

Correction

In the April 1 edition of NWT News/North ("Enbridge reports fourth leak along Norman Wells pipeline.") It should have stated more than 1,000 cubic metres of soil has been contaminated by oil spills since February 2011. News/North apologizes for any confusion or embarrassment the error might have caused.

NEWS Briefs

Hearings start on Wildlife Act

The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure has begun its public hearings on a proposed new Wildlife Act.

The hearings began in Tsiigehtchic on April 10. The upcoming hearings will be held in Detnah (April 17), Hay River (April 18), Fort Simpson (May 13), Nahanni Bane (May 14), Fort Providence (May 15), Behchoko (May 16), Inuvik (June 10), Sachs Harbour (June 11), Yellowknife (June 12) and Fort Smith (June 13).

- Paul Bickford

Accident on winter road

A small car and a half-ton truck collided on the Behchoko-to-Whari winter road near the Wekweeti junction on April 5. Emergency medical services from Behchoko transported three occupants of the car to Stantion Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife for medical treatment. The driver of the car suffered minor injuries.

The RCMP stated slippery road conditions are believed to have been a contributing factor in accident, but alcohol wasn't a factor.

The police are advising drivers to use extra caution on the winter road because, with temperatures rising at this time of year, snow on the road is becoming slippery.

- Paul Bickford

Federal auditor in town

Ronnie Campbell, assistant auditor general, will be in Yellowknife on April 16 and 17 for meetings regarding a report on income security programs looked after by the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment (ECE).

The department spends about \$30 million a year on programs, such as the income assistance, student financial assistance, child care user subsidy, and the senior home heating subsidy. Public meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. on April 16 on the second floor of the legislative assembly.

- Sarah Ladik

Literacy award nominations open

NWT residents have an opportunity to nominate educators, youth learners and organizations for a literacy award.

Nominations for the 2013 Ministerial Literacy Awards are open until May 15. The awards honour literacy achievements across the territory.

There are three categories to the award, one for educators who have shown an outstanding dedication to literacy; one for youth learners, aged 16 to 25, who have shown dedication to developing their own literacy and have been role models for other youth; and one category for organizations that have advocated for literacy.

- Roxanna Thompson



Natalie, Hannah, Vincent and Lisa Peichat proudly display the turtle they created during the children's snow sculpture competition. Norman Wells celebrated the change of seasons with its annual Spring Fling event the weekend of April 5.

Spring Fling in Norman Wells

Community celebrates the changing of the seasons

by Kassina Rydor
Northern News Services
Lil Gollne/Norman Wells

Norman Wells residents welcomed spring back to the community with the annual Spring Fling the weekend of April 5.

Recreation programmer Myles Erb said the Spring Fling featured a variety of events, including a pancake breakfast, a scavenger hunt and a snowmobile rally.

It also included traditional and Northern games, such as log push and stick pull games.

"The best part about the event is getting everybody out and active," he said. "The traditional games are so much fun."

Some modifications were made to some of the events, such as replacing the tea boiling contest with an egg boiling contest, but Erb said no one seemed to mind.

"We made teams to see who could cook a hardboiled egg the fastest," he said. "They were happy because they got to eat it after. It was a big hit."

Another event was resurrected after a long absence.

Erb, who was raised in Norman Wells, said he remembered an ice golf course at the community's skating rink during the Spring Fling's of his childhood.

This year, he and fellow organizers decided to revive the sport and transform the community's skating rink into a golf course.

Pathways were created using snow and the arena's ice resurfacer.

"It took a lot of time," Erb said. Snow outdoors was also put to good use with a family snow-sculpting contest.

"We told the kids to make sculptures," Erb said. "We had a sea turtle, a narwhal and we had one really funky one that was supposed to be a T-rex."

A community feast was another popular activity, thanks to the moose, caribou and trout

donated by local hunters.

Erb said elders particularly enjoyed the feast, as well as watching the traditional games. This year, staff constructed a wall tent to help protect elders and community members from the -30 C weather.

"We had a wall tent set up with a wood stove," Erb said. "I heard lots of comments about how nice that was. It was nice and warm in there."

The festival also included a fundraiser for the Northwest Company's Team Diabetes, which aims to participate in the Cayman Island Marathon in December. The marathon raises money for the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Team members Amanda Feltham, Dee Opperman, Sheena Bailey and Sam Hocking organized a Couch Potato Olympics at the Royal Canadian Legion, which was comprised of about nine different games.

One of the games, called Face the Cookie, had participants move a cookie from their foreheads to their mouths using only their facial muscles. Another game had participants use a single string to attach all team members together, called Threading the Needle.

Feltham said about eight teams took part in the games.

"It was a great success, everyone had fun," she said. "We have lot of support for Team Diabetes."

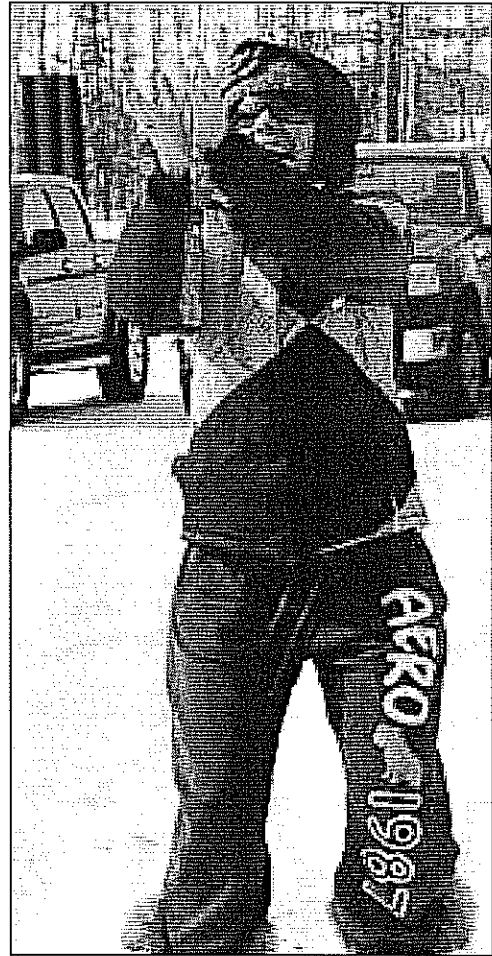
Nighttime events were just as popular as the daytime ones, Erb said. A dance was held at the recreation centre on Saturday night from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. featuring Yellowknife band, Hindsight.

"Everybody enjoyed that," Erb said.

Erb said he hopes to repeat many of the events at next year's Fling, such as the egg boiling contest and traditional games.

He said it is always a much-anticipated festival.

"You always hear people asking, 'when is the Spring Fling?'" he said. "People love it."



Catarina Owen participates in the egg toss during the spring fling in Norman Wells.