



# ULU NEWS

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES  
YELLOWKNIFE 2008

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

*In today's  
ULU news...*

## The Games begin

Opening ceremony  
welcomes participants to  
2008 Arctic Winter Games  
... See pages 3 and 5

## Homecoming

Yellowknife celebrates 20th  
AWG, fifth as host ...  
See page 10

## Founding father fires up Games

Stuart Hodgson lights AWG  
cauldron ... See page 7

### MEDAL COUNT

Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0



Merle Robillard

## THE 20TH ARCTIC WINTER GAMES BACK IN THE NWT

*Team Yukon marches excitedly into the opening ceremonies  
at the Yellowknife Multiplex*

Also inside: day in pictures • contingent profiles • athlete profiles • youth ambassadors





**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Merle Robillard



Flag bearers from Greenland lead the march in the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife, NWT.

# Let the 2008 Games begin

*Athletes head into six days of competition in Yellowknife*

by Lisa Scott

**A**s Arctic Winter Games International Committee president Gerry Thick declared the 2008 games open on Sunday, a great cheer erupted from the crowd of athletes, coaches, visitors and volunteers crammed into the Yellowknife Multiplex facility.

The feeling of excitement in the air was almost as thrilling as the fireworks that followed his pronouncement, shooting up into the air on the centre stage on the olympic ice.

The opening ceremony was the culmination of two years of work by the Yellowknife Host Society and evidence of that work was all around. With all nine contingents crowded onto the ice surface in varying shades of blue, red and black uniforms, the sense that the Games had finally begun was all around.

Much mention was made of

this being the 20th edition of the circumpolar games and things have come full circle for the original host city of Yellowknife. Once again, just as in 1970 when Pierre Trudeau lit the torch to open the inaugural Games, Prime Minister Stephen Harper took the stage to welcome all participants to what he called "the most successful Arctic Winter Games ever ... stronger and better than ever before."

More than 2,200 athletes, coaches and officials will be participating at these games from nine contingents above the 55th parallel over a period of seven days, from Yamal, Russia, to Greenland and all the way to Alberta, Canada. The Arctic Winter Games are unique to the world, including distinctly Northern sports like dog mushing, Arctic sports, Dene games and snowshoeing.

Cultural elements of each contingent will feature strongly in these games, something that Yellowknife host society president

Cathie Bolstad says was agreed upon by organizers from the start. Performers from all contingents will showcase their languages, traditions, dances and music alongside the competition all week.

Nearly 2,500 volunteers will be working at sport venues across the city as athletes vie for the distinctive ulu medals during the week. The 20th Arctic Winter Games have come a long way from the inaugural event in 1970, costing \$6.5 million for the city of Yellowknife, \$3.6 million of that coming from the business community.

The athletes were hyper as they marched off the ice and onto buses waiting to take them back to their dorms before the first day of competition, which began this morning. For many of them it was a time to put on their game faces for a week of competition.

Jeff Diment of Whitehorse, Yukon is here to compete in dog mushing. While the competition is on his mind, the 11-year-old is

also here to have fun and trade as many pins as possible.

On Team Nunavut, Vincent Ninggeongan was really excited by the opening ceremonies and was ready for the Wrestling team competition to start on Monday at 10 a.m.

"I'm hoping to win gold," says the Coral Harbour athlete. Ninggeongan will compete in the 75 kg weight class.

Despite their small team size, the Saami contingent is also ready to play this week. Three-time Arctic Winter Games participant Marja-Liisa Partapuoli is defending four medals in cross-country skiing.

"I'm here to have fun and maybe to win," says the 18-year-old.

Entering her third Games' experience is a bit less of a thrill for the veteran athlete, but she's still excited to head into competition.

The earliest games begin this morning at 8 a.m. with badminton, hockey and indoor soccer starting off the day.



Merle Robillard

Team Yukon raises their flags high during the opening ceremonies.

The official newspaper of the 2008 Arctic Winter Games – Published by Northern News Services – Printed by Canarctic Graphics

**ULU NEWS**

Editor: Chris Puglia

Copy Editor: Adam Johnson

Reporters: Jennifer McPhee • Lisa Scott • Daniel T'seleie

Photographer: Merle Robillard

Graphic designer: Steve Hatch



**Contact information**

You can e-mail us at: [ulunews@nnsi.com](mailto:ulunews@nnsi.com). We are located at 5108-50th Street. To speak with our editor call 873-4031. The Ulu News accepts photo orders for any images that appear in our pages. For ordering information please call 873-4031 or e-mail us.







**OPENING CEREMONIES**

# Going toe to toe with Harper

## Prime Minister opens Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife

by Daniel T'seleie

**W**hat has 4,000 feet, a thunderous roar and takes 45 minutes to walk into an arena? Every athlete in the 2008 Arctic Winter Games! The olympic ice surface was filled with all the competitors on Sunday night for the opening ceremonies of the 2008 AWG.

Guests and spectators packed into the bleachers like weekday commuters on a Tokyo subway. The sold-out event was so popular some ticket holders opted to stand by railings rather than fight their way in and out of their seats.

Even Prime Minister Stephen Harper made an appearance to welcome everyone from afar and wish the athletes good luck. This is the first visit made by a Prime Minister since Pierre Eliot Trudeau helped launch the first Games in 1970, also in Yellowknife, NWT. The words of encouragement from Canada's head of state came as a pleasant surprise to some.

"They never told me [Harper was coming]," says Tanya Haulli, a wrestler from Iglulik, Nunavut. I just saw him and was like, 'oh my God!'" She thinks the opening ceremonies were "awesome," and Harper's visit was her favourite part.



Daniel T'seleie

**Nunavut wrestler Tanya Haulli** was excited to hear the PM – but thinks she would be him on the mat.

Now, in a conversation between a wrestler and a reporter one inevitable question had to be asked: could you take him? "Yeah, big time," Haulli says smiling. Such confidence, but Harper said it himself, today's AWG athletes are, "stronger and better than ever before."

But there's more to the AWG than physical competition. The Games have evolved to be a showcase of traditions and customs, a meeting ground for all Northern cultures and an open forum for artistic expression, both contemporary and traditional. Sunday's ceremony was a shining example the cultural open mindedness that has become entrenched in the games themselves. The crowd was wowed with a variety of performances with origins spanning countless generations and multiple continents. A



Merle Robillard

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper** reaches for the mike as he opens the 20th 2008 Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife, NWT.

prayer sung by the Northwest Territories' Dettah Drummers kicked off the evening, and by the end of the night the crowd was hopping to the rap of Yellowknife's Aaron "Godson" Hernandez and the break-dancing backup of Yukon's Groundwork Sessions Funk Ensemble.

A number of other prominent individuals took the opportunity

to welcome the athletes and wish them luck, including NWT Premier Floyd Roland, Yellowknife Mayor Gordon Van Tighem, Dettah Chief Edward Sangris and Gerry Thick, president of the AWG International Committee.

The list doesn't stop there. Juno award winner Leela Gilday performed her song, "Rise and

Shine," saying that after years of training it truly is these athletes' time to shine. Yellowknife was also introduced to the 2008 AWG theme song, Right Here, Right Now, written and recorded by Chris Jonah and Dave Hysert.

In the words of Opening Ceremonies emcee Robin Williams, "Go out and enjoy the Games!"



**ATCO** joins the  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Arctic Winter Games.

Join us in celebrating  
a collaborative approach  
to art and sport at the  
Cultural Gala events,  
honouring the excellence  
of creative diversity.

**ATCO**  
GROUP



For more information, please visit us at [www.atco.com](http://www.atco.com)



From **March 9–15** Northwestel encourages everyone to come together and cheer

# Go Team Go!

## Enjoy the Games

Northwestel has been a fan and supporter since the Games first started in 1970. As a Legacy Partner of the 2008 Games, we are proud to sponsor the Athletes' Centre, Indoor Soccer and Volunteers.



Bringing us together.  
nwtel.ca



INTERNET



WIRELESS



TV



VOICE



SOLUTIONS



**NUNASI CORPORATION**  
ᓇᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ

## OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE 2008 AWG

Being the first Inuk ever to be drafted into the National Hockey League

***A dream come true!***

Representing Canada at the World Junior Hockey Championships

***Unforgettable!***

Winning a National Aboriginal Achievement Award

***Incredible!***

Being selected to represent your territory at the Arctic Winter Games

***Where dreams begin!***

Visit us online at  
**www.nunasi.com**



Jordin Tootoo is the Official spokesperson for Nunasi Corporation.



**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Merle Robillard



Janet Pacey stands by the cauldron she designed for the 2008 Arctic Winter Games.

# Torch connects past and future

## Games founder ignites cauldron

by Jennifer McPhee

The 20th Arctic Winter Games torch pass was based around the concept of connecting Stuart Hodgson, one of the founding fathers of the Arctic Winter Games, with NWT athletes from years gone by.

Star alumni Wendy Foreman Williams was the first to hold the torch last night before passing it to more than 20 other alumni, representing a broad range of sport – symbolically and literally linking generations of athletes.

As they grabbed hold of the torch in the Multiplex, the announcer called out their names, what sports they competed in, and in what years.

The last alumni to receive the torch was Robin Sproule, who saw action in five different sports over the course of twelve Games, starting in 1976. Sproule then passed the torch to two young athletes from this year's Games,

who carried it onto the stage. Wearing a sealskin coat, Hodgson walked onto the stage, and, when he pointed to the cauldron, the two athletes set it ablaze. The crowd went wild.

After the opening ceremony, torch bearer Eli Nasogaluak from Tuktoyaktuk, NWT said he was having trouble wiping the smile off his face. He was “nervous at first,” which reminded him of how he felt right before a competition. “It’s the same atmosphere,” he said. Nasogaluak, who currently lives in Ottawa, competed in Arctic sports in 1998, the last year the NWT and Nunavut were on the same team. In the next games, he competed against his former teammates. It was a privilege to take part in the ceremony with former athletes from as far back as the first Games, he said.

At the inaugural 1970 Games, Wendy Foreman Williams was a starry-eyed, 15-year-old badminton player. After that first experience, she went on to compete in eight more Games, winning 17 medals. She was excited then, and is just as excited now.

“I am really, really thrilled and honoured,” said Williams, who now lives in Kelowna, B.C. “Sports and the Arctic Winter Games has been very formative in my life. Through sports, I got to travel and meet incredible people, and it’s very thrilling to be back here.”

“I had some sadness in my life recently,” she added. “I lost my husband. And I find this is picking up my spirits. To see all the old friends is very heartwarming and wonderful for me.”

Lloyd Lamouelle from Behchoko, NWT was on the snow-

“I am really, really thrilled and honoured.”



Merle Robillard

AWG founder Stuart Hodgson directs the lighting of the torch at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Games in Yellowknife, NWT.

shoeing team in 1988, and competed in Dene games from 1990 to 2000. Taking part in the torch pass is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, he said. “It feels great.”

While Hodgson was igniting the inside cauldron, a crew was busy lighting the cauldron outside. Yellowknifer Janet Pacey designed the torch and the three-metre-high cauldron outside the Yellowknife Multiplex.

Both are mostly made of polished stainless steel, with six sides representing the six permanent members of the international committee.

Each side bears the name of one member, along with the international Arctic Winter Games logo, nine flames representing the nine participating nations, and a representation of a snowflake.

The flames signify the beginning of the games and the fire and passion of everyone involved, said

Pacey. As for the snowflake, she was searching for something that all the participating groups had in common. “What better than snow?” she said.

Unique to the torch are small chunks of rock on each side, which were imported from the represented contingent’s region.

The idea behind these pebbles was to capture the raw and rugged nature of the North, said Pacey.

The same way the torch is passed from athlete to athlete, this year’s torch will be passed along to future games. The significance of this is just starting to hit Pacey. “It’s a pretty exciting feeling to think that I’ve created something that will go on,” she said.

Pacey also designed the Foxy – the AWG’s official mascot – characters on display signs around town as well as the Foxy pins.



# THE DAY IN PICTURES



NWT mushers got a late start at trials the Friday before the Games began. Windchill of -50 C forced the postponement of the trials in February.



Spectators watch the action during the RBC Riders Cup at the Bristol Pit Saturday.



photos Merie Robillard

Adrienne Hynes, left, and Morgan Paul, of team Yukon huddle to keep warm during the cross-country Skiing and Biathlon opening ceremonies at the Yellowknife Ski Club on Sunday.



Yellowknife, NWT, rapper Aaron "Godson" Hernandez riles up the crowd during the opening ceremonies last night.



Renee LeVesque prepares vegetables for the athletes.



# THE DAY IN PICTURES



Sixteen-year-old Hannah Summers, Team Alaska junior dog musher, applies ointment to protect the dog's feet from ice and snow during practice runs on Back Bay Sunday.



Seventeen-year-old Stephan Angotialuk, left, of Team Nunavut, volleys the ball while teammate Devin Aviugana, 16, tries to block.

photos: Merle Robillard



Darryl Tait of Yellowknife, NWT, lands a jump during the RBC Riders Cup at the Bristol Pit Saturday.



The Bristol Pit Snowboarding course is reflected in a competitor's goggles.



Four student photographers from the Northwest Territories are being mentored by professional photographers during the games under the Arctic Winter Games 2008 Youth Photography project. They are using Nikon D80 digital cameras and will be showing the best photos each day at a growing exhibition at the federal government. Greenstone Building. The students are: Front left, Jessica Deane, Yellowknife and Christine Morgan, Hay River. Back left, Sophie Stefure, Tuktoyaktuk and Tom Koidhis, Fort Smith.



## AROUND THE GAMES

# 20th Games celebration

## Commemorative book reflects on Arctic Winter Games past

by Daniel T'seleie

**W**hen they began planning the 2008 Arctic Winter Games, the 2008 Host Society "didn't have any idea at the time that this would be the 20th set of games," says host society president Cathie Bolstad. Once they realized the significance of this year's games, they decided something had to be done to commemorate the milestone. "Our view is that we want this to be the best homecoming celebration of sport and culture," adds Bolstad.

The first Arctic Winter Games was held in 1970 in Yellowknife, then a town of about 6,000 people. Approximately 500 participants from the NWT, the Yukon and Alaska helped to organize or compete in the inaugural event.

This week, Yellowknife is hosting 2,200 participants, coaches and athletes from five countries around the world, and with a budget of \$6.5 million these games cost ten times more than the 1970 Games.

"We've got to showcase the North, showcase how far the games have come," Bolstad says.

There were opening and closing ceremonies at the first games, but not much else. "It was about the actual games themselves and that's it," says Fran Hurcomb, author of "Inspired Dream," a book commemorating the 20th games. There were almost no cultural events back then, with one notable exception; there was a hugely popular demonstration of traditional Inuit games. Now called Arctic sports these events became part of official competition in 1972, followed by Dene games in 1990.

The games have lost some sports over the years. Fans are no longer drawn to their feet by the thrills of competitions like judo and boxing. Most recently, for the 2006 games in Alaska the pee-wee hockey division was eliminated in an attempt to reduce the growing number of participants.

Finding all the information and photos needed for a book on the games was not easy. "There's never been a history [of the Games] put together," said Hurcomb, who was



**Fran Hurcomb** put together a commemorative book marking the past 20 games.

commissioned by the host society to produce the compendium. She spent a year-and-a-half pulling together the necessary photos and interviews, and the search took her as far as the National Archives of Canada.

Despite the many changes to the games over the past 38 years, organizers have always, "stuck with the original tenets" Hurcomb says. The games have always been a combination of "sports, culture and friendship."

Camaraderie also has always been a significant part of the games. "I still have friends from some of the games in 1972 and '74," says Wendy Foreman Williams, who competed in badminton. She has 17 AWG medals under her belt, 16 of them gold.

Williams and 21 other AWG alumni from the NWT and Nunavut were invited to the 20th games as special guests designated to carry torches in the opening ceremonies and distribute medals in the

closing ceremonies.

Williams, then a "wide-eyed 15-year-old," first competed in the 1970 games, and ended her AWG career in the 1990 games. She has watched the growth and evolution of the games, and says one notable change is the shift in the ages of competitors.

Today's games are almost exclusively for youth. The 1998 games in Yellowknife marked a significant decrease in the number of adult categories. By the 2000 games in Whitehorse the only adult participants were in Arctic sports, Dene games and on the cultural contingents. Williams used to think it was unfair to exclude adult athletes from the games, but now thinks it is the right thing to do.

"It's an amazing meeting of sport and culture that influences young people for the rest of their lives," Williams says. Her experiences as a youth competitor were "instrumental" in forming her character.



Merle Robillard

**Wendy Foreman Williams**, an AWG alumna and medallist, catches up with an old friend. The Arctic Winter Games have been building friendships since the beginning. To commemorate the 20th Games, the 2008 Host Society invited 22 AWG alumni from the NWT and Nunavut to this year's games.

Trying to bring adult and youth athletes to the games would effectively double the number of competitors, says Williams, and it would be impossible to accommodate this many people in almost any Northern venue. The games are important for youth as they offer an opportunity to meet people and learn about different cultures.

"You learn about each other and respect each other," she adds.

The opinion that the games

should be directed towards youth is shared by Jonas Sangris, another AWG alumna who has competed in snowshoeing more times than he can remember. "I started in '72, I can't remember when I stopped," Sangris says.

The pressure of competing every two years kept the young Sangris in line; he was always looking to the next games, training hard and staying out of trouble. "[The games] made me who I am today."



## SCAVENGER Hunt

Spring has sprung- there are RAVENS about,  
Each day there will be TEN for you to scout out.  
Not those feathered black birds you see about town,  
These large COLOURED raven statues don't fly around.

Why HUNT for these birds you all want to know?  
Why subject yourself to RUN through the snow?  
Because on FOUR of the ravens a ribbon you will find,  
That you can exchange for an Arctic Winter Games PIN -  
one of a kind.

For only FIVE DAYS you will have a chance to seek,  
These big Northern birds decorated like FLAGS from tail to beak.

You will find the hints in the ULU NEWS,  
You will have from TEN to FIVE daily to solve all the CLUES.

This is the Arctic Winter Games - get out and have FUN!  
The PINS are all unique; you get the only one,  
To find a hidden raven and collect a priceless pin.  
Remember there are only TWENTY pins available to win.

If you find a prized ribbon you'll be the envy of the town,  
Claim your prize at the Pin Table in the Athletes Centre located  
downtown.

Lucky Winners will be named in the Ulu News,  
As the sharpest and the fastest to solve all the clues.

### Hints

- Where would you find open water in March in Yellowknife?

- Hurry hard to the House?
- Where you can hear what Canadians are talking about?
- In a pinch we will hold all your sheets?

- Not full of chopped liver?
- Bears fly North downtown, seriously?
- Never second in the sky?
- They used to call ground beef "Chuck" but

- now it is so expensive they call it "Charles,"
- The biggest 'Iglu' in Yellowknife?
- If your new to this town they have maps to get around?



**CONTINGENT PROFILE**

# Saami on the soccer pitch

## Contingent sends first ever team to the Games

by Jennifer McPhee

**T**his year marks the first time Team Saami will compete in indoor soccer at the Arctic Winter Games.

The eight-member intermediate girls team is "pretty good" said Aslak Paltto, Saami Chef de Mission. In fact, the first time the team played together last July at the Saami Cup in Sweden, they won the entire tournament. "That was quite unexpected," said Paltto, an accomplished cross-country skier who lives in a Saami village in Finland with a population of just 50 people.

Soccer – or football as it's called in Europe – is quite popular in Sweden and Norway, but not as much in Finland where they are crazy about ice hockey. All the girls on the soccer team hail from Norway.

Paltto said the girls have played soccer since they were little, but usually play outdoors. Paltto is mildly concerned about the reduced-bounce ball, which the girls have never played with. "We'll wait and see how that goes," he said.

The team's first game takes place today at 10 a.m. "We're hoping for the best," said team captain Ragnhild Fosshaug, who arrived with the team on Saturday night at 5 a.m. their time.

Team Saami is not an official member of the Arctic Winter Games, but has been invited to participate for the past three years. Along with soccer, the 42-member team includes a strong group of cross-country skiers. At the 2004 and 2006 games the Saami took home 23 and 21 medals respectively, all in cross-country skiing. This year, Paltto says Team Saami has high expectations for their cross-country ski team.

"Most of them will do very good performances," he says. "Altogether we have a strong team."

Also making the trip is a small three person cultural contingent consisting of Elle Sofe Hentiksen, Inger Biret Gaup, and Ol-Julian Gaup, who will yoik at the cultural gala on Thursday and Friday. Team leader Hentiksen, who has attended a dance school in London, also dances in the performance.

Yoiking refers to the Saami traditional way of singing, and Saami people can tell which country or area a singer comes from by their yoik. Each yoik reflects a place – such as a mountain or river – or animal or person. The yoiker attempts to transfer the essence of that person or place into song. Often, yoiks are completely improvised. "Many times, it's just a couple of words; more often there



Merle Robillard

From left to right: Anna Stroemsnes, Heidi Andreassen, Ragnhild Fosshaug, Ann Solbritt E. Logje, Benedicte Elise Dahl.

are no words," said Paltto. "You hear from the tone whether it is fast, or sad or joyful."

The gala performance is "just bits and pieces of different yoiks combined with modern dance," said Hentiksen. "We also have some poems ... which we will be reading."

The cultural performers will also take part in the informal presenta-

tions about the Saami people today, Tuesday and Wednesday, and in cultural workshops throughout the week, said Hentiksen.

Paltto hopes that Ol-Julian Gaup – the sole male on the Saami cultural contingent – will arrive in Yellowknife in time for his performance. Because of problems with his valid passport, he was turned away from the Copenhagen

airport on Friday. He was supposed to travel from Copenhagen to Chicago before making his way to Yellowknife. However, now he must obtain a US visa from the embassy in Norway, which was closed over the weekend.

Hopefully, he'll secure his visa on Monday and arrive in Yellowknife on Tuesday afternoon, said Paltto.



## serious commitment.

Canadian North salutes all the competitors, organizers and volunteers that make the Arctic Winter Games such a success. Your commitment to bringing the people of the north and their traditions together, is one we are proud to help realize and proud to share.

Committed to the Arctic Winter Games.

Committed to northern traditions.

Committed to the people of the north.

Owned by the people of the north.



**CANADIAN NORTH**  
seriously northern

Proud sponsor of the Arctic Winter Games

reservations [canadiannorth.com](http://canadiannorth.com) • 1.800.661.1505 • cargo 1.866.661.2223



## Proud Sponsor of the 2008 Arctic Winter Games

### A Tradition of Northern Support

At First Air we're committed to the same values and principles that embody the spirit and intent of the 2008 Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. With over 450 employees and their families living and working throughout the North, First Air believes that by doing all that we can do to help the dreams and aspirations of northern youth take flight, we pay tribute to their dedication and continue to build on a great northern tradition and better future for all.



**FIRST AIR**  
The Airline of the North

[www.firstair.ca/awg2008](http://www.firstair.ca/awg2008)

Book online or call First Air at 1 800 267 1247 TTY 1 877 873 3718



CONTINGENT PROFILE

# Nunavik is here to stay

Team rejoined AWG in 2000, still building momentum

by Lisa Scott

**N**unavik-Quebec has one of the smallest teams at the 2008 Arctic Winter Games, but for a contingent that only returned to the games in 2000 after a nearly 15-year absence, they are building momentum with each appearance.

"In Nunavik, everything is relatively new. We don't have the structure in place where the kids are practising on a daily basis," says Jean Dupuis, chef de mission.

The sports structure in Nunavik-Quebec is really starting to come together as municipalities and government agencies are recognizing the importance of sport and partnering to encourage participation, says Dupuis.

With 14 communities spread across 660,000 square kilometres, Nunavik-Quebec faces struggles similar to many Arctic regions to co-ordinate competition across large distances with small populations scattered in each village.

The capital of Kuujuaq has 2,250 people, while Aupaluk, the smallest community, has only 177 residents. The 45-person team is made up of members from across the territory, competing in only four sports: Arctic sports, Dene



Team Nunavik-Quebec is proud to be at the 2008 Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife as their participation in AWG increases.

games, snowshoeing and badminton. The team consists of a seven-person cultural contingent as well.

"Our participation in the Arctic Winter Games is one that we take very seriously. We want to continue coming here. We want

to show that our athletes are continually improving their competition level," says Dupuis.

Team members have been bonding since regional trials began in the fall of 2007 and members knew each other well by the time

they hopped on planes from Kuujuaq to Iqaluit to Yellowknife.

The majority of team members play Dene games and Arctic sports, as these traditional sports are fostered through the regional school board.

Vanessa Aragutak of Kuujuaq seems at ease with her team members, despite the fact that they are from different communities. She says the thing she likes best about her team is their fur-hooded parkas.

She is participating in badminton and hopes that by competing here, more youth in Nunavik will start playing and there will be more sports action on her home turf.

"We want more players and more games in our communities," she says.

Her teammate Minnie Annahatak agrees. "We want to show people back home that we had fun here," says the athlete from Kangirsuk.

The next step for this team in vibrant blue uniforms is to get into team sports competition for the 2010 games in Grande Prairie, Alta. As in many Northern regions, hockey is a huge sport in Nunavik-Quebec, with arenas in all the villages; a few even have artificial ice.

"Hockey is one discipline we'd really like to be part of somewhere down the road," says Dupuis.

With a good mix of female and male athletes, this contingent heads straight into competition in all four disciplines starting today.



*Matco is proud to be a Platinum sponsor of the 20th Anniversary AWG's!*

*When you dare to dream... great things happen!*

- > Local Moving > Office Relocations
- > International Moves > Domestic Moves
- > Cross Border Moves

**867-873-3333**  
**www.matco.ca**

Your Northern Moving Specialists




ARCTIC WINTER GAMES  
YELLOWKNIFE 2008



**Proud to support great Canadian communities**

For more than a century, Bell has been deeply committed to the success of Canadian communities. Bell is an enthusiastic supporter of economic growth, leadership and excellence. We are proud to be a sponsor of the 2008 Arctic Games.






The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has been part of the North for over 130 years. As Northerners, we take the opportunity to celebrate tradition and perseverance.


As the Arctic Winter Games celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, we would like to congratulate them on their success. We also congratulate the athletes on the perseverance it takes to bring them to these Games. We extend our wishes for safe and healthy competition.

Be fair, play fair, do your best and enjoy the spirit of the Games.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police    Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Photo: Ron Rose



**Yellowknife Catholic Schools**  
*Where Learning Lights the Spirit!*  
*Où l'apprentissage reflète l'Esprit!*

**Yellowknife Catholic Schools**

## Congratulates

*all of our student athletes for making the 2008 Arctic Winter Games in your chosen sport.*

**GOOD LUCK!**  
We are very proud of you.  
**Go Team NWT!!**

Central Services Office  
5124-49th Street  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P4  
Phone: 766-7400

[www.yes.nt.ca](http://www.yes.nt.ca)



**AROUND THE GAMES**

# Ambassadors on the beat

## New program involves NWT youth in Games

by Lisa Scott

**T**wenty-six smiling youth will embody the spirit of the NWT at the 2008 Arctic Winter Games, this week.

Following in the footsteps of the 2007 Canada Games in Whitehorse, the Yellowknife, NWT host society added a youth ambassadors program to the 20th Games.

The program features youth representing nearly every community from across the Northwest Territories. These 16 to 21-year-olds can be spotted by their dark green jackets and vests at cultural venues across the city, helping to set up and clean up for each event, give out information as needed and act as ambassadors for the host city.

They are also a wealth of knowledge, when not working at a venue each youth is ready to assist, carting a backpack containing city maps, event information and even information on first aid.

The Yellowknife Arctic Winter Games Host Society decided to implement the ambassadorship to get more youth involved in the games, which are predominantly sports-oriented.

"The Games belong to the NWT, not just to Yellowknife. What we wanted to do is to advocate the games throughout the North," says



**Laura Loe of Fort Liard** hands out programs at the opening ceremonies Sunday night. Loe is one of 26 youth ambassadors at these games.

Dave Hurley, general manager of the host society.

In order to do this, youth in all 33 NWT communities were invited to apply to the program. Each one had to meet tough criteria showing them to be leaders in their communities, as well as provide two reference letters and an essay describing why they wanted to take part in the Games.

Kathryn Youngblut, the youth ambassador co-ordinator, said the idea of involving youth in the games in a non-sporting context was one

whose time had come.

"The purpose of the program is to expose youth who are not athletically inclined to the activities of the games and to give them the chance to meet all of the participants," Youngblut says.

There are lots of kids in communities that don't get to take part in this special week because they don't play sports, she says.

The ambassadors will focus on cultural events this week, taking part in the opening and closing ceremonies, the fashion show and the

daily hit of culture from the various contingents at different venues around town.

"My hope is that they'll learn how great it is to work with people, that they'll lose some of their shyness, that they'll realize that all people are the same ... and that it's fun to meet new people," Youngblut says.

"They are ambassadors for their communities and for the NWT.

They are learning to be all-around kids who can work in any situation with any people. It's adding to their

education and making them well-rounded people with a range of experiences."

It has been a long week already for the youth ambassadors. They began orientation the week before the games.

For Delaney Poitras of Fort Smith and Myles Erb of Norman Wells, this is their second time serving as ambassadors. Both took part in the pilot program in Whitehorse as well.

Poitras likes meeting new people and getting the chance to visit other communities outside of Fort Smith. "It's been pretty fun and we've been learning new things," says the 18-year-old. She figures the host society needs as many volunteers as they can get and the youth ambassadors help to boost the volunteer numbers.

Bobbi Rose of Fort McPherson says she is looking forward to talking to visitors to the city and guiding them around. She plans on telling people where all the good souvenir shops are and wants to ensure everyone enjoys themselves.

The ambassadors began their week greeting contingents as they came off their planes. They'll finish up at the closing ceremonies. In between, they'll be hopping around from cultural venue to cultural venue, helping out as needed.



## Diavik – Using Resources Wisely

Diavik's **commitment** to northern **communities** remains strong.

Diavik's latest **training** initiatives include an Aboriginal leadership development program, apprenticeships, and underground miner training.

Two-thirds of Diavik's operations **workforce** is Northern.

Diavik's spending with northern **business** is approximately **\$2.5 billion**.

And we're preparing for the **future** with new construction projects, underground mining, and continued exploration.

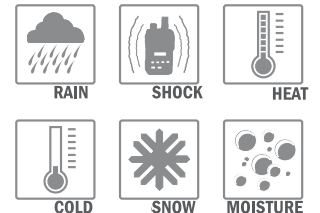
**DIAVIK**  
DIAMOND MINE

diavik.ca



**It's a radio. It's a pager. It's both!**

- Vibration alert function
- Internal voice storage up to 8 mins
- IP-67 dust-tight and waterproof (submersible 1m/30mins)
- Built to military specs (MIL-STD 810)
- Rugged, compact design



www.icomcanada.com  
sales@icomcanada.com  
604-952-4266



Helping athletes achieve their goals.  
AMATEUR | AVIONIC | LAND MOBILE | MARINE | RECEIVER



ATHLETE PROFILE

# Champ hoists Yukon flag

*Prodigy hopes to lead young team to another gold ulu*



**T**eam Yukon is bringing a rookie team to these Games, but they have an ace up their sleeves: returning Gold Ulu-winner and captain Tony Nguyen.

He's the only returning baller on the team, but that's not the sole reason he's the captain. The 17-year-old excels in the sport, and has for the seven years he's been playing. He was also captain of the champion basketball team at the 2006 Arctic Winter Games – the first time a Grade 9 student has led the team. He says the honour came with a lot of pressure.

"I had to prove that I could work harder than everyone," Nguyen says. "Sometimes I felt like I couldn't mess up."

However, everything worked out swimmingly for Nguyen and the team in 2006. They all worked their backsides off and took home the Gold Ulu, the Yukon's second in male basketball.

Nguyen hasn't backed off since those Games. In the interim, he has been the captain of his high school team [which won the Yukon territorial competition last Thursday] and the captain of a pan-territorial team – comprised of players from the Yukon, NWT and Nunavut – that travelled to the Basketball

by Daniel T'seleie

Canada National Championships in Sherbrooke, Que. last August. The Northern team managed to beat the teams from Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, which Nguyen describes as a "huge" accomplishment. Nguyen scored the game-winning basket against Newfoundland in overtime.

As the AWG returning champs, the Yukon team has some added pressure this year.

"We're the team to beat," Nguyen says.

Despite the predominance of rookies on the team he has high hopes.

"We're a little less experienced [than the 2006 team], but have a different style of play," Nguyen says. The players are a little younger, on average, and not as big as the previous team, but their speed and wits will work to their advantage. "Our team's quite smart, we know where to go."

As the captain and one of the most experienced players you would think Nguyen would take a lead in helping train the others, and he does, but he's not the only one. He says the whole team has been pitching in to help each other improve and excel over the past four months of training.

"We all help each other," Nguyen says, "as a team that's one of our strengths."

But don't think for a minute that Nguyen doesn't take responsibility for leading the team. It's apparent, even after a short conversation, that this young athlete knows a lot about the "beautiful" game of basketball, and uses this knowledge in his role as team captain.

"With the team, you have to make sure everyone is focused." He's keeping his eye on every detail – free throws, rebounds, defence – and is making sure the team plays as well as they can.

Nguyen was chosen to carry the flag for Team Yukon in the opening ceremonies. You could chalk this up to his many accomplishments, awards, honours or to the fact that he's a returning Gold Ulu winner, but he doesn't.

"It was more than just being a returning athlete, it's more about character and respect for the game." Respect is something Nguyen has no shortage of, and not just for basketball.

"I love all the sports here," Nguyen says.

This will be his final year competing in basketball at the Arctic Winter Games, but he plans to continue playing.

After he graduates from F.H. Collins high school next year Nguyen hopes to attend the University of Victoria, where he will continue his basketball career.

Tony Nguyen is Team Yukon's flag bearer and the captain of the male basketball team. He was also captain in the 2006 Games, which at 15 made him the Yukon's youngest AWG basketball team captain. They took the Gold Ulu in 2006 and Nguyen is looking for a repeat.

**ACL Arctic Co-operatives Limited**  
Locally-owned Co-ops working together to strengthen their communities.  
**CO-OP**  
[www.ArcticCo-op.com](http://www.ArcticCo-op.com)  
**INNS NORTH**

Arctic Co-operatives  
Fuelling the Dreams of  
Today and Tomorrow

Proud Official Food Sponsor to the  
2008 Arctic Winter Games



*Educating for Life!*  
*Une éducation pour la vie!*  
*Hòt'atòò Hoghàgoetòò*

**Proud sponsor of the  
Arctic Winter Games**



**Yellowknife Education District No. 1**

[www.yk1.nt.ca](http://www.yk1.nt.ca)

IF YOU THINK ALL NORTHERN CARRIERS ARE THE SAME,  
**YOU HAVEN'T MET TLI CHO LANDTRAN.**



A preferred certified carrier for Canada's northern diamond mines, Tli Cho Landtran is an expert ice road constructor and a proud partner with the Tli Cho Nation.

YELLOWKNIFE (867) 873-4044  
EDMONTON (780) 452-9414  
[WWW.TLICHOLANDTRAN.COM](http://WWW.TLICHOLANDTRAN.COM)



Professional Games and Event Management Systems



[www.gems.pro](http://www.gems.pro)





**ATHLETE PROFILE**

# A diverse, speedy squad

Lisa Scott



Nunavut speed skating coach John Maurice works with his team at the first practice on Yellowknife ice.



Sarah Ali of Iqaluit helps make up the diverse speed skating squad from Nunavut.

## Nunavut skaters a multicultural mix

by Lisa Scott

**W**hat do you get when you combine six Newfoundlanders, six Inuit, one Canadian-born Sri Lankan, and one Canadian-born Pakistani? The answer: team Nunavut's speed skating team.

Coach John Maurice says his team is a multicultural mix that works really well on the ice and is fairly common for the sport of speed skating. All but one of the athletes is from Iqaluit, with Zachery Roberts joining the team from Cambridge Bay.

"It's a multicultural sport that attracts all kinds of athletes," he says. Maurice has helped a little as well, recruiting students from the classes he teaches that wouldn't necessarily be attracted to the sport of skating or who have never ice-skated before.

Aloka Wijesooriya moved to Iqaluit from Ontario in 2003. She is of Sri Lankan descent and admits to never putting on a pair of skates until 2004 at the urging of Maurice.

It was a shaky start, but the

14-year-old picked up the sport fast. Now her younger sister has started to lace up as well and has joined the Iqaluit Arctic Terns Speed Skating Club.

"After I started competing I got the adrenalin rush and it was pretty exciting," she says.

This is her first Arctic Winter Games and she's coming in with some serious momentum. She's hoping for a medal and is primed for this meet after beating her personal best time and cracking a minute in the 500-metre at the Eastern Ability meet in Ontario last month.

Sarah Ali represented Nunavut at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse in 2007. The 16-year-old from Iqaluit has been speed skating for five years. She was born in Iqaluit, but her family originates from Pakistan and the sport of speed skating is new to the whole family.

"She's got a lot of potential and is a very talented athlete and a good student in school," says Maurice. He adds that his team of athletes adds a nice multicultural contribution to this year's games.

Team Nunavut's speed skating

team isn't just diverse, but also features some defending medal winners from previous games. Manasie Kendall won five gold medals at the 2006 games in Alaska as a juvenile skater. Now 15 and entering into the difficult junior category, Kendall is aware that the competition may be pretty fierce in the 16-athlete field.

"In the junior category there is going to be a lot of tough competition," he says, citing Angus Smith and Ian MacDougall, of Team NWT, and Troy Henry, of Team Yukon.

"I know they are fast and good competition," says Kendall.

Despite that, the juvenile gold ulu holder knows he's one to watch on the ice and hopes to get in some personal best times and individual medals. He's also hoping Team Nunavut can take home the gold in the 3,000 metre relay, an event coaches Maurice and Josee Tremblay have had them training diligently for.

This team, in their black, red and yellow speed suits should be an entertaining one to watch on the ice, competition starts this afternoon at the Yellowknife Multiplex.

## GAMES Talk

**What are you looking forward to most over the next week?**



Elle Renhard, 16, badminton, Team Alaska  
Playing my sport and meeting new people.



Riley Simpson-Fowler, 15, breakdancer, Team Yukon  
Getting to know different people.



Devon Tordoff, 17, hockey, Team NWT  
I'm looking forward to competing in my first Arctic Winter Games.



Ivan Snedden, 14, snowshoeing, Team Alberta North  
Meeting people and doing my best in the snowshoeing event.



Daria Pervushina, 16, singer, Team Yamal  
I want people to learn more about the culture of the Yamal and I wish our team success in the games.





# ARCTIC WINTER GAMES 2008 Thank You! PROUD SUPPORTERS

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES  
YELLOWKNIFE 2008

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES  
YELLOWKNIFE 2008

## FUNDING PARTNERS

City of Yellowknife • Government of Northwest Territories • Government of Canada

### LEGACY PARTNERS

**\$350,000 + with history of AWG Support**  
NorthwesTel Inc.

### PRESIDENT'S CLUB

**\$200,000 - \$349,999**  
ATCO Group • CBC North  
Nunasi Corporation  
RTL-Robinson Enterprises Ltd.

### DIAMOND CLUB

**\$150,000 - \$199,999**  
Diavik Diamond Mine • First Air/Canadian North  
ICOM Canada

### PLATINUM CLUB

**\$100,000 - \$149,999**  
Arctic Co-operatives Limited • Bell Mobility  
Kimik iT • MATCO Transportation Systems  
Tli Cho Landtran Transport Ltd. • RCMP  
Yellowknife Catholic Schools  
Yellowknife Education District No. 1

### GOLD CLUB

**\$60,000 - \$99,999**  
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited  
Air Tindi/Great Slave Helicopters  
BHP Billiton • Chef Pierre's Catering  
De Beers Canada Inc. • Northern News Services Limited  
Petro-Canada • Woods Canada Limited  
Yellowknife Elks Lodge #314

*Contact Us...*  
**2008 Arctic Winter Games  
Host Society Office**  
Suite 101, 5109-48th St.  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1N5  
Telephone: 867-765-2947  
Fax: 867-765-2948 Toll  
Free: 1-877-994-2008  
Email: info@awg2008.ca  
www.awg2008.ca

**Fundraising Goal: \$3.6 million Total Raised: \$3.6**  
**Need to Raise: \$0**

[www.awg2008.ca](http://www.awg2008.ca)



### SILVER CLUB

**\$20,000 - \$59,999**  
Bellanca Development • Bottomline P/R Company • Chateau Nova • Clark Builders • Enbridge Inc. • FSC Architects and Engineers  
Hovat Construction Ltd. • Kingland Ford • KeTe Whii Procon/Joint Venture • Mackay LLP  
Nahanni Construction/Great Slave Graphic Signs • Norland Insurance Agencies • Northern Souvenirs & Gifts  
Nuna Group of Companies PSAV Architects • Rare Method • Ron's Auto • Rowe's Group of Companies • Ryfan Electric  
Sandvik Mining and Construction • Superior Propane • TD Bank Financial Group • The Explorer Hotel • The Yellowknife Inn  
Union of Northern Workers • Yellowknife Chrysler Ltd. • Yellowknife Royal Purple Lodge 143 • Yellowknife Ski Club

### BRONZE CLUB

**\$5,000 - \$19,999**  
8e6 Technologies • A.D. Williams Engineering Inc. • Adam Dental Clinic • Ahlstrom Wright Oliver & Cooper, LLP, Barristers and Solicitors  
Alanco Holdings Ltd. • AMEC • Aurora College • Aurora Geosciences Ltd. • Avery Cooper & Co. • Birchwood Gallery • Bluewave Energy – Distributor of Shell Products • Bromley & Son Ltd.  
Brownlee LLP, Barristers & Solicitors • Canada Goose Ltd. • Canadian Bank Note Company • Canadian Dewatering • Capital City Construction • Central Mechanical • Challenger Geomatics  
CJCD Mix 100 Radio • CKLB Radio • ConocoPhillips • Coyote's Seafood and Steakhouse • Creative Basics • Danmax Communications Ltd. • Devon Canada • Diamond Glass Ltd.  
Diamante Restaurant • Earth Tech • EBA Engineering Consultants • EK'Ati Services • Field Law • Fitzgerald Carpeting • Finning (Canada) • Force One • Fountain Tire Mine Service  
Fujifilm Canada Inc. • Garden of Eden Greenhouse & Design • Gartner Lee Limited • Genesis Group • Glacier Smoothie Soaps • Golder Associates Ltd. • Great Slave Dental Clinic  
Henry's Barber Shop • Home Hardware • IKON Office Solutions • Igloo Building Supply • INCITY Moving • ING Canada • Inkit Ltd. • Jacques Whitford/AXYS  
Janet Pacey Design & Illustration • NWT Injury Prevention • KPMG LLP • Lawson Lundell LLP • Letha J. MacLachlan, Q.C. • Major Drilling • Manitoulin Group of Companies  
Mark's Work Wearhouse • Marshall & Company, Barristers and Solicitors • Marsh Lake Tents and Events • McDonald's Restaurant of Yellowknife • M & M Meat Shops  
Metcor (North Slave Métis Alliance) • Midnight Sun Energy Ltd. • Nabors Canada • Nexum Systems Inc. • Norterra Inc. • North Arrow Minerals Inc. • Northern Images • Northwestern Air Lease Ltd.  
Northwest Territories Power Corporation • NTCL • Nunavut Development Corporation • NWT Construction • NWT, Nunavut & Yukon Teachers' Associations • Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP • Outcrop  
Overlander Sports • Pacific & Western Bank • PCL Constructors • PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP • RBC • Rescan Environmental Services • Shell Canada Limited • Shehtah Nabors LP  
Simon's Painting • Snowfield Development Corp. • Staples Business Depot • St. John Ambulance • Sub-Arctic Surveys Ltd. • Summit Air Charters • TC Group of Companies • Tait Communications  
Terriplan Consultants • Territorial Beverages • The Bottle Shop Recycling Depot • The Forestry Corp. • Top of the World Travel • Tundra Transfer Ltd. • Tyhee Development Corp. • Vandelay Systems  
Weatherby Trucking Ltd. • Weaver & Devore • Workplace Plus-Signs & Designs • Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce • Yellowknife Community Foundation • Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-op  
Yellowknife Downtown Liquor Store • Yellowknife Golf Club • YKD Property Management Ltd. • Xerox • Zinifex Canada

### FRIENDS OF THE GAME

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**  
Aon Reed Stenhouse • Arctic Deliveries • Artisan Press Ltd.  
• Barr Ryder Architects & Interior Designers • Bartle & Gibson Ltd. BBE  
Ltd. • Bishop & McKenzie LLP • Black Knight Canada  
Carl's Carpet Cleaning Ltd. • CDW Canada • CP Distributors Ltd.  
Denroche & Associates, Barristers, Solicitors & Notaries Family  
Vision Centre • Fortune Minerals Limited • GEM Steel  
Gourmet Cup • Gurevich & Associates • Hak's Auto Body  
Javaroma Gourmet Coffee • Medic North • Mr. Pinman  
Office Compliments • Petersen & Auger • Pioneer Supply House  
Proform Concrete • Quality Furniture  
Raymac Environmental Services • SENES Consultants Ltd.  
Strongbow Exploration Inc. • TerraPro Group of Companies  
Tim Hortons • Yellowknife Racquet Club

### GAMES BOOSTER

**\$50- \$999**  
All-West Glass  
Canadian Arctic Denture Service  
Centre Square Mall  
Charles Jeffery Chartered Accountants  
Coldwell Banker  
Frozen Few Collision Centre  
Guy Architects  
Joe Nava  
Reflex Instrument NA Ltd.  
UNICO Roofing

### ARCTIC WINTER GAMES BUSINESS DONORS

Action View North • Antoine Mountain Fine Art  
Arctic Data Systems • Artistic Expressions, NT  
Ashoona Inuit Art Studio  
Capital Suites (NPREIT) • DC Moving  
Earthstone Creations • Fran Hurcomb Photography  
Gallery of the Midnight Sun  
JSL Mechanical Installations Ltd.  
Kavanaugh Brothers • MacKay Lake Lodge  
Marlin Travel • Plummer's Arctic Lodges  
Polar Developments Ltd. • Sasha's Jewellery Store  
Schlumberger • Superior Auto Body • The Active Network Ltd.  
True North Safaris • Tuccaro Inc.

**THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES HOST SOCIETY THANKS ALL OF THE SUPPORTERS OF THE GAMES.  
SUCH A TREMENDOUS YOUTH EVENT COULD NOT BE STAGED WITHOUT SUCH REMARKABLE SUPPORT.**