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SOUTH SLAVE 2018
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



ULU NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MARCH 23, 2018



Team Yamal's figure skating masters



Wrestling for the win

ULU COUNT

Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
	29	21	24	74
	25	10	25	60
	6	8	8	22
	12	28	20	60
	5	5	2	12
	8	8	13	29
	3	4	3	10
	25	25	12	62
	23	24	24	71



Serving up ulus

Eight year Lauren Tordiff holds a tray of Gold Ulu medals on March 21. The medal is modeled after the traditional all-purpose knife of the Inuit.

Paul Bannister/NNSL Photo



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Hockey action heats up



James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Alberta North goaltender Thomas Sellin sprawls to keep the puck out as Nunavut's Nahshon Thomas swings and misses at the rebound during the final bantam boys round-robin hockey game at the Northwestel Arctic Winter Games Recreation Centre in Hay River on Thursday.

Nunavut midget squad beats Yukon in a shootout; NWT drubs Alaska in boys semifinals

by **James McCarthy**
Northern News Services

The playoff picture in boys hockey at the Arctic Winter Games became a lot clearer on Thursday.

The final round-robin game in the bantam boys division saw Nunavut score the equalizer with less than a minute remaining and the goaltender pulled to salvage a 3-3 tie with Alberta North. That meant some mathematics had to be done to figure who finished where and who would advance to the playoffs, which began Thursday night.

Alaska ended up tops in the

division and played Alberta North in the first semifinal while Nunavut, who finished third, had a meeting with the Northwest Territories.

Meanwhile in the midget division, Yukon nearly pulled off the upset against Nunavut in the first semifinal but fell 3-2 in a shootout. Yukon held down a 2-0 lead for much of the game, only to see it disappear in the third period. The other semifinal featured the Northwest Territories in a 6-0 romp over Alaska.

That means Nunavut and the Northwest Territories will play for gold tonight at 7 p.m.

Mountain time while Alaska and Yukon will battle for bronze at 1:30 p.m.

On the junior girls side in

Fort Smith, both semifinals were set to take Thursday as Alaska faced off with Yukon in one game while the

Northwest Territories took on Alberta North in the other semi. The winners would move into the gold ulu game

tonight at 6 p.m. Mountain while the two losing teams would play for bronze at 4 p.m.



James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Seth Ningeongan of Nunavut gets himself caught in the net as the puck floats dangerously in front of the goal during midget boys hockey playoff action against Yukon at the Northwestel Arctic Winter Games Recreation Centre on Thursday.

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Soaring to gold in Fort Smith



Team Yukon's Ben Machtans gives a gold ulu performance in the junior male division of the big air event on Wednesday. Machtans rode switch with an edge grab and pulled off a backside 720.

Northern News Services

SNOWBOARD Feature

by Don Jaque

The snowboarders at the Arctic Winter Games know what it feels like to fly.

They soar through the air in the aptly named big air event – hitting a jump, spinning and and grabbing their boards while temporarily defying gravity.

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Syth Charchun of Team Yukon "drops in," which is snowboarder talk for zooming down a very steep slope at a blistering pace to get up enough speed to go off the big air jump and do aerial tricks. Charchun received a junior boys bronze ulu for his performance.



Greenland's Inuk Appelt shows off his big air skills on a crisp, sunny Wednesday morning.



Jamie Pasmore of Team Alberta North won her second gold medal in two days in the junior female division of the big air event. Pasmore had a minor mishap on the hill after the event and was also awarded a pair of crutches to go with her golden smile. Tegan Konge of Team NT took the silver ulu.

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Yamal figure skaters reign supreme

Russian team hauls in 37 ulus, all gold and silver

by **Cody Punter**
Northern News Services

Yamal's figure skaters capped off a dominating Arctic Winter Games performance with a win in the team event on Thursday.

The Russians ended up taking home a gold and silver in every event they competed in, for a total of 37 ulus. The only event where they didn't have the top two spots on the podium was the team competition, where each delegation was only eligible for a single medal.

Every girl on the team won at least two medals, with a handful taking home four golds.

"I will remember this competition for all my life," said Iana Korotkova, 13, who picked up four gold medals at her first Arctic Winter Games.

Korotkova said she was really nervous ahead of the competition because it was her first time leaving Russia. She said she was hopeful to get a medal but was surprised to wind up with as many as she did.

"It's not easy to get that many medals in a year and now I have four in one competition," she said via a translator.

"It was very unexpected."

Coach Afia Babenko, who has coached Yamal's figure skaters at six Arctic Winter Games, said the team is very tight knit because all eight skaters are from the same town of Salekhard.

"In Russia we adore figure skating but especially in our hometown we have a lot of figure skaters and the children love to do it," she said.

In order to make the team, the girls had to try out against 50 skaters from around the Yamal region. In the lead up to the Games, the girls have been training together on and off the ice for nine hours a week.

Three weeks out from the competition, the team even began scheduling their training late at night so the girls would be prepared for the 12-hour time difference between their hometown and Fort Smith.

The only Yamal athlete to end up with a finish lower than second place at the Games was Valeria Nesterova, who added a bronze to her four golds when she competed with Nunavut in the team event. Nunavut wasn't going to be eligible to register for the team competition because they didn't have enough athletes.

But during a coach's meeting prior to the competition each delegation offered an athlete to skate alongside Nunavut's three girls.

Nesterova, 16, said of all the events she competed in, the team event was the most nerve-racking.

"I was more worried about letting down the other team than my own team," she said.

After winning her first four medals, Nesterova said she called her parents at home in Russia.

"My father was very proud and my mother was crying," she said. "All my friends and relatives were very happy for me."



Cody Punter/NNSL photo

Yamal's figure skaters stand together on the podium a final time after winning the team event in Fort Smith on Thursday afternoon. The delegation swept the top spots in every category they competed in during the Arctic Winter Games.



Valeriia Nesterova won four golds and a bronze at her first Games.

Cody Punter/NNSL photo

Yamal's Anastasiia Zbiranik competes in the team event on Thursday afternoon.

Cody Punter/NNSL photo



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New sights and people

Organization offers youth opportunity to work in other countries

Ulu News

When we are young, many of us dream of living and travelling abroad.

The experiences and knowledge we gain can shape the many years that follow, but sometimes it's hard to know where to start. Lucky for us, there's International Experience Canada (IEC).

Overseen by the Government of Canada, IEC manages youth mobility agreements between our country and more than 30 other nations and foreign territories that facilitate work permits specifically for youth. Canadian citizens aged 18-35 are eligible for a work permit (sometimes called a work visa) to work and travel in these countries/territories for up to two years, depending on country-specific requirements.

We spoke with Mackenzie Villeneuve from Fort Smith, Cassidy-Ann Netser from Iqaluit and Harish Cassie from Norman Wells after a workshop with IEC on what their futures could hold.

Ulu News: Hello Mackenzie, Cassidy and Harish. Thank you for agreeing to an interview today. To start off, had you ever heard about IEC before this workshop or had you thought about working and travelling abroad before today?

Mackenzie: I had never heard of IEC, but I had looked into travelling abroad with my school. I'm going to the University of British Columbia next year, so I was looking on their website a lot and I'm really interested in going to the United Kingdom.

Harish: I thought of travelling abroad, but I hadn't heard of IEC before today but it seems pretty cool!

Cassidy: I had also never heard about IEC before today, but I had been thinking about travelling abroad and working after I've finished my studies in Europe or South America. I've wanted to go to Chile for the longest time.

Please see **next page**



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:

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- **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 doorway to international experience

Continued from previous page

Ulu News: Do you think you might want to travel and work abroad in the future?

Cassidy: If I get accepted to the university that I want to go to, there is a European studies program that I want to do that could take me over there to study. I'd want to go to Scotland, for sure!

Mackenzie: When I lived in Victoria last year, I became really good friends with lots of the students from other countries, they were so interested in learning about my First Nations culture and heritage and I was excited to learn more about theirs.

Harish: I want to go to the UK, Argentina or Spain. I want to learn Spanish – so Spain feels like the right place to do that. My family is from Trinidad and Tobago, so it's important to me.

Ulu News: Do you think international experience could help your professional or personal

developments?

Harish: I think so – it would help me see different perspectives.

Mackenzie: I think it's really important to learn about other people and cultures. I also think it's really important to respect others and their contributions to the world. Since I was young, I always wanted to be a doctor and I've dreamed of going to northern Africa to volunteer.

Cassidy: Yes, for sure. I'd learn more about myself – at least I hope I would. I know I'd learn how to be more independent, which is a neat trait to have.

Ulu News: If you were talking with someone about travelling and working abroad, what would you tell them about IEC?

Mackenzie: If you have the opportunity to do it, then just do it. If you don't, you'll be so curious about the world and IEC is a great way to learn about the world and educate yourself.



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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 for up to date information.
 - Detailed sport specific schedules can be found at awg2018.gems.pro

Alberta North grabs finger pull gold

Starr Twin collects her second juvenile girls ulu of the Games

by Dylan Short
 Northern News Services

Alberta North took home the gold ulu in juvenile girls finger pull Thursday morning.

Starr Twin rose to the top of the podium by defeating Team Nunavik's Matilila Tukkiapik at the Chief Lamalce Complex on the Katl'odeeche First Nation Reserve.

"All my adrenaline was kicked in at first, so I was pretty excited and now I'm really happy," Twin said.

Finger pull is an event in which two competitors lock middle fingers and one competitor attempts to pull free from the other's grip.

The two competitors compete in a "first to two" series in which they rotate between offence and defence. On offence, the player attempts to break free while the



Dylan Short/NNSL photo

Zoe Ey, left, of Team Alberta North battles it out against Team Nunavut's Cheryl Tilley in the juvenile female finger pull competition.

defender is attempting to keep her fingers locked without moving.

"On the finger pull, we want to make sure that there is a nice good gentle hook in between the first two knuckles of the finger," explained

head official Peter Daniels. "There's no squeezing of the fingers and when they're pulling it's a straightaway pull. There's no twisting or no jerking and we look for elbows moving."

While the matches for fin-

ger pull are short, with each one lasting a few minutes, many athletes finish the competition shaking their hands in pain. Some of them head straight to the medical booth for relief.

With competitors taking part in up to six matches on the day, Twin said taking care of herself was a top priority.

"It's really sore right now," Twin said of her hand. "But heat makes it better, and then you just have to get your blood flow back into it."

This marks Twin's second ulu of the Games. She won the bronze in stick pull earlier in the week.

For the junior boys, it was Team Nunavik's Naalak Mif-sud winning the gold over Team Yukon's Devon Forrester. Team Alberta North's Jimmy Cardinal rounded out the medal standings in third place.



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No nerves for only Sapmi team at Games in Hay River

Coach of Team Sapmi's intermediate women's futsal team guarantees her squad will get the gold

by Dylan Short
Northern News Services

Being the only athletic representatives for Team Sapmi in Hay River doesn't seem to be affecting the performance of their intermediate female futsal team.

Team Sapmi is one of the smallest contingents at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games, only sending athletes in cross-country skiing and futsal. Since cross-country skiing is located in Fort Smith, the girl's futsal team is on its own in Hay River, adding extra pressure to on a group that is weary.

"We have a lot of pressure, very nervous," said Wanya Blind, the team's head coach.

"It was a long trip, (the players) are tired."

In order to deal with the seven-hour time difference between the Northwest Territories and Norway, winger Agnethe Mathisen revealed that she and her teammates have a simple strategy: "We sleep a lot," Mathisen said. "Right now, shower then nap."

However, spectators at Diamond Jenness Secondary School may not notice the Sapmi players' jet-lag and fatigue. The Sapmi girls lost 2-1 to Team Yukon Monday evening before beating the hometown Team Northwest Territories 7-1.

While Sapmi is guaranteed an ulu due to having

"We have a lot of pressure, very nervous."

Wanya Blind



Wearing red uniforms, Anne Guttrom, right, and teammate Lima Ullen of Team Sapmi jockey for position against Team NT's Meegwan Makletzoff, centre.

only three teams in their division, they have only has one goal in mind.

"We will win," Blind stated on day two of competition,

drawing cheers from Sapmi fans passing by.

Team Sapmi met challenges on Thursday, losing to the Yukon 3-1 and Team NT 4-2,

with their captain sustaining an injury in the latter game.

Team Yukon, as winner of the intermediate girl's double round-robin, will advance

straight to the finals on Saturday.

The Sapmi and NT clubs will face off in a semifinal match this evening.

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Four golds handed out in speed skating



Cody Punter/NL photo

Skaters from the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon get ready to start The Junior Male 777-metre race. From left are Hayden Hickey, Dalton McLeod, Micah Taggart-Cox and Braeden Picek.

Nunavut's Emma Carpenter and Alberta North's Teneea Schoorlemmer remain undefeated so far

by Cody Punter
Northern News Services

Individual short-track speed skating wrapped up with medal races in all the sprint distances on Thursday morning.

In the juvenile female division, Nunavut's Emma Carpenter continued her dominance on the ice with another first-place finish, making for a total of three golds for her at this year's Games.

Carpenter shot out to an early lead with the Yukon's Lisa Freeman hot on her heels.

Freeman tried to make a pass on the inside of the final turn but Carpenter was able

to squeeze her out at the finish.

Freeman took the silver while Brielle Schoorlemmer of Team Alberta North was awarded the bronze.

The juvenile male 400-

metre event set up a showdown between two skaters from the Northwest Territories and two from the Yukon.

Lucas Taggart-Cox, who has been a sensation on the

short track with two golds so far, fell in his semifinal heat, costing him a spot in the medal race. But his twin brother, Caius Taggart-Cox,

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Short-track speed skating action wraps up this morning

Continued from previous page

who had yet to medal in these Games, was one of the four skaters to qualify in his place.

The Northwest Territories' Luke Bizon got himself into the lead off the line and maintained his advantage until the second lap when Taggart-Cox passed him on the inside.

Bizon made a push at the end but Taggart-Cox remained strong coming into the finish for the gold. Bizon earned the silver and NT teammate Kaleb Picek, took the bronze.

In the junior female 777-metre race, Alberta North's Teneea Schoorlemmer blasted off the start line and didn't look back as she cruised to victory after seven laps.

Schoorlemmer has had an impressive Arctic Winter Games, taking home a gold medal in all three events she has competed in so far.

The Northwest Territories' Daphné Cloutier beat out Alberta North's Dori MacLennan for the silver.

The junior male 777-metre was the most hotly-contested race of the morning.

he first five laps saw the Northwest Territories' Braeden Picek jockeying for position with teammate Dalton McLeod and the Yukon's Micah Taggart-Cox.

Picek edged Taggart-Cox in the A semifinal, and seemed determined to add to his medal count of one gold and a bronze.

However, he fell on the second last lap, which left Taggart-Cox and

McLeod to vie for first place.

In the end, McLeod was able to hold off Taggart-Cox for the gold – McLeod's first of the Games after winning two silvers in earlier events.

Nunavut's Hayden Hickey took the bronze.

The team events will wrap up the 2018 Arctic Winter Games in short-track speed skating on Friday morning.



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A grappling good time was had

Individual wrestling ulu handed out on Thursday at Arctic Winter Games

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

Among the gold medal winners in this year's AWG wrestling class is Davey Nakashuk of Nunavut.

He pinned down top spot in the boys 96-kg weight class in Hay River on Thursday.

Nakashuk is a fellow of few words but he admitted that he coveted the gold.

"A gold ulu was my goal and I got it," he said.

All of the weight classes were contested under the round-robin format. Nakashuk prevailed by defeating Cameron Courtoreille of the Northwest Territories, Karl Koester of Alberta North and Andrew Heyano of Alaska.

It's an impressive result considering Nakashuk has only been in the sport for a short time.

"Less than a year," he said. "I don't really practise at home (in Pangnirtung), just (at) the camp we had before leaving."

Josh Nummer of Alaska was also a gold medallist, but his glory came in the boys 78-kg weight class. He was the

best of three wrestlers and won both of his matches handily, very nearly having the perfect: all wins and giving up no points in the process.

"I gave up two points," he said. "One of the guys scored two defensive points on me." The Arctic Winter Games feature freestyle wrestling, which is normally seen at the international level. Nummer is used to folkstyle wrestling, which is very similar to freestyle but differs in that more emphasis is placed on controlling an opponent on the mat. Throws in freestyle wrestling score well but not in folkstyle.

"Freestyle can be faster but it's a spectator sport more than folkstyle," said Nummer. "There's more points given for throws and that, and the referee has a lot more say in freestyle."

Even though Nummer isn't fond of freestyle, he said he enjoyed his time at the Arctic Winter Games and there's something he did grow particularly fond of: "The all-dressed Ruffles you have here in Canada are awesome," he said. "I love them."

Judy Russell of Yukon, top, has a good grip on Morgan Smith of Alberta North during their 65-kg girls wrestling match on Thursday.

James McCarthy/NNSL photo



Josh Nummer of Alaska, bottom, rolls his opponent, Elliot Adams of Nunavut, for two points during their 78-kg match in boys wrestling on Thursday.

James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Des jeux qui gagnent du terrain

'Il y a maintenant une parité entre les équipes'

par Denis Lord
Ulu News

Il n'y a pas tellement de Dénés au Groenland mais ça n'empêche ce pays constitutif de présenter une équipe aux jeux éponymes. Et Paul Boucher en est plutôt fier.

Paul Boucher, originaire de Fort Smith, est l'entraîneur de l'équipe masculine de jeux dénés.

"Ce sont à l'origine des jeux de chez nous, explique-t-il, mais ils se pratiquent aujourd'hui chez beaucoup d'autres peuples. Il y a maintenant une parité entre les équipes. C'est compétitif, mais avec un esprit sportif. Nous nous aidons les uns les autres."

Les médailles sont en effet partagées. Dans la traction du doigt, c'est le Nunavik-Québec qui a remporté la médaille d'or; et dans les fameux jeux de main – plus connus sous le nom de hand games –, le Nunavut s'est mérité la médaille de bronze. Tout de même, un de joueurs entraînés par Paul Boucher, Corbin Michael Sinclair, s'est mérité l'or dans la catégorie traction du bâton, et les jeux ne sont pas encore terminés.

"Nous avons bien fait jusqu'à présent," affirme Boucher.

Paul a joué une trentaine d'années aux jeux dénés,

mais c'est la première qu'il est entraîneur.

Depuis qu'il a été sélectionné en janvier, il suit les huit joueurs de son équipe, qui viennent des quatre coins des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, de Fort Smith jusqu'à Aklavik en passant par Deline et Fort Resolution.

Ils ont reçu un devis technique comprenant les règlements et le système de pointage, des instruc-

tions pour l'entraînement. L'entraîneur a été en contact avec eux chaque semaine, mais il croit nécessaire de

préciser que la plupart d'entre eux jouent depuis qu'ils sont jeunes.

Les Jeux d'hiver de

l'Arctique à Hay River semblent un bel événement pour Paul Boucher.

"Les enfants ont du plaisir,

assure-t-il.

"Ils se respectent, ils développent des amitiés magnifiques."



Denis Lord photo

Paul Boucher, originaire de Fort Smith, est l'entraîneur de l'équipe masculine de jeux dénés pour les Territoires de Nord-Ouest.

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The creation of 'Polar Power'

The story behind the 2018 AWG cultural medallions

by April Glaicar
Ulu News

As we near the extinguishing of the flames and savour the last days of this the 25th anniversary of the Arctic Winter Games, we also prepare to celebrate the unique cultures of the nine circumpolar contingents.

This evening the cultural delegations will gather for one last performance at the Cultural Gala hosted in Fort Smith, and I've been asked to share this story with you.

Contingent cultural delegates do not compete for ulus during the week and are presented with a gift of appreciation for their participation. As a lifelong Northerner, Arctic Winter Games fan and an artist, I am incredibly proud to have been selected to design and create the 2018 cultural medallions. My travels in the circumpolar world have introduced me to stunning landscapes, rich cultures, talented and resourceful artists and resilient, beautiful people – all of which brought depth to the design inspiration and intentions in these pieces.

This year's medallions are titled Polar Power, and are a commendation celebrating the journey to self-power that rewards the talents of the 2018

Arctic Winter Games cultural participants while showcasing several diverse and beautiful inspirations found throughout our circumpolar world.

The largest element is a kiln cast glass "journey" symbol with inclusions of Great Slave Lake beach and Slave River bank sand and iridescent glass. These symbolize the waterways (wave and ice) that have been essential for generations of traditional peoples across the North. Mixing the two natural sand elements connects the communities of Hay River and Fort Smith for these Games and thereafter. The subtle colours of the aurora borealis dance above our icy homes.

Crowning the glass is a hand-sculpted replica jackfish vertebrae – created from sterling silver to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Arctic Winter Games while sharing the significance and delicate beauty of marine life in Northern communities and cultures as it provides food, clothing and artisanal materials.

The final material is leather, which simply but powerfully states the strong connection Northern peoples have to the land and wildlife upon it. Throughout history, hide has been used to provide



photo courtesy of April Glaicar

April Glaicar was the artist selected to create the 2018 Arctic Winter Games cultural medallions

shelter, clothing, footwear and material for tools. This strand suspends the medallion in balance just as Northerners strive to balance their relationship with the land and their cultures while facing increasing external pressures worldwide.

To all cultural participants: it is my hope that this medallion will always bring you fond memories and the spirit of the Games wherever you may be.



photo courtesy of April Glaicar

There is intricate symbolism represented in the cultural medallions, which celebrate the unified spirit of Games hosts Hay River and Fort Smith.

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Cross-country skiing's unsung heroes



Tor-Bjornar Henniksen talks with a Sapmi skier after she finished her race on Tuesday in Fort Smith. Henniksen is one of two ski technicians responsible for waxing the skis for the Sapmi team.

Cody Punter/NNSL photo

Sapmi's two ski technicians work around the clock to make sure their athletes' equipment is race-ready

by **Cody Punter**
Northern News Services

Halfway through the Arctic Winter Games, the Sapmi may have the fewest medals but there is no doubt they have been a force to be reckoned with in cross-country skiing.

As of Wednesday morning, all the delegation's seven medals – two gold, two silver and three bronze – have been won in the backwoods of Fort Smith's ski club.

While the athletes get all the glory, the team's two ski technicians deserve some credit for making sure the skiers can reach their fullest potential on the race course.

Throughout the Games Tor-Bjornar Henniksen from Norway and Janne Rydry from Finland have been working tirelessly to make sure Sapmi's skis are prepped for each race.

A regular day sees the pair waking up around 5 a.m. to check the weather. They then grab a quick breakfast and drive down to the ski club, which is just on the other side of the NWT/Alberta border. They are responsible for the skis of 24 athletes, which means that most days they're lucky to make it outside of the waxing tent to see the medal ceremonies.

"We eat, we wax, we we

drink, we sleep," said Henniksen. "We're the first ones there and the last ones to leave and when we have time we take a beer."

Making sure the skis are fit for competition is a fine art. Henniksen explained that he and Rydry apply different combinations of grip and glide wax depending on the conditions, the length of the race and the athlete's preference. To help make sure things are just right, they even have a test skier, who will

"We eat, we wax, we drink, we sleep."

Tor-Bjornar Henniksen

ski the course at times throughout the day and report back to Henniksen and Rydry.

Rydry said the conditions in the Northwest Territories are different from in his native Finland, which makes it more challenging to ensure the skis are perfectly tuned. On Tuesday, Rydry said he and Henniksen made a mistake in their calculations, which ended up costing their skiers on the race course.

"The athletes noticed. They know because they were sticking," he said.

With Wednesday being a rest day for the skiers, Henniksen said he and Rydry were looking forward to sleeping in little longer before getting back to the grind for the home stretch of the Games.

"Tomorrow maybe we will wake up at 7 a.m.," he said.



Tor-Bjornar Henniksen from Norway, left, and Janne Rydry from Finland have been working around the clock to make sure the equipment of the Sapmi's 24 skiers is race ready.

Cody Punter/NNSL photo

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AWG gives economy a boost



Hay River craftsperson Antoinette Aylward, left, discusses her work with Stacey Monaco of Palmer, AK, during the Arctic Winter Games Cultural Marketplace at Chief Sunrise Education Centre on the Hay River Reserve.

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Study to determine extent of benefits to region

by Paul Bickford
Northern News Services

Any group of people – large or small – dropping into the South Slave can only be good for the economy. And when about 2,000 people converge for the Arctic Winter Games, the benefits are magnified. By just how much is the focus of a study underway on the economic impact of the Games from March 18 to March 24.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) has hired a consultant to study the Games as they are happening. Ian Legaree, director of sport, recreation and youth with MACA, said such economic impact studies have been done since the 1990s on most games in various jurisdictions. "We're interested in what the economic impact of the Games is on the community that's hosting or the region that's hosting," he said. "So we engaged a professional

firm to conduct the study and tell us what that was." MACA has hired the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance. "They're recognized experts in the field," said Legaree. "They've done Canada Games, Arctic Winter Games and other sports tourism events for many years now." A representative of the alliance is in the South Slave to survey residents and visitors on how much they're spending on hotels, rental cars, gasoline, restaurants and other items. Two local groups are helping do the surveys. In Hay River, it is the fundraising committee for the graduating class of Diamond Jenness Secondary School. In Fort Smith, it is the business class at Aurora College. Legaree noted the study also looks at investments in capital projects that are built largely because of the Games.

Please see **previous page**

Continued from previous page

That would include something like Fort Smith's new snowboarding park, which can also be used by a community for years afterwards. Legaree said a study helps all levels of government determine the impact of their investments in such sports events and projects, and helps plan for the future. A public report will probably be finished by the end of summer, he said, after the financial reports are wrapped up by the Arctic Winter Games.

Previous studies have shown the games elsewhere to be worth the investment. "I'm not aware of a big, major, multi-sport games that hasn't made a significant economic impact," said Legaree. Hay River Mayor Brad Mapes said there is definitely a positive economic impact from the AWG, although he is thinking mostly in the long term. "When you're looking at economic development growth, you look at the fact that there are a lot of people that have come to the Arctic Winter Games," he said. "A lot of them would

probably never come to Hay River. Now they're here and we can showcase what we have, and look forward to seeing them come back in the future." Mapes noted he plans to return to Nuuk, Greenland, after first visiting there for the Arctic Winter Games. The AWG also helps build capacity, he added. "It shows what our community can actually do." In Fort Smith, Denise Yuhas, president of the Thebacha Chamber of Commerce, has

seen more economic activity from an influx of people for the Games. "People seem to be really busy and there are lots of people moving around, and probably bringing a good chunk of cash with them, and lots of shopping bags going down the street," she said. "So that's all a good thing." Georgina Fabian, a craftsperson on the Hay River Reserve, said the Arctic Winter Games Cultural Marketplace has helped her sales. However, it is enjoyable to just meet visitors and talk about the crafts, she said. "And I tell them stories behind it."

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Arctic Winter Games makes the news

Media from various Arctic nations covering event

by Paul Bickford
Northern News Services
Fifty-eight accredited members of the media from all of the represented AWG countries are reporting on the 2018 Games.

Heather Hintze, a reporter/photographer for television station KTVA in Anchorage, is among them. "Arctic Winter Games is huge for Alaska," she said, noting the state has sent a

large team and often hosts events for Indigenous athletes. "There are a lot of Native games that are being played throughout the year, and so they put together pretty good teams to come to Arctic Win-

ter Games, too." When not providing stories for KTVA, Hintze is media liaison for Team Alaska. "So I'm trying to focus on one big story a day for the TV news side of it," she explained.

"Then I go take pictures and do social media for the team as much as I can." Fort Smith's Sarah Pruy, volunteer media chair with the Games, said organizers knew it was going to be one of the biggest media events ever in the South Slave.

"But compared to other Games, we have fewer media... because we just don't have as much space accommodation-wise," Pruy said.

Many of the visiting media members started their coverage on location in Hay River because the opening ceremonies were held there on March 18. Some then travelled to Fort Smith.

Pruy said some reporters are also doing stories about the towns and their people.

"I think the media are definitely interested not just in sports but also in the cultural contingents and different things going on throughout the week here in Fort Smith and in Hay River," she said.

The host society has set up two media centres for the visiting journalists. They are located at Aurora College in Fort Smith and at the Aurora College Community Learning Centre in Hay River.

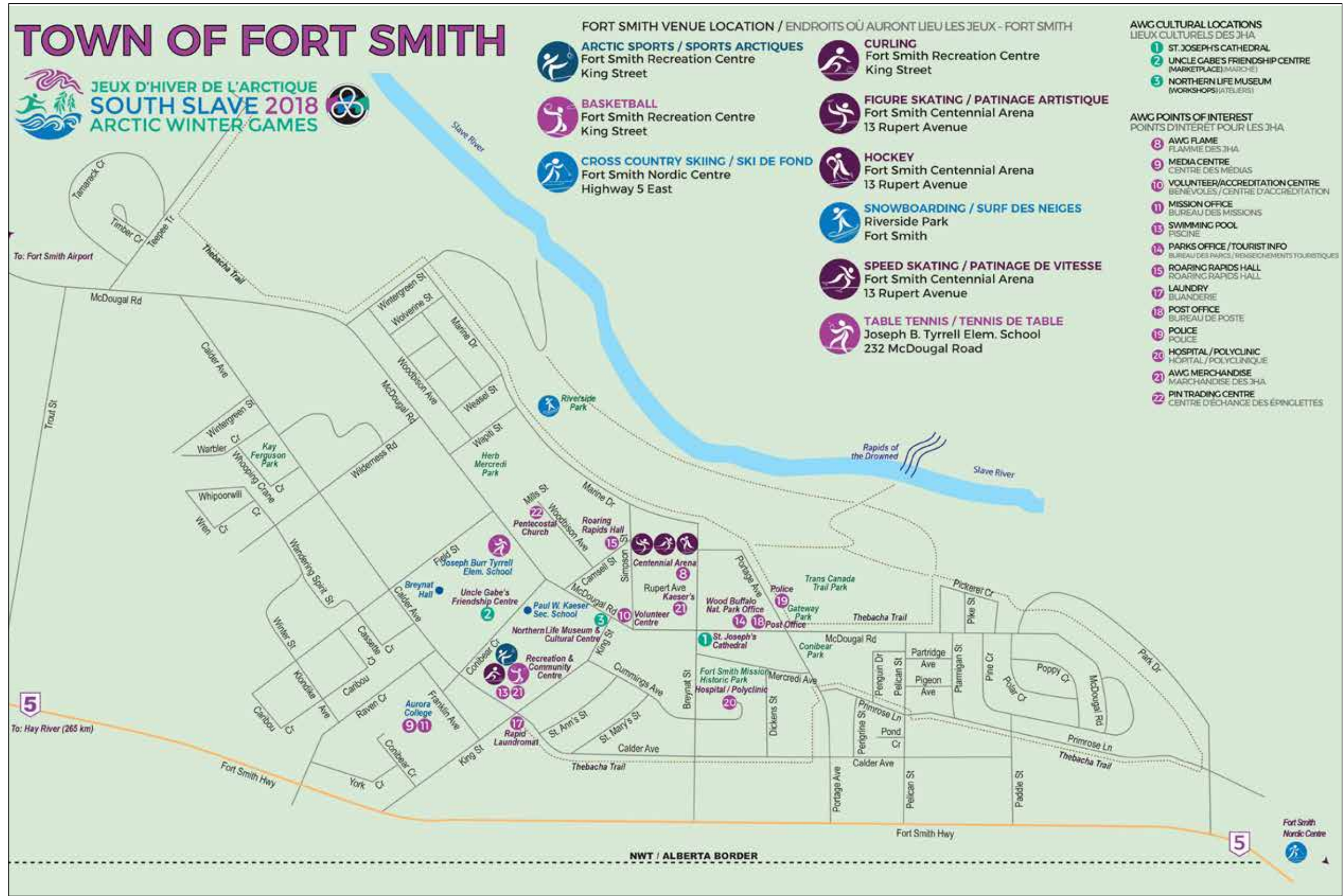
By day two of the Games, about 35 people had used the media centre in Hay River, said Marie-Eve Larocque, the social media chair with the games.

"I think we're really lucky to have all the media come in from the different contingents because it just increases our reach of promoting the Games, and that's to everyone's advantage," she said. "I think the more we promote the games outside of the

regions and the contingents, that's a bonus. We want to promote the traditions, the different cultures and sports."

The media centres offer wireless connections, computers, access to a printer, and the latest information and schedules for sports and cultural activities.

"But essentially it's a quiet space where media can write their stories, and have access to Internet and equipment," said Larocque.



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Marie-Eve Larocque, social media chair for the 2018 South Slave Arctic Winter Games, deals with members of the media covering the event.



Heather Hintze, a reporter/photographer for KTVA in Anchorage, Alaska, is in Hay River covering the Arctic Winter Games.

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Volunteers of a different sort

NWT and Nunavut youth ambassadors lend a hand

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

There are hundreds of volunteers from all over the map working at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games.

They're identifiable by the blue jackets they're wearing but there are some other volunteers who are part of a program that has been making the rounds at major events such as this one for

several years.

The NWT and Nunavut Youth Ambassadors programs are once again part of the volunteer force with a total of 20 from the host territory on the ground – 10 in Hay River and 10 in Fort Smith – and 12 more from Nunavut.

Alison Griffin, who's in charge of the Nunavut program at the AWG in Hay River, said the desirable

qualities they sought while recruiting youth ambassadors were community involvement and volunteering in their community and school, along with two reference letters to attest to their character.

"That gave an idea of what through exactly the same

the applicants were like and it helped if they had an interest in sports but that wasn't a make-or-break deal," Griffin said.

Clair Rymer of Fort Resolution and Daniel Manalo of Fort Simpson went

process in the NWT. Both of them said they found out about the program through their schools.

"One of the teachers told me about it," said Rymer. "I had no idea what it was about but it looked really interesting."

Both sets of ambassadors gathered in Yellowknife last November for training.

"Our program is modelled

after the NWT program," said Griffin. "We're hoping to become more constant and get our young people to other events. We were at the North American Indigenous Games and Canada Summer Games last summer."

The ambassadors are just like any other volunteer on the ground with duties to be

Please see **next page**

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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, Katlodeeche 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)	



James McCarthy/ANSL photo

Clair Rymer of Fort Resolution, left, and Daniel Manalo of Fort Simpson are two members of the NWT Youth Ambassadors Program that are volunteering at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games in Hay River.

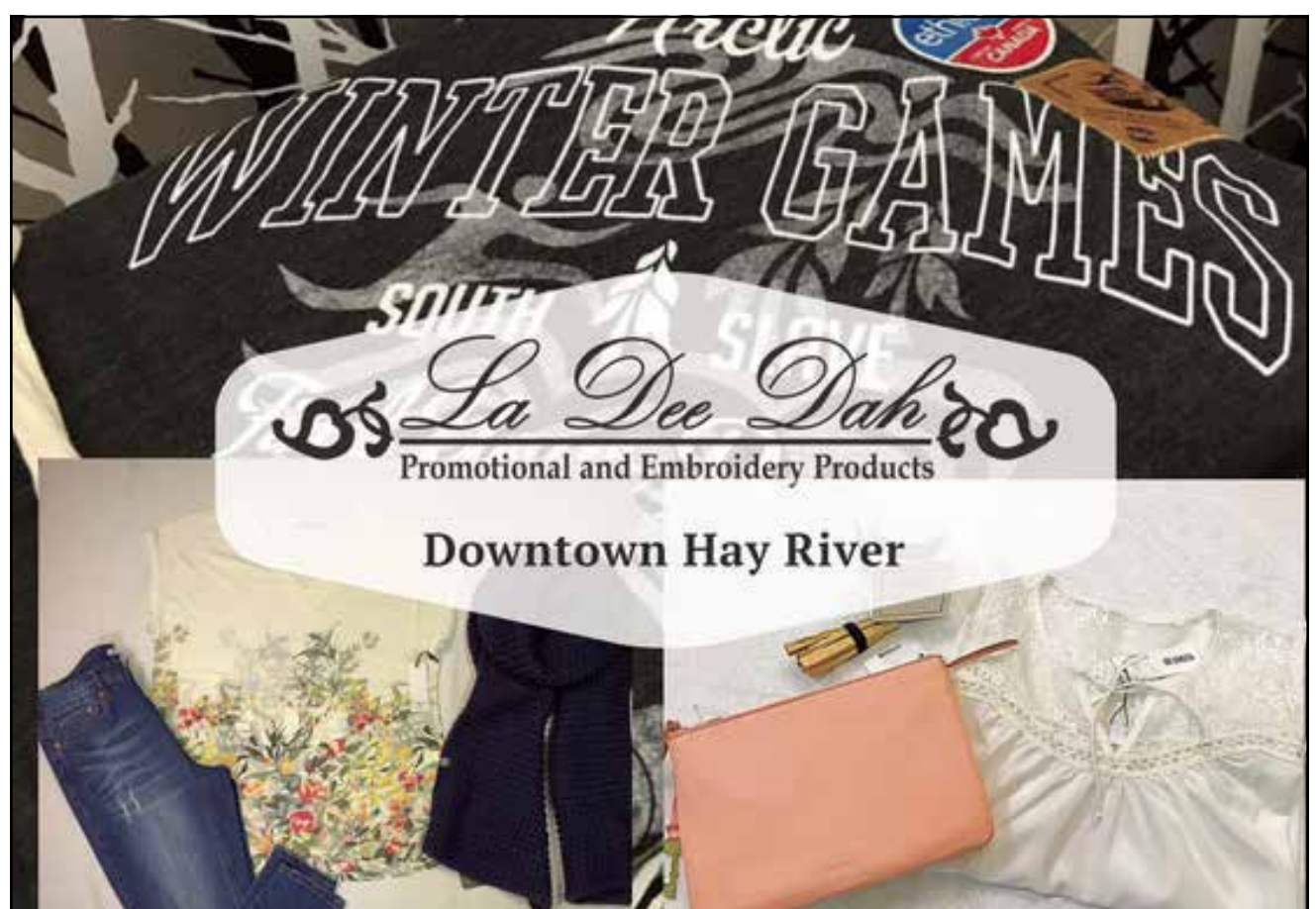
Great times had by all

Continued from previous page
completed each day, including event control, working the cafeterias and helping with event execution.
"It's been a lot of fun," said

Manalo. "The best part of it is meeting people from all over and trading pins."
Rymer agreed.
"The pin trading is the best," she said, "and getting to meet lots of people."

Of course, there is work to be done and Manalo said that's been keeping everyone busy.
"Everything I've done has been awesome," he said.
The Nunavut ambassadors

also seemed to be having a good time, said Griffin.
"They're getting into the swing of things," she said.
"They're all having a great time and everything is going smoothly."



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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



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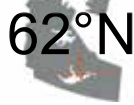
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