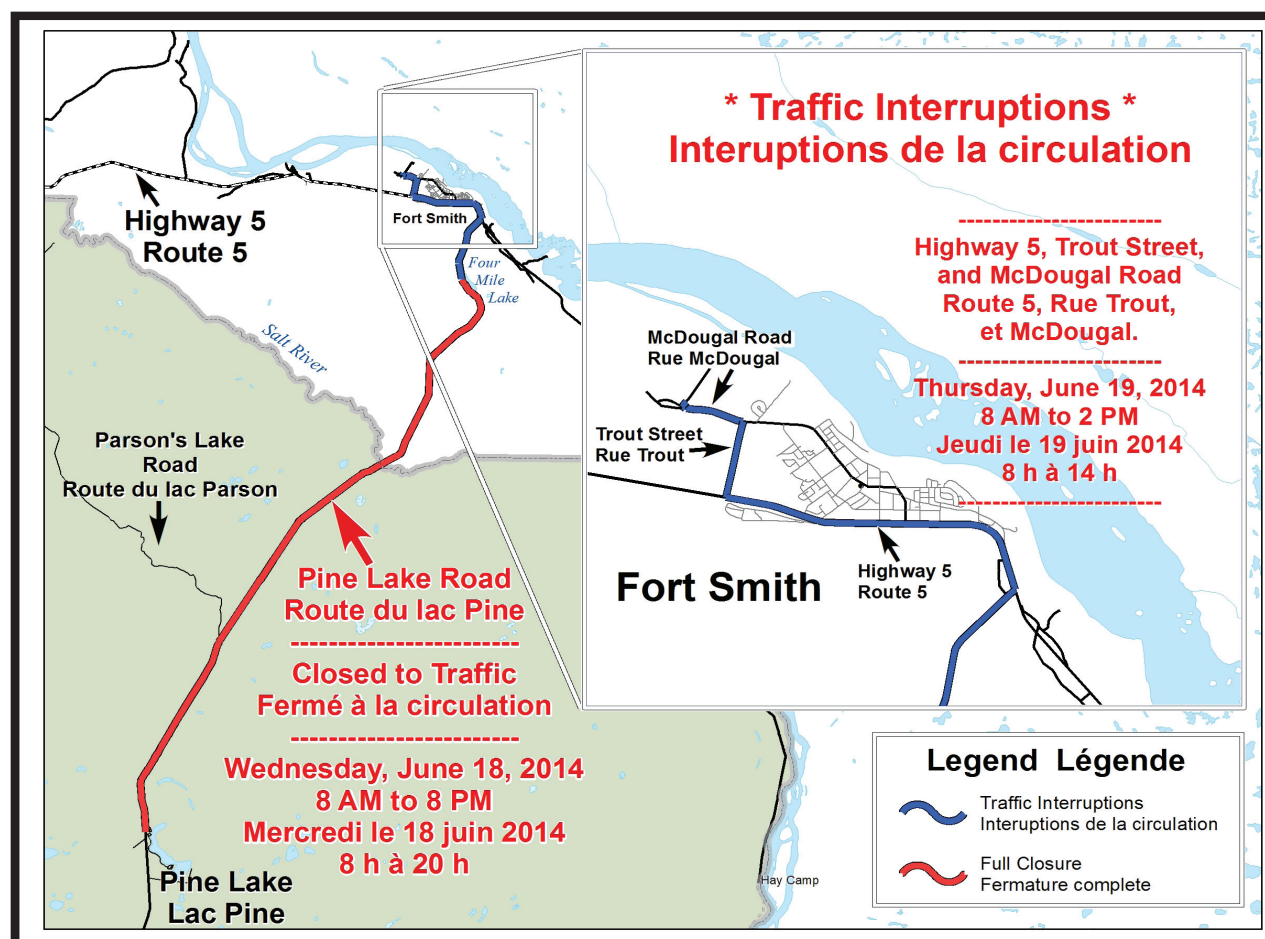
Before Syncrude put a shovel in the ground, we promised to share the opportunities created by our operations with the region’s Aboriginal people. Little did we know that you would share so much with us. Your rich traditions, inspiring culture, insightful perspectives and strong work ethic have not only made you valued neighbours and partners, but also respected friends.

June 21 is National Aboriginal Day—our opportunity to thank you for helping us build our business as well as strengthen and brighten our shared communities.

Learn more at syncrude.ca



The Syncrude Project is a joint venture undertaking among Canadian Oil Sands Partnership #1, Imperial Oil Resources, Mocal Energy Limited, Murphy Oil Company Ltd., Nexen Oil Sands Partnership, Sinopec Oil Sands Partnership, and Suncor Energy Ventures Partnership.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Road Closure and Temporary Power Disconnection

Parks Canada is relocating a large building from the former Fire Base at Pine Lake to the Fire Base at the Fort Smith Airport. This move is planned for June 18 and 19, and will involve the temporary closure of the Pine Lake Road and a brief interruption in power for some parts of Fort Smith.

The move will take place in two phases:

On Wednesday, June 18, the building will be moved from Pine Lake to a pull-off area along the Pine Lake Road approximately 10 kilometers from Highway 5. Access to the Pine Lake Road will be limited to emergencies only during the move, which is expected to take place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Access to the Four Mile Lake Float Plane Base will remain open throughout the day. Once the building has been pulled off the road for the night, access to Pine Lake will be reopened.

On Thursday, June 19, the building will be moved from the pull off on the Pine Lake Road to the WBNP Fire Base at the Fort Smith Airport. Some power lines will need to be temporarily disconnected to facilitate the building's move down Highway 5 to Trout Street. Power outages are expected to be short in duration and limited to some homes and buildings along the highway.

AVIS PUBLIC

Fermeture de route et interruption temporaire du courant électrique

Parcs Canada prévoit déménager un grand bâtiment à partir de l'ancien camp de base de lutte contre les incendies, qui se trouve au lac Pine, jusqu'au camp situé à l'aéroport de Fort Smith. Ce déménagement est prévu pour les 18 et 19 juin et donnera lieu à la fermeture temporaire de Pine Lake Road et à la brève interruption du courant électrique dans certaines régions de Fort Smith.

Le déménagement aura lieu en deux étapes :

Le mercredi 18 juin, on transportera le bâtiment à partir du lac Pine jusqu'à un point d'arrêt, qui se trouve à environ 10 kilomètres de la route no 5 sur Pine Lake Road. Il ne sera pas possible d'emprunter Pine Lake Road au cours du déménagement (de 8 h à 20 h), sauf en cas d'urgence. Cependant, la route menant à l'hydrobase du lac Four Mile restera ouverte au cours de la journée. Une fois le bâtiment retiré de la route pour la nuit, la route menant au lac Pine sera rouverte.

Le jeudi 19 juin, on transportera le bâtiment du point d'arrêt sur Pine Lake Road jusqu'au camp de base de lutte contre les incendies au parc national du Canada Wood Buffalo, qui se trouve à l'aéroport de Fort Smith. Certaines lignes électriques devront être débranchées pour faciliter le déménagement du bâtiment sur la route no 5 jusqu'à la rue Trout. De brèves pannes électriques sont prévues; elles ne devraient toucher que certaines maisons et certains bâtiments le long de la route.

For further information on this matter, please contact:

Jean Morin

Fire Management Officer/
Agent, gestion des incendies

Wood Buffalo National Park/
Parc national du Canada Wood Buffalo
(867) 872-7924

Lindsay Wasylshyn

Asset Manager/
Gestionnaire des biens

Wood Buffalo National Park/
Parc national du Canada Wood Buffalo
(867) 872-7964

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur ce sujet,
veuillez communiquer avec :

Tim Gauthier

Fire Information Officer/
Agent d'information sur les incendies

Wood Buffalo National Park/
Parc national du Canada Wood Buffalo
(867) 872-7957