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ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



ULU NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MARCH 21, 2018



Iglu melts away to memory



Yamal gets helping hand from a host town

ULU COUNT

Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	12	9	10	31
 Alberta N.	9	3	11	23
 Greenland	3	5	4	12
 NT	9	15	14	38
 Nunavik	3	4	1	8
 Nunavut	4	3	4	11
 Sapmi	2	2	3	7
 Yamal	16	17	8	41
 Yukon	14	14	17	45

Medals won! Records broken!



Nunavut's Drew Bell reaches out to graze the seal skin ball during a record-setting attempt in the one-arm reach in Fort Smith on Monday night.

Cody Punter/NNSL photo



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Nunavut athlete breaks one-hand reach record



Cody Punter/NISL photo

Nunavut's Drew Bell reaches out to graze the sealskin ball during a record-setting attempt in the one-arm reach in Fort Smith on Monday night. Bell's tally of 5 feet, 7 inches surpassed the previous record by an inch.

Drew Bell establishes new mark at 5 feet, 7 inches

by **Cody Punter**
Northern News Services

Nunavut's Drew Bell set a new record in the one-arm reach in front of a packed house at the Fort Smith recreation centre on Monday night.

"I don't think it's really set in yet," said Bell right after winning. "There's just a lot of emotions going through my mind right now. I didn't come

"I don't think it's really set in yet."

Drew Bell

at 5 foot, 7 inches, Bell propped himself up on one hand and reached out to barely graze the bottom of the sealskin ball before returning to balance himself on two hands without his feet touching the ground to ensure his attempt would count.

At least one of the judges saw him touch the ball, but uncertainty from the other three officials

led them to confer in the middle of the gym. After a few tense moments they con-

wasn't without controversy. On his third and final attempt

Please see **page 7**

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Hoops a-plenty in Fort Smith



Paul Bannister/NGL photo

Team NT players bask in victory after beating Nunavut on Monday in Fort Smith. They are, front row, from left, Hayley Tait, Mia MacInnis, Mali Straker and Lillian Casaway. Back row, from left, Naomi Yukon, Meadow Munroe, Janet Enge, Sierra Nesbitt, Emma Willoughby, Anabel Flamand and coach Shaun Doherty.

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BASKETBALL
Feature

by Paul Bannister

Northern News Services
Basketball at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games is well underway in Fort Smith. The boys and girls divisions saw their first action on Monday. Here's a glimpse of the action on the hard court.

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Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

Nunavut's Linda Howard brings the ball down court during action in girls basketball against the NWT Monday.



Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

Janet Enge of Team NT drives for the hoop during their victory over Nunavut on Monday.



Hayley Tait of Team NT is surrounded by players from Nunavut but still manages to get off a pass during girls basketball action.

Paul Bannister/NNSL photo



Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

Alaska's Luke Sherman shoots for the net in the first half against Team NT.

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Nunavut figure skaters get boost from other teams

Competing delegations each lend a competitor to help short-handed opponents

by **Cody Punter**
Northern News Services

The spirit of sportsmanship that embodies the Arctic Winter Games will be on full display Thursday as six delegations compete under one flag.

On their flight to the Arctic Winter Games from Iqaluit, Nunavut's three figure skaters were lamenting the fact that they would be unable to compete in the team event because it requires eight members to perform separate elements.

Their fortunes changed at the first coach's meeting ahead of the Games, when it was decided that one skater from each of the five other teams would perform alongside the Nunavut athletes.

Cheryl Jobson, coach for Team Alberta North, said the decision was made unanimously without any hesitation.

"This is a world-class event. Everybody is working very hard to get here and deserves a chance to participate," she said. "Truly everyone was on board. It was real-

ly nice to see. I think there was even a few tears."

When Nunavut coach Victoria Hann returned from the meeting to tell the girls the news they were ecstatic.

"They were jumping and screaming," she said. "They're super excited."

Nunavut's Penelope Armstrong, who is participating in her first Games, said she is nervous about competing with unfamiliar faces but that she was looking forward to the experience.

"I was really happy and really thankful," said Armstrong.

Nunavut's figure skating team is relatively new. The territory didn't have a team until Hann was brought on to start a skating club in Iqaluit eight years ago.

The team first competed in the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska six years ago but they didn't send anyone to Nuuk, Greenland in 2016.

"Back in Alaska we only had two skaters but now we have three, so we're growing," said Hann.



Cody Punter/NNSL photo

It looked like Nunavut's figure skaters would be unable to compete in Thursday's team event until each of the five other delegations offered an athlete to complete the eight-person roster. From left, Victoria Hann, Talia Armstrong, Penelope Armstrong and Cassidy Devereaux.



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Rarely hit such height before



Continued from page 3

cluded that the attempt was good.

"There was no doubt in my mind but the judges have to do their due diligence," said Bell.

"To be honest if they had said no, I would have accepted that. It happens every Games. Something doesn't go the way you think it will and you just need to move on the next games and keep that positive energy."

After setting the record, Bell was spurred on by the crowd to go one inch higher but he packed it in after two attempts.

Bell said the one-hand reach has been part of his regular training routine for years but he has rarely been able to reach 5 foot, 7 inches.

"I've probably done thousands of these and I can count on one hand how many times I've reached that high," he said.

"I was kind of surprised it happened with one of my three attempts here, so I'm pretty excited about that."

Bell's record spelled heartbreak for previous record holder Matt Jacobson. The Northwest Territories-born Jacobson, representing the Yukon at his third Games, finished with a silver medal while Akpak Duval from Nunavut took the bronze.

"If they had said no, I would have accepted that."

Drew Bell

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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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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All's well that goes well

General manager of 2018 Arctic Winter Games satisfied at midway point of Games

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

The 2018 edition of the Arctic Winter Games are about to cross the midway point and the general manager of the event is happy with how things have transpired so far.

"Everything is going smoothly," Todd Shafer said.

"There's lots of excitement in both communities

with the sports getting underway.

"There were lots of comments about the bus trips back and forth between Fort Smith from those folks. It's just going really well right now."

Plenty of pizza along the way was also a bonus, he added.

One thing those heading back to Fort Smith got was

an unexpected escort from the RCMP along part of the highway, which wasn't part of the original plan, said Shafer.

"They were out making sure they got out of town OK and rode with them for a portion of the way," he said of the Mounties.

Outside of the unscheduled escort, Shafer said RCMP officers have been a

big help as the Games roll on.

Shafer breathed a big sigh of relief following the opening ceremony, which had no major hiccups.

"Considering we were coming into a brand new building, I'm happy," he said.

"There was that added element to the whole thing but the committee we had working on the opening did a fantastic job with

their preparation.

"Patrick Roberge Productions helped out with the show and their help with the set-up was amazing."

Looking forward

At this point, the primary job for Shafer and his crew is making sure any bumps are flattened in a swift manner without events being affected.

"It's all about the process now," he said.

"We're looking to see if what we've put in place is going to work and then testing it to see if we have to adapt or adjust.

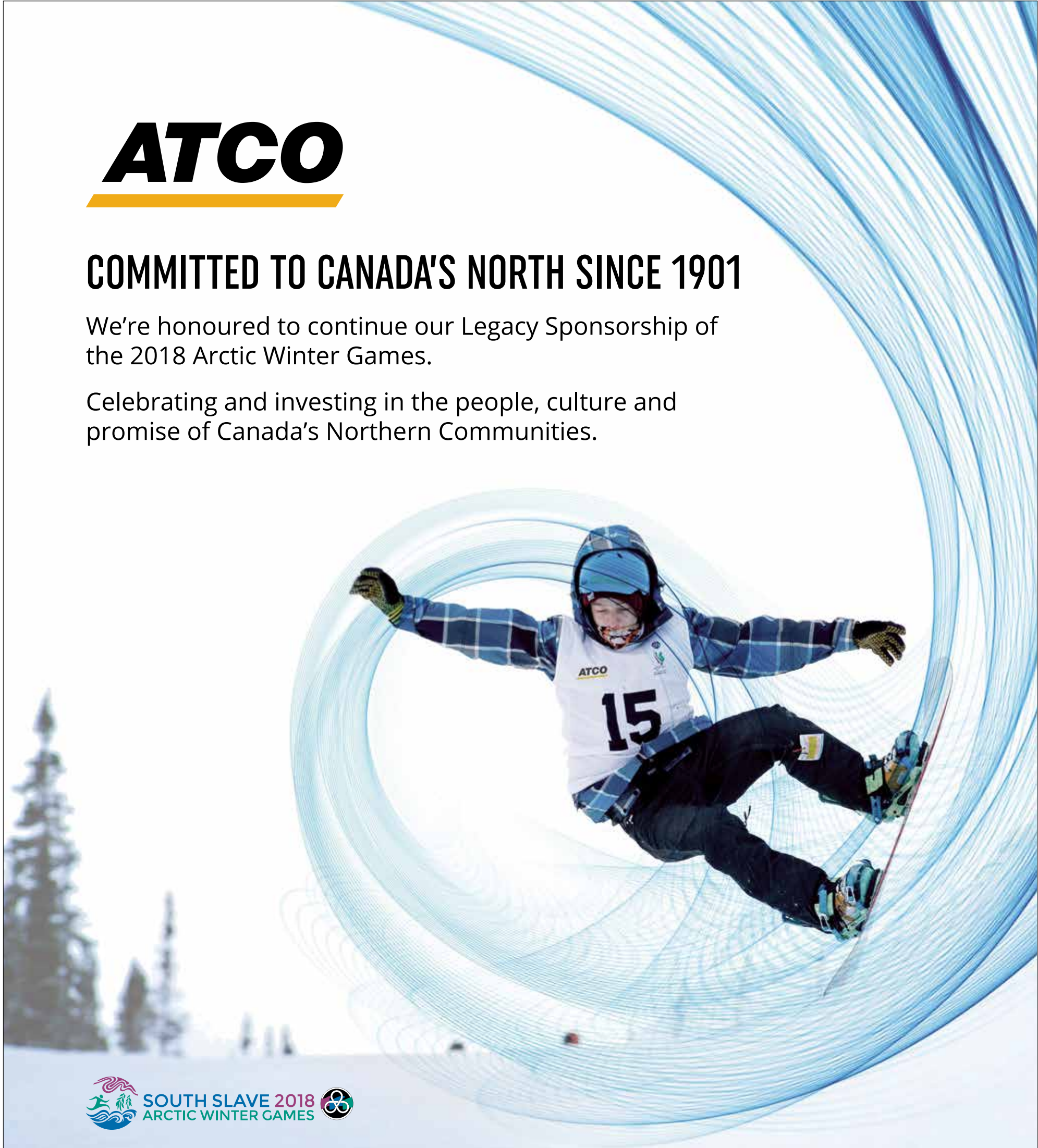
"It's more adjustment than anything else based on the feedback we've received to date and making those adjustments based on the capacity we have."

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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	
	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH
HAY RIVER														
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

Smooth snow, new record

Juvenile girls snow snake mark shattered in Dene games

by James McCarthy
 Northern News Services

Zhanayii Drygeese of the Northwest Territories is the new record holder in juvenile girls snow snake thanks to her tremendous toss of 246 feet to win the gold ulu on Tuesday.

The old record set of 226 feet, 6 inches, set by Nunavik's Rita Masty had stood since the 2010 Arctic Winter Games in Grande Prairie, Alta.

The junior boys snow snake proceeded alongside the juvenile girls competition and it was Jimmy Cardinal of Alberta North who took gold with a throw of 298 feet, 5 inches. But the real drama was reserved for third place as Greenland's Niels Arkaluk Heilmann managed to hold on to his podium spot after the final throw by Nunavik's Naalak Mifsud came up just six inches short of Heilmann's 292 foot, 9 inch effort.

"It was close," said Heilmann. "It was only half a foot away from mine so it was good."

Each competitor in snow snake gets three chances to slide the snake as far as they can down the course with their best throw being counted toward the final result.



James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Zhanayii Drygeese of the Northwest Territories gets set to send the snow snake down the course during the juvenile girls competition at the Hay River ice crossing on Tuesday.

Heilmann admitted he was closely watching the final numbers come in to see if he would stay in the bronze ulu position.

"I was getting a bit nervous," he said. "It's my first Arctic Winter Games. The course was definitely better than Greenland, a lot smooth-

er snow."

There was, however, a problem before Tuesday's competition got started. The course had been prepared in advance but someone rode their snowmobile through both sides the night before, leaving deep ruts that had to be filled before things got underway. Upward of a dozen volunteers and officials frantically took snow and packed it into the deepest ruts to make things as decent as possible.

Peter Daniels, head official for Dene games, wasn't too pleased with what he saw when he arrived.

"A very unfortunate start to the day," he said. "We were having our officials' meeting in the morning and Andy McKay (sport chair for Dene games) came and said he had bad news and it was that Ski-Doos were ripping up and down the track (Monday night). We were working on the track all week and it was untouched. Then someone decides the day before the competition to do that. It's very disrespectful because everyone knew what was going on down here. Just thoughtless and very inconsiderate."



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Not just a stage for the elite

As AWG turns 25, international president says 'happy faces' are desired

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

The Arctic Winter Games evolved after two men went to the 1967 Canada Winter Games and saw the North get shellacked in every way.

The dream of the late Stuart Hodgson, former commissioner of the NWT, and Cal Miller, financial adviser to Yukon's 1967 team, has grown into the international event that is the Arctic Winter Games.

The biennial event is being held for the 25th time this year.

Tens of thousands of people have either competed, volunteered, officiated or organized the Games.

Jens Brinch, president

Please see **page 12**



Greg Rowe, left, president of the 2018 Arctic Winter Games host society, **Jens Brinch,** president of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, and **Hay River Mayor Brad Mapes** addressed the media on March 17.

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Deux frères, un volant



Paulusie Nuktie, à gauche, et son frère, Elijah Nuktie, font partie de l'équipe de badminton du Nunavik aux Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique de 2018.

Maxence Jaillet photo

'L'intensité sur le terrain est toujours constante'

par Maxence Jaillet
Ulu News

Elijah Nuktie et son grand frère Paulusie Nuktie viennent tous deux de Kuujuuaq, un village nordique du Nunavik, au Québec où ils résident depuis trois ans. Ils sont les deux seuls représentants de leur village en Badminton. Les deux athlètes étaient coéquipiers lors des Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique 2016 au Groenland et se sont incli-

nés lors du match de double juvénile homme pour l'Ulu de bronze.

Cette année à Hay River, les deux frères sont dans des catégories différentes, l'un est juvénile et l'autre junior. S'ils sont tristes de ne plus pouvoir jouer sur le même court, Elijah et Paulusie, se soutiennent mutuellement.

Marc-André Daniel-Lorain entraîneur de l'équipe

de badminton du Nunavik, raconte que les deux athlètes ont eu l'avantage de pouvoir s'entraîner ensemble dans cette communauté où les adversaires se font rares.

"Ce qu'il y a de remarquable avec Paulusie et Elijah, c'est qu'ils se challengent tout le temps. L'intensité sur le terrain est toujours constante," explique l'entraîneur.

Les deux frères jouent au

badminton ensemble depuis six ans, que ce soit pour s'amuser ou pour se préparer à une compétition.

Paulusie qui appelle son frère Nukak (petit frère), avance qu'il reste toujours nerveux lorsqu'il voit son frère sur le terrain et qu'il n'est pas avec lui :

"Je ne pense pas que c'est la même chose pour lui, mais moi ça me donne des sueurs froides

quand je le regarde jouer."

Paulusie reconnaît que les autres garçons de Kuujuuaq sont plus intéressés au hockey qu'au Badminton, mais assure que sa famille, ses amis et sa communauté reste très intéressés à leur progression dans ce sport. La réalité des collectifs nordiques a rattrapé Paulusie alors qu'un blizzard a empêché de le réunir avec son partenaire de double, Glen

Tookalook, avant que les deux puissent partir pour les Jeux. Il reste toutefois confiant dans ses chances. Pour cet athlète de 17 ans, c'est l'équipe du Nunavut qu'il aimerait devancer.

Cette année, Elijah pense que ces chances se situent plus vers la compétition de simple, il n'a pas beaucoup d'espoir dans les matches de double sans son frère.

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CANADIAN NORTH AIRLINES

Games described as 'Northern Olympics' but they're not just for elite athletes

Continued from page 10

of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, said it's an event steeped in history.

"It's been a long time, there's a long history behind the Games and a lot of people have been involved," he said at the official media gathering on March 17.

"There's so many social values that have been carried on over those years and it's something we're proud to be able to carry on."

For many competing at the Arctic Winter

Games, this could be as far as they go, though some athletes have graduates to even grander stages in their athletic endeavours, such as the Olympic Games.

Not just for elites

The Games have been described as the "Northern Olympics."

But Brinch said the Olympics are for elite athletes.

"A lot of the kids here aren't at the elite level," he said. "I think it's more

"I want to see a lot of happy faces."

Jens Brinch

an event for everyone but, of course, there will be some who are better than others."

There's always been a debate about whether the Games should be taken more seriously from a competitive standpoint, with more emphasis placed on results and success.

Brinch, however, said there's a way to make the Games equal in terms of being competitive but also ensuring there's an element of fair play

and equality.

"Sports, by nature, is competitive but it's also social," he said.

"You can be competitive but you also have to be careful about people who want to be involved socially.

"We don't want to have a competition only for the best athletes."

Brinch said it's important to see the athletes having a good time.

"I want to meet the young athletes on the streets here (in Hay River), happy faces," he said.

"I want to see a lot of happy faces."

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A two-team affair for the dogs



James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Anna Cassidy of Team NT approaches the finish line in the juvenile co-ed five-dog 10-km dog mushing race at the Hay River ice crossing on Tuesday.

Alaska, NT are the only teams competing in dog mushing at Arctic Winter Games

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

If you're a dog musher, there's a very good chance you could be going home with one or more ulus from these 2018 Arctic Winter Games.

There are just two contingents competing in dog mushing this time around – Alaska and the Northwest Territories – and that's a source of worry for some.

The juvenile co-ed five-dog 10-km race was contested at the Hay River ice crossing

on Tuesday morning and it was Johanna Badalich of Alaska who picked up her second gold ulu of these Games. Her first-place finish of 19 minutes, 8.38 seconds was more than 15 seconds bet-

ter than silver medallist Anna Cassidy of the Northwest Territories. The NWT's Kale Beck wound up with bronze.

"I honestly didn't know how I would do against the other mushers," said Badalich. "I'm frankly very surprised I'm doing as well as I am."

Her first gold ulu came on Monday in the juvenile co-ed five-dog 7.5-km race, which she won by more than 26 seconds. Beck placed second

in that event while Alaska's Jamo Morris claimed bronze.

The course ran very fast on Tuesday thanks to a good blast of cold weather overnight. It's also a flat course, something Badalich said is different for her.

"I'm used to a more twisty course that has hills and 90-degree angles so this was a lot easier for me," she said. "My dogs have never been around ice so they're avoiding it at all costs, which works well in my favour."

"I'm frankly very surprised I'm doing as well as I am."

Johanna Badalich

As for Cassidy, her second place finish in the 10-km race on Tuesday was her first ulu of these Games and she agreed with Badalich's sentiment about the course.

"It was really slick, nice and smooth," Cassidy said. "There were a few rough patches but overall it was really good."

Yukon and Alberta North have sent dog-mushing competitors to past Games but not this year, and neither did Nunavut.

Badalich said that's a big disappointment to her but she has an idea on how to revive interest.

"We've been talking about bringing people in from places like Greenland because

people from the NWT and Alaska have enough dogs between them so we would be able to let them use our dogs to race," she said.

"We need to keep this sport in the Arctic Winter Games because there's a real fear that they could replace it with a new sport. As a

dog musher, I'm against that because it's a big part of our tradition and heritage."

Dog mushing was not included in the 2016 Games

in Greenland but that was because of that nation's laws forbidding non-domestic dogs being brought into the country.

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AWG igloo loses battle with sun

Colourful icon removed over safety concerns

by Paul Bickford

Northern News Services

A multicoloured igloo built in Hay River for the Arctic Winter Games has lost its battle with the sun.

The igloo, which had become something of instant icon, was taken down by its creator on the afternoon of March 19 with help from the Town of Hay River.

Teira Arnault, who built the igloo in late February in front of the Welcome to Hay River sign, said it wasn't a difficult decision to remove it because of the risk it would collapse.

"I was kind of worried about it for the last few days just because the weather has been so warm and it was rotting," she said the day after it was removed. "I was worried somebody was going to get hurt."

Arnault checked the igloo on March 19 and its tunnel and one side had further deteriorated.

She said she was worried

Please see **page 21**



Paul Bickford/NNSL photo

Teira Arnault inspects her sun-damaged igloo on March 14. She built the structure as a personal project for the South Slave Arctic Winter Games, but had to take it down on March 19 because of safety concerns.

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Heartbreak and medal sweeps in cross-country skiing



Cody Punter/NNSL photo

The Yukon's Sonjaa Schmidt leads the pack heading into the first lap of the 7.5-km juvenile female cross-country race in Fort Smith on Tuesday. Schmidt made a wrong turn on the course and had to double back to finish the race. She was still able to capture silver.

Wrong turn costs Yukon female skier gold; Yukon boys team cleans up in 7.5-km race

by **Cody Punter**
Northern News Services

There was lots of excitement on the race course for cross-country skiing in Fort Smith on Tuesday.

Team Yukon's Sonjaa Schmidt took an early lead in the women's 7.5-km juvenile race, shooting out of the gate and holding on to her position through five kilometres. But as she came around the bend past the clubhouse on her way to the final lap, she turned left toward the finish line, believ-

ing the race was over.

After crossing the line and realizing her mistake, it was too late as Makena Pruden of Team Alberta North passed her and held on to the lead for the final stretch.

"I was skiing into the stadium and I realized the girl in first skied into the finish," said Pruden. "She came back out and I just went for it. I knew this was my move and I had to go for it if I was going to maintain my position."

Despite the blunder,

Schmidt was able to get back into the race and secure second place.

"It was quite disappointing. I went back out and tried to catch the girl in first but I couldn't," she said.

Sapmi skier Elen Kristine Petterson finished right behind Schmidt to take bronze.

After the race was over, Pruden offered Schmidt some words of encouragement.

"I've raced her before and

I know she's a super strong skier," said Pruden. "I just congratulated her and told her that mistakes happen and that I was really proud of her."

The 7.5-km juvenile male race saw team Yukon dominate as the team was able to nail down all three podium spots.

The race started off with a pack of four skiers, led by Derek Deuling, along with teammates Sasha Masson,

Victor Thibeault and a skier from Russia. By the final lap, the three Yukon skiers managed to pull ahead and maintain their medal positions until the end.

Deuling continued to extend his lead throughout the race, leaving Masson and Thibeault to challenge one another for second place coming into the finish.

"We skied together for the whole course, similar pace,

similar speed but at the end Victor kind of lost his footing and lunged and got third," said Masson.

Deuling said the fact that the three skiers were all able to medal is a testament to how tight-knit their team is.

"We all go to the same schools. We all train five times a week together," said Deuling. "We kind of depend on each other for whatever we need."



Cody Punter/NNSL photo

Yukon teammates Sasha Masson, Derek Deuling, and Victor Thibeault share the podium after they swept the medals in the 7.5-km juvenile male race in Fort Smith on Tuesday.

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Speed skating officials David Gilday, left, and head official Robin Gregg are two of the 11 officials whose experience amounts to 174 years combined.



Nunavut's Rosalie Demaio, foreground, wins her juvenile female heat.



Chloe Nevin of Nunavut places second in her junior female heat.

Northern News Services
Speed skaters donned their blades and took to the ice Sunday in hopes of qualifying for the finals in their event at the arena in Fort Smith. Athletes in juvenile male and female as well as junior male and female put their best foot forward.

SPEED SKATING Feature

by Paul Bannister

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	DOG MUSHING / TRAINEAU À CHIENS On the Hay River in K'atloodeeche First Nation Dene Village Road	SNOWSHOEING / RAQUETTE Hay River Ski Club 25003 Fairway Drive
BIATHLON SKI Hay River Ski Club 25003 Fairway Drive	FUTSAL Diamond Jenness Secondary School 58 Woodland Drive	VOLLEYBALL Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre 73 Woodland Drive
BIATHLON SNOWSHOE / BIATHLON RAQUETTES Hay River Ski Club 25003 Fairway Drive	GYMNASTICS / GYMNASTIQUE Rowe's Construction Head Office 25 Studney Drive	WRESTLING / LUTTE Rowe's Construction Head Office 25 Studney Drive
DENE GAMES / JEUX D'ÉNÉS Chief Lamaliche Complex K'atloodeeche First Nation	HOCKEY Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre 73 Woodland Drive	

AWG CULTURAL LOCATIONS / LIEUX CULTURELS DES JHA

- CENTENNIAL LIBRARY (WORKSHOP) (L'ÉGLISE)
- CHIEF SUNRISE GYMNASIUM (MARKETPLACE) (MARCHÉ)

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)

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Team NT's Jack Coombs leads his competitors in the junior male heat.



The athletes blast from the start line in the junior male event.

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Alaskan men's volleyball team faces uphill battle

Many players opted to participate in state basketball tournament instead

by Dylan Short
Northern News Services

Team Alaska's junior men's volleyball team had to overcome adversity before the Games even started, having lost more than half their players to a basketball tournament in their home state.

Kuni Diorce, the volleyball team's head coach, originally

recruited 15 players from across Alaska to try out this year, however, eight of those players withdrew in favour of their high school state basketball tournament.

"I went from 15 to seven, basically in a couple of days, right before we left," Diorce said. "You have these Alaskan cultures, where basketball is a

very big thing. Their families, generations have gone to state to play basketball, so they are committed to that."

While losing half of a team's players would be enough of a problem, Diorce explained that for Alaskan men's volleyball it only adds to the challenge of having no permanent club system in the state.

"Because Alaska doesn't have an established boy's volleyball club, the first time we get to meet is on the plane over here," Diorce said.

A number of the players he brought to this year's games were selected through a video tryout submitted online after every returning player he had from the 2016 Games – except

for one – chose the basketball tournament over the trip to the South Slave.

Ryan Little is the only player returning from the bronze medal team that competed in Greenland two years ago. He said losing all his teammates from the past Games was a tough blow.

"Yeah, that's definitely adversity right there," Little said, "I had good chemistry with those players and now we only have seven players in total including myself, so we have no bench players."

The roster limit for volleyball at the AWG is 10, meaning that other teams can sub in fresh legs as the games go on.

The Alaskan players, having just met last week, are taking extra measures to get to know each other as quick as they can.

"We've been practising in our dorms. We've been going over our rotations together," Little said. "We just have to hustle and build this chemistry as fast as possible."

Diorce and Little agreed that their on-court goals for these Games is to gel as a team and compete at the highest level. After they pushed Team Greenland to the maximum five sets in their first game Monday, it appears they are on the right track.

TOWN OF FORT SMITH

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

FORT SMITH VENUE LOCATION / ENDRITS OÙ AURONT LIEU LES JEUX - FORT SMITH

- ARCTIC SPORTS / SPORTS ARCTIQUES**
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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**
Joseph B. Tyrrell Elem. School
232 McDougal Road

AWG CULTURAL LOCATIONS / LIEUX CULTURELS DES JHA

- 1 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL
- 2 UNCLE GABE'S FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
- 3 NORTHERN LIFE MUSEUM

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

- 6 AWG FLAME
- 7 FLAMME DES JHA
- 8 MEDIA CENTRE
- 9 CENTRE DES MEDIAS
- 10 VOLUNTEER/ACCREDITATION CENTRE
- 11 BENEVOLES/CENTRE D'ACCREDITATION
- 12 MISSION OFFICE
- 13 BUREAU DES MISSIONS
- 14 SWIMMING POOL
- 15 PISCINE
- 16 PARKS OFFICE / TOURIST INFO
- 17 BUREAU DES PARCS / BUREAU DES SERVICES TOURISTIQUES
- 18 ROARING RAPIDS HALL
- 19 ROYAL RAPIDS HALL
- 20 LAUNDRY
- 21 BLANDIERIE
- 22 POST OFFICE
- 23 BUREAU DE POSTE
- 24 POLICE
- 25 POLICE
- 26 HOSPITAL / POLYCLINIC
- 27 HOPITAL / POLYCLINIQUE
- 28 AWG MERCHANDISE
- 29 MARCHANDISE DES JHA
- 30 PIN TRADING CENTRE
- 31 CENTRE D'ECHANGE DES EPINGLETTES

Welcome

TO HAY RIVER & FORT SMITH

2018 SOUTH SLAVE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

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Ryan Little of Team Alaska sends a serve over the net on day two of competition in Hay River.

À l'école de l'événement

Je pense que c'est très bien organisé, dit-il'

par Denis Lord
Ulu News

Comment organise-t-on la sécurité lors d'un événement? Que faut-il faire pour gérer adéquatement l'utilisation de l'espace? C'est pour connaître les réponses à ces questions et à bien d'autres que deux étudiants du programme Recreation leadership, donné au Nunavik, sont venus assister aux Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique.

Celle qui donne la formation, et qui accompagne à Hay River ses étudiants Drake Almond et Diana Lock, s'appelle Jessica Veillet. Elle-même a travaillé pendant plusieurs années dans l'organisation d'événements pour la ville de Sherbrooke (Québec).

"La dernière fois que le cours s'est donné au Nunavik, explique Jessica, c'est en ... 1999. Ceux qui l'ont pris, à l'époque, travaillent aujourd'hui pour le gouvernement et ils voulaient que ça soit donné à nouveau pour pouvoir organiser ici des événements. Assister aux Jeux de l'Arctique va nous apprendre à penser grand."

À chaque jour, Drake et Diana reçoivent une assigna-



Jessica Veillet, à gauche, et Drake Almond sont à Hay River avec l'équipe du Nunavik pour se renseigner sur la façon d'organiser des programmes récréatifs pendant les Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique.

tion, observent, questionnent ... et font un rapport.

"À la cérémonie d'ouverture illustre Drake, nous avons évalué la visibilité des commanditaires, la gestion de la foule et son entrée dans l'aréna. Nous assistons aussi aux rencontres matinales de la mission Nunavik-Québec."

Ils se préoccupent aussi de ce qui touche les médias, la logistique, la santé.

À constater le nombre de gens qui viennent saluer Drake au café où nous nous rencontrons, le jeune homme a manifestement de bonnes aptitudes sociales. Ce sont celles-ci qui l'ont conduit, lui qui est davantage un adepte de culture que de sport, vers le programme Recreation leadership, une formation professionnelle de 18 mois qui se donne à Inukjuak. "Drake a des talents de

leaders, affirme son enseignante Jessica Veillet. S'il a une question, c'est sûr qu'il va trouver la réponse."

Jusqu'à présent, le "stage" de Drake et Diana s'est surtout attaché à différents aspects de la mission du Québec-Nunavik mais Drake ne désespère pas de rassasier sa curiosité à un niveau plus international. Avis aux intéressés! Il a d'ailleurs pu parler à certains entraîneurs de l'équipe groenlandaise, s'intéressant à leurs parcours, à la façon dont ils ont sélectionné leurs athlètes.

C'est le premier événement international auquel Drake Almond participe et il est très excité.

"Je pense que c'est très bien organisé, dit-il. L'ambiance est bonne. L'esprit sportif est magnifique, les athlètes sont heureux des victoires des autres."

Il terminera sa formation en décembre prochain et, à son terme, envisage de rejoindre le département des loisirs de l'administration régionale Kativik, ou d'organiser des événements ou des campagnes de sensibilisation dans le domaine de la santé au Nunavik.

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Yamal aims for gold with borrowed guns

Change in regulations forces team to borrow rifles from Hay River Ski Club

by **Dylan Short**
Northern News Services

After two days of competition a strong Team Yamal has captured 14 out of a total 24 biathlon ulus, including four gold in eight events.

While Yamal traditionally does quite well at the Games, this year's performance is particularly impressive given that the athletes aren't using their own rifles.

"With a situation that happened in Russia, we couldn't bring our guns," said Alexander Dakhno, Yamal's biathlon coach, speaking via a

translator. "There was a high risk of the whole team not coming here."

The unusual twist that Dakhno spoke of was due to a recent change in regulations for the international transport of weapons, which required additional paperwork to be submitted before the biathlon guns are allowed across international borders. Dakhno explained that because of an airline miscue, the team wasn't alerted to the missing paperwork until they arrived at the airport.

"We paid for the guns as

luggage, but the system didn't indicate that the guns were paid for and that's why we never got a notification that there were required documents missing," Dakhno explained.

Chuck Lirette, the chief of range for biathlon, said the Hay River Ski Club's chief of competition got a call late one evening from Moscow asking if the team should still make the trip to Canada.

"(The club) gave them the thumbs up, and so the Russians boarded the plane and we got them out here the next day," Lirette said.

The club was able to find 16 guns to spare, 10 of which the Russians decided to use. The Russians had their ski biathletes share the firearms with their snowshoe biathletes.

"It's a different style of gun, different brand and quality," Dakhno said. "So on one side, we were able to shoot from a different, better quality gun. But, at the same time, we couldn't bring our own guns that we are used to."

While his athletes are consistently finding themselves on the podium, Dakhno is just happy that his team members

were able to make it to the Games and that they are enjoying themselves.

"Because of the openness, helpfulness and gratitude of the people of the Northwest Territories, they made it happen" says Dakhno. "We are very, very grateful that we are able to compete in the Games this year."

Dylan Short/NNSL photo

Mikhail Kozheknikov celebrates as he approaches the finish line during the junior male 6-km sprint.



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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, 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)	

An empty space at the Welcome to Hay River sign is all that remains after an igloo built for the Arctic Winter Games was removed due to safety concerns on March 19.

Paul Bickford/NNSL photo

Much too damaged to be safe

Continued from page 14

the igloo – made of 600 ice blocks – could have fallen on anyone who crawled inside.

"I had fixed it with snow, but I kicked my foot through it very easily," she said. "It wasn't very strong."

Arnault had covered the igloo, which was 1.2-metres high and 2.4-metres across, with a white tarp to reflect the sunshine, especially on the side facing the river which got the most sun.

She is happy the igloo was standing long enough for many people to get photos of it, including athletes and other visitors for the Arctic Winter Games, which officially began on March 18.

"I think a lot of people got a lot of beautiful pictures with it," she said. "And I think everybody here will remember it for the Arctic Winter

Games."

Arnault noted it was particularly nice to look at the igloo with lights on inside.

"I think it was just the colours and the way the lights shone through it," she said. "It was kind of like stained glass almost, but it was ice."

"I think everybody here will remember it."

Teira Arnault

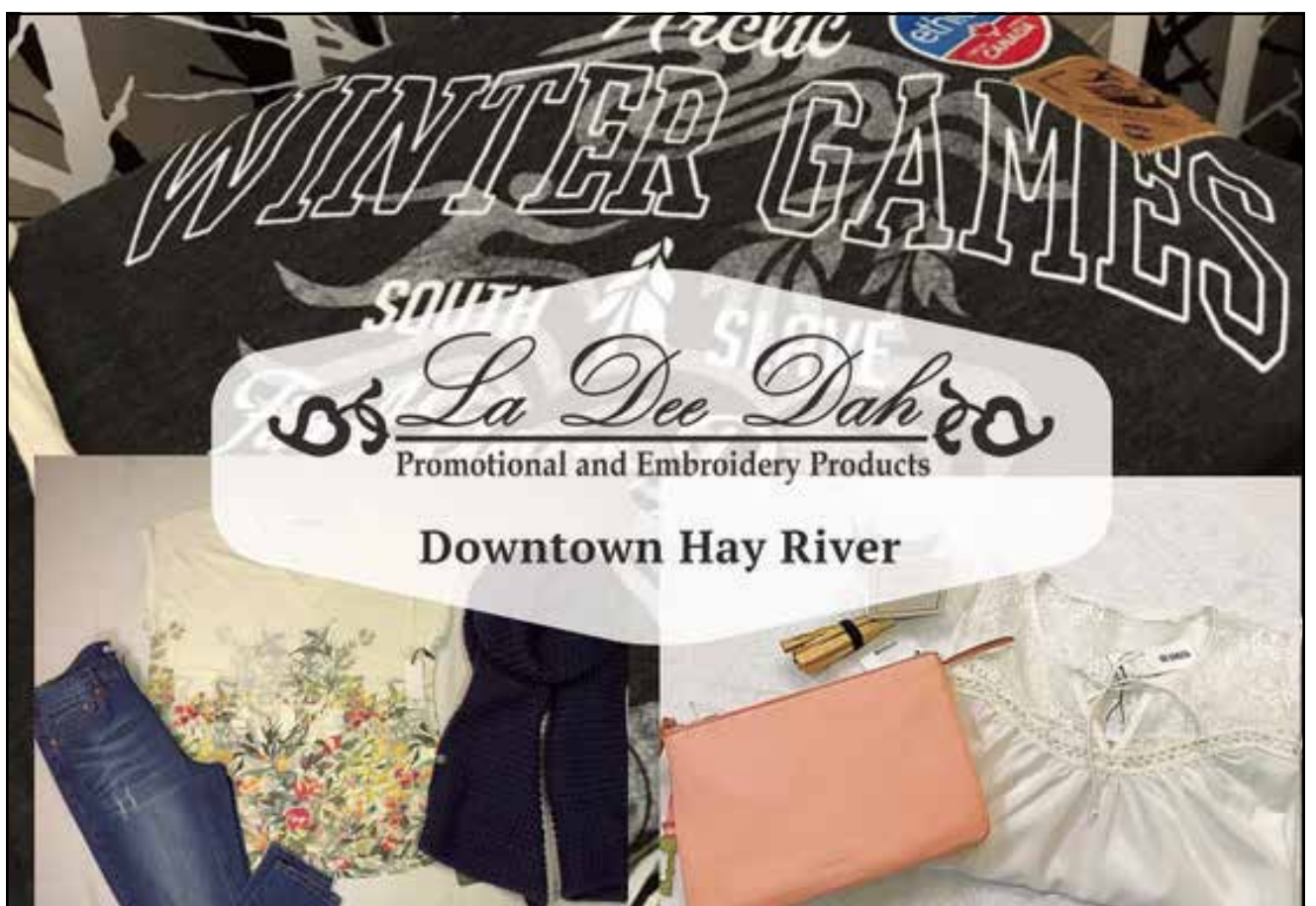
Mayor Brad Mapes agreed with Arnault's decision to have it taken down.

"There's nothing you can do with Mother Nature, right?" he said of the warm weather that led to the igloo's demise.

Mapes noted the igloo elicited many positive comments, including from visitors to the Arctic Winter Games.

"They really appreciated it," he said.

Mapes said hopefully Arnault will consider building another igloo next winter, and the town would assist her with the project.



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



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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.

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Sincerely,

Mayor Brad Mapes



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