

Buffalo Narrows rolls up the rim

By Omar Mosleh
Meadow Lake Progress

Big things are brewing in Buffalo Narrows.

The northern community is home to Saskatchewan's newest Tim Hortons. The location officially opened on March 25.

The franchise is operated by North West Company, who have opened two other northern Tim Hortons locations, one in Iqaluit, Nunavut and one in Oxford House, Man.

"We were really excited to expand to Buffalo Narrows," said Tim Hortons' senior manager of public affairs, Alexandra Cygal. "There's been a great demand for our products and our brand there."

Buffalo Narrows mayor Estelle Laliberte can attest to that.

"I was just there and there were about 20 people in line, so I figured I'd try later," she said with a chuckle.

Laliberte said a few words at the event's grand opening and said she was pleased with the community's reception.

"It was a nice grand opening, very good turnout and very busy," she said. "A lot of the parking lot was full."

The location will focus on Tim Hortons' core offerings, such as coffee and donuts, and will not feature the full restaurant menu as some other locations do.

The Tim Hortons is located within the same structure as Northern Stores, a building owned by the Economic Development Corporation of Buffalo Narrows. The organization invited North West Company to move into their space.

North West flies their products into most of their northern locations by plane.

Laliberte was happy to accept Tim Hortons in Buffalo Narrows, as they've been trying to attract more commercial investment for quite some time.

"We're always trying to invite more businesses and visitors," she said. "It benefits everyone."

As for the questions, Meadow Lakers are increasingly wondering when do we get our own Tim Hortons?

"I can't specifically comment on who would get a franchise and who would not, but definitely we do get a lot of interest, our real estate development gets a lot of requests, they look at those individually," Cygal said. "So they would be able to determine where we would want to expand to next."



Omar Mosleh/Meadow Lake Progress
Oakville, Ont. Tim Hortons employees Kevin Chan, district manager James Goodall, staff members Joanna Gibula, Brandon Varga, Buffalo Narrows manager and baker Brenda Beaudin and Brenden Chartier and Tim Hortons setup team member Giovanni Villela pose for a photo a day before the Buffalo Narrows Tim Hortons branch opened. The mayor said the turnout was a success, with constant line ups and packed parking lots.