



# ULU NEWS

Vol. 8 Issue 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 1984 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Monday March 19, 1984



## Here we go again!

The eighth Arctic Winter Games kicked off last night in rousing fashion at the Yellowknife Community Arena.

Two years of preparation culminated with a splendid opening ceremony in front of an overflowing crowd, and if the evening's program serves as an indicator of things to come, this city will be in for a rollicking week.

The hour-long program began only a few minutes late with the entry of the N.W.T. Pipe Band and the Air Cadets bearing the flags.

They were followed by the athletes — Alaskans, Yukoners and the host contingent, and the officials — cheering, waving flags and tossing them to the loudly clapping audience.

The Yellowknife City Band and the Choral Society led the singing of the national anthems, then provided a rendition of Go For It, the official theme song of the Games, written by Robin Beaumont of Inuvik.

Master of ceremonies for the evening was Don Cooper, president of the Host Society.

Welcoming speeches were made by Celine Hervieux-Payette, minister of

state for youth, Richard Nerysoo, leader of the government of the N.W.T., Mayor Don Sian and Barrie Robb, president of the AWG Corporation.

Highlighting the ceremony was the prayer chant by the Detah Drummers.

N.W.T. athletes Henry Bouchard of Hay River and Mary Hanson of Frobisher Bay carried the torch into the arena for the torch lighting ceremony, which was followed by the athletes' oath, given by Robin Sproule of Yellowknife, and the officials' oath, by Dennis Crane, also of the city.

Commissioner John Parker then declared the Games officially open, as thousands of balloons suspended in nets about the ice were released onto the athletes.

That produced a spontaneous "fireworks" display of sorts, as the sound of bursting balloons echoed through the arena.

Competitions got underway this morning in most sports, and numerous cultural activities will be held throughout the city all week. It will be a week to remember.

Participants from the Northwest Territories wait for the moment when the Games are officially declared open. Yellowknife Community Arena was so full for the opening ceremonies that the doors had to be locked and many people were turned away.



Henry Bouchard of Hay River and Mary Hanson of Frobisher Bay carried the torch into Yellowknife Community Arena last night to start the flame for the Arctic Winter Games.

# ULU NEWS

The Ulu News is the official newspaper of the 1984 Arctic Winter Games. The News is being published six times during the Games by the staff of Northern News Services, under contract to the Arctic Winter Games Host Society.

Richard Ryan, Editor

Ken Faught  
Brad Henderson  
Steve Stockermans  
Eileen Vail  
Dave Bondy

Michael Scott  
Dave McLaren  
Dawn Rubelke  
Dave Marriott

Published by Northern News Services Limited  
Box 2820, Yellowknife Phone 873-4031

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## Official greetings

### The countdown is over — Parker

To the participants, officials, special guests and spectators of the 1984 Arctic Winter Games — welcome to those of you from other parts of Canada and Alaska, and welcome to the capital to all people from different communities in the north.

The countdown is over and the Games are underway. I trust that everyone will enjoy the good fellowship, close competitions and great fun throughout the week of the Games. We have a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other better and strengthen the northern ties which draw us

together.

Congratulations to each competitor who has met the challenge of trials in home jurisdictions and is now here for the main events. My thanks also go out to the dozens of people who have worked so diligently to make these Games the success which I know they will be.

Good luck and good sportsmanship to one and all.

John H. Parker  
Commissioner of the Northwest Territories

### Games back to birthplace — Nerysoo

On behalf of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 1984 Arctic Winter Games.

This year the Arctic Winter Games return to their birthplace, Yellowknife, where the first Games were staged in 1970. Since then, the Games have increased in size and scope, the competitors have increased their skills and new sports have been added to the Games.

The Arctic Winter Games will be a week of friendly sports competition and a celebration

of the unique lands and cultures that make up the North.

We welcome athletes, coaches, officials, distinguished guests and visitors from Alaska, Yukon, the N.W.T. and Canada and wish each team and athlete the best of luck during this exciting week. I hope these will be the best Games ever.

Richard Nerysoo  
Government Leader  
Government of the N.W.T.

### Remember our community — Cooper

Now that the 1984 Arctic Winter Games are at hand, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the more than 500 volunteers of the host society I welcome all of the participants in these Games.

Over the past two years we at the host society have been working towards this very week in the hope of providing you with the organization and facilities so that you could display your athletic talents and provide our community with the rare opportunity to experience this competition.

We feel confident that we have achieved our goal. Whether you are from Nome, or Faro, or Frobisher, we hope that you will have a most memorable stay in our community.

To the athletes, coaches and officials I say thank you for coming and the very best of luck in your endeavors this week.

Don Cooper  
President, Arctic Winter Games Host Society

### A special year for Yellowknife — Sian

On behalf of the City of Yellowknife, I extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to all of the participants, officials and spectators.

Yellowknife is proud to be hosting the 1984 Arctic Winter Games. As this is our 50th Anniversary and Homecoming year, it is especially nice to have the Games return to our city, for the first time since their inception in 1970.

Our host committee, along with a tremendous number of volunteers, have spent innumerable hours in preparation for these Games. All efforts have been made to ensure that your time in Yellowknife will be a most enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Don Sian  
Mayor, City of Yellowknife

### Everyone a winner — Sibbeston

On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories I wish to extend a hearty northern welcome to all visitors to the 1984 Arctic Winter Games.

To our friends from Alaska and Yukon we offer an extra special welcome. These Games provide a unique opportunity to meet every second year in friendly competition, strengthening common bonds across the north.

First time visitors will find Yellowknife an exciting, bustling city of 10,000 friendly residents. Yellowknife is your gateway to Canada's true north and the capital city of our Northwest Territories, an area one-third of Canada.

The Yellowknife Host Society has worked hard these past two years to ensure all is in readiness for the best ever Arctic Winter Games. To all of the volunteers from the Board of Directors on down, thank you for your commitment and time. Congratulations on a job well done!

As Minister responsible for sport and recreation, I commit our continuing support

for the Arctic Winter Games as a mass participation event which involves nearly five per cent of N.W.T. residents in regional and territorial competition and nearly again as many organizers behind the scenes.

As Minister also responsible for culture, I see the added value of the Arctic Winter Games as a vehicle for sharing our uniquely northern cultures and life style and I encourage you to participate in some of the many cultural events planned during the week.

To all athletes go my wish for a good competition. Whether you win or not, you are all winners if you compete in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

The excitement of the Arctic Winter Games is shared by all my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly and on their behalf I welcome you to Canada's Northwest Territories. Have fun!

Nick Sibbeston  
Minister of Local Government  
Government of the N.W.T.



The nose of the largest plane ever to land in Yellowknife dwarfs the air traffic control tower.

## History at Yellowknife airport



The way of the past, a DC-6, frames the Empress of Canada, a Boeing 747 parked outside the Yellowknife airport.

CP Air's Empress of Canada, a 37-ton Boeing 747, came thundering into Yellowknife Sunday morning with 281 athletes and 47 support staff from Alaska aboard.

It was the first time Yellowknife airport had ever handled an aircraft of that size and a crowd of about 400 were on hand to witness the event.

The flight, from Anchorage, brought the entire state's contingent to town for the eighth Arctic Winter Games, but the jumbo jet will not be returning to the city. Instead, three 737s will be used to take the Alaskans home later this week.

Sam Anderson, a member of the Alaskan mission staff, said the flight went quite smoothly until the "wake-up call" they received on landing.

We dropped a long way near the end there, and some of the oxygen masks when knocked down when we hit," she said. "You might say it was a smashing landing."



One of over 400 spectators



(Above) Traditional northern fare was the entertainment at opening ceremonies.  
 (Above right) Local drummers entertained athletes and spectators.  
 (Below) Once N.W.T. Commissioner John Parker declared the Games open, balloons cascaded down from the rafters.

