



# NEWS

The Official Publication of the 1990 Arctic Winter Games

February 1990

## Sled dogs and Soviets

by Brad Heath

Sled dogs and the majestic national anthem of the Soviet Union will help usher in the 1990 Arctic Winter Games on Sunday, March 11.

The opening ceremonies for the 20th anniversary Games will feature, among others, representatives of Greenland and the Soviet Union, and Canadian champion dog musher Richard Beck of Yellowknife.

"The Soviet Union is only sending a cultural contingent and Greenland will mostly be represented by cultural performers, but they'll be marching in with the athletes from Canada and the U.S.," says Ceremonies and Awards Chairperson Marie Coe.

"And in recognition of dog mushing's debut at the Arctic Winter Games, we're also planning on having Richard Beck and one of his best behaved

dogs take part in the opening ceremonies," says Coe.

The festivities are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the Yellowknife Community Arena when Master of Ceremonies George Tuccaro and the head-stage guests enter the arena.

Special guests are expected to include a number of people who were instrumental in bringing the AWG into existence in 1970, says Coe.

"We're hoping to have Stuart Hodgson, who was the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories at that time, Walter Hickel, the Governor of Alaska at that time, and Ken McKinnon, the Commissioner of the Yukon in 1970 and the first president of the Arctic Winter Games Corporation."

Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and current Prime Minister Brian Mulroney were both invited, but will not be par-

ticipating. Trudeau was in Yellowknife to help kick off the very first Arctic Winter Games in 1970.

Other special guests will include representatives of the Governments of Greenland, the Soviet Union and Canada.

The Northwest Territories will be represented by Gordon Wray, the Minister Responsible for the Arctic Winter Games.

The Yukon will be represented by Government Leader Tony Pennikett.

The NWT Pipe Band will then enter the arena, followed by a Colour Guard, the RCMP and Knifée, the official mascot of the 1990 Arctic Winter Games.

Athletes and cultural performers will then march onto the ice in the following order: Alaska, Yukon, Northern Alberta, Greenland, Soviet Union, Northwest Territories and last, but not the least, Games' officials.

Minutes later the YK Community Arena will come alive with the national anthems of Canada, the United States, Green-



Members of the '84 N.W.T. Arctic Winter Games delegation on parade.

land and the Soviet Union.

"Because of time constraints, we're having a full version of 'O Canada' and abridged versions of the American, Greenland and Soviet Union national anthems," says Coe.

Following the national anthems, George Tuccaro will introduce Don Cooper, the president of the AWG Corporation, Don Sian, the president of the Host Society, and the representative of the Canadian Government from Fitness and Amateur Sport.

The entertainment is scheduled to begin shortly after 6:30 p.m. with dan-

cing by the Metis Reelers. They'll be accompanied by fiddler Ed Lafferty.

The MC will then introduce Gordon Wray, the NWT Minister Responsible for the Arctic Winter Games, and Yellowknife Mayor Pat McMahon.

The entertainment will then continue with throat singers and Inuit drummers from the Northwest Territories, says Coe.

Shortly before 8 p.m., the official song for the 1990 Arctic Winter Games will be performed by Cormier Country, a country and western duo from Yellowknife.

At about 8 p.m. the AWG Torch will be carried onto the ice. The Torch Run will be accompanied by the Dene Prayer Song, performed by the Dettah Drummers.

The torch will then be lit and officials and athletes will pledge their official oath.

Gordon Wray will then officially declare the 1990 Arctic Winter Games open.

The athletes, officials and special guests will then leave the arena, with the MC scheduled to declare the ceremonies officially closed at about 8:15 p.m.

## Opening ceremonies schedule

### OPENING CEREMONIES

Sunday, March 11

YK Community Arena

- 6:30 p.m., Arrival of special guests and public.
- 6:45 p.m., Seating of special guests and entertainers.
- 7:00 p.m., Cadets lead MC George Tuccaro and head stage guests onto the ice.
- 7:02 p.m., NWT Pipe Band begins opening procession anthem. Followed by Color Guard, RCMP, Knifée, and athletes and cultural contingents from Alaska, Yukon, Northern Alberta, Greenland, Soviet Union, NWT, musher Richard Beck and sled dog, and officials.
- 7:17 p.m., Full version of Canadian national anthem, and abridged versions of national anthems

of United States, Greenland and Soviet Union.

•7:25 p.m., MC George Tuccaro introduces AWG Corporation President Don Cooper, AWG Host Society President Don Sian, and a representative of Fitness and Amateur Sport Canada.

•7:31 p.m., Fiddle music and dancing by Ed Lafferty and Metis Reelers.

•7:41 p.m., MC George Tuccaro introduces Gordon Wray, GNWT Minister responsible for the Arctic Winter Games, and City of Yellowknife Mayor Pat McMahon.

•7:45 p.m., Throat singers and Inuit drummers.

•7:55 p.m., Presentation of official AWG song by Cormier Country of Yellowknife.

•7:57 p.m., AWG Torch

run accompanied by the Dettah Drummers and the Dene Prayer Song.

•7:59 p.m., Lighting of AWG Torch. Officials' Oath. Athletes' Oath.

•8:00 p.m., Gordon Wray to declare Games official-

ly open.

•8:04 p.m., NWT Pipe Band leads procession off the ice.

•8:16 p.m., Ceremonies officially called to close by George Tuccaro.

## Avoid the rush

Ceremonies, cold and crowds.

If you don't want to miss all the excitement of the opening ceremonies of the 1990 Arctic Winter Games but could do without the cold weather and crowds, CBC North may have solved your dilemma.

CBC Northern Television will be broadcasting the opening ceremonies at 7 p.m. live on cable Channel 6 in Yellowknife.

The opening ceremonies will again be broadcast on Monday, March 12 at 9 a.m. on CBC in Yellowknife on Channel 8, Cable 10.

Celebrating  
20



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1990 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES  
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.  
March 11 - 17

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# Two years, thousands of hours later

by Brad Heath

With the 1990 Arctic Winter Games just three weeks away, the ULU News spoke with AWG Host Society President Don Sian about the "behind-the-scenes" preparations for these Games.

**ULU News:** To give people some idea of the size of this undertaking, could you estimate the number of hours that have gone into preparing for the Games?

**Sian:** Well, it's definitely thousands of hours to date. And in terms of the overall Games and the number of volunteers

we're going to have involved, I'd say hundreds of thousands of hours is not out of the question.

We may have nearly a thousand volunteers working on the Games. We've got 15 board members and 17 sports committees, and they in turn break off into subcommittees.

Even our Games' staff can't be excluded from the realm of volunteers because the extra hours they're putting in are substantial. Certainly we couldn't hope to pay them for all the time they put in. We're very fortunate to have such a dedicated and

committed staff.

**ULU News:** When did the actual preparations for the 1990 AWG begin?

**Sian:** They began in the fall of 1988. That was when the Host Society was formed.

At that time it would have been registered under the Societies Ordinance, then Yellowknife City Council established a core group on the Host Society and then it was left up to those members to add expertise as they saw fit.



Host Society President Don Sian.

It's always been our goal to have a good, broad cross-section of the community represented on the Host Society. Certainly in filling positions, it was always our intention to look where we have weaknesses in the organization, to add board members who bring certain strengths and advantages. The success of this, I think, is demonstrated by the success of our fund-raising effort.

Then we had a group session where we brought in specialist from the Alberta Sports Council to give us a seminar on organizing the games. Then we hired staff.

We held a goals and objectives session early on in the game where are all our board members to date sat down and went through it committee by committee, looked at the problems we could see coming up... and then potential solutions.

We had a mid-term review just last month where we got together in a fairly lengthy sitting and fine tuned and co-ordinated committees to make sure there we no gaps in our operation.

**ULU News:** How many volunteers have been involved to date?

**Sian:** It's hard to estimate... but I'd say it's probably safe to say we've had 300 to 500 volunteers active in one way, shape or form.

**ULU News:** What's been the biggest challenge to date?

**Sian:** I would definitely say the biggest challenge behind organizing these games has been the fund-

raising component. As well, the addition of Greenland, the Soviet Union and the enhanced cultural program also added onto our organizational task.

The fund raising, however, determined the level of the quality we are able to offer. We've achieved everything we set out to do.

**ULU News:** With the games only two weeks away, what's the biggest challenge remaining?

**Sian:** Fine tuning and preparations. It doesn't matter how well prepared you are, there's still a fair amount of activity that happens in the final two weeks leading up to the games.

Just getting into the Games' operational mode is probably the biggest challenge for our staff right now.

**ULU News:** What about volunteers? How is recruiting going?

**Sian:** I would say Denise (Baptie) has been very successful. The response of volunteers to the Games has never been a problem in the past. We've enjoyed the tremendous community spirit in the City of Yellowknife — people have come forward and are willing to help out and that has certainly made our task as a Host Society a lot easier and certainly more enjoyable.

**ULU News:** Personally, how many hours have you spent on the games?

**Sian:** To be honest, I don't look at it that way. I would not have become involved if it wasn't something that I didn't enjoy. From that perspective, all of us are working towards ensuring that these Games are the best possible.

**ULU News:** Would you do it again?

**Sian:** Oh yes. I love sports and the AWG was a chance to be involved from the organizational level.

I should add that my job has really been easy. Our Host Society is a group of energetic and capable people. Our Games' staff are extremely competent and dedicated.

Because of these people, my job has never seemed a burden. It's always been enjoyable.

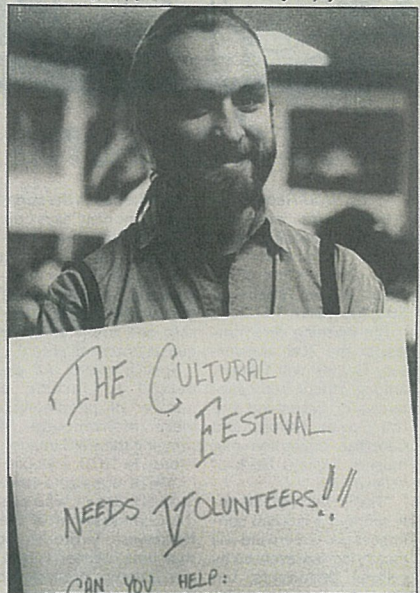
**ULU News:** What's the key to successfully organizing the AWG?

**Sian:** I would say part of the answer is having previous experience. This provided us with the opportunity to learn from our mistakes and build on them.

Having been involved in the '84 Games, we knew some of the weak areas

and we've made a conscientious effort to leave nothing to chance. In general, staying on top of the situation, trying to know the problems before they happen.

I'm confident that all our Host Society members have their respective areas well in hand. Unless something totally unforeseen comes up, it should be a very enjoyable week.



Volunteers are the backbone of the Arctic Winter Games. Call Denise at 873-5858 if you're interested in volunteering.



## CBC TV Coverage

Television coverage will also include:

Monday, March 12, 10 p.m., EST: Day One events coverage will be shown in the Eastern Arctic and Keewatin; in Inuktitut at 10 p.m., in English at 10:30 p.m. (One hour earlier in Central time zone.)

Monday, March 12, 8:30 p.m., MST: Coverage of Day One events will be shown in the Western N.W.T. and the Yukon.

Monday, March 12, 12:30 a.m., MST: English highlights/events program is rebroadcast.

Tuesday, March 13, 9:30 a.m., MST: Day One Inuktitut program will be shown in the Western Arctic and Yukon.

Tuesday, March 13, 10:00 p.m., EST: Day Two Inuktitut highlights/events show at 10:00 p.m., followed by English at 10:30.

Tuesday, March 13, 8:30 p.m., MST: Day Two English highlights/events program.

Tuesday, March 13, 12:30 a.m., MST: English highlights/events program is

rebroadcast.

Wednesday, March 14: same schedule as Tuesday.

Thursday, March 15: same schedule as Tuesday.

Friday, March 16: same schedule as Tuesday.

Saturday, March 17, 8:30 p.m., MST: Inuktitut show from Friday will be shown in the Western Arctic and Yukon.

Saturday, March 17, 11:15 p.m., EST: Coverage of Saturday's events, shown in Inuktitut at 11:15, in English at 11:45. (Times depend on duration of Hockey Night in Canada.)

Saturday, March 17, 10:00 p.m., MST: Coverage of Saturday's events, shown in English at 10:00 p.m., Inuktitut at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 18, 4:00 p.m., EST: Rebroadcast of Saturday's coverage, in Inuktitut at 4:00 p.m., in English at 4:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Focus North, Aqsarniit and Denendeh K'eh will not be seen during the Arctic Winter Games.



## news

The Official Publication of the 1990 Arctic Winter Games

Published by

Box 2820  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
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Phone: (403) 873-4031  
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# Art, athletics and friendship combine

Art, athletics and the spirit of friendship will be the combined focus of Knife Square.

Located on Frame Lake between Yellowknife City Hall and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Knife Square is being touted as "a place to meet people."

Knife Square will offer a wide variety of "things to see and do."

It is co-sponsored by Canadian North, a division of Canadian Airlines International and Gulf Canada.

Doug Lagore, chairman of the Knife Square committee, says the support shown by Canadian North and Gulf Canada will allow the Host Society to set an AWG "first."

"It's exciting for the Games because it's the first time medals will be presented in the evening so the public can attend," says Lagore.

He adds, however, that "there is much more than medal presentations. There's also the cultural aspects and the live entertainment."

The Town of Hay River's decision to help host Knife Square will make it "a territorial event and a people place to be," says Lagore.

Knife Square will be open on Tuesday, March 13, Thursday, March 15 and Friday, March 16.

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society will serve as the hosts of

Knife Square on March 13, while the Town of Hay River is scheduled to play host on March 15. The City of Yellowknife will be the host on March 16.

Some of the things to "see" at Knife Square will include live entertainment, fireworks, a 10-foot snow sculpture of the AWG logo, and the AWG Torch.

But that's not all!

Knife Square will also offer an outdoor skating rink, a Northern crafts display tent, a Northern animal puppet show, a Northern village, a dog-sled show, a film presentation, a bonfire blitz, food booths with everything from caribou stew to hot-dogs, and more!

Doug Walker, of the Major Projects Planning Division for Gulf Canada, and Graham Mann, Director Northern Division for Canadian North, were on hand for the unveiling of Knife Square.

"Knife Square will be a unique highlight of the 1990 Arctic Winter Games," says Mann.

"As the people place, Knife Square will give visitors and Yellowknifers an exciting opportunity to cheer the winners and enjoy the variety of cultural events while sampling Northern and ethnic cuisine.

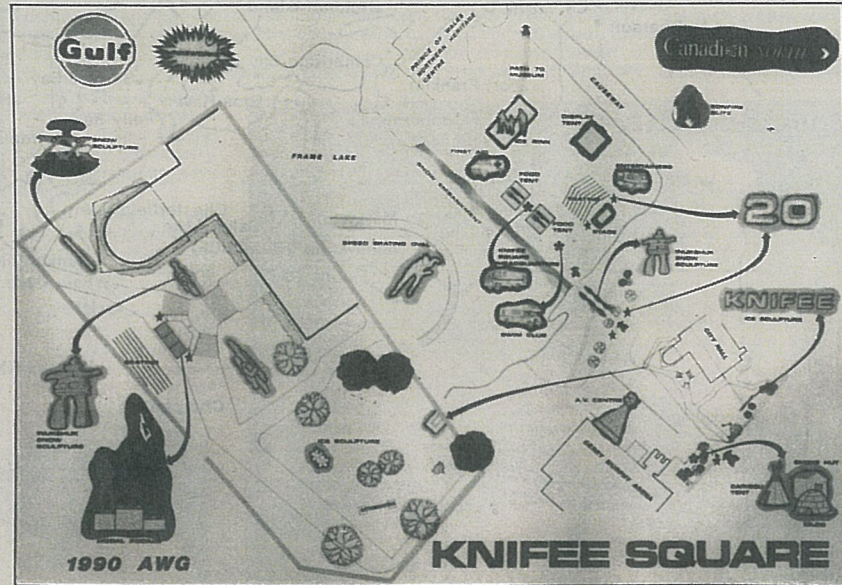
"Canadian North is honored to be a part of this truly Northern experience."

On behalf of Gulf Canada, Walker expressed his hopes that "the 20th Arctic Winter Games will be an event to be long remembered, one that sets new standards of competition for future participants, and inspires continuing growth in sup-

port for the Games by both competitors and spectators."

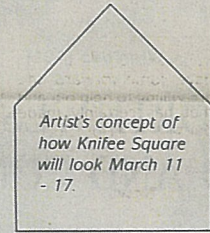
The 1990 Arctic Winter Games, to be held in

Yellowknife from March 11-17, mark the 20th anniversary for this, the largest single sporting event in Northern Canada.



**"It's exciting because it's the first time medals will be presented in the evening so the public can attend."**

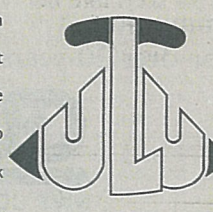
- Doug Lagore



## Cultural Extravaganza at Knife Square

*Knife Square has something for everyone and to ensure you don't miss any of the excitement, clip and save the following schedule of times and events.*

Tuesday, March 13	Thursday, March 15	Friday, March 16
<b>MEDAL PRESENTATIONS</b> 6:00-6:30 p.m.	<b>MEDAL PRESENTATIONS</b> 5:30-6:00 p.m.	<b>MEDAL PRESENTATIONS</b> 5:30-6:00 p.m.
<b>CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA</b> 6:30-6:45 p.m., Rick Poltaruk 6:45-7:00 p.m., Soviet drummers 7:00-7:15 p.m., Conrad Boyce 7:15-7:30 p.m., Greenland performers 7:30-7:45 p.m., Albertine Hawker 7:45-8:00 p.m., Randy Irwin 8:00-8:15 p.m., Yukon Dancers 8:15-8:30 p.m., Snowdrift drummers, myths 8:30-9:00 p.m., Vince Gauthier 9:00-9:15 p.m., Rae Edzo drummers 9:15-9:30 p.m., Rick Poltaruk 9:30-10:00 p.m., Fireworks	<b>CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA</b> 6:00-6:20 p.m., Hay River Skits 6:20-6:40 p.m., Hay River Choir 6:40-7:40 p.m., Outhouse Races 7:40-8:00 p.m., Doug Henderson 8:00-8:40 p.m., Drum Dancers, Drumming 8:40-9:10 p.m., Fireworks	<b>CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA</b> 6:15-6:30 p.m., Ukrainian Dancers 6:30-6:45 p.m., Gum-boots 6:45-7:00 p.m., Colin Adjun 7:00-7:15 p.m., Ben Nind, Michael Sharpe 7:15-7:30 p.m., Lou Delaney 7:30-8:00 p.m., Cormier Country 8:00-8:30 p.m., Rick Poltaruk 8:30-9:00 p.m., Fireworks 8:30-11:00 p.m., Athletes' Dance (public welcome!)



**W**e salute all the athletes, volunteers and sponsors who are working hard to achieve a successful 1990 Arctic Winter Games.

**Good Luck and Congratulations on the games 20th Anniversary.**

Note: All medal presentations will be made on the podium in front of the main stairs at City Hall. The Cultural Extravaganza will be held on the stage located on Frame Lake.