



ULU NEWS

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
YELLOWKNIFE 2008

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008

*In today's
ULU news...*

A world of culture

A look at traditional and
contemporary heritage ...
See pages 3, 7, 10, 15

Team Yamal athlete's varied interests

Girls and table tennis
divides love ...
See page 14

Alaska surges in ulu count

A look at the day's
highlights ...
See pages 3, 5, 11

MEDAL COUNT





Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
	39	29	42	110
	27	26	10	63
	20	21	19	60
	16	11	18	45
	7	16	9	32
	6	12	12	30
	5	5	6	16
	4	1	6	11
	3	5	3	11



photo: Mete Foshland

Alexander Montgomery-Andersen of Kalaallit Crew performs at the Arctic Winter Games 2008 Cultural Stage at Tree of Peace Friendship Centre.

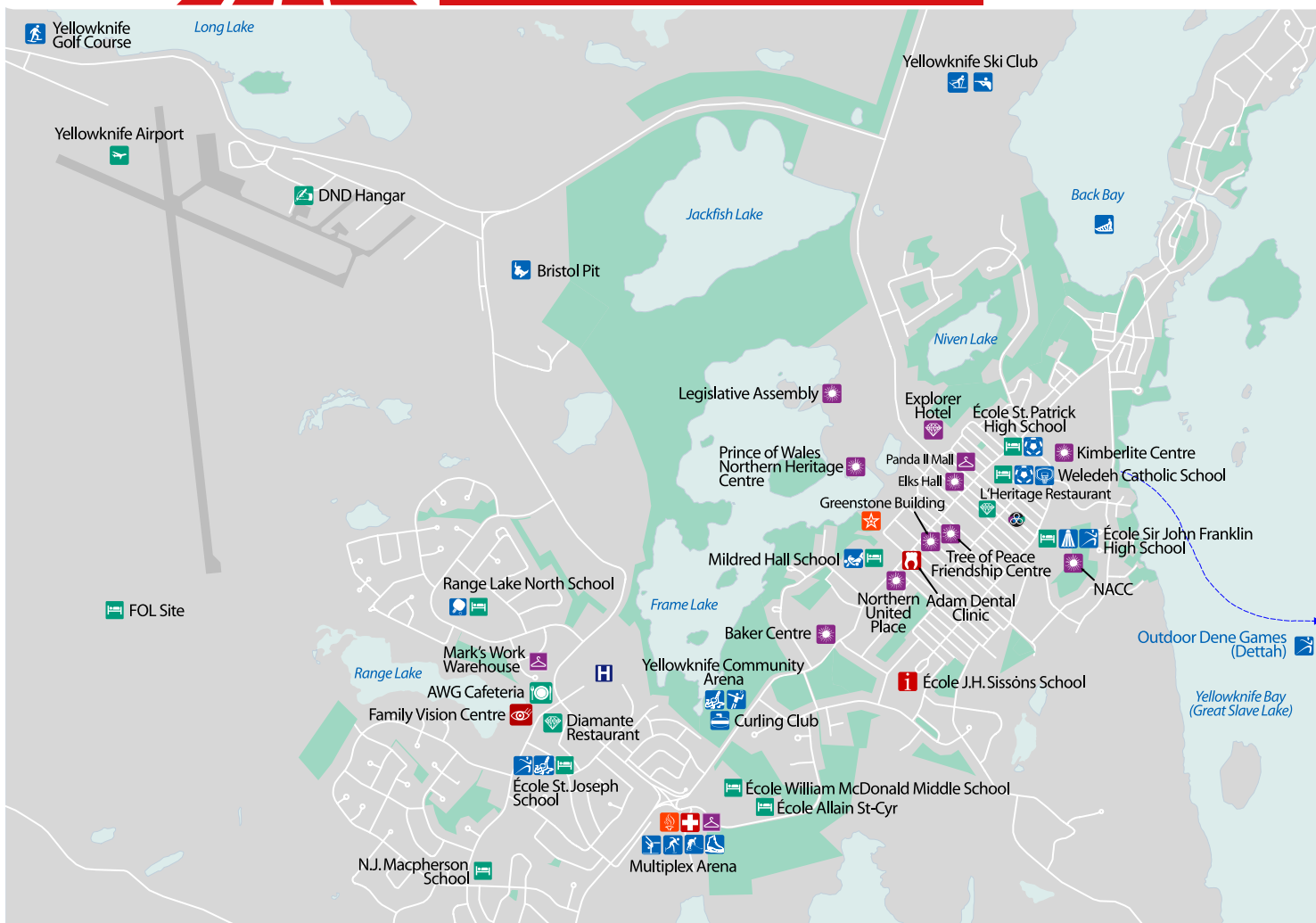
Also inside: a day in pictures • raven hunt • games talk

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VENUE MAP

Map Sponsored By:



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Arctic Winter Games Venues and Events

- Arctic Sports
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Biathlon
- X-Country Skiing
- Curling
- Dene Games
- Dog Mushing
- Figure Skating
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Indoor Soccer
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Speed Skating
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Host Society Office
- Ceremonies
- Athletes Centre
- Arrivals/Departures
- Registration
- Accommodations
- Cafeteria
- VIP Lounge
- Cultural
- Games Gear
- VIP Centre
- Operations Centre
- Polyclinic
- Emergency Dental Clinic
- Emergency Eye Clinic



**ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
YELLOWKNIFE 2008**

SCHEDULE OF SPORTING EVENTS – THURSDAY MARCH 13

ARCTIC SPORTS - St. Joe's Gymnasium and Yk Arena

<i>Preliminaries</i>		
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.	St. Joe's	Jr. One Foot
1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	St. Joe's	Open One Foot
<i>Finals</i>		
6:00p.m.-10:00p.m.	Yk Arena	All One Foot

BADMINTON - Sir John Gymnasium

8:00a.m.-9:00p.m.	Jr. Male/Female, Juvenile Male/Female	Mixed Doubles, Courts 1-4
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BASKETBALL - Weledeh Gymnasium

1:00p.m.-3:00p.m.	Jr. Male	1 vs 4
3:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	Jr. Female	1 vs 4
5:00p.m.-7:00p.m.	Jr. Male	2 vs 3
7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.	Jr. Female	2 vs 3

BIATHLON SKI - Yk Ski Club

2:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	4 x 4.5km Relay Competition
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CROSS COUNTRY SKIING - Yk Ski Club

10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.	Free Distance Mass Start
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CURLING - Yk Curling Club

<i>Playoffs</i>		
9:30a.m.-12:20p.m.	Jr. Male	Game 21: 4 vs 5
	Jr. Female	Game 22: 4 vs 5
2:30p.m.-5:30p.m.	Jr. Male	Game 23: 1 vs 2
	Jr. Female	Game 24: 1 vs 2
	Jr. Male	25: 3 vs Winner of Jr. Male 21
	Jr. Female	26: 3 vs Winner of Jr. Female 22

DENE GAMES - Dettah

<i>Pole Push</i>		
10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.	Jr. Male	
	Jr. Female	
2:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	Juvenile Female	
	Open Male	
4:30p.m.-5:00p.m.	FINALS	

DOG MUSHING - Back Bay

11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.	Juvenile Team	4 Dog, 7.5km
2:00p.m.-3:30p.m.	Co-ed Jr. Team	6 Dog, 10km

FIGURE SKATING - Olympic Ice Surface

1:30p.m.-6:30p.m.	Team Event
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GYMNASTICS - Gymnastics Club

2:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	Women's Individual Competition
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HOCKEY - Shorty Brown and Olympic Ice Surfaces

8:00a.m.-10:00a.m.	Shorty Bantam	NWT vs Alaska
10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	Shorty Female	NWT vs Alaska
<i>Semi Finals #1</i>		
12:00p.m.-2:30p.m.	Shorty Midget	1st vs 4th
<i>Semi Finals #2</i>		
2:30p.m.-5:00p.m.	Shorty Midget	2nd vs 3rd
<i>Semi Finals #1</i>		
5:00p.m.-7:30p.m.	Shorty Bantam	1st vs 4th
<i>Semi Finals #1</i>		
7:30p.m.-10:00p.m.	Shorty Female	1st vs 4th
<i>Semi Finals #2</i>		
7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.	Olympic Bantam	2nd vs 3rd
<i>Semi Finals #2</i>		
9:00p.m.-11:00p.m.	Olympic Female	2nd vs 3rd

INDOOR SOCCER - St. Patrick's Gymnasium

8:00a.m.-9:00a.m.	Juvenile Male	Alaska vs Nunavut
9:00a.m.-10:00a.m.	Juvenile Male	N. Alberta vs Yukon
10:00a.m.-11:00a.m.	Jr. Male	Alaska vs Yukon
11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	Jr. Male	NWT vs Yamal
12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.	Jr. Male	Nunavut vs Greenland
1:00p.m.-2:00p.m.	Jr. Female	Nunavut vs Greenland
2:00p.m.-3:00p.m.	Jr. Female	Alaska vs Yukon
3:00p.m.-4:00p.m.	Juvenile Male	Yukon vs NWT
4:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	Juvenile Male	Alaska vs N. Alberta
5:00p.m.-6:00p.m.	Juvenile Female	Yukon vs NWT
6:00p.m.-7:00p.m.	Juvenile Female	Alaska vs N. Alberta
7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.	Intermediate Female	Alaska vs Yukon
8:00p.m.-9:00p.m.	Intermediate Female	NWT vs Saami
9:00p.m.-10:00p.m.	Intermediate Female	Nunavut vs Greenland

SNOWBOARDING - Bristol Pit

10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.	Big Air
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SPEED SKATING - Olympic Ice Surface

8:00a.m.-1:00p.m.	666m	Juvenile
	777m	Junior

TABLE TENNIS - Range Lake North Gymnasium

<i>Preliminary Rounds</i>		
8:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	Doubles Events	
2:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	Mixed Doubles	

VOLLEYBALL - Yk Arena, Courts 1 & 2

11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	Jr. Male	Crt 1	N. Alberta vs Greenland
11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	Jr. Female	Crt 2	Alaska vs Yukon
12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.	Jr. Male	Crt 1	Nunavut vs NWT
12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.	Jr. Female	Crt 2	N. Alberta vs Greenland
<i>Semi Finals</i>			
2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.	Jr. Male	Crt 1	Ga.m.e 61: 2 vs 3
2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.	Jr. Female	Crt 2	Ga.m.e 62: 2 vs 3
4:00p.m.-6:00p.m.	Jr. Male	Crt 1	Ga.m.e 63: 1 vs 4
4:00p.m.-6:00p.m.	Jr. Female	Crt 2	Ga.m.e 64: 1 vs 4

WRESTLING - Mildred Hall Gymnasium

12:00p.m.-3:00p.m.	Inuit Wrestling Tourna.m.ent
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ATHLETES' ACTIVITIES

Movie Night (ages 14 and under)

Capitol Theatre	6.30p.m.-9.00p.m.
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Beach Party (ages 15 and over)

Ruth Inch Memorial Pool	7.00p.m.-9.00p.m.
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CULTURAL SCHEDULE

Performing Arts Cultural Gala Evenings

Northern Arts and Cultural Centre	8:00 p.m.
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Visual Arts Art Installation Project

Kimberlite Centre	10:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
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Visual Arts Contingent Visual Arts Exhibition

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre	10:00a.m.-6:00 p.m.
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Visual Arts "Creartik"

Elks Hall	12:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.
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Visual Arts Art of the Spectator Exhibition

Tree of Peace	12:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.
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Full schedule and results can be found at the Arctic Winter Games website awg2008.ca

DAILY WRAP-UP

A strong day for Nunavut

NWT takes skating ulu, Nunavik golden at Dene games

by Lisa Scott

Team NWT held it together in Wednesday's competition as the games entered the halfway point. The speed skating oval at the

Multiplex was the place to be Tuesday night as athletes competed in the 500-metre finals for juvenile and junior male and female. Hannah Clark of the NWT won gold in the juvenile girls, while Dayna Polakoff took the bronze.



Nunavik's William Annanack competes in the combined juvenile male snowshoe on Wednesday. The teams had a cold day to contend with at the Yellowknife Golf Club.

The junior male category had some slips as favourite Angus Smith of NWT went down early, followed shortly after by Manasie Kendall of Nunavut. That left Troy Henry of the Yukon to take gold, Ryan Mahler of NWT silver and Kendall with the bronze. On the women's side, Marie Auger won her first ulu of the Games after slipping up in the 1,000-metre on Monday. Auger took gold, with Nunavut's Sarah Ali coming in second and Stephanie Bourgois of NWT taking the bronze.

"It's pretty tough. It's really stressful," said Auger after the competition. Auger hopes to snag gold in the remaining 777-metre, 1,500-metre and 3,000-metre relay later this week.

NWT figure skaters were shut out of the medals in the freeskate and combined short program/freeskate today, as Russia posted some incredible routines. Lisa Do placed fourth in the combined ladies 3.

Dog mushing started on Wednesday and Stephanie Charlie won gold in the 7.5-kilometre four dog juvenile race. Team NWT prevailed in the 10-kilometre, six-dog race as well, with Alexis Campbell and Jason Baxter taking gold and silver. Mushing continues Thursday.

Nunavut

Manasie Kendall of Nunavut won his second bronze medal of these Games in the 500-metre junior male race on Tuesday night. His teammate Sarah Ali added another medal to her cache in the 500-metre as well, placing second to NWT's Marie Auger. Nunavut's David Coulombe won the silver ulu in the juvenile male race earlier in the evening.

Team Nunavut had a hot day



photos Lisa Scott

NWT's John Stewart competes in the open male finger pull against Nunavik's Ned Gordon at the Dene games on Wednesday.

on the mat today at the wrestling venue racking up nine ulus in individual competition. Joe Karetak won gold in the men's 52 kg, while Blaine Ell won gold in the men's 82 kg class. Their teammates padded out the medal winnings with four silvers and three bronzes for the day. The team had an awesome placing in the team competition the day before, winning a silver, just losing out to Team Alaska.

The team also had a strong showing in Arctic sports, with gold going to Sean Nipisar in the two-foot high kick open male category and to Ronald Anawak for the juniors. On the girls side on Wednesday Susie Pearce took the silver ulu in a large field of open women in the triple jump with a jump of 22'9".

Nunavik

Team Nunavik is building momentum as the Games continue. Deseray Cumberbatch is living up to the hopes of her team, winning two gold and one silver ulu by Wednesday.

Cumberbatch won the Arctic sports arm pull and triple jump for junior female, as well as the two-

foot high kick with a jump of 5'8".

Nunavik also saw competition at the snowshoe venue, as its four players competed in the sprint events. Norman Angnatuk competed, but was pulled out by his coaches on Wednesday morning with a calf strain. He hopes to be back in competition by Friday for the long distance events – his favourite.

"He's probably disappointed, but we want to make sure he heals," said mission staff Julie Grenier.

With some technical glitches at the snowshoe track, some of the sprint races and earlier races had to be redone on Wednesday, one of the coldest days of competition. Everything was back on schedule by the afternoon.

In the Dene games tent the finger pull was on the schedule for Wednesday. Sandy Annanack won a silver medal in the junior male finger pull, with teammate Junior Lingard winning the bronze.

In the open male category Mario Rupert won gold, while Paul Savard won silver. On the female side, Maakula Tukkiapik won a bronze medal.

CULTURE FEATURE

Northern Alberta band brings the noise

Astronotes' progressive sound a 'spaceship crashing into a rock stadium'

by Daniel T'seleie

As soon as you enter Sir John Franklin high school you can hear it. Electric guitar, amplified vocals and solid drumming emanating from the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Drawn in by distortion, this reporter bravely enters the fray, and the first thing he sees is a man plugging his ears with his fingers.

"I told them to hand out earplugs at the door," announces bassist Dashiell Dronyk after the song is finished. "You're very good, but too loud," shouts a voice from the audience. "There you have it, Alberta music is loud," responds guitarist Harrison Koehli before launching the band into another song.

It's a familiar story for the Grande Prairie rockers. Families have been bringing babies to the lunch time shows, mistakenly ex-

pecting something a little lower on the decibel scale. But the feedback (excuse the pun) has all been good. "People have been covering their ears, but we've been hearing nothing but nice things," Dashiell said.

The Astronotes are the cultural representatives for Team Alberta North, and it's a very interesting culture. "[Our music] sounds like a space ship crashing into a rock stadium," said guitarist Dexter Dronyk.

The band says their progressive-alternative sound is an accurate representation of the area. "It's loud, it's sometimes confusing, but that pretty much sums up Grande Prairie," Dashiell said.

Dashiell and drummer Thomas Grosset have been jamming together for years, and have even recorded a soundtrack for a short film. They used the soundtrack as their audition for the role of Team Alberta's cultural reps. Once

they got the gig they realized they needed a band. So, about three months ago, they recruited Dexter and Harrison. Since then the band has written four original songs for the Arctic Winter Games, and have been performing every day during lunch hour at NACC.

Despite the minimal prep time and a broken guitar that had to be replaced by a loaner, the Astronotes have adapted quite well to their venue. The equipment is great, the sound tech is good and the acoustics rock. "It sounds a million times better here," Dashiell said, comparing NACC to their setup at home.

The band will be playing the big cultural gala tonight, and they may even hand out some of the band's T-shirts. "We'll give them out to whoever rocks the hardest," Dexter said. If that's the only criterion, the band may end up keeping them.



photo Daniel T'seleie

The Astronotes, from left: Guitarist Harrison Koehli, drummer Thomas Grosset, guitarist Dexter Dronyk and bassist Dashiell Dronyk. As you can see, the band takes their role as Team Alberta North's cultural representatives very seriously.

DAILY WRAP-UP

Alaskans widen ulu lead

Yukon scores gold in biathlon, Alberta in snowboarding

by Daniel T'seleie

After the third day of competition, Team Alaska is expanding its ulu lead.

The biathlon, ski and snowshoe teams continue to perform well. Snowshoe biathlete Mackenzie Wonders says team spirit plays a part in their success, the athletes keep each other pumped up for competition. She placed second in yesterday's three-kilometre junior female mass start event, taking her third silver ulu of the Games.

The medals don't come easily, however. Cold weather has made it difficult for the Alaskan to zero the sight on her rifle, and the competition is fierce. "It's tough, those NWT girls are pushing me so much, they're amazing," she said.

Alaskan wrestlers came out in force yesterday and won 12 ulus in the individual events, nine of them gold.

Team Yukon continues to excel in outdoor snow sports, winning gold ulus in ski biathlon, cross country skiing, dog mushing and snowshoeing. Skier Dabria Beatty won her third gold yesterday in the 2.5-kilometre free midget female division. Ski biathlete Ryan Burl-

ingame also made the hat-trick, taking the gold ulu in the 7.5-kilometre senior male's mass start.

He considers the individual starts to be his strongest event, and was anxious before the start of the race. With a time of 27 minutes 10.1 seconds he finished just 42 seconds before Team Yamal's Vitaly Gordievskykh. This is Burlingame's first Games and he's been shooting well, which is helping his time even if he isn't the fastest skier. "I had no idea what to expect," Burlingame said. "I surprised myself."

The dog mushers also had an exciting day. Rachel Kinvig finished the 7.5-kilometre four dog juvenile co-ed race in 14 minutes and 16 seconds, beating NWT's Stephanie Charlie by a slim four seconds.

Team Alberta has made themselves known at Bristol Pit. Even the announcer has commented on the "strong riders" from the team. The snowboarders brought in three more ulus yesterday.

Most of the team is competing in all the snowboarding events, and boarder Robbie Rebus says the team is doing, "good so far." He says it's fairly cold here, but with such a short run it isn't much of an issue for the team. "It's a smaller hill, you just run up there to hit the



Robbie Rebus gets some good air during the junior male rail jam. The rider from Team Alberta North says the NWT and Alaska are putting up some tough competition.

course again and you're warmed up," Rebus said. But the other teams are putting up a good fight. "There's some good riders here," Rebus said.

Boarders from the NWT and Alaska have been giving Team Alberta North a run for their money on the slope, Rebus said.

Alberta's hockey players are also doing well. The bantam male team is leading in the round robin tournament.



Alaska's Mackenzie Wonders, front, gets off to a good start in the three-kilometre junior female mass start snowshoe biathlon. She finished second and took her third silver ulu of the Games.

photos Daniel T'seleie

"We're undefeated now, we've won two and tied one," said Hayden Grace, who plays right wing.

The team tied the Yukon and beat Alaska and the NWT, but Grace says the matches

were "pretty close."

Since the interview, the team had a big win over Team Nunavut putting their record at three wins and one tie, and advancing them to the semi-finals. "I think we'll finish fairly high," Grace said.



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Jordin Tootoo is the Official spokesperson for Nunasi Corporation.

CULTURAL FEATURE

A break from tradition

Yukon brings one-of-a-kind cultural show to AWG

by Daniel T'seleie

The Yukon decided to demonstrate a contemporary and unique aspect of their culture at the 2008 Arctic Winter Games.

"Our show is totally different from anything anyone else is doing," says Riley Simpson-Fowler of Whitehorse's Groundwork Sessions Funk Ensemble. The dance group was chosen to be Team Yukon's cultural representatives at the AWG and has been demonstrating hip-hop, trance and break dancing throughout the week.

You may have seen them perform at the opening ceremonies with local rapper Aaron "Godson" Hernandez. The performance was remarkable enough, but the most impressive part is that the group only had one week to learn the song and choreograph a routine.

"We just took choreography that we already had and mixed it together," Simpson-Fowler says. He makes it sound so easy, but when you dance to music you have to know the song. "[The music] is very important, it's top," says Jordan Reti, a member of the group.

The Ensemble has plenty of experience to fall back on. Most of them have been dancing together for five years.

They were inspired when a dance troupe from Toronto visited Whitehorse, and have been hitting the pavement, literally, ever since. They dance anywhere and everywhere, even on the streets. You may have seen them at some of the venues carrying around their boom box.

"If we can get our hands on music, then we use it," Reti says.

"Dancing with the music adds to the effect of it," adds Ben Robinson.

With 10 to 15 hours of practice a week the Ensemble's moves are pretty impressive. Almost half of their practice time is dedicated to strength and flexibility training, which is necessary considering break dancing is physically demanding.

"You just have to stay flexible [to avoid injury]," Reti says.

The Ensemble, composed of Reti, Simpson-Fowler, Jada Powell, Ben Robinson, Alex Robinson and Graylee Freeman, will be performing at tonight's cultural gala to the beats of DJ Kelvin Smoler.

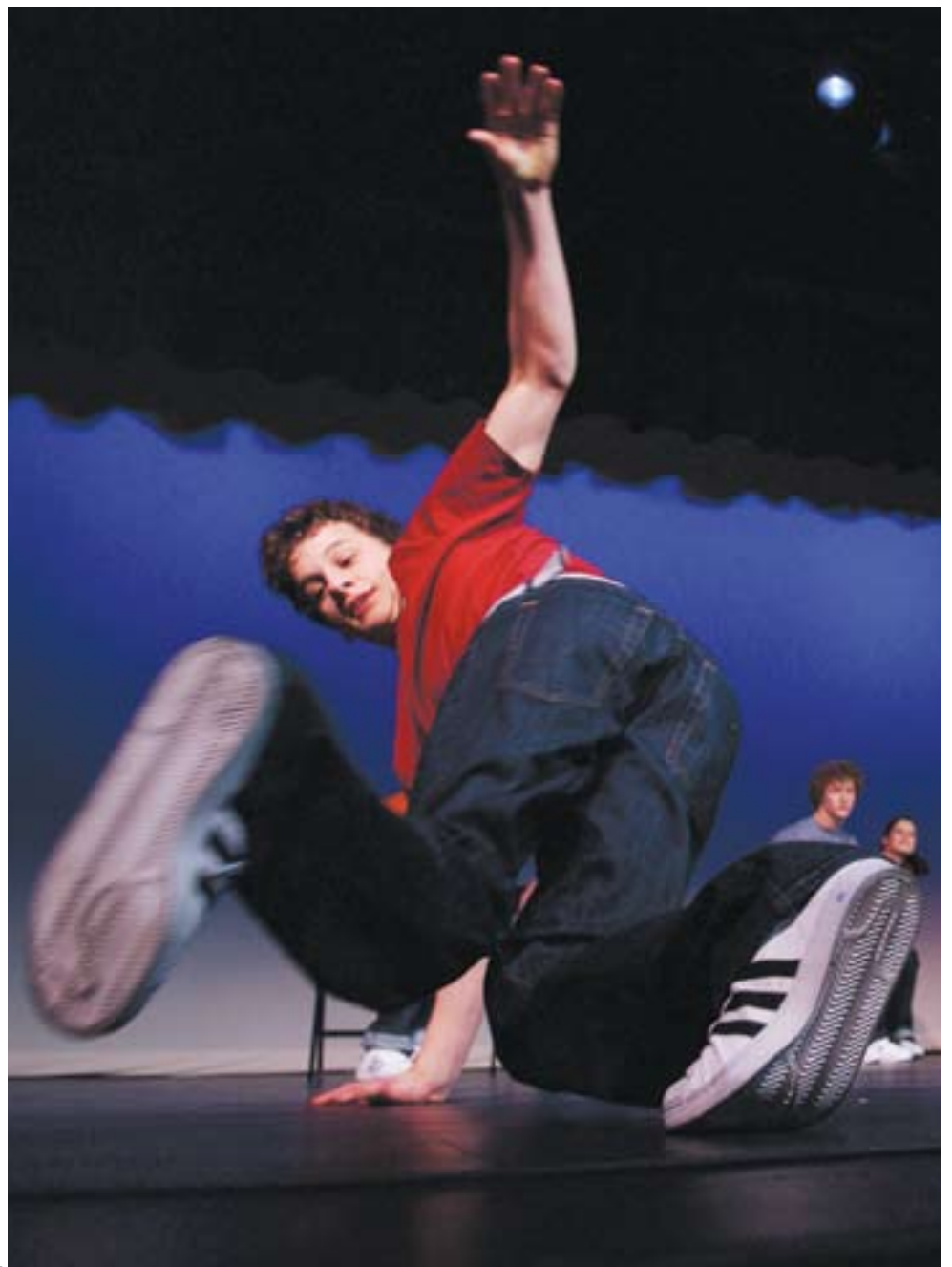


photo: Merle Robillard

Riley Simpson-Fowler of The Ground Work Sessions Funk Ensemble performs at NACC Tuesday.

Songs change with the times

Tunes touch on foraging, basketball

by Daniel T'seleie

When the Mt. Edgecumbe Yup'ik dancers were chosen to be the cultural representatives for Team Alaska they had planned to bring eight dancers and drummers. Due to passport problems only four of them made it, but you would never know the group was performing at a reduced capacity. They have a remarkable ability to fill a room with music and captivate an audience with dance, all to the beat of one drum.

"It's traditional that the males drum," says singer and dancer Grace Lyn Johnson. If anything this group is traditional, and only one male made it to Yellowknife, NWT.

The group performs in Qaspeqs, sum-

mer parkas. They are lighter than winter clothes and the hoods are designed to fend off mosquitoes rather than cold air. This is fitting, seeing as how the band performed a song and dance piece about gathering bird eggs on the tundra. "A lot of the songs have stories behind them," said drummer Jason Bavilla.

The dancers, all from Mt. Edgecumbe boarding school in Sitka, have stuck to their traditional roots, kept it real, if you will, which is fitting considering they are all Yup'ik from Eastern Alaska. "Yup'ik means real people," Bavilla says. Their cultural grounding and skilled performances have not gone unnoticed back home. "Our dance group is known throughout the state," Bavilla says.

They're true to the traditional style of music and dance, but the group has been experimenting with some new content for the songs. The songs have always been about daily life. This used to mean fishing, hunting and foraging, but times have changed. Nowadays daily life might involve a game of basketball. Indeed the group has written a song about this sport, in the traditional style, of course.

There's no formula for writing Yup'ik songs. You need inspiration, vision and direction. Ultimately the end result "depends on what you want it to be," Bavilla said.



photo: Merle Robillard

Whitney Walker, left, Gracelyn Johnson and Emilyann White of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Yup'ik Dance Group from Alaska perform at the Arctic Winter Games 2008 Cultural Stage at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre.

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PHOTO DIGEST



The cold weather Wednesday morning shows itself through ice crystals on the eyelashes of Brandon Norris of Team NWT after the Arctic Winter Games junior male snowshoe biathlon three-kilometre mass start.

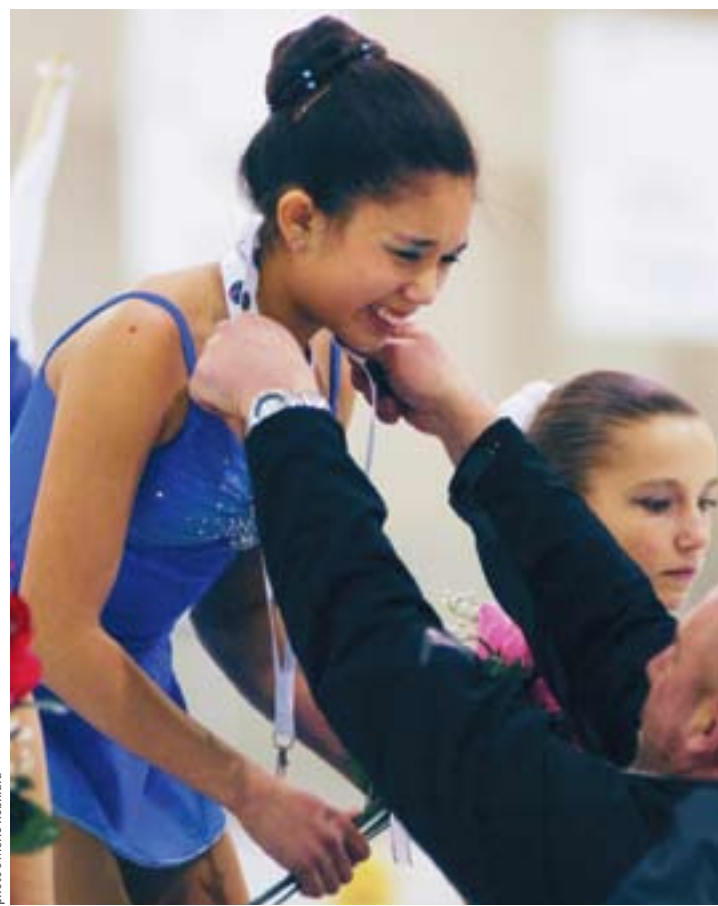


photo s:Merle Robillard

Celina Gulpe Farmer of Team Alaska receives a gold medal during the ceremony for the combined short/freeskate figure skating at the Yellowknife Multiplex.



Rachel Kinvig of Team Yukon crosses the finish line with the best time in the Arctic Winter Games coed, 7.5-kilometre, juvenile dog mushing on Back Bay in Yellowknife.



Sunny Patch, Team Yukon dog mushing mission staff, celebrates Rachel Kinvig's first-place finish during the Juvenile, coed, 7.5-kilometre dog mushing event on Back Bay Wednesday morning.



Alea Stockton of Team NWT competes in the figure skating long program at the Yellowknife Multiplex.

PHOTO DIGEST



Alberta North's Mitchell Ray Cote digs for the ball during junior male volleyball at the Arctic Winter Games 2008.



The traditional Greenland group Kalaallit perform at the Arctic Winter Games 2008 Cultural Stage at Tree of Peace Friendship Centre.



Jasmine Netsena of NWT performs at the Arctic Winter Games 2008 Cultural Stage at Tree of Peace Friendship Centre.



photos Merle Robillard

Fifteen-year-old John Semple, left, and Alex Gordon, 26, of the Aklavik Drummers perform at the Arctic Winter Games 2008 Cultural Stage at Tree of Peace Friendship Centre.



Alicia Norris of Team NWT is the first to cross the finish line in the Arctic Winter Games junior female snowshoe Biathlon three-Kilometre mass start at Yellowknife Ski Club.

CULTURE FEATURE

Behind many masks

Greenland's demonstrates the enrapturing art of mask dancing, Yamal does the dance of the Shaman, Saami yoik

by Jennifer McPhee

Greenland's cultural performances began with a lone mask-dancer sitting on stage, painting his face, and explaining the symbolism behind this ancient Inuit tradition. But then the spooky spectacle really took off.

Several other painted performers crept down the aisle towards the stage, slowly moving their arms, and looking around. Their faces were contorted into creepy expressions; their eyes were unnaturally buggy; and their cheeks bulged out because of sticks inside their mouths. As they danced on stage, they stared each other down, eventually edging closer and closer to audience members – growling and hissing at them. It was a truly riveting and frightening theatrical performance.

So good that artistic director Ruth Andersen-Montgomery was in tears by the end of the show. The artists just learned the art of mask dancing, she explained. They not only learned the dance, but really made it their own.

Wednesday was the group's last-mask dance show, and they gave it everything they had, says performer Maliina Jensen. The hardest part was keeping up the fierce facade, adds Marie Kahlig.

Greenland's gala performance tonight and tomorrow mixes ancient traditions with contemporary dance, lighting and sound. The contingent's show begins with a 35-second sample from local Yellowknife rapper Aaron Hernandez ("Godson") shouting out, "Welcome to Yellowknife City."

The Nordic Institute of Greenland (NAPA) coordinated Greenland's 2008 cultural program, and NAPA's approach is to represent Greenland in an up-to-date way,



Yoiker Inger Biret Gaup, left, and dancer Elle Sofe Henriksen blend traditional Saami music and dance with contemporary style.

but with respect for its history, explains Anders Berndtsson, NAPA's chief executive officer.

"It brings our roots forward in a different way," he says. "I think it's going to be interesting for the Yellowknife audience, and a little bit different from the others ... We are looking forward to meeting the local Yellowknife people and to

seeing their response."

The Yamal cultural contingent – Yalymad – showcased folklore, stylized songs, dances, traditional rites and rituals of the indigenous peoples of Yamal. Their performances included a Shaman's dance where instructor Stepan Zinchenko and Alexander Buslovsky danced and beat drums made out of rein-

deer hide. Sometimes they beat each others' drums to show the communication between Shamans. Dancer Natasha Tynzyanova also joined them on stage; Daria Pervushina sang traditional songs about love, and about children playing with a puppy; and Margarita Bezhenvtsa recited poetry about modern Northern life.

Saami cultural performers will hit the stage at the cultural gala Thursday and Friday night at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Elle Sofe Hentiksen, Inger Biret Gaup, and Ol-Julian Gaup, will show off the traditional Saami singing – Yoiking. Team leader Hentiksen will also off some dancing in the performance.



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- You will not find any downtown software here.

Yesterday's winners

- Jeanne Marie Yurris, *Team NWT*
- Aimee Yurris, *Team NWT*
- Madison Pilling, *Team NWT*
- Keith MacNeil, *NWT Resident*

Raven artists

- Donna Shreiner
- Ann Timmins

- Shawna Lampii-Legaree
- Rose Scott
- Shawn Mackenzie
- Bonnie Madsen
- Astrid Kruse
- Terry Pamplin
- Vivian Gustafson
- Jordan Martin (Carver)

DAILY WRAP-UP

Saami soccer comes back

Greenland, Yamal on win streaks

by Jennifer McPhee

After losing a game to Team Yukon yesterday, the Saami girls intermediate soccer team bounced back beating Greenland, 4-1. Anne Solbritt Logje says she was a little nervous heading into yesterday's game after losing the night before. "We had bad luck," she says "We were better than them."

Soccer coach Bengt Are Jensen said the girls played their best soccer ever during the game they lost. Afterwards, players from other teams commented on the Saami team's soccer skills, speed and technical strength, he said. He's pleased that the girls won their match yesterday.

"We're back on track," he says. "We are difficult to beat. The ones that beat us in the end must be good."

Team Saami also took another gold medal in cross-country skiing yesterday when Oyvind Erichsen won the five-kilometre free juvenile male category. This brings Saami's medal count up to eleven – four gold, one silver and six bronze – says Saami chef de mission Aslak Paltto.

Team Greenland continued its

solid performance in Arctic sports yesterday.

Edgar Markussen won a silver triple jump medal in the junior male category, and Pilo Rasmussen took the bronze triple jump medal in the open male category. Rasmussen's twin brother, Minik Rasmussen, placed fourth in the open male triple jump.

Both twins were gunning for gold and were disappointed with their performance yesterday. They're both considered strong contenders to win the head pull and knuckle hop competitions later in the week.

Greenland's junior boys soccer team continued its impressive winning streak yesterday, beating Team Yamal, 5-1, said mission staff person Finn Nielsen. The team hasn't lost a game so far. The girls intermediate soccer team, however, didn't fare as well, losing again yesterday to Team Saami.

Team Yamal's Oleg Ivantsiv won the gold medal in the open male triple jump category. The team also secured an unexpected medal in snowboarding when Evgeniy Ivanov won bronze in the rail jam juvenile male category. "That was a surprise to us," said assistant chef Yana Vrublevskaia. "We were not expecting it."

Team Yamal had a stellar day in biathlon and cross country skiing, winning gold and silver medals in the five-kilometre biathlon ski mass start junior male category, and silver and bronze in the junior female category. In the seven-and-a-half kilometre mass start senior male category, Team Yamal won silver and also won bronze in the female category.

In cross-country skiing, Team Yamal won gold and silver in the female juvenile five-kilometre competition, and took silver and bronze in the male juvenile category. In the free junior female seven-and-a-half kilometre competition, Team Yamal took the gold and silver medals. The junior males racked up gold, silver and bronze medals. Grigory Laptander won gold, Vadim Filimonov won silver and Ruslan Fakhurtdinov won bronze, sweeping the junior male five-kilometre free division.

Yamal's figure skaters won medals in every category in the free skate competition, winning silver in ladies one and two, gold and bronze in ladies three, and gold in ladies four. In the combined ladies competition, the team won silver in ladies one and two; gold and bronze in ladies three; and gold and gold in ladies four.



photo Jennifer McPhee

From left to right: Marina Komarova and Ruslana Perepelitsa continued to impress with their table tennis abilities.

In snowshoeing, Team Yamal won silver in the combined junior mix category, and won silver in the snowshoeing combined junior male category.

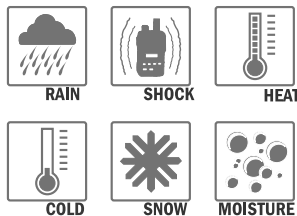
Team Yamal's table tennis team

also continued to impress. By midday Wednesday, juvenile girls tennis player Ruslana Perepelitsa was still winning all her games. "It's not even interesting because it's so easy," she says.



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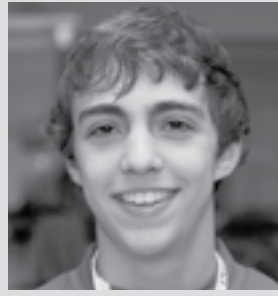
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GAMES TALK

“What do you think about the food in the AWG cafeteria?”



Julie McDonell, 15, snowshoe, Alberta
The food is very well-cooked and there is a lot of variety. I loved the hot chocolate.



Edward Hurtte, 15, table tennis, Alaska
There is a lot of food, and a lot of variety.



Khang Manh Pham, 12, table tennis, Yukon
The food is very good. I especially like the Jell-O and lasagna.



Wesley Attagutsiak, 30, Dene games, Nunavut
The food is excellent and makes your stomach full. They have everything, fruits and vegetables, meats, all that stuff.



Stepan Zinchenko, 24, cultural delegation, Yamal
Everything is a lot different. I feel like a student in a North American high school like I've seen on television.

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Photo: Ron Rose

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ATHLETE PROFILE

Alek Airo competed in the Arctic sports event for team Nunavik at these Games.

Jumping to new heights

Nunavik athlete eyes the competition

by Lisa Scott

Alek Airo entered these Games with two golden ulus already in his pocket. The Nunavik athlete came to the 2008 Games with the goal of not just winning a medal, but breaking some records along the way.

The 5'10" 17-year-old from the community of Kuujjuaq competes in Arctic sports, one of the favourite spectator sports at the Games.

Competing in the well-attended competitions, like the one- and two-foot high kick, takes skill, nerves and the athlete's ability to take the crowd's encouragement and use it to their advantage. Airo won gold in the one and two-foot high kick in the junior category at the 2006 games in Alaska, with jumps of 8'6" and 7'4" respectively.

Airo is now in the open male category, where the competition can be pretty stiff. As the two-foot

“
This is good.
It's exciting.”

high kick finals unfolded at the packed Yellowknife Community Arena Tuesday night, Airo watched from the sidelines with his teammates as the junior boys reached for the seal flipper in a quest for the medal he took home two years ago.

“This is good. It's exciting,” he says. “They're pretty good,” he concedes, but adds that they aren't as good as he was back then. He was right too, as Ronald Anawak of Nunavut took the

junior boys gold with a jump of seven feet even. That's four inches less than Airo's jump in 2006. This year though, the athlete is facing some tough competition from Alaska, Nunavut and Greenland.

Airo also competes in the Alaskan high kick, the kneel jump and the triple jump in the Arctic sports. He says the one-foot high kick is his favourite because it's where he does his best and everyone always likes to watch the event. The one-foot event won't be held until tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Ecole St. Joseph, so Airo will have to wait until then to see if he can add to his medal count.

Tuesday night, as the two-foot high kick came down to the final athletes, Nunavut's Sean Nipisar, Alaska's David Thomas and Airo were all in contention for the gold with jumps of 7'10". Nipisar ended up taking the win by jumping to eight feet in the final, leaving Thomas to take the silver ulu at 7'8" and Airo to take the bronze at the same height.



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Competition is great, but girls are better

Yamal player a giant in table tennis

by Jennifer McPhee

Sixteen-year-old Egor Turubanov loves winning table tennis matches, but there's something else he likes just as much – girls. The best thing about the Arctic Winter Games is all the young women, says the stellar Team Yamal table tennis player. He likes Russian and Alaskan girls the most. The worst thing about the Games is that boys and girls stay at different schools, he says.

Alas, this doesn't give him many opportunities to communicate with pretty girls, but he's seizing every chance that comes his way.

He doesn't speak English, but has mastered a few words and phrases so that he can communicate with English-speaking girls and other athletes. One of the words he knows is "beautiful."

He's also very excited about the upcoming dances. It's very important for him to be there, he says. He doesn't want to meet any new girls; he just wants to dance with the ones he's already met. But he's definitely not ready for commitment. He likes girls in general too much to choose only one, he explains. "That's very true."

After the interview *Ulu News* discovered due to a lack of venue space there won't be an athlete's dance this year. This news may disappoint Turubanov, but he may equally enjoy the replacement beach party at the pool scheduled for tonight.

Playing table tennis at the Arctic Winter Games isn't much of a challenge for this young athlete.

He started playing the sport when he was seven-years-old, and has practised for two-and-a-half hours each day, six days a week,

since he was 13.

Unsurprisingly, Turubanov has won every match he's played at these Games. "It's not difficult at all," he says.

At the 2006 Arctic Winter Games in Alaska, Turubanov won two gold, and two silver medals in the four events in his category. He's good at the sport because he practises so much, and because of his "great desire" to win. It also helps that he's tall because it allows him to reach further for the ball.

He is absolutely certain that the Team Yamal boys will win at least three gold medals and one silver medal in the four table tennis events in his age bracket, but it's quite possible they'll win all four gold medals, he says.

He's also a very modest person, he points out [a group of female Team Yamal tennis players listening



photo Jennifer McPhee

Team Yamal table tennis player Egor Turubanov wishes he could stay in Yellowknife longer

to the translated interview beg to differ]. But one thing is certain: he is a top-notch table tennis player.

Part of what makes him so good is that he adjusts his game to take advantage of the weaknesses of other players, says Metro Huculak, a volunteer and avid spectator, who used to play table tennis himself.

Turubanov also adores the lime-light. He was thrilled to be interviewed for a story in *Ulu News*, and jokingly fixed his hair before his photo was taken. When someone

interrupted the translated interview, he interrupted right back, saying, "Next question, please."

He's having a great time in Yellowknife and wouldn't mind spending another two or three weeks here.

The people are very friendly, he likes the atmosphere and the town is very nice, he says. Of course, he's also very passionate about Russia.

"Russia is the best," he says. "Russia is number one. And Canada is a very nice country."

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CULTURAL FEATURE

Sweet sounds of tradition

Fiddling, drumming and jigging a look at NWT culture

by Lisa Scott

Vanessa Sanguéz hasn't quite honed her fiddling to be able to play her favourite Red River jig song, so she gets up on stage and jigs to it instead.

The 19-year-old originally from Jean Marie River, is a cultural performer with Team NWT, performing every other day with fiddler Wesley Hardisty.

The artists are an enthusiastic duo, both sharing a love for the music and the tradition of fiddling and dancing.

Sanguéz has energy in her dancing that transfers into the crowd. She learned the craft at a jamboree and has been practicing at carnivals in various communities every since.

"I keep doing it 'til I'm really good at it," she says. "I like to just dance around."

She's been pleasantly surprised by the adoring crowds, happily dancing and fiddling at venues like the Tree of Peace, the Baker Centre and the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre.

Her performing partner Wesley Hardisty is just 14 and has been playing for only a year.

His quick skills on the fiddle have caught the attention of musicians in the territory and he found himself representing NWT at the Games. Hardisty hails from Fort Simpson.

His chaperone Karen Gelderman says he is amazing to watch and is truly dedicated to the music.



photo Lisa Scott

The Aklavik Youth Drummers and Dancers have been entertaining crowds all week, showcasing NWT culture.

"It's all he does and he loves it," she says.

"I just watched the fiddle once and I felt like I had to learn to play," says Hardisty.

He taught himself and plays by

ear, learning new songs as he goes. He likes being able to play music in the traditional way of the Dene, learning the history of his people along the way. Team NWT also brought the Aklavik Youth Drum-

mers and Dancers, clad in beautiful black and white parkas decorated with fur. This group mixes up dancing with drumming, showcasing their Inuvialuit history in songs about loons, wood chopping and

breaking spring ice with a canoe.

With the strong beat of the drums, this group always gets the crowd going with their music, even inviting them to join in the dance movements.

Culture, with a mix of new and old

Nunavut and Nunavik share throat singing, with a little bit of jazz thrown in

by Lisa Scott

Nunavik brought a refreshing mix of modern and traditional culture to the Arctic Winter Games. All week the Kuujuaq Dance Squad and the Nunavik Throat Singers have been mixing it up on stage, combining jazz dancing with the traditional singing of the Inuit.

Jennifer Matchett-Tasse, the dance squad instructor, started the group of modern dancers five years ago at a youth drop in centre.

Candace Combden, Anne Marie Kuaki, Larissa Annahatak, Amelia Whiteley-Tukkiapik and Sophie Tukalak have some impressive moves on the stage, performing Greased Lightning in 1950-style poodle skirts and rouged cheeks. The routine still reflects their culture, even though the song is an English one from the popular musical Grease. Matchett-Tasse calls it a modern jazz take on Inuktitut music.

"I think it's neat to show other people our own culture. They might come and check it [Nunavik] out," said Sophie Tukalak before a lunchtime performance.

"They think we're just doing traditional, but we're not," she said.

For the traditional element, throat singers Elisapee Nassak and Ina Annahatak of Kangirsuk are also travelling with the group. The girls have been singing together for five years and have a lot of experience performing in front of crowds like those at the Games. In 2007, they performed for the Premier of Quebec, Jean Charest when he visited Nunavik.

Also on the stage this week have been the Nunavut cultural participants. Six members of the Tusarniq Choir from Rankin Inlet have been performing much to the crowds' delight.

After each performance, the group always gets cheers and whistles from the audience.

Noah Tiktak is the choir manager and founder, having started the group last fall to boost youth involvement in Inuit culture.

"I just want to share the Inuit culture with youth and with anyone else who is ready to learn," he says. The crowds at the cultural venues certainly seemed ready to learn.

The group sings mostly traditional throat songs like The River,



photo Lisa Scott

The Kuujuaq Dance Squad performed the jazz routine Greased Lightning as part of the Nunavik cultural program.

but the girls and one male drummer also throw in a few they made up themselves. Charmaine Okatsiak has enjoyed the whole week and is happy to show others her form of singing.

"[The crowd] liked it. I like to share our culture and to show our talents," she says.

The group made sure that they saved some energy for the final gala performances, scheduled for

today and Friday, divulging that they had songs they had not sung yet for the crowds.

"We saved our best songs and performances for the galas," says Tiktak.



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