Tim Hortons opens in Rankin Inlet

Residents crowd into Northern store coffee shop for coffee and doughnuts

by Miranda Scotland
Northern News Services
Rankin Inlet

Rankin Inlet residents crowded into the Northern store June 24 for the grand opening of the hamlet's first Tim Hortons.

The ceremony began with a display of throat singing from two local youth followed by a ribbon cutting and short speeches given by executives from Tim Hortons and the North West Company.

Once the express location opened for service residents shuffled into the shop to purchase doughnuts, coffee, muffins, cookies, hot chocolate and even iced cappuccinos. No meal items, such as sandwiches, are being offered.

"I got goosebumps. What a fantastic turnout," said Christine Reimer, North West Company's vice-president of Canadian sales and operation. "It's certainly exciting to see that this many people have come out and supported our venture with Tim Hortons."

Louie Innukshuk was among the customers who visited the store June 24. He says he's impressed with the new coffee shop but thinks they should have made it larger.

"Rankin is getting bigger every year," he said, while holding a box of a dozen doughnuts and a coffee cup.

A second location is opening inside the Quickstop and will serve the same items as the store located inside the Northern, with the exception of iced cappuccinos.

The prices at the new stores are the same as in Iqaluit but slightly higher than down south, said Tim Martin, director of new business development for Tim Hortons.

"There is a slight premium, a little bit more than you find in Winnipeg, but of course for the Northern stores to get coffee and baked goods and sugar and cream up here it's expensive," he said.

Northern Store manager Paul Delaney said although the prices are a bit higher they are more than fair. Residents should come down and check it out for themselves, he added.

"On your way to work drop by and see us."

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Miranda Scotland/NNSL photo

Throat singers Desiree Autut, left, *and Layla Autut perform at the grand opening of Rankin Inlet's first Tim Hortons June 24.*

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