Firefighters give it up for 'Grumpy'

David Bernhardt was recognized for 40 years of service Jan. 27

Volume 57 Issue 5 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021 75 CENTS

Drone's eye view

INUVIK drum MACKENZIE DELTA - NWT

photo courtesy of Kristian Binder

"The DJI Mini 2 handled the cold like a champ, it's been able to fly in temperatures way lower than I could have expected," drone operator and photographer Kristian Binder said of this bird's eye view of Inuvik on Feb. 3, taken in -41 C.

News

Funding for road upgrades secured

Sports

Inuvik curlers head to Yk for tourney

News

Research focuses on quality of life for women

"All of the knowledge of the environment is inside that language. The medicines, the plants and the animals."

– Gwich'in Tribal Council language revitalization coordinator Andrew Cienski is passionate about saving languages, page 5.

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Did we get it wrong?

Inuvik Drum is committed to getting facts and names right. With that goes a commitment to acknowledge mistakes and run corrections. If you spot an error in *Inuvik Drum*, contact the editor at (867) 777-4545 or email inuvikdrum@nnsl.com.

NEWS Briefs

Firefighters spent 130 hours on Covid-19 decontamination in '20

The Inuvik Fire Department spent 982 cumulative hours responding to 91 incident calls in 2020, according to statistics published to the department's Facebook page on Feb. 9.

Also listed were the hours clocked by the department's equipment, which was in operation for 44 hours across the year over the course of 20 calls. The fire department also spent 130 hours responding to decontamination calls for Covid-19. There were 15 public education events the department participated in, for a total of 232 hours.

The vast majority of the department's time was spent training, with 3,265 cumulative hours clocked during 59 training sessions – slightly more than one per week.

Of the 91 incidents firefighters responded to, 37 were fires and another 17 were assisting other first responders. Of the fire calls, the majority (12) were for potential wildfires, and five were for arson.

The department responded to four structure fires, three fires caused by chimney issues, three caused by cooking mishaps, two caused by electrical issues and two dumpster fires.

Council discusses new speed limit near East Three School

Town council is looking at an amendment to its highway traffic bylaw that would reduce the speed limit by East Three School to 30 kilometres per hour from the town-wide 35 kilometre per hour limit.

The updated bylaw will also define where exactly a school zone is in effect. School zones would be set along Kingmingya Road from Firth Street to Mackenzie Road, along Breynat Street from Gwich'in Road to Kingmingya Road, Firth Street from Gwich'in Road to Kingmingya Road, Berger Street from Kingmingya Road to Mackenzie Road, and Bonnetplume Road from Kingmingya Road to Firth Street.

The schedule of fines for speeding in a school zone remains unchanged and starts at $118 for being one kilometre over the limit, but with defined school zone hours municipal enforcement will be able to issue fines more definitively.

Changes to the bylaw were prompted after a pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle near the school during school hours.

Town council has sent the bylaw back to administration to explore a few options, including what times of day the zones would be in effect for, with support from Couns. Ray Solotki, Dez Loreen and Alana Mero for making it a 24-hour zone.

Violent crime down: RCMP

Police saw a slight uptick in call volume in the first month of 2021 compared to January of 2020, but violent crimes were down overall, according to the RCMP's report to town council's committee of the whole on Feb. 8.

RCMP responded to 47 assault complaints in 2021, compared to 54 the year previous. Of these, 14 reports of family violence and 10 resulted in charges. Sexual assaults were also down, with zero calls in 2021 compared to eight in the same time last year.

Another crime that had no occurrences this time around was thefts over $5,000, with zero cases in 2021 compared to two in January 2020. There were no cases of drug possession, drug trafficking, break and enters or bootlegging investigated in either year.

"Other" complaints were up to 233 from 196 last year. In total, RCMP responded to 387 complaints in Jan. 2021 compared to 367 in Jan. 2020.

Inuvik RCMP acting commander Sgt. Mark Bishop told council he was working to split the "other" category into more specific cases, noting the RCMP have a standardized reporting form that was currently in use. He estimated he would have more specific numbers by the February report.

'Violence continues to be normalized as a way of life'

photo courtesy of Aurora Research Institute

Dr. Pertice Moffitt assists *nursing students Adoma Asiedu and Constance Afoakwah during the HealthEsteps program, one of several initiatives Moffitt has overseen in the last decade.*

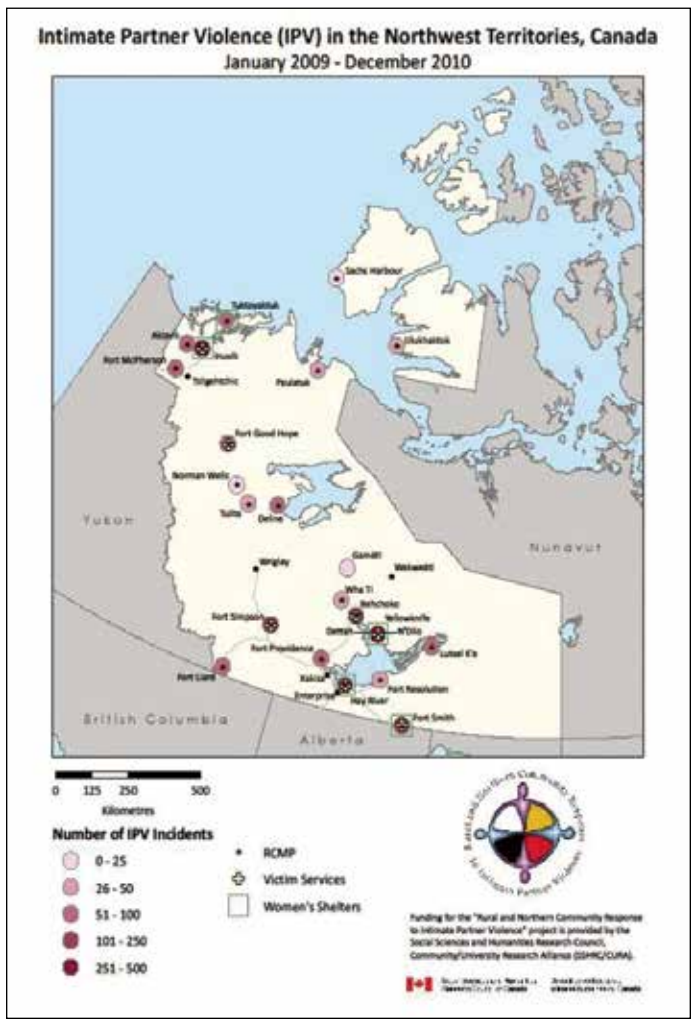

image courtesy Dr. Darlene Juschka, Dr. Mary Hampton, and Ms. Tracy Knutson

A map showing the location *of the prevalence of domestic violence and accessible services to escape said violence.*

Aurora Research Institute virtual series focused on quality of life, health for women across the territory

by Eric Bowling
Northern News Services

Intimate-partner violence is still one of the most significant barriers to a healthy quality of life for women in the NWT.

That's the latest update on the state of women's health in the NWT, which Aurora Research Institute (ARI) health research program manager and instructor Dr. Pertice Moffitt gave a summary of as part of the ARI's virtual speaker series on Jan. 13.

Moffitt went over the highlights of 10 years of social science research on numerous women's issues across the North.

"I have viewed the world through a gendered lens since I was a child," she said in her opening remarks. "Women's health, if we're looking for a definition of it, is the effect of gender on disease and health that encompasses a broad range of biological and psycho-social issues."

Noting her field of work covers a vast swath of more specific fields, Moffitt highlighted everything from efforts towards mapping where intimate partner violence occurred to working towards reducing diabetes diagnoses in the NWT.

Under the HealtheSteps program, Moffitt and nursing students Adoma Asiedu and Constance Afoakwah worked to monitor what people are eating and how much they're moving. The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) states that, as of 2016, upwards of 10 per cent of the NWT population over 24-years old is living with type 2 diabetes, so Moffitt got involved in the pilot project to encourage lifestyle changes.

"We had student coaches who worked within the project," she said. "Education is very empowering for women."

Noting the DHSS has found the rate of violence against women in the North is 10 times the national average, Moffitt said ongoing effects of colonization and the intergenerational impact of residential school trauma were both major factors in intimate partner violence, but the limited resources available to women in dangerous situations and social isolation exacerbated the problem.

A 'way of life'

"Violence continues to be normalized as a way of life," she said. "There continues to be shame and blame attached to violence, that is most-often directed at women who are the survivors of the violence, not the perpetrators of the act.

"It is complicated and we know that it's influenced by many systemic issues and social determinants, such as unemployment, poverty, housing, lack of early life education, gender, health services, social exclusion, substance use and even the ability to get safe transportation out of the abuser's territory.

"Colonialism that has led to a culture of violence and silence in many of our communities."

A third area of study Moffitt highlighted was a 2015 survey of women in the NWT and the challenges they face to their quality of life. Participants said being socially connected, active, feeling independent, safe and secure, as well as staying connected with traditional knowledge and having a sense of place in the world were all major contributors to a high quality of life.

However, the ongoing consequences of colonialism and residential schools weighed heavily on those surveyed, as it had led to a loss of cultural traditions and Elder abuse. Social isolation, the high cost of living, lack of medical support, pollution of country foods, alcohol and drug addictions and overcrowding in poor housing were all major detractors from overall quality of life.

Less breastfeeding

Another element Moffitt discussed was a study of breastfeeding in the NWT. A 2018 study identified that while 82 per cent of mothers breastfed their newborns in the hospital, the practice dropped off at home to between 17 to 60 per cent, depending on where in the territory. Issues preventing mothers from breastfeeding ranged from complications from tuberculosis to the ramifications of residential school trauma, as well as social stigmas associated with the practice.

"Mothers shared there is a great deal of judgmental discourse around their feeding decisions and practices," said Moffitt. "There is scrutiny to this day in feeding babies in public. Some mothers want the fathers to share in the feeding and for that reason they introduce the bottle."

Lessons learned

She added the lessons learned from the 2018 study had now been implemented into the NWT's nursing curriculum.

Moffitt is nowhere near done in her work, however. Next on the agenda is a conference on the Canadian Domestic Homicide Initiative for Vulnerable Populations, which will be held by way of Zoom from May 11 to 14, which is an effort to fulfill one of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The initiative maintains a domestic homicide database and facilitates domestic violence death review committees, which Moffitt wants to bring to the North.

"They review deaths and try to identify where could have we intervened to try to prevent this tragedy so that hopefully we don't have more deaths," she said. "The Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability has also identified that one woman or girl is killed every other day, on average, somewhere in our country."

Language revitalization efforts need more government support

Northern News Services

Efforts by both the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to establish programs to keep their traditional languages alive are an excellent first start to saving both mother tongues, but need more government support to ensure the languages stays active at all stages of development.

ERIC BOWLING

Getting youth to speak Gwich'in throughout the day at the Children First Centre is setting the stage, but once these children are old enough for regular schooling, there will need to be programming in place to keep them speaking their language as they wade their way through history, mathematics, science and literature.

Fortunately, the schools in the region make traditional knowledge education a regular priority, particularly on-the-land exercises in hunting, trapping and survival. So it would not be a huge leap in curriculum to begin integrating traditional language studies into such classes. The chief obstacles being securing the funds to cover the costs and a need for adults to teach them.

To the latter, both the GTC and IRC are laying a strong groundwork too, with the GTC hosting two language roundtables last fall to help adults get some practice in Gwich'in, while the IRC hosts weekly lessons. The more adults who are able to speak their traditional languages, the easier it will be to transmit them on to their children.

These are important first steps, but there needs to be more work done to ensure the impact of these initial steps is permanent. Having made several unsuccessful attempts to learn a second language in my lifetime, I can attest that language is very difficult to maintain and easy to lose.

More funding is needed, from either the GNWT or Ottawa or preferably both, to help these programs build on their momentum. Using the education system and some strategically placed programs, these small programs could blossom into something huge.

Language lessons broadcast on Facebook are excellent, but the number of students who could be reached would be even greater if such lessons were expanded to the numerous adult institutions around us. Language learning opportunities should also exist for GNWT employees who deal with the public, so people are able to communicate in both Gwich'in and Inuvialuktun.

Opportunities could exist in rehabilitation to help people take control of their lives with language revitalization as well. People who feel lost and disconnected from the world and wind up in the corrections or addictions systems may be able to find relief in learning their historic languages.

Alternatively, people held up in a medical facility for treatment for any length of time might be able to find a productive way to pass the time learning languages. If you build it, they will come.

These are just a few ideas, of course. But if we're serious about saving these languages, we need to support their champions and get people speaking them in as many places as possible. And if the early success of these programs shows us anything, the appetite to keep these languages alive is very strong.

We would be doing a great injustice by not feeding that appetite until it is full.

BRADY MCLEOD

Youth of the week

Our Youth of the Week is Brady McLeod, age 9, of Inuvik, seen here braving some of the coldest temperatures of the year to practice his favourite thing – skating and hockey, courtesy of Ingamo Hall which maintains an outdoor hockey rink with the help of the Inuvik Fire Department. They say it takes a village to raise a child, but with dedication like this, the village may have a budding NHL star on its hands.

INUVIK drum
MACKENZIE DELTA • NWT

Published Thursdays

Also read in Aklavik • Fort McPherson • Ulukhaktok • Sachs Harbour • Tsiigehtchic • Tuktoyaktuk

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Letters to the editor are welcomed by the Drum, especially new contributors. We attempt to publish a cross-section of public opinion. Not all letters will necessarily be published. Preference is given to short letters of broad interest or concern. Letters of over 200 words, open letters and those published elsewhere are seldom used. We reserve the right to publish excerpts, to edit for length or taste and to eliminate inaccurate or libellous statements.

We may also choose to use a letter as the basis for a story. All letters submitted must be signed with a return address and daytime phone number. Opinions expressed in letters and by columnists are those of the author and are not necessarily shared by the editor or publisher.

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Canada

Gwich'in language revival program celebrating two years of teaching

A documentary has been released highlighting the work

by Eric Bowling
Northern News Services

Bringing a language back from the brink is not easy work but as the Gwich'in language revitalization program nears its second anniversary, it proves it can be done.

With the United Nations reporting there are less than 300 fluent Gwich'in speakers in Canada – and less than 550 worldwide, time is of the essence to get people talking in their mother tongue. Currently, Gwich'in is listed in the UN's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.

"Language, ideally, is learned in the living room," said Gwich'in Tribal Council language revitalization coordinator Andrew Cienski in a new documentary released by the GTC to commemorate the event.

"Language is how we describe the world that we live in and it reflects our relationship with the world.

"All of the knowledge of the environment is inside that language. The medicines and the plants and the animals. All of these things are what communities have learned over the millennia."

Produced by tencoulours Canada, the documentary video showcases two parallel efforts by the GTC to teach Gwich'in to its beneficiaries – one operated through the Children First Centre (CFC) and the other was a series of roundtables held in the fall of 2020 to get adults speaking the language.

Even the people who now speak Gwich'in and teach it to others say it was not easy finding people to learn it from.

"When I went back to school when I was 51 years old, I thought I would get someone to come and help me with my language because I wanted to be an interpreter," said Elder Mabel English, who volunteers with the Gwich'in Language Nest at the CFC. "I couldn't get anybody."

Initially started as a half-day program, the Gwich'in Language Nest has now blossomed into a full-day experience for the children. Cienski said a second Elder had joined the program, enabling a complete day of language programming.

He added the GTC was always open to more volunteers for anyone who wanted to reconnect with their language.

"If Elders or speakers of any age were interested in helping out, we would be very happy to make that happen," said Cienski. "Even if they could only drop in occasionally, we would love to have them, even on a drop-in schedule.

"It is an exciting program and the joy of the children is really infectious.

"It's wonderful to see them improving in the language. It would be great to see even more community members get involved to support the efforts of the staff and Elder who working so hard to bring language to the new generation."

To enroll your child in the Immersion program, contact the Children's First Centre at 867-777-3703. To volunteer with language revitalization, contact the Gwich'in Tribal Council at 867-777-7900.

photo courtesy of Gwich'in Tribal Council

***A documentary produced by tencolours Canada showcasing** efforts by the Gwich'in Tribal Council to preserve and revitalize the Gwich'in language was released to commemorate the second anniversary of the program.*

STREET talk

with Eric Bowling

inuvikdrum@nnsl.com

"How have you been coping with the -40 highs?"

Alison Cardinal
"I used this cold weather as a chance to keep my children inside and busy. I showed them how to make hair scrunchies and they've also made some money."

Edgar Maring
"Brings back memories of when I was a kid, -50 from October to March. Tough as nails we were."

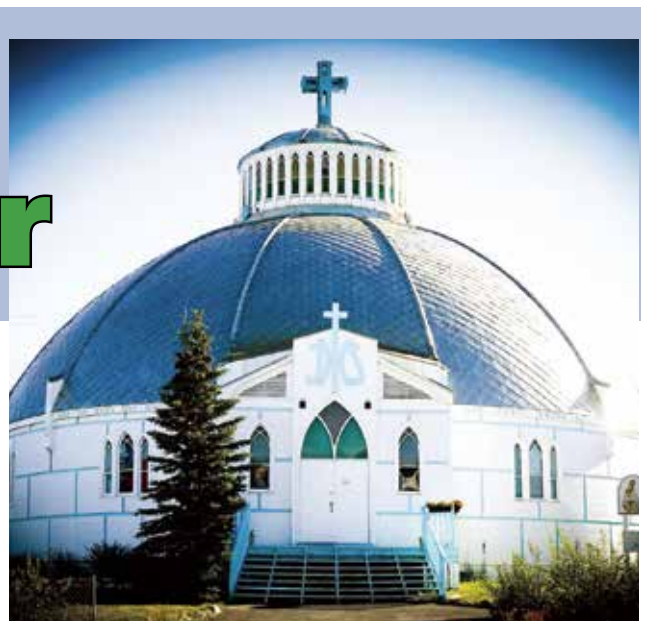
Kendal Emerak Oloakyuk
"I was in Vancouver for winters 2016 to 2018, so I'm glad to feel this weather; feels great not to sweat every time I walk outside. I missed this a lot."

Eli Nasogaluak Jr.
"Finally had to pull out the winter clothes. True story!! These last few years we only had to use fall or spring clothing to be warm."

Cathie Arnault
"We grew up in this. We walked to and from school in it and we played outside in it. I remember building tunnels in the snow, like the huskies. I remember doing this when the weather was close to -60 below. Not a problem for us Mackenzie Delta rug rats."

Ruth Jane Wright
"I love it ... it reminds me of years ago in my childhood school would close down and all the kids would go out and play. We had way more snow too."

Community Calendar



Thursday, Feb. 11 and 18

Nihtat Gwich'in Self Government Negotiations Consultation
Nihtat Gwich'in Council Cultural Room
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Update on self-government negotiations for Nihtat. The talks will include an information session, an explanation of what has been discussed to date and potential governance models. Anyone who cannot attend in person is invited to join by way of Zoom or phone. Contact NGC at 867-777-6650 for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Valentine's Bingo!
Ingamo Hall
Tickets on Sale
1:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
One night only! Jackpot is for $25,000 with $1,000 payout for a half-blackout. Other payouts include $1,000 in total payouts for Go-Go cards and $1 50/50 draws, as well as a $5 60/40 draw. All proceeds go to the Arctic Paws Spay & Neuter Assistance Program.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

Little Chefs Program Kick-Off
Your place
Time TBD
Open for families with children aged six or younger, the little chefs program provides youth with a book to read, a separate activity booklet and a themed snack to prepare. Parents are asked to book in advance as limited spots are available due to Covid-19 precautions. Available dates are Feb. 17, March 3, 10 and 24. Contact Healthy Family Program home visitor Jolene Donovan at 867-777-4400 ext. 1 or 867-620-0466 or by email at Jolene_donovan@gov.nt.ca.

To have an event listed in this free feature, call (867) 777-4545, or email inuvikdrum@nnsl.com. Submissions should be received two weeks prior to the event.
Non-profit or community events only please. There is no guarantee submissions will be published.

NEIGHBOURLY News

***Eric Bowling** is editor of the Inuvik Drum. Send your ideas to inuvikdrum@nnsl.com*

photos courtesy of Karen Allen Maxwell

SNOW DOGS

Ulu the Husky says hello to Kaylah the Goldendoodle, who wears some extra protection against the cold as she watches her humans change a truck battery in -40 weather. Plummeting temperatures lead to some equipment issues throughout town.

Driver education available

Fort McPherson

Classes to prepare for the NWT Driver's Licence exam are now available in Fort McPherson.

Initially planned to kick off Feb. 4, the lessons were postponed a week to Feb. 11 and will run on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Participants will study the NWT driver's manual and prepare for the test.

The classes are open to all community members and will be done in a group setting. The classes also offer a learner's licence preparation kit with flash cards.

Anyone interested should contact Dean Charlie at the Charles Koe Building by phone at 867-952-2330.

Valentine's Day painting class

Tuktoyaktuk

Couples, families and friends alike are invited to check out a painting class being held Feb. 13 for Valentine's Day in Tuktoyaktuk.

Taught by Brian Kowikchuk, the class will be limited to 15 seats because of Covid-19 safety precautions. Registration in advance is required.

Paintings will be done with acrylic paint and physical distancing rules will be in effect. The class will be held at Kitti Hall from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Meeka Steen at 867-620-0033 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to register.

Valentine's Day activities planned

Aklavik

Hearts and arrows are flying in Aklavik, which is hosting multiple Valentine's Day celebrations through the Aklavik Recreation Committee.

For youth, a "walk through" homemade card making contest will be held at the Sittichinli Complex on Feb. 12 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for kids 15 years old and under. Up to 50 prizes of $20 are up for grabs for homemade cards.

A youth request show will also be run by 106.9 FM radio from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. for youth 15 and under. Youth can call in and request their favourite love songs.

Meanwhile, an Elder's Valentine's merchandise bingo will be held Feb. 13, with the complex doors opening at 2 p.m. and the games starting at 4 p.m. for anyone 50 years and older. A Valentine's request show for anyone 16 years and older will be held Feb. 13 from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. and a window decoration contest will begin judging at 2 p.m.

Lastly, a "best dressed" contest will be held at the Sittichinli Complex on the evening of Feb. 13, with the 15 and under youth event judging at 7 p.m. and the 16 and over adults taking the stage at 8 p.m. Youth prizes are for $50 and $25, and adult prizes are for $100 and $50.

Family spaghetti day teaches Gwich'in

Tsiigehtchic

Residents of Tsiigehtchic engaged in a creative family activity to get in touch with their linguistic routes Feb. 8, with family spaghetti packages distributed from the designated Gwich'in office from 1 to 5 p.m. that day.

Each household was offered up to one package each, but the catch was to get the free meal, the person picking up the package needed to say a sentence in Gwich'in. Participants were invited to call the DGO for a pre-determined sentence or contact an Elder to learn one if they didn't know one already.

Organized by Speak Gwich'in To Me, the facilitator Carol Ross said numerous children came out and tried their best at the language and a few prayers were also spoken in Gwich'in. Delivery service was also provided for Elders.

Team Wainman adapts to Covid-19 restrictions

'They only allow one sweeper and we have to wear masks'

by Eric Bowling
Northern News Services

While Covid-19 restrictions have been a pain to work around for most, for the three members of Team Wainman they've been only a slight inconvenience.

"They only allow one sweeper and we have to wear masks when we're in the arena and on the ice," said Alexandria Testart. "It's not that different here, but it's going to be different in Yellowknife."

It certainly hasn't been enough to deter the trio against the game, as they've been at the Inuvik Curling Centre six days a week practicing their throws in preparation for this week's annual Rock the Rings youth tournament. Every lunch hour Testart, Brooke Smith and Reese Wainman are hitting the rinks.

Team Wainman will be joining 26 other kids on a flight to Yellowknife this week to compete in the three-day bonspiel that runs Feb. 11 to 14.

"We'll have to social distance a little bit more than up here," said Wainman. "It's been fine (working around Covid-19) – it's really not that bad.

"I'm really excited."

Inuvik Curling Club president Nick Saturnino said the club was sending seven U12 teams, three U15 teams and three U20 teams to compete this year.

Last year, Inuvik's Team Sanderson won the U12 bracket, so the young curlers are hoping for a repeat this year.

But above all, they're hoping to have a good time and are looking forward to getting out of town for a few days – and getting some games of curling in.

"Hopefully we win," said Smith. "We have practices Wednesdays and Sunday, but all of us usually come at lunch every day."

This won't be their last tournament of the year, however. Inuvik Curling Club will be hosting its own U18 championship March 6 to 8.

Eric Bowling/NNSL photo

Reese Wainman, Brooke Smith and Alexandria Testart have *been practicing their curling skills six days a week since October. They'll put their skills to the test this weekend at the annual Rock the Rings bonspiel in Yellowknife.*

Town secures funding to widen Breynat Road

Planned upgrades include adding turning lane and a lighted crosswalk

by Eric Bowling
Northern News Services

Plans are underway to repair and improve Breynat Road along East Three School with a lighted crosswalk and an expanded sidewalk.

The only thing the town is waiting on is funding from Ottawa.

Town of Inuvik senior administrative officer Grant Hood explained details for the plan at town council's Jan. 25 Committee of the Whole meeting.

"It actually isn't just Breynat Road," he said. "It actually starts at the entrance to the school on Kingmingya and goes right up to Inuit Road and up to Semmler Road for part of the project, and some fixing up on the corner and access to the Gwich'in and Breynat intersection."

Culverts will be replaced along the roadway to improve drainage and new signage will be installed and the slope of the hill will be smoothed out to make driving along Breynat more comfortable.

As the project will be funded through the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, construction is expected to begin after Ottawa greenlights the funding.

Mayor Natasha Kulikowski announced the town had reached a $1.854 million contribution agreement with the GNWT on Jan. 27 that would cover some of the costs. The total cost of the project is $2.5 million and would be completed over three years, with road widening happening in the first year, the sidewalks in the second and repaving the road in the final year.

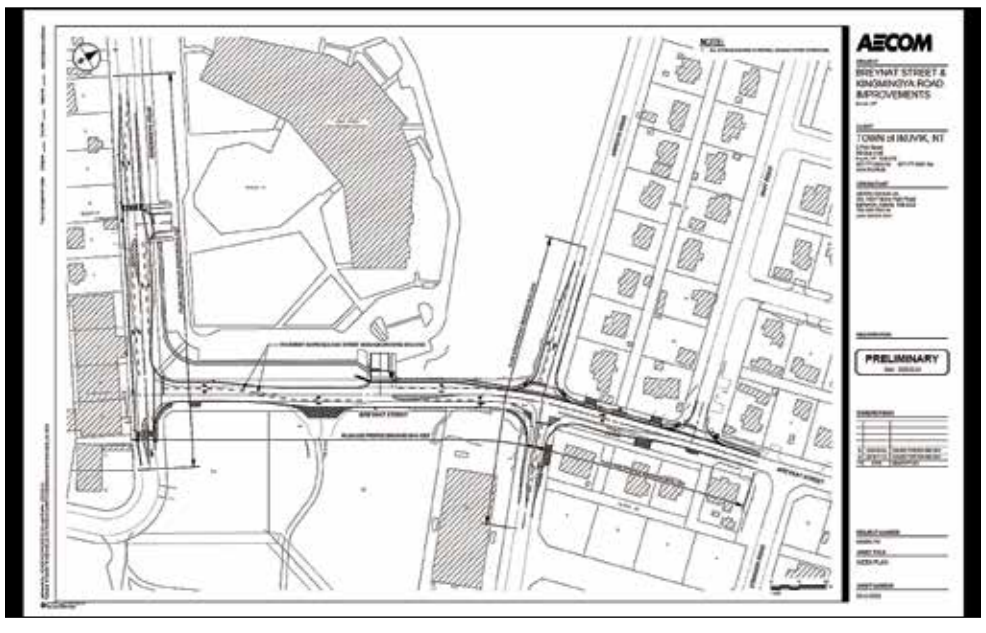
A lighted crosswalk for students at East Three School will be built on Kingmingya Road near Berger Street.

Still in the planning phases is whether a second crosswalk with lights will be installed further east, closer to Northmart. Hood said the town was still crunching the numbers on whether connecting power to the second crosswalk would be feasible. He added the cost estimates of installing the lighted crosswalks were approaching $50,000.

In addition to the safety provided by better lighting, a turning lane will allow parents to access Breynat from the East Three parking lot and turn left or right, as opposed to just turning right as it stands today. The sidewalk along East Three School will be extended all the way up the hill to Semmler Road.

"This is a really ambitious plan to upgrade this in a very significant way," said Coun. Steven Baryluk. "That school is not going anywhere for a long, long, long time. I think it would be a significant improvement to that whole area for the traffic flow and the safety of the residents.

"It's great to see it starting to get some movement, hopefully."



photoa courtesy of Town of Inuvik

The town has received *a $1.854 million contribution from the GNWT to cover some of the costs of widening the road.*

DELTA MARKETPLACE

photo courtesy of Town of Inuvik

***David Bernhardt after** accepting a plaque for 40 years of service with the Inuvik Fire Department.*

Inuvik firefighters honoured

Fifteen long-serving members thanked for years of dedication

by Eric Bowling
Northern News Services

It took a bit longer than usual, but the Inuvik Fire Department recognized the dedication of its volunteers at a Jan. 27 service awards ceremony and that was broadcast during town council's regular meeting.

Normally an annual event, the ceremony was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, so this year 15 firefighters were honoured for their service to the community.

"Inuvik Fire Department is a vital part of our community," said Mayor Natasha Kulikowski. "Having long-term members just shows what a great family it is and also how well protected our community is."

Honoured for two years with the department were Raven Firth, Cynthia Hammond, Bradley McCormick, Joao Nuncio, Robi Nafees, Thomas Adams, Innocent Abah, Kyle Kuptana and Ray Solotki.

Jullian McClean and Angel Simon were recognized for five years of service. Given medals for hitting the 10-year mark were Lt. Maryssa Camacho and Capt. Brian Larman. Barry Cook was awarded for 15 years with the department.

Lastly, for 40 years with the Inuvik Fire Department, David Bernhardt was awarded a special plaque and jacket for his dedications.

"The old guard of the fire department gave you a very well-earned nickname," said deputy chief Jonathon Michel in a speech. "If any of you don't know, Dave's nickname is 'Grumpy.'

"Despite of the nickname, we all see that you give your full heart to us, to this fire department and to the service of this community. That is admirable mentorship to look up to."

Town councillors were unanimous in their thanks to the members for their service to the community.

"I'm sure everybody joins me in congratulating David on his amazing achievement," said Coun. Alana Mero. "In all he's contributed to both the fire department and the town.

"So thank you, David."

photo courtesy Town of Inuvik

***Lt. Maryssa Camacho comes** forward to accept her 10-year service award at the Inuvik Fire Department's annual awards event. The ceremony was for both last year and this year as last year's event was cancelled due to Covid-19.*