



# ULU NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MARCH 22, 2018





## Four medals and counting



## Pins? Talk to Pacey

### ULU COUNT



Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	19	11	18	48
 Alberta N.	13	5	19	37
 Greenland	5	6	5	16
 NT	11	20	16	47
 Nunavik	3	4	1	8
 Nunavut	6	7	5	18
 Sapmi	2	2	3	7
 Yamal	23	24	8	55
 Yukon	17	17	22	56



## Athletes show heart

Team Yamal's Olga Medvedeva earns the silver ulu in the junior female level three short program.

Paul Bannister/NNSL photo



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# Yukon athlete racks up four golds



Cody Punter/NISL photo

**Team Yukon's Bianca Berko-Malvasio** racked up an impressive four gold medals in her first four Arctic Sports events at the Arctic Winter Games in Fort Smith. Berko-Malvasio will have the chance to finish on the podium twice more before the Games are over.

**Bianca Berko-Malvasio still has a shot at winning two more ulus**

by **Cody Punter**  
Northern News Services

Coming into her second Arctic Winter Games, Bianca Berko-Malvasio didn't have high expectations. So imagine her surprise when she racked up four gold medals in her first four Arctic sports events.

"It's going a lot better than I expected. I did not expect to get four medals," said a modest Berko-Malvasio after competing for Team Yukon in the Alaskan

peted in her first Games in Nuuk, Greenland, but didn't reach the podium in any events. Her first medal in Fort Smith came in the kneel jump on Monday. She said her best friend and teammate is usually better than her in the event but a new rule introduced for this Games, which forbids knocking your knees, gave Berko-Malvasio an edge.

"She does that all the time and she had trouble with it. I've never done that so I came

**"I was worried she was going to beat me."**

Bianca Berko-Malvasio

Berko-Malvasio, 14, com-

Please see **page 7**

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# Yamal dominates in figure skating



Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

Team Yamal's Olga Medvedeva earns the silver ulu in the junior female level three short program.

Northern News Services

Team Yamal won the gold and silver ulus in all four levels of the junior female short program held Monday in Fort Smith. That set Yamal up as a team to beat as the competition carried on during the latter half of the Arctic Winter Games.

## FIGURE SKATING Feature

by Paul Bannister

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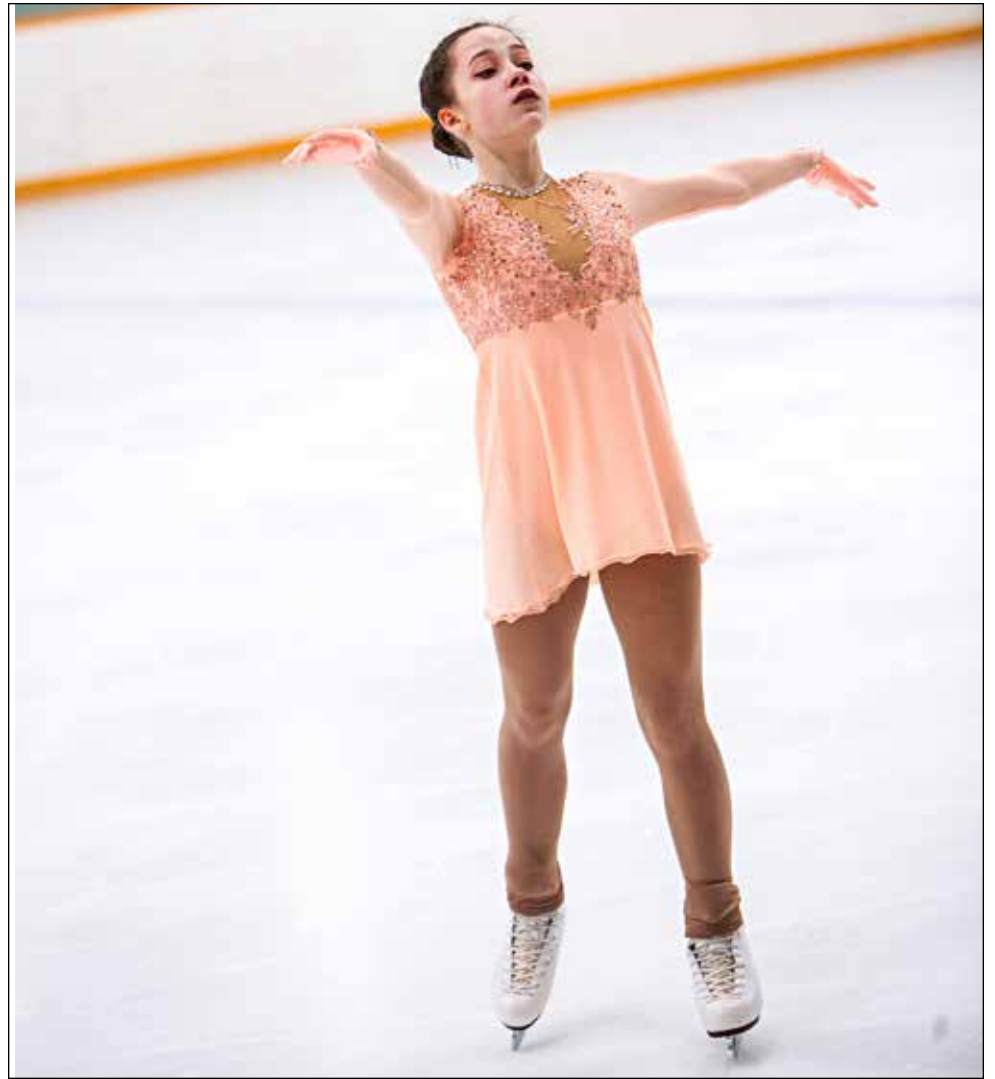
EXPÉRIENCE INTERNATIONALE CANADA





Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

**Abigail Boone Fitzpatrick of Team Alberta North** performed a junior female short program that led to a bronze ulu in Fort Smith on Monday.



Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

**Valeriia Nesterova of Team Yamal** triumphs in the junior female level two short program in Fort Smith on Monday.



Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

**Kayla Welygan of Team Alberta North** was awarded the bronze ulu in the junior female level three short program.



Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

**Anastasiia Zbiranik of Team Yamal** was the top competitor in the junior female level four short program.

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Sandra Jaque/NLGL photo

### HORNS OF PLENTY

Dennis Hudson, a Fort Smith carver, shows some of his pieces made from moose antler and the horns of buffalo and big horn sheep at the Fort Smith Recreation Centre.



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# How a little bit of rest can help



**Continued** from page 3

out ahead," she said.

Later on that day, Berko-Malvasio was facing off against other junior females in the arm pull. She said when she competed in the event in Greenland she was getting beat by girls that were older and stronger than her. But two years of growing and training made a huge difference.

Berko-Malvasio attributed her combination of strength, agility and flexibility to the fact that she is a gymnast.

"I train 18 hours a week so that keeps up my endurance and strength and I don't need to do too much extra training, just technique," she said.

Tuesday saw Berko-Malvasio competing in two events: the triple jump and the two-foot high kick.

Of all the gold medals she won, Berko-Malvasio said the triple jump was the least surprising. Her first two jumps scored in the 750s but in her last jump she pushed harder and landed at 791 centimetres.

"I really wanted to try and get eight metres so the first ones I was just figuring out, and the last one I pushed to get really far," she said. "There was one Russian who was jumping super far and I was worried she was going to beat me but she scratched on her last jump."

By the time Berko-Malvasio's fourth event came up, fatigue was starting to set in. The medal ceremonies the night before went until midnight and she had to get up the next morning at 6 a.m. After winning her third medal she had to go and take a nap before competing in the two-foot high jump later that afternoon.

It turns out a little rest was just what she needed. Not only did Berko-Malvasio get another gold, after winning she made an attempt to tie the AWG record. She came up just short.

"That's OK. I still got next year," she said.

Berko-Malvasio's only non-medal event was the Alaskan high kick, where she got knocked out early. But with two more events to go she has the chance to extend her medal count.

## Mayor of Fort Smith - Welcome!

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the 2018 Arctic Winter Games, hosted by the communities of Fort Smith and Hay River.

On behalf of the citizens of Fort Smith and my Town Council colleagues, we welcome you as our guests for this very special celebration. It is our honour to be your host for this exciting event.

I would like to commend the organizers for the hard work that goes into coordinating this terrific celebration of athletic and cultural skills. The Arctic Winter Games are filled with captivating and challenging sports and performances that require focus and discipline. I would like to recognize the talented athletes and performers for all their dedication and enthusiasm. Special thanks are also due to the countless volunteers, coaches, and parents for their unwavering support of our participants.

If you are visiting from out of town, I hope that you will enjoy our warm hospitality and visit some of our beautiful attractions:

- **Wood Buffalo National Park**
- **Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre**
- **Night Sky Observatory in the largest dark sky preserve on earth!**
- **Stunning trails along the Slave River**

Fort Smith has a diverse cultural and arts community, as well as a number of unique shops and restaurants for you to enjoy.

I would like to extend my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event and I wish all those participating the best of luck. Let the games begin!

Sincerely,

Mayor Lynn Napier-Buckley

Town of Fort Smith



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# A long and storied connection

*Northwestel has been sponsoring Arctic Winter Games for decades*

Ulu News

For almost as long as the Arctic Winter Games have been around, Northwestel has been there supporting the Games and cheering for each and every athlete.

Founded in 1979, with roots stretching back to the late 1940s, Northwestel has been connecting the North through technology, innovation and investing in the communities it serves for decades.

After the incredible open-

ing ceremony, we sat down with Northwestel's president, Curtis Shaw, to talk about the Arctic Winter Games, the company's history with the Games and why they think it's so important to support events like this.

**Ulu News:** What an incredible opening ceremonies! I have to say that they have to be the best the Games has ever seen. Why is it important for Northwestel to support the opening ceremonies?

**Curtis Shaw:** It's a great opportunity for us to support young athletes from across the North. We provide service to the Yukon, NWT and Nunavut, and it's great to be part of an event that helps encourage friendly competition and share Northern culture. We also encourage our employees to get involved. Several Northwestel team members are involved in coaching, officiating or volunteering to help the games run smoothly.

**Ulu News:** What was it about the opening ceremonies that appealed to you and helped you decide to sponsor them?

**Shaw:** The energy, excitement and cultural aspects of the opening ceremonies is always special. It's a great honour to sponsor this year's opening ceremonies.

**Ulu News:** Beyond the opening ceremonies, what else is Northwestel supporting at the Arctic Winter Games?

**Shaw:** We are working to ensure the athletes are connected with internet so they can connect with friends and family back home. We are providing support for the Games' IT systems to ensure everything runs smoothly for accreditation and results. Plus, our community television team is working in Hay River to provide daily updates and video of some of the action.

**Ulu News:** Sports can chal-

lenge us, inspire us and connect us – can you tell us more about what Northwestel Community TV will be covering and how we can follow those updates?

**Shaw:** You can look at this year as being the most connected games – with social media, internet, mobility, and television. It's easier than ever to connect across the North to share stories, broadcast games

Please see **next page**

# ATCO

## COMMITTED TO CANADA'S NORTH SINCE 1901

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# #AWG2018 SPORT SCHEDULE

	DAY 1 SUNDAY, MARCH 18		DAY 2 MONDAY, MARCH 19		DAY 3 TUESDAY, MARCH 20		DAY 4 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21		DAY 5 THURSDAY, MARCH 22		DAY 6 FRIDAY, MARCH 23		DAY 7 SATURDAY, MARCH 24	
HAY RIVER	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH
BADMINTON			9:00	18:00	9:00	18:00	9:00	18:00	9:00	18:00	9:00	16:00	9:00	14:00*
BIATHLON SKI			13:30	15:30*	13:30	15:30*	WEATHER DAY		13:30	15:30*	13:30	15:30*	WEATHER DAY	
BIATHLON SNOWSHOE			9:30	11:30*	9:30	11:30*	WEATHER DAY		9:30	11:30*	9:30	11:30*	WEATHER DAY	
DENE GAMES			10:00	17:00*	10:00	17:00*	10:00	17:00*	10:00	17:30*	10:00	17:00*	WEATHER DAY	
DOG MUSHING			11:00	14:00*	11:00	14:00*	TRAIL MAINTENANCE		10:00	13:00*	WEATHER DAY		WEATHER DAY	
FUTSAL			8:00	21:00	8:00	21:00	8:00	21:00	8:00	20:00	8:00	21:00	8:00	13:00*
CYMNASTICS							11:00	15:00*			11:00	15:00*		
HOCKEY (MALE)			9:00	21:00	9:00	21:00	9:00	21:00	9:00	21:00	11:00	21:00*		
SNOWSHOE			8:30	11:30*	WEATHER DAY		8:30	14:00*	WEATHER DAY		8:30	11:30*	WEATHER DAY	
VOLLEYBALL			9:00	21:30	9:00	20:00	9:00	21:30	9:00	20:00	9:00	20:30	9:30	13:30*
WRESTLING			9:00	19:00*					16:00	20:00*			10:00	14:00*
FORT SMITH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH
ARCTIC SPORTS	OPEN PRACTICE		10:00	19:30*	9:30	19:00*	9:30	19:00*	9:30	18:00	9:30	18:00*		
BASKETBALL			10:00	20:00	10:00	20:00	10:00	20:00	10:00	20:00	10:00	21:00*		
CROSS COUNTRY			14:00	17:00*	10:00	13:00*	WEATHER DAY		10:00	13:00*	10:00	14:00*	WEATHER DAY	
CURLING			8:30	21:30	8:30	21:30	8:30	21:30	8:30	22:30	8:00	22:30*		
FIGURE SKATING			18:30	22:30*			9:30	14:30*	14:30	15:30*	SHOWS			
HOCKEY (FEMALE)			12:00	17:30	8:00	16:00	15:00	21:00	16:00	20:00	16:00	20:00*		
SNOWBOARDING			10:30	15:30*	10:30	15:30*	10:30	15:30*	10:00	15:30*	WEATHER DAY		WEATHER DAY	
SPEEDSKATING	8:00	11:00*	8:30	11:30*	16:30	22:30*			8:00	14:00*	8:00	14:00*		
TABLE TENNIS					9:00	19:00	9:00	19:00	9:00	19:00	9:00	16:30*		

\* Medal Event  
 - This Schedule is subject to change. Please check [www.awg2018.org](http://www.awg2018.org) for up to date information.  
 - Detailed sport specific schedules can be found at [awg2018.gems.pro](http://awg2018.gems.pro)

## 'Most connected games'

Continued from previous page

highlights, and share what's happening across the participating regions of the circumpolar north.

**Ulu News:** In going through the *Ulu News* archives, I came across a really great ad from Northwestel from the 1980s – the company has a long and

celebrated history with the Games. Can you tell us why this partnership is so important?  
**Shaw:** It's a partnership that we find very rewarding. It connects with our Northern communities, helps provide youth development, and shares Northern culture. Our sponsorship helps ensure the games can operate smoothly – it's great to be able to have the pri-

ivate sector come together with various levels of government to make these Games a reality.

**Ulu News:** What events are you most looking forward to at the Games?  
**Shaw:** We have employees at pretty much all of the events over the next week. I am going to personally try to take in some hockey. It's a

great calibre of competition. I also enjoy attending the Arctic sports: the high kick, the airplane and other events.

Make sure to follow all the action from the Arctic Winter Games on Northwestel's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Northwestel/> and follow them on Twitter on @Northwestel.



photo courtesy of Northwestel

The crew from Northwestel gathers to enjoy some hockey action. Company president Curtis Shaw says Northwestel employees are encouraged to get involved with the Games.

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# Une directrice d'école très heureuse d'être la mairesse du village des athlètes

*'C'est une occasion et une expérience fantastiques! Cela marque l'histoire!'*

Ulu News

Les salles de classe sont vides, les lits superposés sont installés et les chefs-d'œuvre des enfants ornent les murs des corridors afin d'accueillir neuf contingents du Nord circumpolaire. L'école élémentaire JBT est prête à accueillir les participants des Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique 2018.

La femme responsable des préparatifs de l'école est heureuse que les Jeux aient finalement commencé.

Cora America est la mairesse du lieu désigné pour le village des athlètes féminins à Fort Smith, soit l'école élémentaire JBT. America en est la directrice; assumer le rôle de la mairesse du village était donc tout à fait naturel pour elle. Environ 400 athlètes féminins, leurs entraîneurs et leurs chaperons habiteront à l'école pendant les Jeux, et America a hâte de rencontrer tout le monde.

"Tout cela m'emballe depuis le début," commente America au sujet de la tenue des Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique 2018 dans la région de Slave Sud. "C'est une occasion et

une expérience fantastiques! Cela marque l'histoire! Comment pourrais-je ne pas vouloir en faire partie?"

America s'est impliquée dans l'organisation des Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique 2018 dès les premières étapes, soit lorsque des bénévoles de la région de Slave Sud ont soumis leur candidature pour recevoir les Jeux en 2014. Elle s'est d'abord portée volontaire pour aider à mettre sur pied les cérémonies et les remises de médailles à Fort Smith. Cependant, le processus de planification n'a cessé d'évoluer, et il en a été de même pour son rôle.

"Ce bâtiment, c'est mon bâtiment. Il m'est très cher, et je savais que nous aurions besoin du soutien des enseignants pour transformer les salles de classe en dortoirs," déclare America. "Je voulais m'assurer que le processus de transition soit superbe, et que le réaménagement des salles de classe après les Jeux le soit autant."

Elle s'est donc portée volontaire pour être la mai-

resse à l'école JBT. En faisant cela, elle a dirigé les efforts visant à préparer l'école en vue des Jeux, en commençant par recruter Shirley Hehn, enseignante d'éducation physique de l'école, en tant que mairesse adjointe. Les deux femmes ont passé de nombreux mois afin d'aider le personnel et les élèves à s'approprier à céder leur place dans l'école.

Parmi les préparatifs, l'un des faits saillants a été le concert de Noël de l'école, qui a eu lieu en décembre 2017.

Le spectacle avait pour thème les Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique, et les numéros des groupes d'élèves représentaient chacun des neuf contingents qui participent aux Jeux.

"C'était notre façon de faire parler les gens, de donner vie à l'effervescence entourant les JHA," explique America. "C'était important pour nous de faire savoir aux enfants et à leur famille ce qui se venait et ce qui se passait, pour que nos élèves sachent qui allait se trouver

dans leurs salles de classe."

Depuis très longtemps, la famille d'America participe aux Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique, mais pour notre directrice, c'est la première fois où elle joue un rôle crucial.

"J'ai vécu l'expérience des JHA de façon indirecte par l'intermédiaire de mon conjoint et de mes filles. Et maintenant, voici ma chance de la vivre directement," dit-elle.

Roger Vail, le conjoint d'America, est le président du sport du ten-

nis de table pour les JHA 2018. Lors des éditions précédentes des Jeux, il a été l'entraîneur de l'équipe des Territoires du Nord-Ouest pour les disciplines des jeux dénés et du soccer. Il a également participé aux Jeux en tant qu'athlète (biathlon en raquettes) et en tant que membre du personnel de mission. Les deux filles du couple ont toutes les deux participé à des Jeux antérieurs. En 2016,

Kiah Vail était hockeysteuse pour l'équipe des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, tandis que Delanie Vail faisait partie de la formation de l'équipe de soccer en 2012, toujours pour l'équipe des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Delanie était une jeune ambassadrice aux JHA

2014, et pour cette édition 2018 des Jeux, elle fait partie du personnel des sports et des lieux. On peut donc dire que ces Jeux sont vraiment une affaire familiale.

Même si America occupe un rôle d'organisatrice au sein des JHA pour la première fois cette année, elle a déjà pris part à un événement multisport. En effet, elle était de la partie lors des Jeux autochtones de l'Amérique du Nord (JAAN) à Winnipeg, au Manitoba, en 2002. Cette expérience a façonné son appréciation envers la manière dont les événements multisports sont une source

d'inspiration pour les jeunes.

"Je sais que mon expérience aux JAAN était incroyable", dit-elle. "Je veux revivre cette expérience, être entourée de jeunes actifs et en santé. C'est si inspirant de se trouver dans cet environnement."

Pendant les Jeux, America désire discuter avec le plus de participants que possible, et elle a hâte d'entendre les histoires des participants concernant leur expérience aux Jeux.

Elle souhaite avoir la chance d'assister à certaines des épreuves sportives à Fort Smith, y compris le hockey féminin, le surf des neiges et le tennis de table. Le gymnase de l'école JBT accueillera la compétition de tennis de table.

"Je suis si enchantée de me trouver en présence de jeunes femmes en santé," se réjouit America.

"De jeunes femmes autochtones ravissantes qui prennent leurs sports au sérieux; de jeunes femmes puissantes qui débordent d'esprit de compétition. Je suis ravie!"



**Cora America**

*"Cela marque l'histoire!"*

Cora America

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# School principal thrilled to be mayor of female athletes' village

*'Look at this amazing opportunity and experience! It's history-making,' says Cora America*

Ulu News

The classrooms are cleared out, the bunk beds set up, and the hallway walls are decorated with children's artwork welcoming nine different contingents from all over the circumpolar North.

Joseph Burr Tyrrell Elementary School is set to host participants for the 2018 Arctic Winter Games.

The woman behind the school's preparations is excited the Games have finally arrived.

Cora America is the venue mayor of the female athletes' village in Fort Smith, which is located at Joseph Burr Tyrrell Elementary School.

America is the school principal, so taking on the role of venue mayor was a natural fit.

Close to 400 female athletes and their coaches and chaperones will be staying at the school during the Games, and America is looking forward to meeting every one.

"I've been very excited about it from the start," America says about hosting the 2018 Arctic Winter Games in the South Slave region.

"Look at this amazing opportunity and experience! It's history-making. Why wouldn't I want to be a part of that?"

America has been



photo courtesy of the Arctic Winter Games Host Society

**Cora America is mayor** of the female athletes' village at the 2018 South Slave Arctic Winter Games.

involved in the 2018 Arctic Winter Games since the inception, when volunteers in the South Slave submitted the bid for the Games in 2014.

She initially signed on to help organize ceremonies and medal presentations in Fort Smith. However, as the planning process evolved, so did her role.

"This is my building that I hold dear and I knew we also needed teacher support to transform it into dormitories," America says.

"I wanted to make sure

the building is turned over in a beautiful way and returned back in the same fashion."

So she volunteered to be the venue mayor at Joseph

Burr Tyrrell.

In doing so, she has led the effort to prepare the school for the Games, including recruiting school gym teacher Shirley Hehn as her venue deputy mayor.

Both women have spent the last several months helping staff and students get ready to hand over their spaces in the school.

One of the highlights of the preparations was the school Christmas concert in December 2017.

The theme was Arctic Winter Games, and class performances represented each of the nine contingents who take part in the Games.

"That was our attempt to start getting people talking and build the hype around AWGs," says America.

"That was important to us for kids and their families to know what was coming and what was happening so our kids know who is coming into their classrooms."

America's family has a long history of participation in the Arctic Winter Games, but this is her first time having an integral role in the Games.

"I've lived the AWG experience vicariously through my husband and daughters, and here is my opportunity to live it firsthand," she says.

America's husband,

Please see **next page**

# 'I want to be a part of that again, of being surrounded by healthy, active youth'

Continued from previous page

Roger Vail, is the sport chair for Table Tennis for the 2018 AWG.

In previous Games, he coached Team NWT Dene games and soccer teams. He has also participated as an athlete in snowshoe biathlon and he has been part of mission staff.

The couple's two daughters have both competed in

previous Games.

In 2016, Kiah Vail played for Team NWT female hockey and Delanie Vail played for Team NWT soccer in 2012.

Delanie was a youth ambassador at the 2014 AWG, and is a sport and venue staff for the 2018 AWG. So these Games really are a family affair for them.

While these may be her

first AWGs in an organization role, America has been part of a multi-sport event before.

She participated in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Winnipeg in 2002, and the experience shaped her

active youth

– it's so inspiring for how multi-sport events motivate young people.

*"It's history-making."*

*Cora America*

"I know my NAIG experience was incredible, she says. "I want to be a part of that again, of being surrounded by healthy, active youth – it's so inspir-

ing to be a part of that environment."

During the Games, America expects to have conversations with as many participants as possible, and she is looking forward to hearing stories about the participants' experiences throughout the Games.

She is hoping to watch some sport competitions in Fort Smith, including female hockey, snowboarding, and

table tennis.

The gymnasium in Joseph Burr Tyrell is the venue for table tennis.

"I am so excited to be in amongst healthy young women," America says.

"Beautiful, Indigenous young women who are serious about their sport – powerful young women who have that competitive edge.

"I'm thrilled!"

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# Hard matches on the badminton courts



**Daryle Iqaluq reaches** to return a shot against a Greenland opponent on Wednesday morning.

Dylan Short/NNSL photo

## Mixed results for Team Nunavut so far at 2018 Arctic Winter Games

**by Dylan Short**

Northern News Services

Midway through the week, Team Nunavut is finding mixed results on the badminton court.

"I haven't won any games yet, but I'm still having fun," Carla Kaayak said after a hard-fought match against a strong Greenland opponent.

Kaayak's coach, Amber Tagaliq, says even though some members of the team are struggling to find victory on the court, they've found success in many other ways at the Games.

"That's the most important thing when it comes to the Games," Tagaliq said. "When you make it this far, it's all about using what we trained

them (to do) and keeping the momentum going."

Although Kaayak, a junior female competitor, hadn't won her matches yet this week, it doesn't mean she should be counted out. Last summer she was able to earn herself a bronze medal at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), proving that she can be a strong competitor at the AWG.

Across the gym at Princess Alexandra Elementary School, the Team Nunavut duo of Daryle Iqaluq and Mike Kavik were able to push Team Greenland to the brink before ultimately dropping the junior male match in the third set, showing that Team Nunavut is a contender at these Games.

"The kids are doing very well," said coach Stephen Keoughan, "and if they win medals that's great."

While the team's goals are to compete and have fun,

Keoughan is hoping to surpass the badminton ulu count tallied in Greenland two years ago, which saw Nunavut bring home five in total, three bronze and two silver.

So far, it appears that Team Nunavut could be on track to do just that.

Three athletes on the team have placed in the top three of their pools in singles play,

heading into the playoffs later in the week. One of those athletes is Derrick Levi Akeagok who currently sits atop his pool, undefeated with five wins and zero losses.



Dylan Short/NNSL photo

**Daryle Iqaluq receives** instruction from Nunavut head coach Stephen Keoughan during a timeout against Team Greenland.

# Hay River



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# Arctic Bay sends real drums to AWG

*Nunavut's only Dene Games drops music in preparation for Hay River competition*

by Michele LeTourneau  
Northern News Services

This year, Arctic Bay prepped for the Arctic Winter Games a bit differently.

Along with the usual training came an unusual clinic – Dene drum-making – and the timing couldn't have been better as the workshop took place the week leading up to the games in Hay River.

Yukon coach Doronn Fox, whom Arctic Bay's long-time recreation coordinator Thomas Levi has known since 2004, headed east for the workshop.

"I've been trying to get him up here since September and we finally did," Levi said.

Levi started Nunavut's first-ever Dene Games team in 2004.

Please see **page 17**



photo courtesy of Thomas Levi

**Arctic Bay remains the only** Nunavut community to send Dene Games competitors to the Arctic Winter Games. The junior girls, accompanied by drums newly made during a workshop last week, practise before their departure to Hay River. Playing hand games, from left, Kristine Oyukuluk, Rayglie Attagutsiak, Crystal Enoogoo and Elvina Natanine. Drummers, from left: Susie Shooyook, Noah Qaunaq, Andrew Reid and Tom Naqitarvik.

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# 'You could say he was The Hockey Dad'



Northwest Territories' female hockey players Dakota Earle, left, Regan Bulger, Sarah Flemming and Sahara Lafferty pose for a photo outside the Fort Smith arena after playing Alaska on Wednesday night. The team has been rallying around Bulger, whose dad Carl Bulger died suddenly earlier this month.

Cody Punter/NNSL photo

## NT female hockey team rallies behind teammate after her father died earlier this month

by **Cody Punter**  
Northern News Services

Heading into the semifinals on Thursday, the Northwest Territories' Arctic Winter Games female hockey team has their eye on repeating their gold performance from the Games in Nuuk.

While defending their title is important to the players, they have also been focused on rallying behind teammate Regan Bulger, whose dad Carl Bulger died suddenly earlier this month.

The news sent shockwaves through the hockey community in Yellowknife, where the 14-year-old Regan is from. Since the news broke, Regan's teammates have been doing all they can to support her on and off the ice.

"We're just trying to be as

strong as we can for Regan right now," said Sarah Flemming, who plays on the same midget team as Regan in Yellowknife.

Carl was a well-known athlete and a huge supporter of youth sports in the family's hometown. Among other things, he was a long-time sponsor of minor hockey, including the midget team that several of the NWT girls currently play on.

"Every game and every practice he came and supported every single one of us girls. He cheered, he would give us great advice. He was just the man," said Flemming. "You could say he was 'The Hockey Dad.'"

To show their support for Regan, each girl is sporting a sticker on the back of their hel-

metts which reads "Carl #13." The only exception is Regan whose sticker reads "Daddy's girl."

After a tough 4-2 loss against Alaska on Wednesday night, Regan said the support from her teammates has meant the world to her.

"It's been really difficult so it's really nice to have the team behind me and helping me push through this," she said.

Assistant coach Kaylee Grant said Regan has been showing tremendous poise on an off the ice, given the circumstances. She even scored a beautiful goal against Alberta North on Tuesday.

"That was a big goal for her," Grant said. "The girls were definitely excited."

After finishing 3-1 in the round robin, the Northwest Territories is guaranteed a spot

in Thursday's semifinals. As of publication, the final seeding was yet to be determined with two games left to play.

The girls know it won't be easy to defend their title, especially if they come up against Alaska who had yet to lose in the tournament as of Wednesday afternoon. But when they hit the ice on Thursday, Flemming said the girls will be digging deep to try and

win for Regan. "We're just working that much harder because we want to do it for her, and him (Carl), and for the family," she said.

Regan said getting a medal at the Arctic Winter Games would be a fitting way for the team to finish off the tournament.

"It would mean a lot to win because I know he's watching and he'd be so proud."



Cody Punter/NNSL photo

Regan Bulger shows the sticker honouring her dad's memory outside the Fort Smith arena on Wednesday night. All the other girls on the team are sporting stickers reading "Carl #13," to honour the memory of Regan Bulger's father.

Northern *North*MART

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# L'Alberta Nord blanchit tout sur son passage



Christopher Mathison (1), à gauche, Dane Dupuis (7) et Braden Johnston (12) regardent le ballon alors que Daniel Ives, à droite, tente d'y parvenir lors de l'action de volleyball masculin au Hay River Curling Club mercredi.

"Si nous pouvons les battre un moins un set, nous serons contents"

par Denis Lord  
Ulu News

L'équipe de l'Alberta Nord a poursuivi sa domination

absolue en battant ses rivaux des Territoires du Nord-Ouest en trois sets consécutifs le 21 mars.

L'Alberta n'a pas perdu un seul de ses 12 sets (quatre matchs) jusqu'à présent et l'équipe a de claires aspira-

tions au ulu d'or. Le match avait pourtant bien commencé pour l'équipe ténnoise, qui avait pris les

devants par une marge confortable. Mais celle-ci s'est rétrécie et leurs rivaux l'ont emporté 25-19.

L'Alberta Nord n'a jamais été en danger dans les sets suivants, qu'elle a remportés chaque fois 25-10.

L'équipe des Territoires s'est battue jusqu'à la fin mais elle a mal jugé trop de coups, alors que de l'autre côté du filet, l'Alberta était non seulement efficace mais réussissait des coups improbables.

En entrevue avec Ulu News avant le match, le joueur de Yellowknife Félix Flamand avait avoué que le match serait difficile.

"Ça va être dur, avait-il prédit, ils n'ont pas perdu une seule partie."

"Nous avons regardé certaines de leurs pratiques et de leurs parties, observé leurs meilleurs joueurs pour prendre leurs tactiques."

"Si nous pouvons les battre un moins un set, nous serons contents. Nous serions la seule équipe à avoir

réussi ça." Les semi-finales commencent le vendredi 23 mars. L'équipe ténnoise pourrait se mériter une médaille, selon Félix Flamand, dont l'équipe, à ses dires, a graduellement pris son envol après un début "assez faible."

"Notre but, explique-t-il, est de rester en seconde position pour pouvoir affronter des équipes plus faibles en semi-finale et ensuite aller plus loin."

"Ça serait être moins dur que de jouer contre l'Alberta. Pour ça, il faut qu'on continue à jouer comme il faut."

L'étudiant de l'école St.Patrick apprécie son tournoi.

Il a eu l'occasion de fraterniser avec quelques personnes de l'Alaska et du Groenland, utilisant un peu de gestes dans ce dernier cas.

Facebook et courriels sont mis à profit pour de futurs échanges de vêtements, après la cérémonie de fermeture.

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**JEUX D'HIVER DE L'ARCTIQUE SOUTH SLAVE 2018 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES**

## TOWN OF HAY RIVER

HAY RIVER VENUE LOCATIONS / ENDRITS OÙ AURONT LIEU LES JEUX - HAY RIVER

- BADMINTON**  
Princess Alexandra School, 56 Woodland Drive & Harry Camshell Elem. School, 54 Woodland Drive
- BIATHLON SKI**  
Hay River Ski Club  
25003 Fairway Drive
- BIATHLON SNOWSHOE / BIATHLON RAQUETTES**  
Hay River Ski Club  
25003 Fairway Drive
- DENE GAMES / JEUX DÉNÉS**  
Chief Lamalice Complex  
K'atloodeeche First Nation
- DOG MUSHING / TRAINÉAU À CHIENS**  
On the Hay River in K'atloodeeche First Nation  
Dene Village Road
- FUTSAL**  
Diamond Jenness Secondary School  
58 Woodland Drive
- GYMNASTICS / GYMNASTIQUE**  
Rowe's Construction Head Office  
25 Studney Drive
- HOCKEY**  
Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre  
73 Woodland Drive
- SNOWSHOEING / RAQUETTE**  
Hay River Ski Club  
25003 Fairway Drive
- VOLLEYBALL**  
Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre  
73 Woodland Drive
- WRESTLING / LUTTE**  
Rowe's Construction Head Office  
25 Studney Drive

**AWG CULTURAL LOCATIONS / LIEUX CULTURELS DES JHA**

- CENTENNIAL LIBRARY (BIBLIOTHÈQUE)
- CHIEF SUNRISE GYMNASIUM (MARKETPLACE)

**AWG POINTS OF INTEREST / POINTS D'INTÉRÊT POUR LES JHA**

- AWG FLAME (FLAMME DES JHA)
- BONFIRES (FEU DE CAMP)
- CINEMA (CINÉMA)
- SWIMMING POOL (PISCINE)
- MEDIA CENTRE (CENTRE DES MÉDIAS)
- VOLUNTEER / ACCREDITATION CENTRE (BÉNÉVOLES / CENTRE D'ACCREDITATION)
- MISSION OFFICE (BUREAU DES MISSIONS)
- HOSPITAL / POLYCLINIC (HÔPITAL / POLYCLINIQUE)
- VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE (BUREAU DES PARCS / RENSEIGNEMENTS TOURISTIQUES)
- ICLOO (ICLOO)
- POST OFFICE (BUREAU DE POSTE)
- POLICE (POLICE)
- LAUNDRY (BLANCHERIE)
- AWG MERCHANDISE (MARCHANDISE DES JHA)
- PIN TRADING CENTRE (CENTRE D'ÉCHANGE DES ÉPINGLETTES)

# 'Like everything else you have to prepare'

Continued from page 14

"Ever since then, every two years, Arctic Bay is the only team that's been registering from Nunavut. Every two years we usually have full teams for junior girls, junior boys, juvenile girls and open males," he said – a far cry from 2004, when Levi only managed to put together an open males team.

Dene Games are similar to Arctic sports. The events include the finger pull, snowsnake, stick pull, hand games and pole push, and an all-round event based on scores from the combined individual categories.

"In the past, what we used to do is listen to music through an iPod to do hand games. Since this fall, I believe, a person

by the name of Rex Willie started a drum clinic in this town to make drums, and he's been doing games on the weekend on Sundays to do hand games," said Levi.

Hand games involves the hiding and guessing of objects using elaborate hand signals and gestures to both find and hide the object.

Fox taught participants how to make proper Dene drums, which typically accompany the hand games. Six drums were built.

The drum-making was open to everybody in the community.

Levi said it's hard work. "I thought it was going to be simple, but like everything else you have to prepare. We had to wet (the hides), scrape them,

put proper holes in the caribou skin. Then it took two days to get that drum fixed properly. On the third day we did the final finish," he said.

Fox then spoke of how the drum is respected by the Dene. "It's been a very good week, and a learning experience, too," said Levi.

"It really was a learning experience for me, doing this. I'm thankful to Doronn for coming to do this clinic, and Rex Willie for doing the hand games. Along with Andrew Reid Jr. – he's been on my team in the past, but he's been really good at volunteering and drumming."

Levi said there's quite a bit of interest in hand games in Arctic Bay, even though there are no Dene.

"We like playing that game," he said.

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# Alberta North still golden in gymnastics



**Aila Spronk of Team Alberta North** competes in the floor routine during the gymnastics team competition on Wednesday.

**Team posts top scores in every event of gymnastics team competition**

by Dylan Short  
Northern News Services

Team Alberta North was the big winner on the first day of gymnastics competition in Hay River.

After three days of watching other sports, it was finally the gymnasts' turn to showcase their skills at the Rowe's Construction Warehouse as the team competition took place Wednesday afternoon.

Alberta North recorded the top score in each of the four events.

"The better a team gets, the better all teams get," said Terry Bateman, the team's head coach after being asked about her contingent's dominance in the competition.

"It's all good competition, healthy competition."

Team Alaska and Team Yukon took home the silver and bronze medals, respectively, as the teams competed in the floor routine, balance beam, vault and uneven bars.

Team Northwest Territories and Team Nunavut fell just short of the podium, taking fourth and fifth place to round out the competition.

The team championship marked the first time a gymnastics competition was held at the Arctic Winter Games

in four years, after the sport was excluded from the 2016 games in Greenland.

Team Alberta North was the defending champion, having won the last team championship at the Fairbanks, AK, Games in 2014.

The girls will make way for wrestlers on Thursday, as the two sports are sharing a venue this week.

The gymnasts return to action on Friday to compete in the individual and all-around competitions.

It won't be as long a wait as when they first arrived in Hay River.

"I kind of forgot why we were here, but now I'm back in the game," said Grayson Reid, a member of triumphant Team Alberta North.



**Grayson Reid of Team Alberta North** poses for the judges in front of a packed house during her floor routine at the gymnastics team competition, held Wednesday.

Dylan Short/NNS, photo

## TOWN OF FORT SMITH

JEUX D'HIVER DE L'ARCTIQUE SOUTH SLAVE 2018 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

**FORT SMITH VENUE LOCATION / ENDROITS OÙ AURONT LIEU LES JEUX - FORT SMITH**

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King Street
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Fort Smith Recreation Centre  
King Street
- CROSS COUNTRY SKIING / SKI DE FOND**  
Fort Smith Nordic Centre  
Highway 5 East
- CURLING**  
Fort Smith Recreation Centre  
King Street
- FIGURE SKATING / PATINAGE ARTISTIQUE**  
Fort Smith Centennial Arena  
13 Rupert Avenue
- HOCKEY**  
Fort Smith Centennial Arena  
13 Rupert Avenue
- SNOWBOARDING / SURF DES NEIGES**  
Riverside Park  
Fort Smith
- SPEED SKATING / PATINAGE DE VITESSE**  
Fort Smith Centennial Arena  
13 Rupert Avenue
- TABLE TENNIS / TENNIS DE TABLE**  
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**AWG CULTURAL LOCATIONS / LIEUX CULTURELS DES JHA**

- 1 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL
- 2 UNCLE GABE'S FRIENDSHIP CENTRE (MARKETPLACE/SHOPS)
- 3 NORTHERN LIFE MUSEUM (WORKSHOPS/ATELIERS)

**AWG POINTS OF INTEREST / POINTS D'INTERET POUR LES JHA**

- 8 AWG FLAME (FLAMME DES JHA)
- 9 MEDIA CENTRE (CENTRE DES MEDIAS)
- 10 VOLUNTEER/ACCREDITATION CENTRE (BUREAU DES BENEVOLES/CENTRE D'ACCREDITATION)
- 11 MISSION OFFICE (BUREAU DES MISSIONS)
- 12 SWIMMING POOL (PISCINE)
- 14 PARKS OFFICE / TOURIST INFO (BUREAU DES PARCS/INFORMATIONS TOURISTIQUES)
- 15 ROARING RAPIDS HALL
- 17 LAUNDRY (BLANCHISSERIE)
- 18 POST OFFICE (BUREAU DE POSTE)
- 19 POLICE (POLICE)
- 20 HOSPITAL / POLYCLINIC (HOSPITAL/POLYCLINIQUE)
- 21 AWG MERCHANDISE (MARCHANDISE DES JHA)
- 22 PIN TRADING CENTRE (CENTRE D'ECHANGE DES EPINILLETES)

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# Futsal players kick it in Hay River



**Raymond Burke, left, Jordan Green and Cooper Hamlett** are part of the junior boys futsal squad from Alaska at this year's 2018 Arctic Winter Games.

James McCarthy/NNS, photo

**Trio of Alaskan players get acclimatized with surroundings at Arctic Winter Games**

by James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

Wherever the Arctic Winter Games are held, there's always a crop of young people who are making their first trip to a community.

That's the case for three young futsal players from Alaska. Raymond Burke, Jordan Green and Cooper Hamlett spent some time with Ulu News to give their thoughts

about Hay River. Of course, they came to the media centre not expecting to do an interview but rather to get the coveted media pin, which Green snagged in exchange for having a chat.

Hamlett hails from Anchorage and said Hay River is a lot smaller than his hometown.

"There's no mountains

You are driven to achieve

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Please see next page

# 'I want to meet lots of different people,' says athlete

Continued from previous page

here," he said. "I was kind of expecting it."

Hamlett described Diamond Jenness Secondary School as rather tight quarters for futsal.

"It's smaller than we're used to," he said.

Green agreed.

"It's a tight space but it's going to test our ability in playing futsal," he said.

This is Green's second Arctic Winter Games; he played in the 2016 AWG in Green-

land, where he was a member of the state's juvenile boys team.

Other than the size difference between the communities, he said the experience in Hay River is, in some ways, reminiscent of Nuuk, the host city for the 2016 AWG.

"There's the atmosphere, the buses travelling around and lots of people walking around," he said.

This is Burke's first Games and he was in the same boat as Hamlett regarding geography.

"I was expecting to see mountains, it's real-

ly flat," he said. "Besides that, it's really cozy and and lots of people around and that's cool."

Alaska faces the same issues a lot of teams encounter when preparing for the Games in that practices are few and far between because of the distance between communities.

"Outside of the Arctic Winter Games team, there's some other programs that a lot of us play with each other in," said Green.

"Our chemistry is strong on that but we didn't get a lot of time to train with our coach for the Games."

Beyond futsal, the trio are soaking up as much of the atmosphere as they can. Burke said that includes learning about different cultures.

"I've always been interested in that and I enjoy that," he said. "I want to meet lots of different people. We already saw the Russian team and traded pins with them and it was cool to see them. It's really cool to be around people from Canada and Greenland and be in the same place as so many people from around the world. I think it's special that way."

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# #AWG2018 CULTURAL SCHEDULE

HAY RIVER	DAY 1 SUNDAY, MARCH 18	DAY 2 MONDAY, MARCH 19	DAY 3 TUESDAY, MARCH 20	DAY 4 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21	DAY 5 THURSDAY, MARCH 22	DAY 6 FRIDAY, MARCH 23	DAY 7 SATURDAY, MARCH 24
OPENING CEREMONIES	18:00-19:00 (Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre)						
CLOSING CEREMONIES							16:00 - 17:00 (Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre)
EXHIBITS (Centennial Library)		10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	
WORKSHOPS (Centennial Library)		1:30 - 3:30 Traditional Bracelet		10:30 - 12:00 Fishscale Art		10:30 - 12:00 Fishscale Art	
PERFORMANCES	10:00 Kole Crook Fiddlers (Arena Foyer)	13:00 Lyca Capulso (Whispering Willows)  15:00 Jessica Latour & Bailey Mackie (Whispering Willows)	10:00 Moses Butt (Arena Foyer)	11:00 Mark Lyon (Whispering Willows)  20:00 - 23:00 Brother Inlaw Band (Legion Club Room)	19:00 - 21:00 KFN Drummers, Katloedeche Family, Linda Duford (KFN Arbor)	20:00 - 23:00 Mark Lyon, Old Skool, Linda Duford and The Sociables, 5/3 Mad (Back Eddy)	11:00 Maxence w/ French Artists (Arena Foyer)
FORT SMITH							
CULTURAL GALA						18:00-20:00 (St. Josephs Cathedral)	
EXHIBITS (Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre)		10:00 - 20:00	10:00 - 20:00	10:00 - 20:00	10:00 - 20:00	10:00 - 20:00	
WORKSHOPS (Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre)		15:30 - 17:00 Sealskin Oopik  18:30 - 20:00 Acrylic Painting	15:30 - 17:00 Dene Pin Dene Game  18:30 - 20:00 Beading Basics	15:30 - 17:00 Acrylic Painting  18:30 - 20:00 Sealskin Oopik	15:30 - 17:00 Beading Basics  18:30 - 20:00 Polymer Clay Pendant/Keychain	15:30 - 17:00 Polymer Clay Pendant/Keychain  18:30 - 20:00 Dene Pin Dene Games	
PERFORMANCES		15:00 Matt Coyle 19:00 Teams: Sapmi, NT, Nunavut, Alberata (Roaring Rapids Hall)	19:00 Teams: Yamal, Greenland, Nunavut, Yukon (Roaring Rapids Hall)	17:00 Matt Coyle (Rusty Raven)	19:00 Teams: Yukon, Alaska, Alberta, Krook the Kid (Roaring Rapids Hall)	18:00 - 22:00 Fort Smith Snow Bash (Riverside Park)	

## Pin the title on Pacey

Collector returns to AWG with her assortment of 6,000 pins

by Dylan Short  
Northern News Services

Pin trading at the Arctic Winter Games is already in full swing and in the middle of it all is an NWT resident with a collection of close to 6,000 pins.

Janet Pacey was introduced to pin trading when she put her creativity to work in 2001, prior to attending the 2002 Arctic Winter Games, which were shared by Iqaluit and Nuuk, Greenland. It wasn't an instant hit, she admits.

"In 2001, I was asked to design a pin for the Games and I didn't quite understand what I was doing. I didn't understand the whole concept of pin trad-

ing," says Pacey. "So the next time, the 2002 Games, I got to go to and immediately became addicted."

After the 2002 Games, Pacey kept returning, growing her collection until other commitments forced her to miss the 2014 Games. But due to her notoriety, Pacey was still able to receive pins from the past couple of Games.

"Things just show up in the mail," she says about pin sets from the 2014 and 2016 Games. "So I miss the games physically, but I still get pins."

While pin trading may seem like fun and games, Pacey says she outlines strict rules to any

kids looking to trade with her. "Don't trade for money, make it fair," she advises. "There's a little ulu that the international committee puts out every year and they have a tiny little number on them, so a lot of kids try to pass off a 2008 for 2018, and that's not cool."

While the value of different pins is subjective, at every

Games certain pins become coveted. Although it is early in the week, Pacey says she already has her eye on a certain set.

"I love the dog sledding ones," says Pacey, referring to the Team Alaska set. "I know they only produced a hundred and I know the person that produced them so I know that's true."



Dylan Short/NNSL Photo

The Alaska dog sled pin set is Janet Pacey's early favorite at this year's games



Dylan Short/NNSL Photo

Janet Pacey displays a portion of her 6,000-piece pin collection.

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## Hay River Mayor's Message

Our Recreation Centre has opened and just in time for the Arctic Winter Games!

We are very excited to showcase our new facility and share it with all of the athletes, coaches, families, and visitors. We know that you will be happy to be among the first people to use the Recreation Centre.

Our community has been working hard to make everything ready for the games, sharing the responsibility with our co-host community, Fort Smith and the K'at'l'Odeche First Nation, who will be hosting the Dene Games. The entire South Slave has pulled together and we are proud of all that has been accomplished. We are ready to make the 25th Arctic Winter Games a memorable event for everyone involved.

We welcome the Circumpolar World to Hay River and we hope that you have the best week of sport, friendship and fun. Our community will be a hub of activity during the games and we have all hands on deck. Do not hesitate to ask for assistance or direction around our beautiful town. Many cultural events will be taking place throughout the week for all to enjoy. There will be the frenzy of collectable pin trading at the table that you will find at the Community Centre at the Recreation Complex.

A huge Hay River welcome to all our visitors for the games; I look forward to meeting as many as possible.

Be Fearless. Be Strong. Be True. Find Your Power!

Sincerely,

Mayor Brad Mapes



# Your Adventure Awaits

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