

CORRECTION**Policy****Did we get it wrong?**

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NEWS**Briefs****Jamboree time in Fort Simpson**

Eight days of Beavertail Jamboree will kick off on March 2 in Fort Simpson.

"There's lots of good stuff," said Connie Villeneuve, one of the organizers.

Events on the opening day include a fire feeding ceremony at 11 a.m., the family fun run at 12 p.m., a sliding party at McPherson house from 1 to 4 p.m., a bonfire at 6 p.m. and fireworks at 8 p.m.

Other highlights will include a performance by Don Burnstick on March 6 at 8 p.m. following the feast and the crowning. There will also be crib tournaments, youth and adult talent shows and dances, the corporate challenge, traditional games and other events over the week.

Seizing the moment

The eighth Mackenzie Regional Youth Conference is taking place in Fort Simpson from Feb. 27 to 29.

Students at Thomas Simpson school along with approximately 75 other students from around the Deh Cho and beyond will be participating in this year's conference with the theme of "The Moment is Now."

The TSS student council decided on the theme and the programming for the conference, said Robert Byatt, the school's principal.

Workshops at the conference will cover a wide range of topics from the arts to science.

Stan Wesley, who is best known for his character Bunnuck on Wawatay TV, will give the opening keynote address. The closing address will be given by musician Leela Gilday.

Developing athletes

Three students from Kakisa Lake school are getting ready to learn about downhill sports.

Dalton Simba, Waylon Simba and Joey Lacorne, along with teacher Sheila Hilliard, are going on a sports themed trip from March 2 to 8. The group will be staying at Rabbit Hills Snow Resort in Alberta where they will be practising snowboarding and downhill skiing.

"They are getting really excited," said Hilliard about the students.

Normal January weather

January didn't hold any weather surprises for Fort Simpson.

According to information from Environment Canada, the mean temperature in the village over the month was -24.1 C compared to a normal temperature of -25.4 C.

Snowfall was only slightly higher than normal with 28.2 centimetres falling compared to a normal rate of 24 centimetres.

feature news

Colin Munro, a member of the Fort Simpson Curling Club, points to the damage done to a television during a break-in at the curling lounge.

Break-in at curling lounge

Incident prompts review of security at Fort Simpson recreation centre

by Roxanna Thompson
Northern News Services
Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson

The Fort Simpson Curling Club has suffered its first break-in of the season.

RCMP officers are investigating a break-in that occurred sometime between the night of Feb. 23 and the morning of Feb. 24, said Sgt. Cliff McKay.

The perpetrators gained access to the curling lounge in the recreation centre. Once inside they damaged the large screen television in the lounge and stole a small quantity of alcohol from the bar, McKay said. The RCMP is working with the Curling Club to determine the exact amount of alcohol taken, but it appears to be "very small," he said.

Members of the club reported the break-in at noon on Sunday after noticing the damage to the television, said McKay. The protective piece of plastic that covers the television screen had been smashed.

The perpetrators also damaged the new roll-down door that covers the bar entrance, said McKay. The

RCMP currently has no suspects in the case and are asking for members of the public to come forward if they have information about the break-in.

This incident is identical to a series of three break-ins that took place at the curling lounge last year, said McKay. A number of youth were charged for those break-ins. McKay said there's currently no evidence that the same people were involved in this incident.

The fact that the lounge has been broken into before doesn't make it any easier to deal with the latest instance, said Leah Keats, the president of the Fort Simpson Curling Club.

"It's just a bit frustrating," said Keats.

The Curling Club is trying to offer an activity for the community and a number of volunteers put in a lot of work, but the break-ins are discouraging, she said.

"I take it almost as a personal insult because it's lack of respect for

an organization," said Keats.

The perpetrators entered the facility after discovering the middle door leading to the upstairs of the recreation centre was left unlocked, she said. Once upstairs, they jimmied one of the locked doors to the club.

Inside the club they probably climbed through an access hole in the ceiling and crawled until they dropped through another hole into the bar, said Keats.

"It was someone determined to get in there," she said.

The individuals had to go through the ceiling because they couldn't get through the roll-down door over the bar hatch, Keats said. Although there is damage to one corner of the metal door, none of the items lining the inside of the counter were disturbed indicating that they didn't lift and crawl under the door, she said.

The club only keeps a small amount of alcohol in the bar to discourage break-ins, said Keats. Only

a few unopened bottles appear to be missing.

To address the issue of security at the recreation centre, club members will be meeting with the recreation co-ordinator this week to discuss measures that can be put in place. All of the interior and exterior doors to the centre should be locked and a sweep should be done to ensure no one is in the building when it is closed, said Keats.

"There is not much more we can do as a club to make sure the lounge is secure," she said.

The club doesn't have the funds to install an alarm system or a camera but if the doors were secured there wouldn't be a problem, she said.

Ways to improve the security of the lounge and the recreation centre are already being examined, said Dan Deschamps, the recreation co-ordinator.

"There's an opportunity to do a better job," said Deschamps.

In the short term, changes could be made to the existing doors and an alarm system is a possibility for the long term, Deschamps said.

"I take it almost as a personal insult."

sports & recreation

Yk comes out broomball champions

Communities work to promote the sport

by Roxanna Thompson
Northern News Services

Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson

A Yellowknife team came away from the NWT Broomball Championship in Fort Simpson as the victor.

The Harley's Hard Rock Saloon broomball team won in the mixed competitive division at the tournament that took place from Feb. 22 to 23 in the village. During the double round robin, the team went undefeated winning three of their games and tying a fourth against the Deh Cho Raiders.

It was the Raiders from Fort Simpson that Harley's met again in the final.

At the beginning of the game both teams moved the ball up and down the rink looking to land the first goal.

It wasn't until 10 minutes into the game that a Yellowknife player scored a goal, which was quickly followed by two more giving Harley's a 3-0 lead at half time.

Moving into the second period the Raiders battled hard to make

sure the game wouldn't end in a shut out. Dan Deschamps scored the Raiders' first goal six minutes into the period. Two minutes later David Gerrie scored a second goal for the team.

Despite several attempts the Raiders were unable to add another goal to tie the game, leaving Harley's with a 3-2 win.

Most of the credit for the victory goes to the women on the team, said Chris Greencorn, Harley's spokesperson.

The team was composed of 10 female and three male players. During the tournament the female players also

divided into two teams and played a game against each other so they could qualify for the Western Broomball Championship.

"We played pretty even keel," said Greencorn about the team's overall performance.

Credit for the wins also goes to the team's goalie Val Pond, he said.

"Our goalie saved our hide a couple of times," Greencorn said.

Having teams from both Yellowknife and Fort Providence attend the tournament made it a good event, said Mike Squirrel, who organized the championship.

Squirrel also acted as the captain for the Deh Cho Raiders.

"I think we played considerably well," he said

"I think we played considerably well."

During the double round robin the Raiders won a game and tied a second game against Fort Providence. The Raiders also tied one

and lost one against Harley's.

In the semi-finals the Raiders played flawlessly against Fort Providence in a shutout game.

Their first goal came two minutes into the game when Dan Deschamps scored. With three minutes left in the first period Chris Stipdonk got the ball past the Fort Providence goalie. Mike Squirrel snuck in one more goal with a minute left in the period.

In the second, Wayne McKay scored the first goal followed by two back-to-back goals by Chris Stipdonk making the final score 6-0.

The Raiders benefited from



Chris Stipdonk, left, with the Fort Simpson Deh Cho Raiders, fights for the ball against the Fort Providence team's Lawrence Sabourin while goalie Val Pond watches closely.

having 10 players on the team and two full lines, said Squirrel. Broomball takes more conditioning than hockey because you have to run and the shoes don't glide on the ice like skates, he said.

Squirrel said he hopes the tournament will raise interest in the sport. Broomball isn't a high profile sport, he said.

"It has its ups and downs," he said.

Some years there is more interest in the sport than in others, said Squirrel. Cur-

rently in Fort Simpson, the Deh Cho Raiders are made up of people who come together when there's a tournament to play in. The team usually practises once or twice before an event starts, he said.

Seeing younger players compete in the championship was a promising sign, he said.

"I was really impressed with all the young kids who came out, the first timers," said Squirrel.

Many of the younger players in the tournament were on

the Fort Providence team. In Fort Providence work is being done to create a resurgence in the sport, said Cliff McLeod, who captained the community's team at the tournament.

The team included three members who'd never played broomball before. Bringing the players was a way to give them a taste of the sport, McLeod said.

"They're learning the game," he said.

Both Devin McLeod and Rebecca Landry took to the

ice for the first time along with Lawrence Sabourin.

"The girls came a long way," McLeod said.

With younger players picking up the game, McLeod said he also hopes to get some more experienced players back on the ice. About 14 years ago there was a broomball league in Fort Providence, said McLeod. By next year McLeod hopes to have two teams set up so they can play each other and build their skills.

Creative events getting people out and active

From curling to snowman building, event promotes physical activity

by Roxanna Thompson

Northern News Services

Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson

Residents of Fort Simpson were encouraged to get up and get outside as part of the Get Winter Active campaign over the weekend.

A series of events were held in and around the recreation centre on Feb. 24 as part of the campaign to promote physical activity.

"It was all about getting kids active and I think we accomplished that," said Dan Deschamps, the recreation co-ordinator.

More than 40 youth and adults came out to participate in the events that included shinny hockey, activity stations for young children, pick-up basketball games, snowman building and an obsta-

cle course. Deschamps and Kristen Morrison, a teacher at Thomas Simpson school, worked together to organize the afternoon.

"It's all about being active," said Tina Verge with the Open Doors Society.

The society volunteered to run activities for children ages six and under during the event.

It's good to have one day to promote active living because so many children stay inside and get fixed on computers and video games, Verge said. This event lets children know it's fun to be outside and gives them some guidance on what they can do, she said.

For younger children, a floor curling set proved to be the most popular game of the afternoon. Participants

sent plastic curling rocks on wheels zipping over the floor towards a house marked out with electrical tape.

Outside an obstacle course drew attention from participants of all ages. The course included running up hills of snow, doing fancy footwork through tires, hopping over bars, navigating a wheelbarrow through pylons, pushing a giant inner tube, crawling through the snow and scooting over a bench all before reaching the finish line.

With a time of 55 seconds Alex Roche won the contest.

Running a bit behind with a time of 1 minute and 18 seconds, Robert Harold said navigating the snow hills was the best part of the course.

"It was fun," said Harold. Harold said the day added

to his normal winter activities that include snowmobiling and curling.

Playing on the inner tubes when they weren't being used

for the race was the best part of the day for Alyssa Yallee.

"It was good," Yallee said.

Get Winter Active is a territorial government initiative

designed to encourage communities to organize events that support youth and their families to be more physically active.

SPORTS CARD



KAITLIN NELSON

SOCGER

AGE 10

Most students like soccer because they get to run around with the ball, but not Fort Liard's Kaitlin Nelson. "I like being goalie," said Kaitlin. As a goalie, you get to prevent lots of goals although sometimes a ball will still get past you, she said.