

# Enbridge pipeline repairs on horizon

Spokesperson says company plans to hire 70 to 80 people to replace up to 2,300 metres of pipeline

Volume 23 Issue 29

THURSDAY, MARCH 9 2017

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Nahendeh MLA stands against GNWT's budget



Youth to study environment at Scotty Creek



Region hits traditional games



Fort Liard youth hit Hay Lake





Audrey Steedman traces out a pattern on lining material during the fourth day of a parka-making workshop at the Open Sky gallery on March 5.

# Parka class shows skills to students of sewing

*Ins and outs of signature Northern coat explored*

by April Hudson  
Northern News Services  
Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson

An ongoing parka-making workshop in Fort Simpson is teaching Northern women a new skill.

Led by avid sewer Deb Stipdonk, known especially in the village for her quilt-making workshops, five women have selected their material and are in the process of assembling their garments.

Made from thick woolen duffle and lined with warm Kasha fabric, the parkas are being made according to one of several patterns Stipdonk has collected over the years.

Participants learn how to cut out and assemble their parka shell, hood and liner, insert a zipper and sew in pockets, making adjustments as needed along the way.

Stipdonk has taught parka-making in the Deh Cho region for eight or nine years now. She first learned the art when she lived in Kugaaruk, Nunavut.

"I remember the local ladies there taught me how to do it. Everybody got together for sewing and it was a very popular evening activity," Stipdonk said.

She still remembers the first parka she ever made – a long, blue creation similar to the styles she is currently teaching, made of duffle fabric.

"That was actually the first time I'd ever heard of duffle – growing up in the cities, you just didn't need that

weight," she said.

Although she has sewed all her life, it was years later that she would start teaching the craft, though – after she moved to Fort Simpson and her children grew up, Aurora College approached her about teaching traditional parka-making classes.

"That's when I jumped back in," she said.

"It was quite an honour, I felt, to be asked to teach Northern people how to do it, so I was really thrilled about it – and I'm still really thrilled when I get asked to do it."

It helps, she added, that the

Open Sky Creative Society – which hosted the parka-making workshop – has a space in its gallery ideal for sewing.

"(Teaching) people to sew is a really nice way to get to know a group of people. I find it quite relaxing to do and we have a nice size of space here – it's more about the social aspect, for me, at this point, than anything else," she said of why she agreed to take on the class.

As the proud grandmother of a young granddaughter and grandson, it also helps her expand her peer group beyond those involved with two-to-four-year-olds.

"It's a really nice opportunity for me to spend some time with adults," she said.

"I've always liked teaching, and watching people learn, seeing them smile and enjoy it."

The class continues March 18, wrapping up March 19.

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# Spring carnival schedule released

Nahanni Butte will be holding its Lukeh Carnival from March 17 to 19. The carnival kicks off with traditional games, a hockey tournament and dances on March 17, followed by more games and dances on the 18th. On March 19, there will be a scavenger hunt and a sliding party, followed by Bingo at the community gymnasium.

–April Hudson



## Did we get it wrong?

*Deh Cho Drum* is committed to getting facts and names right. With that goes a commitment to acknowledge mistakes and run corrections. If you spot an error in *Deh Cho Drum*, call the editor at (867) 695-3786, or e-mail [dehchodrum@nnsi.com](mailto:dehchodrum@nnsi.com). We'll get a correction or clarification in as soon as we can.

## NEWS Briefs

### Sudden death ruled not suspicious

RCMP have said there was no foul play identified in the sudden death of a person in Fort Liard on Feb. 26.

That information was released March 3, four days after RCMP notified the public in a news release of the death.

On Feb. 26, RCMP members in Fort Liard received a report of someone found dead on a trail near the community hall. Members of the Northwest Territories Major Crimes Unit and Forensic Identification Services investigated the death.

On March 3, RCMP said the file is now in the hands of the NWT Coroner Services. There will be a Coroner's investigation, completed with help from the Fort Liard RCMP.

### Walk to Tuk crosses finish line

Participants endeavouring to walk the distance between Fort Providence and Tuktoyaktuk wrapped up their Walk to Tuk challenge last week.

In total, 3,686 people participated in this year's challenge, accumulating an average of five hours and 20 minutes of weekly exercise apiece.

The event challenged walkers to cover a distance of 1,658 kilometres between Jan. 3 and Feb. 28.

In Fort Simpson, the nine-person team Noon Walkers clocked 7,098 kilometres, followed by the Deh Cho Steppers with 4,677 and Pteam Ptarmigan with 4,202. Fort Simpson had a total of seven teams registered.

Fort Liard's Tukkin Liard team walked 2,537 kilometres.

Nine teams out of Fort Providence participated, including two school classes.

### Fort Simpson youth join Yk basketball tourney

The last basketball tournament of the year drew a group of 20 youth from Fort Simpson who participated in three teams.

The Senior Cager basketball tournament, for youth in grades 9 to 12, ran from March 1 to 5 in Yellowknife.

The tournament included teams from Yellowknife, Inuvik, Norman Wells, Tulita and Fort Good Hope.

### Ministers hit region

Three ministerial visits have been announced for the month of March.

Louis Sebert, the minister responsible for public engagement and transparency, will be in Fort Providence on March 13 conducting an open house. The open house will run from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Snowshoe Inn in the dining lounge.

Sebert will also be holding open houses in Fort Simpson on April 4, and in Nahanni Butte and Fort Liard on April 5.

On March 27, Health and Social Services Minister Glen Abernethy will hold a meeting with leaders in Fort Simpson, followed by a public hearing at 7 p.m. in regard to the Fort Simpson health centre.



April Hudson/NNSI photo

**Enbridge representatives gave** a community update in Fort Simpson on Feb. 28. From left are Brian Cikaluk, supervisor pipelines; Bert Fillion, construction manager; Mark Gerlock, area supervisor; Chris Dickson, manager of community and indigenous engagement; Ann Marie Tout, regional manager for Enbridge; Sarah McKenzie, regulatory specialist; and David McWatt, project manager.

# Pipeline repairs set for fall start

*October finish in the cards for project after directional drilling, say Enbridge reps at public meeting*

by April Hudson  
Northern News Services  
Deh Cho

Enbridge Pipelines is moving ahead with plans to drill under the Mackenzie River in order to replace up to 2,300 metres of the Line 21 pipeline.

The pipeline running to Zama from Norman Wells was shut down in November as a precautionary measure after the south slope of the Mackenzie River along the pipeline began shifting at an increased rate.

Ann Marie Tout, regional manager for the Enbridge pipeline, said during a public meeting in Fort Simpson on Feb. 28 the affected section of the pipeline has been cleaned and capped at both ends with steel.

Now, Enbridge is proposing to leave that segment in place and use horizontal directional drilling to insert a new section under the river.

Tout said horizontal directional drilling is designed specifically to minimize environmental impact and is typically used under large rivers.

"We believe (this) is the best solution. It will ensure long-term protection of the river (and) it will optimize the safety of the pipeline from any instability along the river bank," she said.

The company would drill to a depth of between 70 and 100 metres, drilling from both slopes at the same time for between 45 and 60 days.

Pending regulatory and customer approval, Tout said drilling would begin in early August

and wrap up in late October.

Over the past two months, Enbridge Pipelines has been completing survey work on the north and south slopes of the river.

Lights on the river mark where drilling rigs have been collecting core samples over the past couple weeks, as well.

Tout said there are approximately eight people currently involved in the work, which includes local contractors.

**"It will optimize the safety of the pipeline from any instability along the river bank."**

Ann Marie Tout

"These samples are collected just to confirm that our proposed solution is feasible and also to help us with the design," she said.

The company plans to file two applications this month with the National Energy Board – one for construction and the other to decommission the segment of pipeline that will be left in place under the river.

Enbridge Pipelines will also be applying to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for a land use permit and Type B water licence to support their drilling.

"We'd need about 70 to 80 people for this project, and we will be working with local businesses to optimize the benefits to the community without negatively impacting the community," Tout said, adding the company will need temporary work space on both sides of the river and may need additional land for their right of way.

Anticipating an August start to the work, Tout

said the company hopes to barge its equipment to the North slope and stage it in June or July. Equipment will be trucked in to the south slope and staged in July.

### Existing pipeline shouldn't cause concern

"Leaving (the existing) segment in place is the safest option and the least disruptive," Tout said.

"It avoids us having to try and excavate to remove the pipeline that's in the ground now, and it significantly reduces the risk of future instability."

The steel segment, which is buried four metres under the river, is encased in cement and is yellow-jacketed, meaning it has a polyethylene coating on it.

David McWatt, Enbridge's project manager overseeing the work on Line 21, said the cement casing goes up the banks of the river on both sides.

"It's been in since 1985. We've been monitoring it and there hasn't been anything in the river from the pipeline," McWatt said.

"I think that for the foreseeable future ... it'll be cleaned again and it'll be filled with grout, so it'll be heavy and anchored where it is. I don't think we'll be having any issues with any toxins coming off the pipe."

As for the future of the pipeline, Tout said she is optimistic despite a decision by Imperial Oil to suspend production in Norman Wells.

"I think any buyer would want an operational pipeline because otherwise it's a stranded asset," she said.

"Our feeling is that regardless of who owns it, they would want to see the pipeline operational."



# Nahendeh MLA blasts budget

GNWT operational budget passes with Thompson, O'Reilly opposed

by April Hudson  
Northern News Services  
Deh Cho

Nahendeh MLA Shane Thompson was one of two MLAs to stand against the GNWT's 2017-18 operational budget in a vote on March 6.

The budget passed all three readings before the assembly with Thompson and Frame Lake MLA Kevin O'Reilly voting against it.

The proposed operational budget initially sparked strong opposition from the majority of regular MLAs, who said strategic spending was needed in order to bolster the economy.

Much of that opposition melted away over the course of the legislative assembly's sitting, after the government agreed to add \$4.8 million toward social and industry spending.

Thompson delivered a speech to the assembly on March 6 to outline the concerns he still has with the budget.

"When somebody offers you something, you need to consider it further and look into it a bit closer," Thompson said.

His concerns include a lack of input on the budget with

front-line workers, as well as job cuts in the region.

He pointed to the loss of four positions in Fort Simpson as a sign the government is still not taking the needs of small communities seriously – a criticism he and his predecessors have often levelled at the government.

"It saddens me when this government cuts positions in the first place, but it is very frustrating when they look first at smaller regional centres to make the cuts," Thompson said, adding the impact of four job losses would be the equivalent of 65 jobs lost in Yellowknife.

"If this government was sincere about making sure we had a strong NWT, they would seriously look at where cuts would have the least impact on all residents."

Thompson said that despite the GNWT agreeing to defer reductions to Aurora College for its social work and teacher education programs, he expects the programs will be eliminated anyway.

The deferral was one of the concessions the GNWT made to regular MLAs and means there will be a fundamental review of the college before any cuts are implemented.



Great Slave Lake MLA Glen Abernethy speaks in the legislative assembly shortly after the 2015 election. The 2017-18 budget passed the legislative assembly but not without opposition. Nahendeh MLA Shane Thompson and Frame Lake MLA Kevin O'Reilly did not support it when it came time to vote.

However, no new students will be admitted to the program while the review is under way. "I can see the writing on the

wall," Thompson said.

"I have witnessed this type of approach before. Stopping the intake of students while

the strategic plan is done will cause students to lose interest in the program."

The end result, he added,

would be fewer Northern teachers and social workers as students head south for their education.



April Hudson/NNSL photo

Councillors in Fort Simpson met for their regular meeting on March 6. Clockwise from front are Coun. Marie Lafferty, Coun. Jarret Hardisty, Coun. Liza McPherson, Amanda Burrill, Mayor Darlene Sibbeston and senior administrative officer Bill Bennett.

## Landfill falls under council's microscope

Hazardous waste a concern as village aims to extend lifespan of facility

by April Hudson  
Northern News Services  
Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson

In an effort to clean up and extend the life of Fort Simpson's landfill, councillors reviewed a draft concept design for the facility on March 6.

According to that report, the capacity of the landfill's current waste cell has decreased and the cell is almost full, while the size of mixed metals and appliance piles have increased.

The report was completed by Golder Associates and states that if the landfill's large pile of metals and other materials stored at the solid waste facility were moved, the landfill's lifespan could extend for 13 years.

A material processing and transportation budget included in the report, which aims to provide "budgetary guidance," suggests a total cost of \$329,200 for equipment, processing time and other infrastructure but does not include a detailed transportation cost, which could cost between \$120,000 and \$220,000.

Senior administrative officer Bill Bennett said in his report to council that the capital plan includes \$260,000 for some of the clean-up work, although he noted that money won't cover all the work that needs to be done.

Mayor Darlene Sibbeston suggested the village look at implementing a recycling program, pointing to a proposal from Fort Smith, which is also looking to extend

the life of its facility.

"What they're proposing is an entire recycling program – even a composting recycling program," she explained.

She also used the example of Yellowknife which gives out a set amount of tags per week for garbage bags.

"Not everybody is going to buy into it at first but you get people who would get used to it ... It's all about extending the life (of the landfill) and protecting the environment. I wonder if something like that could be worked into this."

Aside from cleaning up the vast amounts of scrap metal at the landfill, councillors suggested prioritizing the cleanup of hazardous waste.

Coun. Sean Whelly said he wants to see the village remove barrels, paints and solvents.

"That, to me, is a high-priority area," he said.

"You get rid of two things – metals, which create space, and hazardous goods."

Sibbeston also suggested council look at "opening the door" to the landfill and allowing companies.

"(We could) say, 'Take what you want at your own expense; we're not going to charge you, we don't want anything from it, just take what you want and bring it down to get recycled at whatever facility you choose,' she said.

"Then look at it after that and (see) what we have left."

**"What they're proposing is an entire recycling program."**

Mayor Darlene Sibbeston

### LEGENDS OF THE NAHANNI VALLEY

I am a writer looking for information on the various strange stories and legends that surround the Nahanni National Park Reserve.

If you (or someone you know) have any stories you would like to share, I would love to hear from you! Old legends, second hand accounts, personal experiences, and skeptical opinions are all welcome.

Please send your stories to John at [j.vandersloot@hotmail.com](mailto:j.vandersloot@hotmail.com).

For more information, please inquire at the same address.





# Cold exposes true Northern resilience

Northern News Services

March 5 was, by any measure, a frigid start to Beavertail Jamboree celebrations in Fort Simpson. The wind howled and bit. It was one of those cold, blustery winds that numbed any flesh exposed to the elements for more than a few seconds.

And in the midst of it all, Fort Simpson frolicked.

The last two months have been sad ones for many communities in the region, marked by unexpected deaths and subsequent mourning. Adding to that bleakness is the North's long, dark winter nights.

But the days are getting longer now and the region is preparing for spring. That may not heal the hurt many people are feeling right now but it at least gives them something to look forward to.

March 5 was a prime example of the resilience of Northern people.

Youth in Fort Simpson spent the afternoon at a sliding hill and skating rink, sharing hot chocolate over a fire, heedless of the cold and simply enjoying the afternoon.

Later that night, with the wind still roaring and flurries of snow still coming down, a stoic group of volunteers belonging to Fort Simpson's fire department bundled up and headed to the harbour to set off fireworks.

If a subsequent outpouring of gratitude toward those volunteers on social media is any indication, their willingness to push through the cold temperatures in order to put on a light show warmed the hearts of children

and adults alike.

That was the signal, the kick-off point for a week of annual celebrations in Fort Simpson.

People have been playing sports, facing off over crib boards at the recreation centre and getting ready to feast in true Deh Cho fashion.

Elsewhere in the region, other communities are looking forward to their own celebrations. Nahanni Butte, Sambaa K'e and Fort Liard will all be celebrating the coming spring in a week's time while Fort Providence is gearing up for its Bison Jamboree the following week.

This editorial would be remiss if it did not mention the exceptional efforts of the people who organize these events.

In Fort Simpson, the Beavertail committee put a tremendous amount of time this year into festival deliberations.

Years-old traditions – such as that of holding King, Queen, Prince and Princess contests together – have been altered in favour of a strategy that seems designed to encourage people to participate in the week's many events.

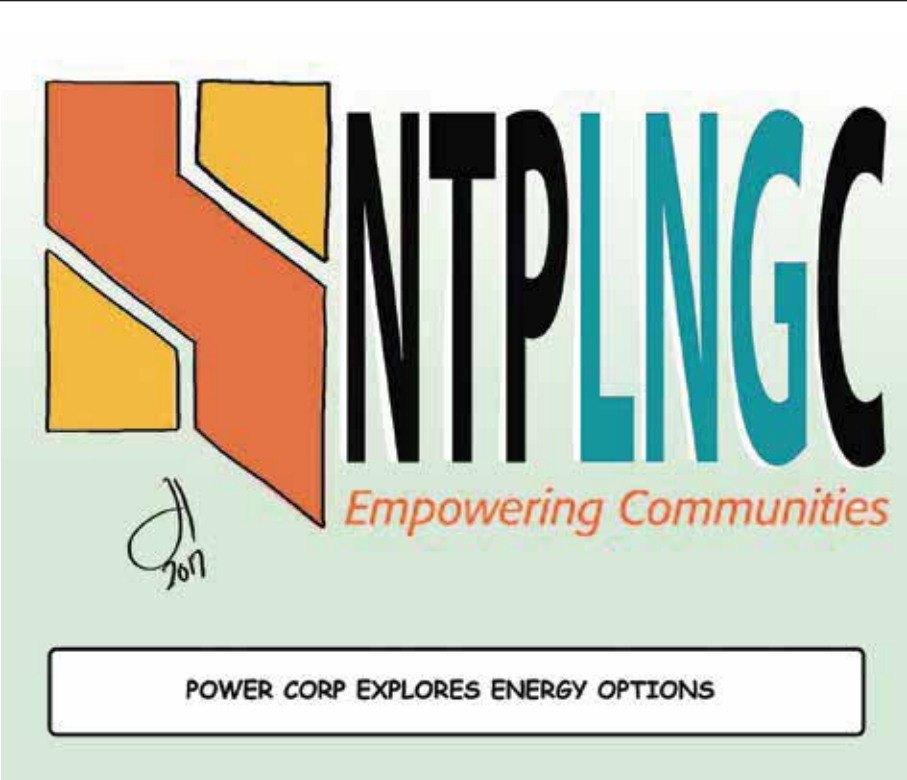
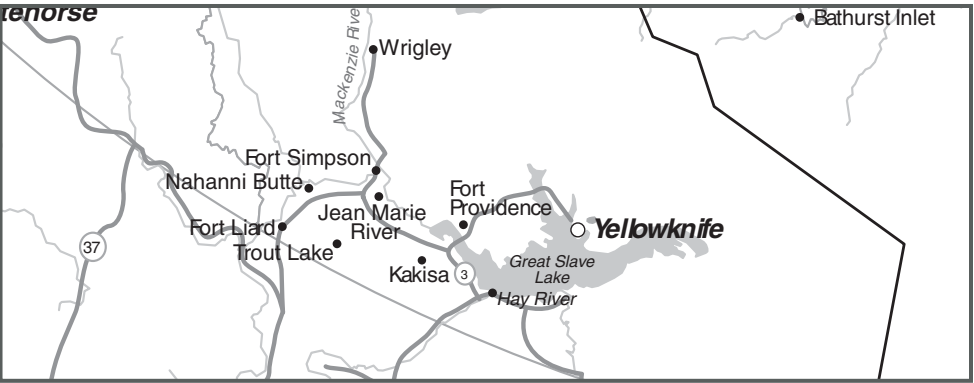
The committee also switched up the jamboree's usual event list, inviting comedy-hypnotist Scott Ward for a March 9 appearance and scheduling new events such as a men's beauty contest to lighten the mood.

Thanks to the people who have given their time toward organizing these festivals – not just in Fort Simpson but across the Deh Cho – people are getting ready to give spring a royal welcome.

Hats off to the Northern spirit.



APRIL HUDSON



April Hudson/NNSL photo

## GETTING READY FOR FUN

Megan Kaglik-Lapierre shows off her bright red sled as she makes her way to a sliding party in Fort Simpson on March 5.

**DEH CHO drum**  
FORT SIMPSON • NWT • LIIDLII KUE  
Published Thursdays

Also read in Fort Liard • Fort Providence • Fort Simpson  
Jean Marie River • Nahanni Butte • Trout Lake  
Wrigley • Kakisa and occasionally Lynx River

**NORTHERN NEWS SERVICES LIMITED**  
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Publishers of: Deh Cho Drum • Inuvik Drum • Kivalliq News  
Yellowknife • NWT News/North • Nunavut News/North  
Hay River Hub

Member of:  
Canadian Community Newspapers Association  
Alberta Press Council

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**ADVERTISING** – advertising@nnsi.com  
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# A hard day's shredding



*Elisabeth Nelson, left, Logan Hardisty, Javen Payou, Nick Kirby and instructor Simon Howard do up the buckles on their snowboards.*



*Snowboarder Zachary Berreault gives a thumbs-up from his spot on the hill.*



*Simon Howard helps Ashanti Timbre as she glides down the hill.*



*Elisabeth Nelson grins behind her snowgear as she takes a break from snowboarding.*



*Nigel Timbre takes the course.*



*Javen Payou was all smiles as he hauled his board to the hill.*





**Zachary Berreault** takes a jump while learning snowboarding at Hay Lake.

## SNOWBOARDING Feature

by Sophie Kirby

Northern News Services  
**Acho Dene Koe/Fort Liard**

Accompanied by two instructors from the NWT Snowboard Association, a gaggle of youth from Fort Liard took to the slopes on the week-end to learn some new skills.

Armed with boards, boots and warm winter gear, youth

who attended the hamlet's snowboarding clinic spent the better part of March 4 and 5 at Hay Lake, as well as dedicating the evening of March 3 to preparing for the clinic and fitting their boots.

Instructors included Nick Kirby and Simon Howard.

— text by April Hudson



**Syles Timbre, left, Logan Hardisty and Nigel Timbre** get ready for another run.



**Joseph Timbre** takes the jump at Hay Lake.



**AJ McLeod** shows off his board.



**Instructor Simon Howard** watches as **Logan Hardisty** prepares to stand up on the board.



**Keanna McLeod, back, and Zachary Berreault** in the front take a breather on the hill.



# Gardening enthusiasts converge

*'Timing is right' for NWT agriculture strategy, says ITI rep during conference*

by April Hudson  
Northern News Services  
Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson

A three-day agriculture conference in Fort Simpson brought together gardeners of all ages from across the region to hone their green thumbs.

The Dehcho Agriculture Conference, hosted by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, brought in up to four representatives from each community in the region to attend.

With presentations from the Northern Farm Training

Institute, Ecology North, the department and others, the weekend took first youth and then other delegates on a trip through the world of agriculture.

Topics included getting youth involved with gardening, school gardening, seeding and farmer's markets, as well as composting and greenhouses.

The conference came just as the territorial government announced the release of the NWT Agriculture Strategy, a five-year plan that includes

six pillars needed to develop the territory's agricultural sector.

Tracy St. Denis, director of economic diversification for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, described the strategy as a "roadmap."

"This is the first strategy of its type, and it talks about some things we need to do to advance the sector," she explained.

St. Denis, who attended the Dehcho Agriculture Conference in Fort Simpson, said

on March 5 the conference provided an opportunity for a wider discussion of the recently released strategy.

"The response we got back was that people are excited about it. They're glad the GNWT got together with the different departments to support this sector," she said.

"This was a great opportunity to talk about the strategy."

The hope is that they can boost the agriculture industry while reducing the cost and increasing the availability of

food for Northerners.

The plan is to accomplish this by identifying training opportunities, ensuring that the Department of Lands adopts an approach that supports agriculture and finding ways to get funding for those interested in farming among other things.

St. Denis said a year ago the department went to the territory's 33 communities to discuss how agriculture affects each of them. The information from those sessions was compiled into a document titled

What We Learned.

"People grow food in all 33 communities. Some of them have farmer's markets, community fairs – even the jams being created in Tuktoyaktuk" she said.

"That was the foundation for this strategy."

Although the strategy is a five-year plan, St. Denis said it will be reviewed regularly to ensure the territory is "still on the right path."

There will be flexibility for the government to adapt its plan if need be.

## Beavertail jamboree running all weekend

Northern News Services

Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson

Beavertail Jamboree is underway with a full weekend of events still to come. On March 9, there will be a feast at the recreation centre, followed by finals for the Beaver Cup and the crowing of the Beavertail Prince and Princess. At 8 p.m., hypnotist Scott Ward will perform.

On March 10, a community bar-becue at noon will be followed by games for youth and children throughout the afternoon. Radio bingo will be at 5 p.m., and there will be a youth talent show at 7 p.m. followed by a family dance.

March 11 kicks off with a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m., followed by snow drag races at the snye at 12 p.m. Adult traditional games will run throughout the afternoon, with an adult talent show scheduled for 6 p.m. There will also be a men's beauty contest and an adult dance. March 12 wraps up the jamboree with a family fun run, a fish fry and closing ceremonies at 2 p.m., where the crowning of the King and Queen will take place.

The Open Sky Creative Society will be holding a beaver or rabbit mitt workshop with Louisa Moreau from March 24 to 26.

### COMMUNITY Clips

with April Hudson

dehchodrum@nnsi.com

### Echo Dene School out for week

Acho Dene Koel/Fort Liard

School is closed for students at Echo Dene School as staff attend professional development from March 8 to 10.

### Federal representatives visit Jean Marie River

Thkek'ehdeli/Jean Marie River

On March 9, representatives from Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency will be in the community from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to provide information on the federal government's services and benefits.



April Hudson/NNSL photo

### KEEPING WARM IN THE COLD

Sporting a Beavertail Jamboree pin and thick fur mittens, Bruce Dowdeswell shovels a layer of snow off Fort Simpson's outdoor ice rink.

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**Edward Cholo, left, and Nicolas de Pelham, Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management, community monitors for Liidlii Kue First Nation, look at maps that show the extent of the permafrost thaw at Scotty Creek since 1947 in 2013. Next week 10 high school students will have their chance to learn their way around the Scotty Creek facility.**

NNSL file photo

# Scientists reach out to youth

Researcher says 'all hands on deck' needed to address changing Northern climate

by April Hudson  
Northern News Services  
Deh Cho

Ten high school students from Thomas Simpson Secondary School in Fort Simpson and Deh Gah School in Fort Providence will be joining researchers at the Scotty Creek Research Station south of Fort Simpson next week.

They will be the first students to participate in a credit course, led by Wilfrid Laurier University associate professor Bill Quinton, where they will learn firsthand about ecohydrology and the impact climate change has been having on the region.

The course runs from March 11 to 18 and brings the students and researchers together with elders and representatives from Dehcho First Nations.

Quinton said the course is a partnership between the uni-

versity, the GNWT and Dehcho First Nations. The Scotty Creek research station is one of several sites the university operates in the territory.

Part of the university's agreement with the territory is to increase local capacity and engage in training activities, Quinton explained.

**"It's a time to come together, and a good place to come together is Scotty Creek."**

Bill Quinton

"In the spirit of that, we've come up with this new course," he said.

"The idea was to do this across the Deh Cho and have students reply."

In order to be considered for the course, students were required to write a letter explaining why they wanted to take it.

"They were referring to their concerns about how things were changing," Quinton said.

"I think there was a real sense that the challenge is so large with climate change and all the uncertainty it brings to water resources and other resources, that we really need

all hands on deck to address these things."

Quinton hopes the program at Scotty Creek will mesh with Dehcho First Nations' Dehcho K'ehodi program, an environmental stewardship initiative that began in 2014.

"This is a nice opportunity to align on ongoing and new initiatives. Maybe Scotty Creek can play a role in helping to prepare guardians," Quinton said.

"It's a time to come together, and a good place to come together is Scotty Creek."

During the course, students will hear from Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief

Herb Norwegian. They will also work with Fort Simpson's Edward Cholo, whose traditional trapline runs along the old army road near the research station.

While on course, students will learn about aquatic ecology and how to use scientific instruments to take and analyze snow and soil samples.

They will learn forest characteristics and take measurements of tree height, diameter and density.

They will also need to analyze their data and write reports.

Quinton and his fellow researchers began working at

Scotty Creek Research Station in the mid-1990s.

The station is located by Goose Lake south of Fort Simpson. Around 1999, Quinton says work began to install semi-permanent sensors, which kicked off a long-term archive of data from the facility.

"Initially, it was a study on water resources and hydrological processes, but as time went on we noticed the landscape was changing due to thawing permafrost," he explained.

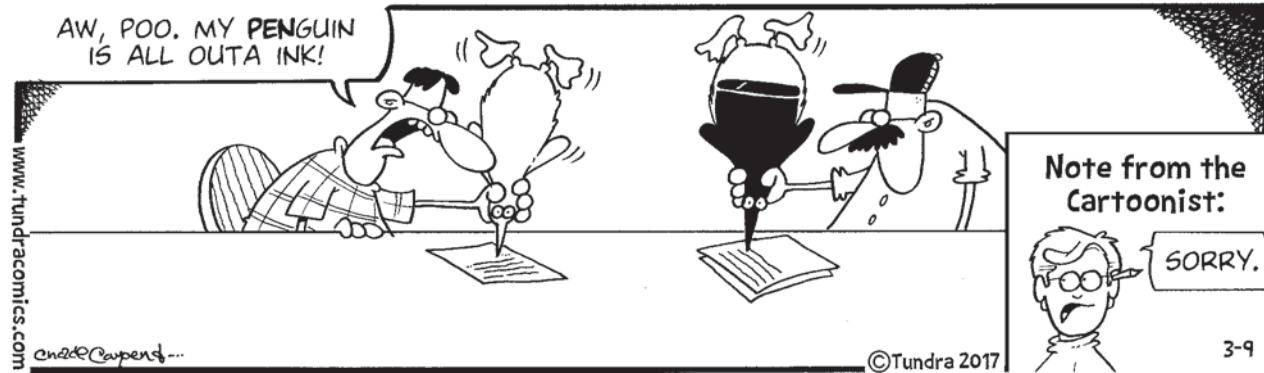
"It's really stark out there in terms of how obvious the change is."

One result of permafrost thaw is flooding as the ground surface lowers. That causes black spruce trees to die off, resulting in a forest turning into a wetland.

Around 2005, researchers began to bring in interdisciplinary people to study gas fluxes, carbon and methane, as well as linking into international agencies such as NASA.

"We started re-orienting our research to address these questions about how climate warming is changing the land," Quinton explained. "We are really focusing on areas of intense permafrost thaw."

## TUNDRA COMICS



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STREET talk

with April Hudson

dehchodrum@nnsi.com

What's your favourite thing to do when it's really cold out?



**Alayna Tale**  
"I like playing with my baby cousins!"



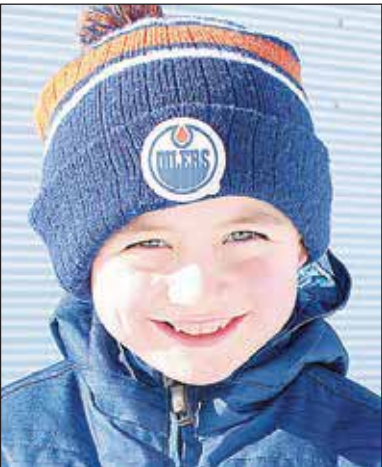
**Hadley Tsetso**  
"When it's really cold out, I jump into the snow and if it's hard enough I make snowmen out of it."



**Nateyaa Tanche**  
"I bury myself in the snow, and sometimes I make snowmen, and sometimes I hop through the snow."



**Tyrell Cook-Gargan**  
"I build snow tunnels and make snowmen with the snow."



**James Wyatt-Gargan**  
"My favourite thing is to stay inside and play with my toys. I have an awesome Hot Wheels race track I play with."



**Rebecca Nowdlak**  
"I play outside on the playground with my friends."

Student of the week



**SELA HORESAY**

**Age:** 7  
**Parents:** Yvonne and Wilfred Horesay  
**Community:** Fort Simpson  
**Teacher's comments:** "Sela is always ready to learn and has been working hard in math."  
**Favourite subject:** Art, especially cutting out things and painting.  
**Favourite book:** Rhyming books  
**Hobbies:** Building houses and cars out of Lego  
**Career aspirations:** Teacher  
**Favourite food:** Hamburgers and pomegranates

Horoscopes

**ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20** You may find yourself teetering between responsibilities to work, friends and even family. It's possible you will need to set aside some time to play catch-up in the coming days.

**TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21** Listen before you make assumptions, Taurus. Resist any temptation to wildly post or chat about personal information. You might regret it later on.

**GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21** Finances are your main priority this week, Gemini. Whether you have a lot in savings or are floundering paycheck to paycheck, it is time to reassess your financial situation.

**CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22** Cancer, if things are stressful at home, it may be necessary to step away for some breathing room. Book a vacation so everyone can unwind and recharge.

**LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23** Take a deep breath and try to relax, Leo. You have been operating on overdrive for some time now and you're just about out of gas. Book that vacation, pronto.

**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22** A promising collaboration may be on the horizon, Virgo. This could prove interesting and also propel a hobby or your career a bit further than you had anticipated.

**LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23** Libra, newfound success earns you the recognition you deserve. It could mean a promotion to a corner office or even the opportunity to enjoy a new, more lucrative job elsewhere.

**SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22** A dream or a passion project you have been working on for several months may finally come to fruition, Scorpio. Make changes gradually and success will follow.

**SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21** Sagittarius, there's no wiggle room left for apprehension or ambivalence. Take action this week and it could be a turning point in your life. Seal the deal however you choose.

**CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20** Capricorn, the key to landing on your feet is to always expect the curveballs that will be thrown your way. This way you are always on your toes and can adapt quickly.

**AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18** Now is a good time to declutter your life, Aquarius. Start sorting through your belongings, then move on to any emotional baggage you've been carrying.

**PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20** This week is ripe for love, Pisces. A romantic connection may finally bloom or you may get news that someone is expecting a baby.

Parents shut out of homes purchased for children

Recently we helped each of our three 30-something children buy homes by acting as guarantor. My husband spent hours helping with repairs and maintenance. I help with the grandchildren several times a week, and we often have everyone over for meals.

None of this would be a problem except that, apart from a verbal thank-you, there has been no other gesture of thanks from any of them. We feel hurt, disappointed and a bit embarrassed, and wonder if our expectation of something more is unreasonable. Some of our friends received flowers, wine and tickets to a show for providing less help to their children. Others have also had little or nothing.

These children were brought up to know better. We would just like a simple invitation to dinner at their homes to say thanks for putting yourselves on the line for us.

The hurt is festering but we don't know how to resolve the matter. We get conflicting advice from friends, with some saying we should count it a privilege to help and should expect nothing, while others are incensed on our behalf.

Martha

Martha, you say you raised them to know better. If that statement is true and all three children gave you the same level of thank-you, then this is what they consider adequate thanks.

If you get the same answer from each child, and you think the answer should be X but they say Y, then your answer is wrong. In addition, if they couldn't have afforded their houses without your guarantee, didn't you get them into a house they might otherwise have been prevented from having?

Whether their credit rating wasn't high enough to get the loan, or their income and savings weren't sufficient for a loan, more time would likely have solved those issues. In this sense, you circumvented the financial rules and safeguards. Should you be thanked for that? When a loan is given, all the details are

DIRECT Answers

with Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

confidential@nnsi.com

spelled out—fees, penalties, due dates and everything else. But as cosigner, you didn't spell out what you expected. The bank told them. You didn't. In your mind you had secret expectations.

We understand perfectly how you feel. You want a nice, spontaneous, meaningful thank-you. Everyone likes that.

But some events—graduation from university, the birth of a baby, the purchase of a first home—are milestones in a young adult's life. How can they share the stage?

Put yourself in their shoes. If this is their home, they are supposed to be making payments. They are paying taxes, insurance and utilities. You didn't give them a house. You gave them a debt the bank would have prevented them from having.

We shouldn't expect to be compensated for something we give freely. If we do, the gift is not free, from the heart, without strings attached. We should not think we are giving a gift if we expect anything – anything – in return. If we have to tell someone how to say thank you, what is the value of the thank-you? When thanks are not instinctively given, they are hollow.

We understand your feelings, but those feelings are not helpful in this situation. Your children may not think you gave them a gift. They may think you gave them a debt.

Wayne & Tamara

If you have any questions or comments for Wayne or Tamara, please forward e-mail to confidential@nnsi.com or write to Wayne & Tamara Mitchell, Station A, Box 2820, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2R1



# Deh Cho fights to place at traditional games

Annual traditional games championship sees Fort Simpson, Fort Providence students soar

by April Hudson  
Northern News Services  
Somba K'e/Yellowknife

Students from Fort Providence's Deh Gah School, Fort Simpson's Bompas Elementary School and Fort Liard's Echo Dene School went up against traditional games

players from across the territory, eking out the odd win during championships at the end of February.

From Bompas, Cadence Erasmus took second place in snow snake female, throwing a distance of 59 feet and falling short of placing first by just one inch.

Erasmus and classmate Jai-cee Tsetso also placed in stick pull, with Tsetso taking first and Erasmus coming in third in their group.

Deh Gah School's Marina Walker put up a strong showing in the female wrist hang,

taking second place overall with a distance of 296 feet.

That would have been a new record for the territory had it not been for William McDonald School's Gillian Furniss, who held on for 401 feet and one inch, claiming the top spot.

*"The hardest part was going up against Gameti."*

Cadence Erasmus

Bompas sent seven participants and two coaches in total. Tsetso said she was happy to place first in stick pull, which she described as her favourite traditional sport.

"It was pretty easy, and it was a good experience.

I met a lot of new people," she said, adding the experience lived up to her expectations.

"I really wanted to go to the games so I could compete against different athletes."

Erasmus said her favourite part of the tournament was playing in the handgame tournament.

"I like playing. It's a lot of fun," she said.

"The hardest part was going up against Gameti."

This was Erasmus' second time to the games, and she said she plans to attend again next year.

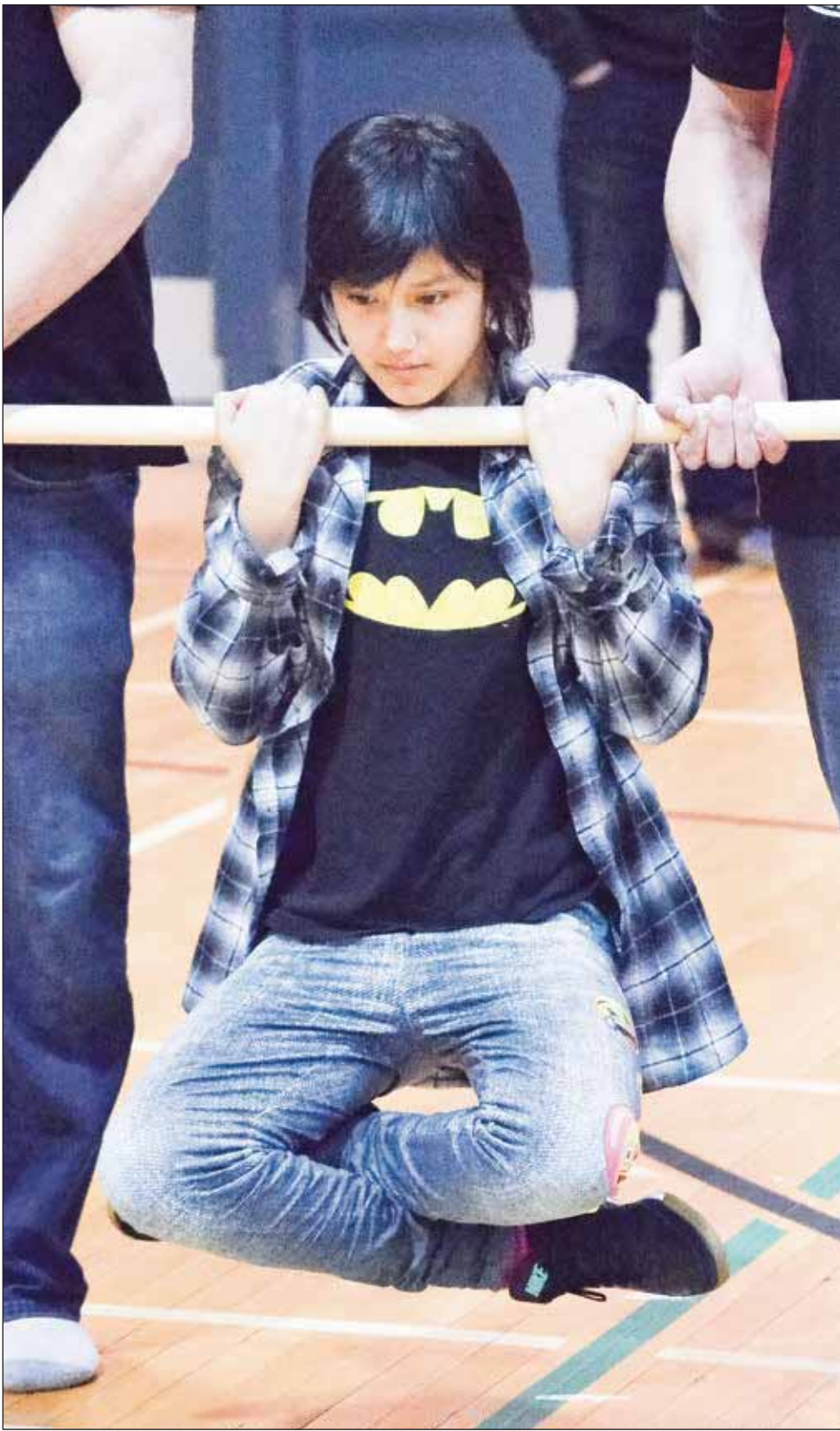
"I like seeing all my cousins, and I want to meet new people," she said.

Brittany Kendo, who didn't place but played in all the games, agreed that hand-games was the best part of the championships.

Kendo captained the Bompas team against East Three School from Inuvik, going up against her cousin in the process who was captaining East Three's team.

"The captains had to go up against each other, and the winner's team went first," she explained, adding she won her game.

Bompas' game against East Three School came in the loser's bracket, with Bompas winning that and two subsequent games before losing to Gameti.



James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Deh Gah School's Marina Walker placed second overall in the female wrist hang competition during the traditional games championship in Yellowknife on Feb. 25. Walker scored a distance of 296 feet.



April Hudson/NNSL photo

## A HOT DRINK

Hayden Kraus brushes off some snow as he enjoys a cup of hot chocolate while huddled around a fire on the freezing, windy afternoon of March 5.



MAX SIMON

## SPORTS CARD SLEDDING

AGE: 8

Max was spotted at the sliding hill in Fort Simpson on March 5 where he and his friends were playing in the snow. While most of the children spent their time sipping hot chocolate and sliding down the hill, Max and his friends played in the snow while they waited for the outdoor rink to be cleared.



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RCMP 695-1111  
Medical 695-3232  
Fire 695-2222

**Wrigley**  
RCMP 695-1111  
Medical 581-3441

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Whatsit?

There was no winner for the February 16th Whatsit.

The answer was a paddle board.

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Entries must be received within 10 days of this publication date:

E-mail: dehchodrum@nnsl.com  
Fax: (867) 695-3766, or drop them off at the Drum Office in Ft. Simpson, or by mail: WHATSIT, Deh Cho Drum, Box 435, Ft. Simpson, NT X0E 0N0  
(No phone calls please)

The following information is required:

My guess is \_\_\_\_\_  
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