

Inuvik residents say goodbye to Cliff

Longtime NorthMart store manager on the move to Iqaluit

by Miranda Scotland
Northern News Services

After 11 years of making Inuvik his home, NorthMart store manager Cliff Stringer is moving on to another community.

The longtime resident has received a promotion that will see him run North West Company's biggest store, which is located in Iqaluit.

"I think it's going to be a

sad day when I board the plane to leave Inuvik," said Stringer, who is originally from Newfoundland.

"(Inuvik residents) made me feel at home from day one."

His most cherished memories of his time in town, he said, are from sitting down with the

elders to sip on a cup of coffee and listen to their stories. That time, he said, reminds him of his childhood in Clarenville, N.L.

"When I was growing up we had a very close family and everybody came to our house and you would sit down and listen to the

old folks telling stories," he recounted.

It's been great getting to know the residents in Inuvik, Stringer continued, adding he will miss knowing his customers by name and having them know his name.

"The customers weren't just my customers they were my friends too," he said.

Stringer is also sad to leave his staff, who have been amaz-

ing, he said. In turn, they are sad to see him go.

June Miranda, a NorthMart employee, said Stringer won't be easily forgotten.

"When I told people that he was leaving they actually stood and cried," Miranda said. "He is our Cliff that you go rest your head against or shoulders against and know that he would give you the strength to go on for the next day."

Stringer is known in the community for his friendly personality and generous spirit. Whenever an organization came to him asking for a discount he would almost always give them 25 per cent off.

Over the years, resident Ruth Wright has led a number of groups in the community and Stringer, she said, was always there to help by supporting her with donations of food and materials.

"He's just been a blessing to all of our little groups," she said. "I'm sorry to see him go, but he's going to do a wonderful job over there. I hope the new guy coming over will do a wonderful job here too."

Gord McMillan, food services manager for NorthMart, said Stringer is the best leader he has come across in all his years of working. None of the employees at the store can

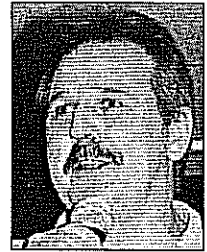


Photo: Northern News Services

NorthMart store manager Cliff Stringer is leaving Inuvik Jan. 25 to go work in Iqaluit. Inuvik residents say he will be sorely missed.

complain about how hard they work or how many hours they put in, McMillan said, because Stringer is always there working harder and putting in more hours.

"The guy's a worker," McMillan said.

"He's well-liked, well-known. I know people that come in from other communities that stop to say hello to him and you don't see that with everybody in the store."

Stringer is set to leave Jan. 25. His wife, Kim Stringer, and two of his children will follow in the summer.

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Community Open House

Thursday, January 24, 2013
12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

MacKenzie Delta Hotel, Conference Room

Consultation on the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan

We want to hear from you. Residents of Inuvik are invited to attend a week-long open house to discuss the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan. Come learn more about the proposed new land use designation system and share your thoughts one-on-one with Government of Yukon representatives.

Your feedback will help finalize the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and provide guidance for the long-term use of Yukon land and resources.

For more information, and to provide your comments, visit the consultation website and complete the electronic feedback form or call toll free 1-800-661-0408 ext. 3183.

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