



# ULU NEWS

Vol. 8 Issue 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 1984 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Tuesday March 20, 1984

## 'Incredible tension' at highkick

by Steve Stockermans

Two old rivals living 2,500 kilometers apart met once again in a showdown yesterday afternoon for the world championship one-foot high kick.

World record holder Ike Towarak of Alaska and Tim Angotingoar of Chesterfield Inlet, N.W.T., battled in what one judge described as a "very intense, very exciting" event. Angotingoar emerged the winner with a successful kick of eight feet, nine inches. Towarak did not land properly after a successful kick at the same height and was eliminated.

Towarak kicked eight feet, ten inches to establish the world record two years ago at the Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Angotingoar successfully reached that height yesterday, but like Towarak, could not land properly on the same foot he took off with. Athletes said the hard floor of the gym made landing much more difficult. If the floor was made of wood without the concrete underlay, many felt the world record would have been broken.

Third place was also a very tight race, with three contestants tied at eight feet, four inches. Jo-Jo Thrasher from Paulatuk, N.W.T., earned the bronze ulu because he completed the jump in the least amount of tries.

The one-foot high kick was the first of the Arctic sports to be held. Last night the junior arm pull, the men's airplane, and the women's one-foot high kick were held. Today's events include the arm reach, kneel jump, head pull, and two-foot high kick.

Arctic sports are based on age-old Inuit traditions where hunters toughened their muscles and improved their reflexes. The winning competitor will not only be strong, but he will have the capacity to acutely concentrate on the task to be performed, eliminating all outside distractions. For this reason, audiences are continually being asked to remain breathlessly quiet while the athletes perform.

Judge Joe Allen Evygotailak of the N.W.T. said the athletes were bothered by bright TV lights shining into their eyes, the crowd, and the hard concrete floor of St. Pat's school gym.

"The athletes practise in very quiet places, and they are used to them. The athletes did very well today, but they were not concentrating as much. And the floor was very hard, so the athletes, especially the ones from the N.W.T. who jump in bare feet, were afraid of landing funny and hurting themselves."

Several judges felt the competition was very strong, and predicted world records would be broken in the next week.

Gene Peltola, from Bethel, Alaska stretches to reach seven feet, 10 inches in one-foot high kick Monday.



# 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.

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The Ulu News stops people in their tracks, telling them everything they wanted to know about themselves and more (we hope). The paper can be found every day, free of charge, at the athletes' village, many venues and retail outlets around the city for the duration of the Arctic Winter Games.

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## Today's weather

Mainly sunny, moderate winds; High -10°C (14°F)  
Outlook for Wednesday: some cloudy periods but possibly a couple of degrees warmer.

The Hon. Celine Hervieux-Payette, minister of state for youth in the Liberal cabinet, delivered the first rock to open the curling competitions Monday afternoon at Yellowknife Curling Club.

With Mayor Don Sian holding the broom and Roy Giles, representing the N.W.T.-Yukon Curling Association doing the sweeping, it turned out to be a pretty good rock, grabbing the edge of the 12-foot. Said Mrs. Hervieux-Payette after the shot, "I threw it a little to the left but then, politically, that's where I am."

N.W.T. curlers have to be given a bit of an edge in the competitions, with three of the four rinks having competed in national championships in the past month. Debbie Mabbitt of

Pine Point and her rink are just back from the junior women's playdowns. The open women's skipped by Maureen Moss and the junior men's rink skipped by Derek Elkin, both of Yellowknife, were also at Canadian playdowns. Elkin, by the way, had to pass on the opening draw. He had a sore throat and could hardly talk...let alone bark instructions to his teammates.

If you've noticed the CBC-TV crews while you've been participating in your sports (and who hasn't, eh?), but don't have a chance to catch the nightly telecast at 8:30, fret not. The programs will be replayed daily at St. Pat's cafeteria during mealtimes — 8 a.m., noon and 5 p.m.



All the athletes will be striving to take home an ulu — gold, silver or bronze — at these Games. Some have already accomplished that goal, as medals were awarded Monday in the 100m spring in snowshoeing and in a number of Arctic sports events. The latest results available at press time appear on page 8.

# Veterans back in different roles

By Dave Bondy

Wendy Foreman and Dennis Crane are two Yellowknifers who are no strangers to the Arctic Winter Games.

Wendy was a junior ranked badminton player when the Games first started in Yellowknife in 1970. She competed in singles and doubles events that year, and again at the 1972 Games in Whitehorse. She moved up to open competition for the third Games in Anchorage, playing in the singles and mixed doubles events.

Since the inception of the Games, Wendy's only missed one year — 1980 in Whitehorse. At the time she was attending school in British Columbia and although she did return to the N.W.T., she didn't meet the residency requirements as set down in the rules.

As a player, she had won a total of 12 ulus — 11 gold and one silver.

This year, Wendy has made the change from player to official. But, she says, playing is what she prefers and she hopes that she will be able to compete in the Games again in the future.

Recalling those first Games, Wendy remembers that the facilities were lacking, but it was understandable. The old William McDonald school, demolished in 1982, could accommodate only two courts. But she adds, the friendships formed at those first Games still continue today.

She also recalls the special feeling surrounding the 1978 Games, co-hosted by Hay River and Pine Point. The badminton teams were housed at Matonabee School in Pine Point and they played their Games there. The

dining facilities were only a minute's walk away.

Dennis Crane, who has seen the Games from just about all sides, has been involved in all eight Games.

He competed at the 1970, '72 and '74 Games in doubles and mixed doubles events, winning five ulus including three golds.

At the 1976 Games in Quebec, Dennis left the courts for a position along the sidelines as the coach of the N.W.T. badminton team.

In 1978 he moved to umpire, a position for which he is highly qualified. In Calgary that year he qualified for the Canadian Badminton Officials Association and has officiated at the Canadian senior men's and masters championships as well as the Canada Games in 1979 and 1983.

In 1980 he was appointed to the position of chef-de-mission for the N.W.T. contingents in Whitehorse. At Fairbanks he returned to umpiring and is refereeing at competitions this week at Sir John Franklin High School.

Dennis says that overall he's enjoyed the various duties he has performed and, looking back, he says there have been a number of improvements over the years, especially in the sports themselves.

However, he feels facilities could be improved upon and points out that had the new arena in Yellowknife been built with a ceiling five feet higher, the city could have been hosting Canadian badminton and volleyball championships, something, he says, that both national governing bodies have suggested.



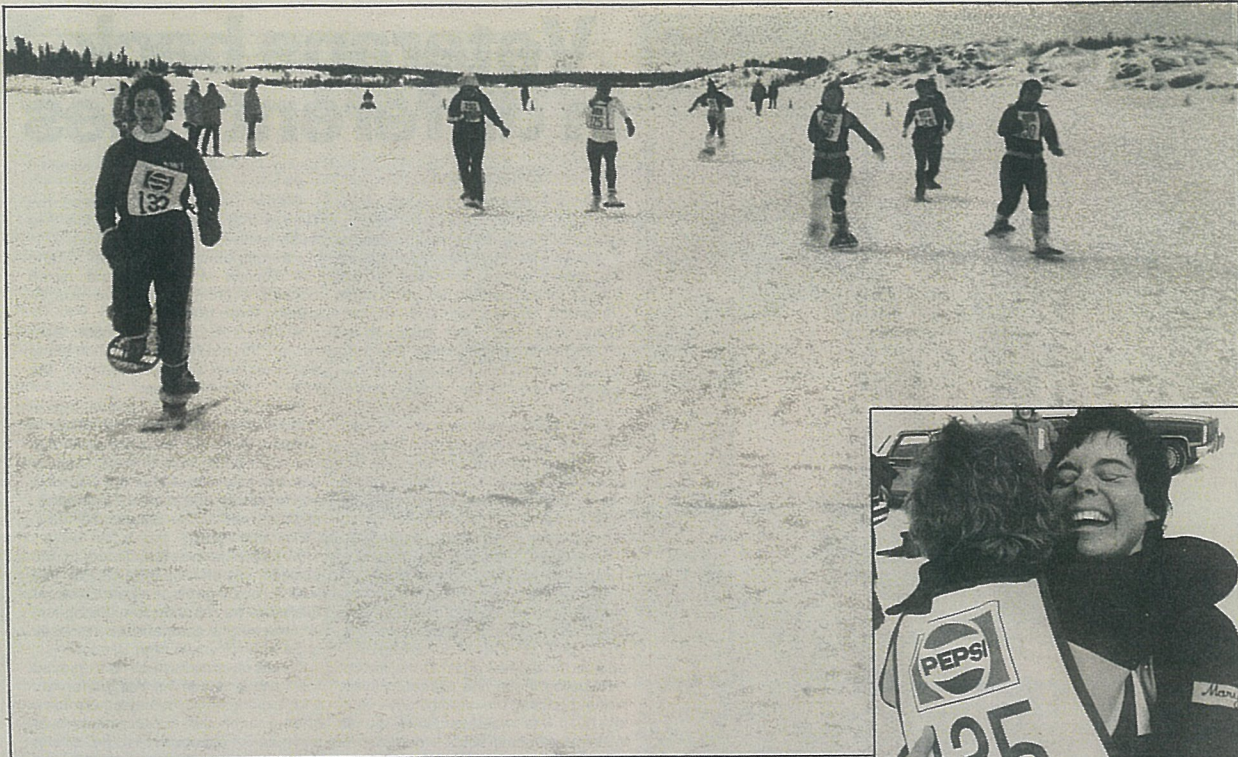
Wendy Foreman, an official at this year's badminton competitions, has won a total of 12 ulus in six of seven previous Games.



Tim Angotinguar (right) gets a congratulatory handshake from teammate Joe Thrasher Jr. after Tim won the men's one-foot high kick with a kick of eight feet, nine inches.



Dennis Crane has attended all eight Games — as a competitor, coach, official and chef-de-mission.

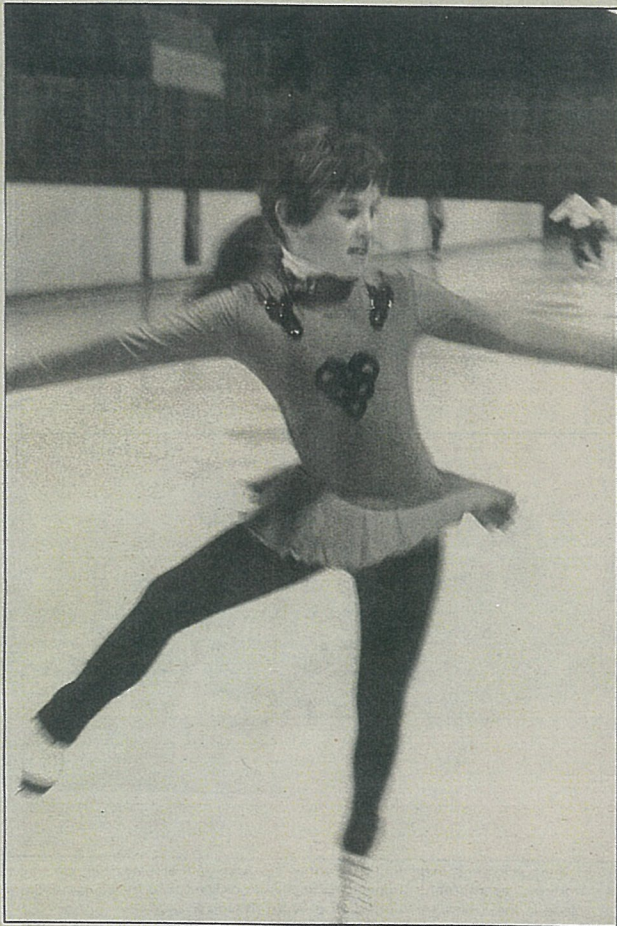


Joanne Dolron, far left, strides to an N.W.T. gold ulu in the senior women's 100-meter sprint. Inset, Mary Whitley (facing) and Judy Kelly of Yukon are ecstatic over their respective silver and bronze ulus in the same event.



Karen Lundquist (left) and her partner, Wendy Justus, defeated the Yukon team of Mary Fitton (centre) and Sharon Drabble (right), in

junior ladies' doubles badminton. Competitions will be going on all this week at Sir John Franklin with the medal presentations Friday.



## Tiny skater not worried about older opponents

Nine year old Leann MacDonald from Yellowknife has been figure skating for four years and isn't fazed anymore by older and taller competitors, because she's proven she can win against them.

In various competitions she has emerged with two silvers and a gold medal in the pre-juvenile category which puts her with skaters up to 13 years old, and many inches taller.

"Sometimes they'll rest their elbows on my head, but I don't mind," she said. "I like skating because you get to meet a lot of new people, and new friends. I get to go to a lot of new places too."

The technical figures part of the competition took place yesterday and will continue today in the Gerry Murphy arena. The more exciting free skate portion starts Wednesday.

## What's on around town

9 a.m. to 10 p.m. — Drop-in centre at Tree of Peace (51st Street)

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. — Craft sale and demonstration at Elks Hall (49th Street)

10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Traditional sports exhibit and craft demonstration at the Northern Heritage Centre (across the causway behind city hall)

12 to 1 p.m. - Lunch hour entertainment at the Elks Hall (49th Street)

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - children's program at

the Public Library (Franklin Avenue at 4th Street)

8 p.m. to midnight - coffee house at Miners Mess, Yellowknife Inn

7:30 p.m. to midnight - arcade and disc jockey night at the Katimavik Rooms of the Explorer Hotel (for the athletes; wear your badges!)

8 a.m., 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. - retelecast of CBC-TV's nightly half-hour Games' program, at St. Pat's cafeteria.

## NWT strong in soccer

NWT teams are surprising their opponents with strong play and winning performances. With the exception of a 7-0 shellacking of the juvenile (14 and under) boys by the Alaskan squad early yesterday, N.W.T. teams have won all of their games (up to press time).

Yukon teams are giving a strong performance, with the junior girls winning, 3-2, and the juvenile boys edging out

the Alaskans, 3-1. Yukon juvenile girls and junior boys tied the Alaskans in their games Monday.

Other than the two ties, the Alaskans have taken their only points from the win against the N.W.T. juvenile boys.

Twelve more games are scheduled tomorrow at William McDonald school gym.

Nine-year-old Leann MacDonald, a figure skating competitor, is the N.W.T.'s youngest athlete.



Yukon juvenile girls edged the Alaskan squad, 3-2, in a fast-paced soccer game Monday at William McDonald.



## *Fast hockey, and even teams*

The only sure thing in the hockey tournament taking place in the Yellowknife arena this week is a fast, and unpredictable, game.

There have been a few complaints about poor ice conditions in the arena, notably warm and wet ice because of overflowing stands, but players and officials say that is not a handicap. The furious pace of most games seems to vindicate them.

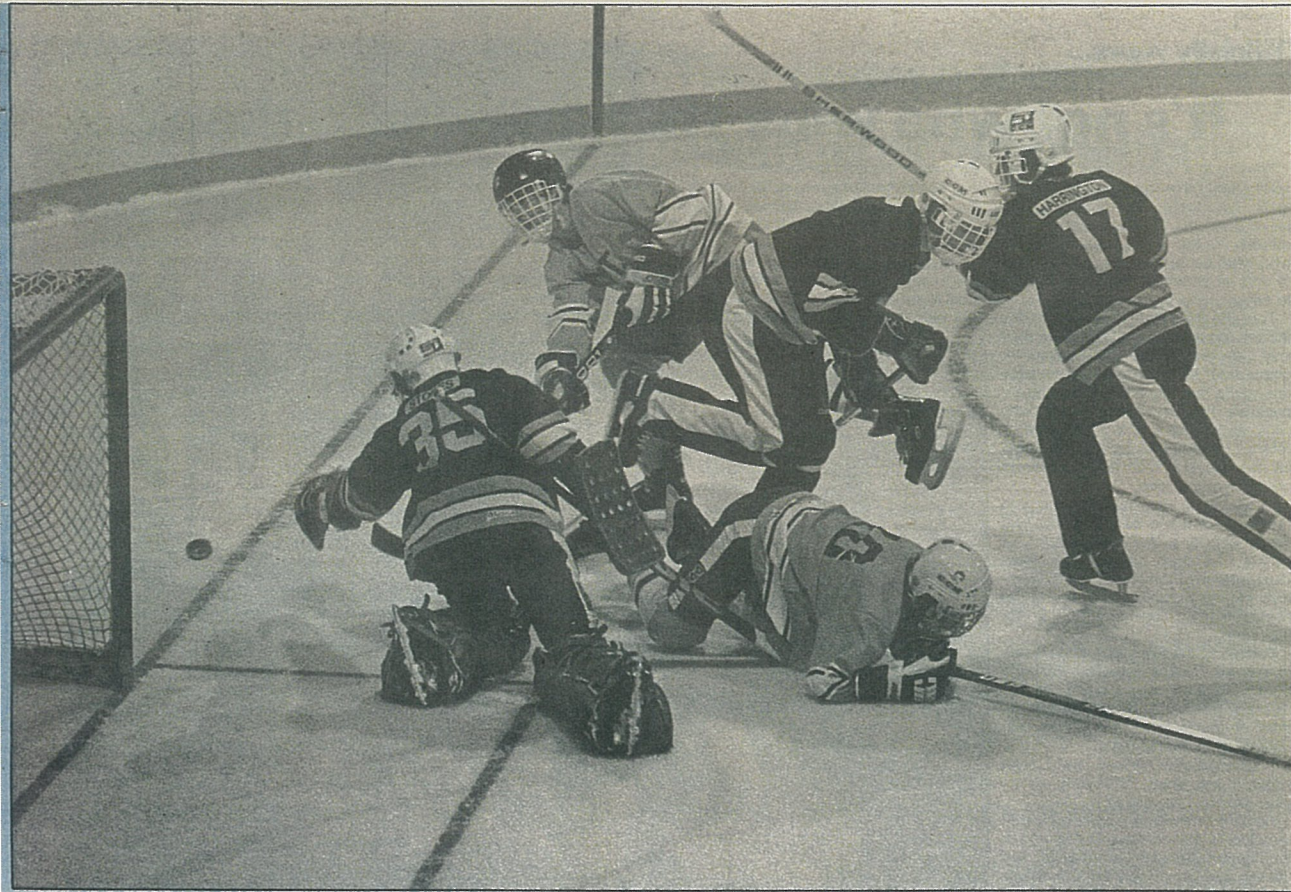
After the first day of play, the Alaskan contingent in the Pee Wee division looks as if they'll be the ones to beat, with the N.W.T. providing some stiff opposition.

Yukon lost narrowly to the NWT squad in the first match, 5-4. Although the score was close, much of the game was being played either in neutral centre ice, or in the Yukon end. Brilliant end to end rushes by forwards and a little

sloppy play by the defence both teams result in goals.

The second game was closer to a war as Alaskans came out against Yukon and Alaskans played a positioned hockey





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discipline on the ice was exemplary. Yukon depended more on individual rushes and slick moves, which they had plenty of, but not enough to dent the Alaskan defense to any degree.

The N.W.T. faces the hot Alaskans tomorrow morning, and then the Yukon team in the afternoon.

**Midget**

This will be the division to watch. Any team could win, and if they keep playing with the same raw, gutsy determination, it will be a shame to see any team lose.

So far the N.W.T. team appears to be on top. They squeaked out a 3-2 victory over the Alaskans in which both teams played with intensity. Some of Alaskan supporters felt their team did not play up to their potential and should have capitalized on more of their opportunities. But to be fair, the N.W.T. side missed their share of opportunities throughout the game. A rematch will be a treat.

The comeback of the day award will go to the N.W.T. The Yukon midgets squandered two well played periods by allowing the swarming NWT team to score three goals and tie the game 5-5. Body checking is allowed at this level, and both sides used the body, although sometimes to their own disadvantage.

It was a hard-hitting but clean game. End to end rushes, especially in the third

period, good goaltending from both sides, and a tied score. No one deserved to lose.

**Senior**

These are good, fast games for the hockey connoisseur, as long as you are a neutral observer. The scores have been lopsided, but the play has been fast and exciting. By far the largest crowds were out to see the hometown N.W.T. team smear the Yukon players 6-1. The N.W.T. looked very strong in this game, but there were several lapses which the Yukon couldn't score on. The final score should have been closer, but because of the Yukon's slightly disorganized play, and nearer to the end, their evident frustration, the N.W.T. was allowed to pick up easy round-robin points.

Last night the N.W.T. played the Alaskans before an overflow crowd. As of press time, after the first period, the NWT team was in big trouble.

The Alaskans came out quickly and grabbed their first goal in less than a minute. The N.W.T. played well and was definitely carrying the game to the Alaskans, but they did not put in that extra effort to finish the play. Much of the period was spent on the Alaskan half, but few good shots were taken. Instead, forceful Alaskan players gobbled up N.W.T. errors and made them count. The score at the end of the first period was 4-0 for Alaska.



Clockwise from bottom left. In senior hockey, N.W.T.'s Mark Asleson scores the hat trick killing Yukon's chance for a comeback; Bob Knight (9) tries to shovel the puck into an overfilled Yukon net. N.W.T. defeated Yukon, 6-1; Phil Blower scores tying goal in Yukon-N.W.T. midget game; Kelli Swihart keeps the comeback rolling with this backhand.

# It's not who wins that matters to them

They're in a class of their own. Not quite among the organizers or with the local volunteers and certainly not players are the referees, judges, and officials in the Arctic Winter Games who have come from across the north to add an essential unbiased element to sport.

The one ingredient common among the adjudicators of the Games, is their love of the game. One observer pointed out there is no one who loves the game so much as the referee, because he just doesn't care who wins, as long as it is a good game. A referee often has to work just as hard as the players, but rarely receives credit or recognition.

"I used to do it myself years ago, and I really enjoy it and want to help," said Arctic sports judge Jerry Kisoun of Yukon. Another judge, Joe Allen Eyyagotallak of the N.W.T., said he enjoys the responsibility of ensuring the competition is equal and fair for everyone.

Ted MacDonald of Yellowknife is one of the 18 hockey referees from the N.W.T., Yukon, and Alaska. All the referees needed to be qualified at the third or fourth level, and all are experienced in tournaments.

"I used to play hockey, and I don't know, I just enjoy refereeing better than playing," he said.

Hockey referees mix quite a bit with the players and coaches in this kind of tournament because, as he said, "on the ice, they are competitors, but there is only good fellowship off the ice."

Sheri and Jim Dives of Yellowknife are not accredited curling officials, they just happened to be available people who know how to curl.

"Because we hang out at the curling rink a lot and we know something about it, that's how we got involved," Sheri said.

She is a scorekeeper and statisti-

cian, while Jim is an on-ice official. This is a first for both of them, as for most of the other 25 curling officials. Only Donna Alexander, the chief referee, is an accredited official.

"Curling is a gentlemen's game and there really isn't a need for officials at a local level. But they felt having officials at a major tournament like this is a good

idea, because if the curlers ever get to a national event in Canada or the U.S., they would have to get used to seeing officials all over the place," Sheri said.

Indoor soccer is still a sport in its infancy, especially in the north, so Arctic Winter Games organizers felt bringing in outside expertise to help out would be the best idea. Mike Seifert from

Calgary has refereed major international and professional soccer matches, outdoor and indoor, and was invited to become referee-in-chief of the four referee AWG staff. He was the top gun at the NWT championships in January in Frobisher Bay and has helped the NWT Soccer Association train its rookie refs.



Arctic sport judges discuss merits of the one-foot high kick. Left to right are chief judge Frank Cockney, Gordon Kilbear, Jerry Kisoun, Attima Salirina and Delma Kisoun.

## Monday's results from the Games

### Arctic sports

#### Men's one-foot high kick

Gold ulu - Tim Angotingoar, N.W.T., 8'9"

Silver ulu - Ike Towarak, Alaska, 8', 8"

Bronze ulu - Jojo Thrasher, N.W.T., 8', 4"

#### Badminton

##### Junior men

Lindsey Taft, Alaska, def. Michael Parker, Yukon

Andrew Hodgkins, N.W.T., def. Ken Koschzsch, Yukon

Real Dube, N.W.T., def. Jim Johnson, Alaska

Ken Koschzsch, Yukon, def. Michael Parker, Yukon

Real Dube, N.W.T., def. Andrew Hodgkins, N.W.T.

Lindsey Taft, Alaska, Def. Jim Johnson, Alaska

##### Junior women

Diana Hardie, Yukon, def. Heidi Chalupnik, Alaska

Joletta Vegso, N.W.T., def. Kathleen Roberts, Yukon

Susan Andrejek, N.W.T., def. Christine Steensgaard, Alaska

Diana Hardie, Yukon, def. Kathleen Roberts, Yukon

Susan Andrejek, N.W.T., def. Joletta Vegso, N.W.T.

Christina Steensgaard, Alaska, def. Heidi Chalupnik, Alaska

##### Open men

Ken Frankish, Yukon, def. Frank Canha, Alaska

Ken Madsen, Yukon, def. Warren Brownlee, N.W.T.

Al Shevkenek, N.W.T., def. Stoy Nehart, Alaska

Ken Madsen, Yukon, def. Ken Frankish, Yukon

Al Shevkenek, N.W.T., def. Warren Brownlee, N.W.T.

##### Open women

Linda Miller, Yukon, def. Karen Lundquist, Alaska

Mary Fitton, Yukon, def. Ann-Marie Bachman, N.W.T.

Allison Stroeder, N.W.T., def. Wendy Justus, Alaska

Mary Fitton, Yukon, def. Linda Miller, Alaska

Allison Stroeder, N.W.T., def. Ann-Marie Bachman, N.W.T.

Wendy Justus, Alaska, def. Karen Lundquist, Alaska

##### Junior men's doubles

Johnson/Taft, Alaska, def. Roberts/Phillios, Yukon

Brown/Kasook, N.W.T., def. Parker/Koschzsch, Yukon

Dube/Hodgkins, N.W.T., def. Clark/Doley, Alaska

##### Open men's doubles

Frankish/Lafferata, Yukon, def. Canha/Neyhart, Alaska

Perkins/Madsen, Yukon, def. La/Brownlee, N.W.T.

Shevkeke/Callas, N.W.T., def. Martin/Brumbaugh, Alaska

Perkins/Madsen, Yukon, def. Frankish/Cafferata, Yukon

##### Open women's doubles

Justus/Lundquist, Alaska, def. Fitton/Drabble, Yukon

Miller/Lister, Yukon, def. Anabiak/Bachman, N.W.T.

Rennie/Stroeder, N.W.T., def. Hansen/Mossestad, Alaska

Miller/Lister, Yukon, def. Fitton/Drab-

ble, Yukon

### Figure skating

#### Open ladies compulsory figures

1. Michelle Philips, Yukon

2. Cynthia Denkworth, Alaska

Brittton Kytte, Alaska

#### Pre-novice ladies compulsory

1. Michelle Saint Amoure, Alaska

2. Crystal Kujat, N.W.T.

3. Suzanne McFadyen, Yukon

4. Wendy Zigarlick, N.W.T.

5. Jennifer Bolton, N.W.T.

#### Pre-juvenile figures

1. Heather Waller, Alaska

2. Nuri Johnson, Alaska

3. Tania Daniels, Alaska

4. Tara Neilson, N.W.T.

5. Annette Dicquemare, Yukon

6. Rhonda Tremblay, N.W.T.

7. Leanne MacDonald, N.W.T.

8. Jennifer Byram, Yukon

### Hockey

#### Peewee

N.W.T. 5, Yukon 4

#### Midget

N.W.T. 5, Yukon 5

#### Senior

N.W.T. 6, Yukon 1

### Shooting

#### Competitions one-quarter complete

##### 3,000 possible

##### Senior rifle

1. Alaska, 2878; 2. Yukon, 2764; 3. N.W.T., 2750

##### Junior rifle

1. Alaska, 2780; 2. Yukon, 2420; 3. N.W.T., 2409

##### Snowshoeing

##### 100m sprint

##### Junior men

Gold ulu — Mathew Bourke, N.W.T., 17.10 seconds

Silver ulu - Jody Olson, Yukon, 17.35

Bronze ulu - James Marlowe, N.W.T., 17.41

##### Junior women

Gold ulu — Michelle Ramm, N.W.T., 19.19 seconds

Silver ulu - Lora Munro, N.W.T., 20.04

Bronze ulu - Cindy Scanlon, Yukon, 20.20

##### Senior men

Gold ulu — John Jansen, Yukon, 16.04 seconds

Silver ulu - Jeff Lister, Yukon, 16.75

Bronze ulu - Kyle Kelly, N.W.T., 16.89

##### Senior women

Gold ulu — Joanne Doiron, N.W.T., 19.09 seconds

Silver ulu - Mary Whitley, Yukon, 20.66

Bronze ulu - Judy Kelly, Yukon, 20.95

### Soccer

#### Junior girls

N.W.T. 3, Alaska 0

Alaska 2, Yukon 2

N.W.T. 3, Yukon 0

#### Junior boys

Alaska 7, N.W.T. 0

Yukon 3, Alaska 1

#### Juvenile girls

N.W.T. 6, Alaska 2

Yukon 3, Alaska 2

#### Junior boys

N.W.T. 3, Alaska 1

Yukon 3, Alaska 3

### Volleyball

#### Junior men

N.W.T. 15-15, Yukon 7-11

#### Junior women

N.W.T. 15-15, Yukon 2-10



## Local army of volunteers on the job

Students and professionals have joined forces to help out in this week's Arctic Winter Games, giving hours of time doing everything from taking tickets to manning telephones.

Denise Gendron came to Yellowknife three years ago on a whim. She works as an architect in the department of public works for the territorial government.

Denise is on special leave from her job because she is quite interested in the Games and in the use of community halls. She had a hand in planning the new hall which was built last year in Fort Resolution, south of Great Slave Lake.

She also sees the Games as a chance to contribute something. "It didn't matter where I worked. This afternoon I'm a ticket collector and tonight I'll be a door watcher. I'll work wherever they need somebody."

Geraldine "Gerry" Farnham had been up and on the road at 7:15 Monday morning to pick up Dan Lang, minister of economic development of municipal affairs for Yukon Territory. She's been assigned as his driver for the week of the Games.

We caught up with Gerry in the hospitality room at the Yellowknife Inn. She is a volunteer hostess for the Games, but her usual job is in the property management section with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Gerry and her husband Dennis came to Yellowknife in 1972. Their road map showed the way as far as High Level, Alberta. Their plan was to stay for two years.

Gerry took special leave and some of her annual leave from her job to volunteer.

"My feeling is if people don't volunteer, nothing will get done. We want to make this a success."

Winter break for students sometimes means trips south or a chance to catch up on missed movies, but this year, local students find themselves free to enjoy one of the biggest events in the Arctic.

A number of students have taken on responsibilities during the Games which gives them a chance, not only to participate, but cheer on friends at the same time.

Andrew Christie is a grade 12 student at Sir John Franklin High School.

He thought he would be bored during the Arctic Winter Games and his school break. So he volunteered and is particularly interested in the biathlon.

Andrew's is in charge of the equipment shack. He has to ensure that the rifles are not loaded when the competitors run the course. He also has to check the triggers on the rifles to make sure the tension is correct.

Andrew has been in the Territories for three years and likes it better than Ontario, although he plans to return to take grade 13 and attend university in political science and business administration.

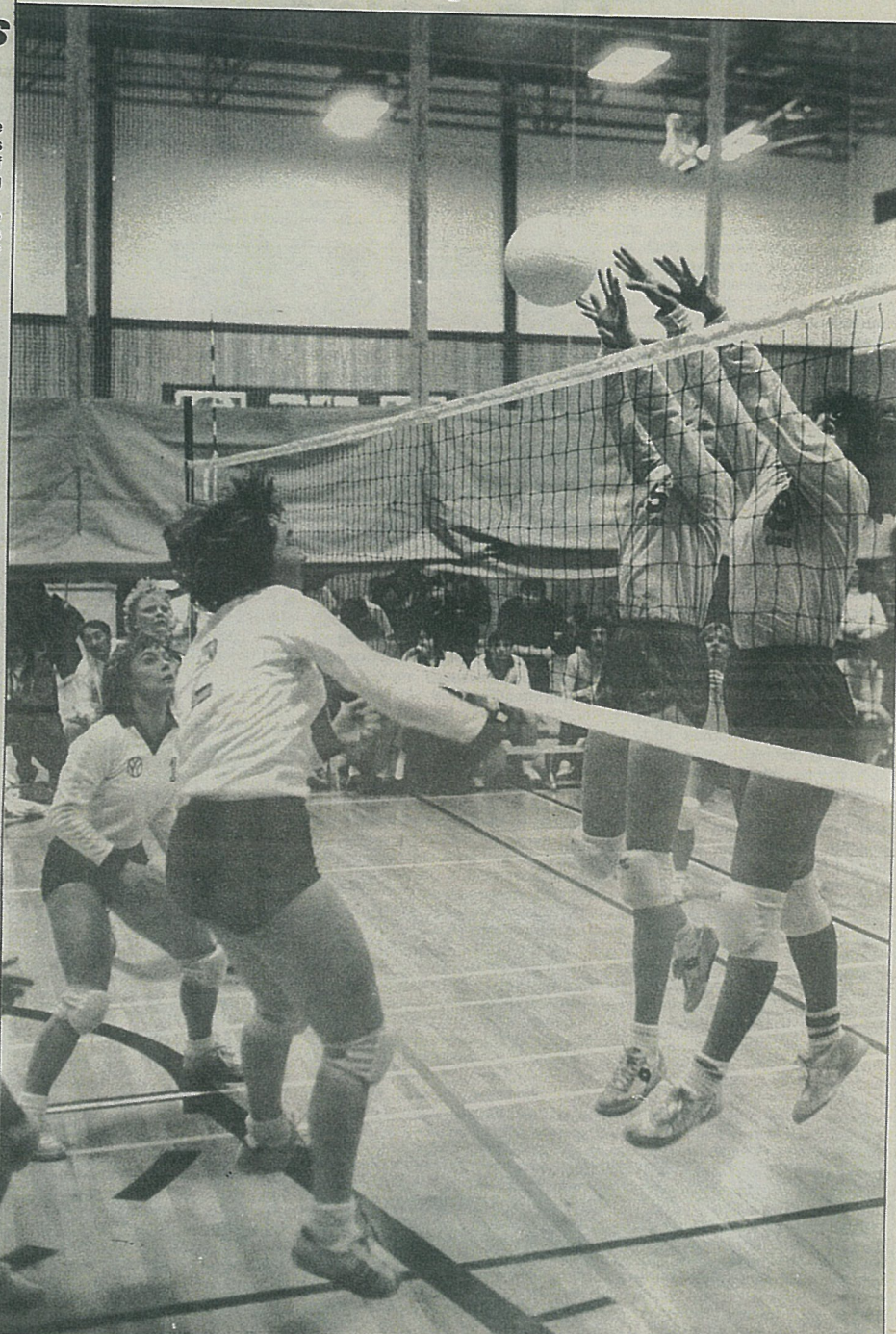
Eighteen-year-old Warren Gillis is a volunteer scorekeeper at the volleyball competitions. His preparation for the event included participating in the sport himself and a couple of hours instruction from the officials.

Warren attends high school at Sir John. He wanted something to do during the winter break.

He has particularly enjoyed meeting all the new people and the competitors who've arrived in the city.

He comes from London, Ontario and likes the Territories. "This is pretty big for everybody. We're all up for it."

## Over the top for Alaska



Yukon senior women couldn't stop the powerful Alaskan squad, losing their opening round game, 15-5 and 15-8.

## History of the Games, and the North, on display

If you're looking for an interesting and relaxing aside from the hustle and bustle of the Games, you might take time out for a visit to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

On display at the Centre, named for Prince Charles who visited the city for the opening three years ago, is the Stuart M. Hodgson Trophy which is awarded to the team exhibiting the best sportsmanship over the course of the Games.

The trophy, valued at \$30,000, con-

sists of a seven-foot narwhal tusk with a soapstone carving of a polar bear near the top and a carving of a walrus at the base.

Also being exhibited are uniforms of past Northwest Territories' teams, gold, silver and bronze ulus and demonstrations of Inuit Games.

Throughout the Games, there will be demonstrations of carving, tapestry making and the sewing of seal skins. Six artisans will be present on Thursday and Friday.

You might want to couple your visit with a hot lunch lunch at the concession located on the top floor. It is open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Heritage Centre is open every day from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Centre, in co-operation with Northern United Place, is presenting three children's films and three adult films Thursday, including one of the first Arctic Winter Games held here in 1970. Viewing starts at 6:30 p.m. at Northern United Place, located at Franklin Avenue and 54th Street.

# The golden years

## Rosemary Cairns

Prospectors and miners streamed north to Great Slave Lake in the Dirty Thirties looking for gold on the lake's northern shore. They found the gold, and they built a town around it.

A lot of stories are told about Yellowknife's early years and about the men and women whose tents and shacks and stores dotted the Rock, as Old Town used to be known then.

But most of those early prospectors, miners, pilots, police and administrators and the women who cooked and washed clothes and sometimes even prospected with the men, were too busy to write about their lives.

The ones who wrote about Yellowknife in its early years were usually the people who came in from "outside" for a visit. While they didn't always get their facts straight, they told wonderful stories about fascinating people.

Half a century later, it's not always easy to separate the real nuggets of history from their flashier cousins, "fool's gold". But that's what the Yellowknife History Project, under the direction of researcher Susan Jackson, is trying to do.

When she first started, Susan hoped a local history book would be ready for the city's Homecoming Celebration June 23 to July 7. But unearthing the history of Yellowknife in the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's turned out to be every bit as complex as mining the gold veins that lie under the modern city of 10,000 that is Yellowknife today.

Written documents are in archives and private collections all over the country. Pictures are scattered all around Canada. So are many people who once called Yellowknife home.

While the Homecoming Committee is busy trying to locate all those former Yellowknifers to invite them back for Homecoming, the History Project is compiling directories of residents, businesses and buildings to jog the memories of all those who are coming back for a visit. Long-time residents still living in Yellowknife are busy reviewing the directories as they are updated to make sure they are accurate.

Homecoming visitors will be asked to drop in at the History Drop-in Centre at the Mine Rescue Station in downtown Yellowknife. There they can look through the photographs which so far haven't been identified.

Often when long-time residents get together, their conversations bring out incidents or stories about people which haven't been included in any of the written material from which the directories have been compiled. The History Project hopes that sort of exchange will take part on a massive scale when many former residents come back for a visit in the summer.

Some of the long-time residents who live in Yellowknife have gotten a chuckle out of some of the stories contained in the directories because some stories are exaggerated or just not true. That's how the History Project workers learned that some of the early writers didn't always get it straight.

Perhaps they just passed on a tall tale told to them with a straight face (Northerners have been known to pull the occasional leg); or perhaps they just assumed that nothing in the North was too fabulous to be true. You can hardly blame them when you read about the people and the events of early Yellowknife.

The first people who tried looking for gold in the Yellowknife area weren't a



lucky bunch, if the tales about them are true. At the time of the Klondike gold rush in the Yukon, a few hundred men tried to reach the gold fields through the Northwest Territories instead of through Alaska. They arrived from Edmonton on snowshoes, and few made it from Great Slave Lake to Dawson City. On their way back to the south, some of these men staked claims on Great Slave Lake, but the claims lapsed when they didn't return. During World War I, a Toronto man found gold and brought back wonderful samples; it's said he died of grief when nobody was willing to finance his project. In 1926, another prospector sank a shaft on Wilson Island in Great Slave Lake; his project was abandoned when he lost his bargeload of equipment in the Athabasca River rapids.

The prospector's luck changed in the mid-1930's, when prospectors came north to investigate reports of gold samples at the mouth of the Yellowknife River. The claims they staked changed hands a number of times, but eventually became Giant — Canada's largest gold mine. Other prospectors arrived to stake Yellowknife Bay, inspired by the reports of government geologists.

In the fall of 1938, the first gold brick poured in the Northwest Territories was poured at Negus Mine.

Actually, the change in luck was not so much a matter of luck as it was of economics. In 1932, gold had been worth \$20 an ounce; by 1938, currency devaluations had sent its worth soaring to \$35 an ounce. Gold mining had become far more profitable than it had ever been before, and operators had begun mining low-grade ore and sending prospectors into regions that had been previously thought to be unpromising or inaccessible.

Inaccessible was a fair description of the area around Great Slave Lake until the late 1930's. But then, sparked by Cominco's decision to pay English prospector Tom Payne and his backers \$500,000 for a 60 per cent share in claims which became part of Con Mine, the gold rush was on. Agents of mining interests in the United States, Britain, France, Holland and Germany began flying in to stake claims.

By 1938, the population was up to 800. Life Magazine sent a crew into visit, and they reported that "during the brief summer months, life seems good in Yellowknife."

"There is a pervading air of camping out, which makes the hard, uncertain

life of prospecting seem a sort of roughing-it vacation, with pay or profit to boot," said Life, and it provided the pictures to prove it.

But Life thought Yukon gold rush bard Robert Service would have been disappointed by Yellowknife. "So far, no Dan McGew has been shot in Yellowknife, no lady known as Lou has disrupted night life."

Life in Yellowknife might be "rough, lusty and loud," said Life, "but it is also businesslike". Prospectors flew in by plane instead of mushing in by dog-team. And when they arrived, Yellowknife offered most of the modern conveniences — a bank (in a log cabin), a bakery, a dry-cleaner's, the Wildcat Cafe, a jeweler's, a dance-hall. There were plans for a movie theatre, and the residents were agitating for a school.

Life found the cost of living reasonable. "A hotel room costs only \$2, a meal can be bought anywhere for \$1, a haircut costs \$.75. Whiskey is \$12 a bottle but drinking is nevertheless hearty."

Yellowknife attracted its share of the famous and the wealthy. Visitors in the summer of 1938 included Ontario Premier Mitchell Hepburn, and Bernard E. "Sell 'em Ben" Smith, a New York capitalist "who can usually be found wherever gold is being found; Life pictured them coming out of the log cabin that housed the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

That summer, Yellowknife's first newspaper put out its first issue. "The Prospector" reported that Howard Hughes, trying to break the world's record for flying around the globe, might land in Edmonton; that a local lumber yard had been set up on Joliffe Island, and that Imperial Oil would be putting six tanks on the island; that rian had put out a fire that had been threatening the Giant camp; and that John Michaels of Yellowknife Supplies had set a record of sorts for rapid construction. "The lumber was unloaded at the wharf at eight in the morning and at eleven at night the building had not only been finished but the material had already been stored in the new building."

The Prospector also reported on the possibility of growing vegetables by "tank-farming" (known today as hydroponics). A stock of the chemicals needed had arrived in Yellowknife and six weeks worth of experiments were planned.

But "Yellowknife's oldest

newspaper" didn't plan to publish any unauthorized mining scoops. "It will be our policy to publish no mining information which is not specifically authorized by the persons who may be concerned," said The Prospector.

Only about a dozen women lived in Yellowknife in 1937 and 1938. One of the most fascinating was Vicky Lepine, the NWT's first female prospector.

One of a family of 13, she'd worked since she was nine years old. At 15, she ran her own tailoring shop in a mining camp. For 20 years, she wandered from mining camp to mining camp across Canada. She was just about to become a lady barber in Winnipeg in 1937 when she heard about a free course in geology, and promptly signed up. After hearing about Tom Payne's strike, she decided to come to Yellowknife. She bought an old 20-foot scow and piloted herself from Edmonton to Yellowknife, taking three weeks for the journey. Once in town, she washed clothes during the day and dishes at night at the Wildcat. In the summer of 1938, she went out prospecting in the bush, staked her claims, and sold them for \$3,500.

She bowled over the writers who came to visit the town in 1938. "She is the best man in the bush, the best friend, the best chum. Where there is heavy work, she is the most capable, the hardest working, the most helpful. She bears the greatest hardships most easily, and she has the best heart... Wherever she goes, the sun shines."

By 1939, there were many women in town. They worked as waitresses, nurses, and drivers of the water taxis that linked Old Town and Latham and Joliffe Islands. There was a woman lawyer and a woman teacher.

Yellowknife then "was a place of surprises, of contrasts, of anachronisms, of curiosities," reported Richard Finnie, who visited the city many times over the years. The town has a 32-room hotel, six stores including two pharmacies, several restaurants, a poolroom, and the only bank, brokerage and real estate firm and theatre in the region that covered more than a million square miles, but it had no plumbing. It had two policemen, but no jail — over-exuberant miners slept in tents and ate with their captors in local restaurants where the waitresses didn't have the heart to confine them to the amount of food covered by their daily allowance.

Only now, when the town was a reality, was the administration getting

## Fine dining



**Chef Thomas Lowe from British Columbia works quickly over a hot grill (background) preparing hamburgers for the athletes at St. Pat's High School yesterday, while his assistant, Allen Matomiak of Cambridge Bay gets the finished product onto the serving trays.**



**Hundreds of hungry competitors find ample food and great selection three times a day. The total cost of feeding everyone over the week will be \$50,000.**

around to planning a public road and a water supply for the residents, Finnie reported.

Privies dominated the landscape. "So jumbled were the dwellings that a privy in one man's back yard fairly blocked another man's front doorway," said Finnie. But, while the houses and tents were unlocked, the privies were mostly padlocked; when someone offered you a key to his privy, you knew that you were friends. Keeping clean involved a lot of planning, because the homemade shower at a local cafe was only available twice a week and required advance reservations; the cost was 50 cents.

Invitations to dinner at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Stanton (the first doctor in Yellowknife) were one of the greatest privileges in town, because the invitation was for dinner and a bath. The modern apartment house at Con Mine had one of the few plumbing systems in the Northwest Territories.

Finnie, in his book "Canada Moves North", gives his readers a graphic guided tour of Yellowknife in 1939.

He takes you into the Yellowknife Hotel, where his party is greeted by manager Vic Ingraham, one of the famous characters of the district. "Watching him walk, you may think that he is troubled with rheumatism; but you don't at once realize both his legs are artificial."

Vic Ingraham, after whom the road leading out of town to Tibbitt Lake is named, lost both his legs after trying to rescue two crewmen from a flaming boat on Great Bear Lake in the fall of 1933. He and another man got ashore in a rubber boat and walked for miles before being rescued; by then, his legs and hands were frozen as well as burned. He went back to Great Bear Lake and campaigned vigorously for hospital facilities in the area, but he still managed to joke that at least the fierce Northern blackflies and mosquitoes couldn't bite through his wooden legs.

By the spring of 1939, the "Prospector" was thriving under the management of Jack Lawrie. The first month under his direction it grossed seven dollars, the second month seventy dollars and the third month \$120, Finnie reported. The subscription list was 400, but another 600 were needed before the post office would accept the "Prospector" as a newspaper.

Fund-raising was well under-way for a school. A sweepstake on the date the first plane would reach Yellowknife after the spring break-up added \$170 to the \$800 in donations already collected, and a \$500 government grant had been secured.

The women of the town had banded together to form the order of the D.M.S. "This was something of a mystery to the men at first, who wondered what the initials stood for," says Finnie. "Some suggested 'Dynamite, Murder, and Suicide'. It turned out to be the Daughters of the Midnight Sun", a service organization which had recently welcomed the Archbishop of Toronto during a Northern visit.

By 1944, Yellowknife was well into its second gold rush. Accommodations was at a premium; at the peak of the 1945 season, the population was estimated to be 3,000. Luckily, almost a third of them were in the bush, but that still left the people in town more than a little crowded. Between 75 and 100 guests were put up in the 14-room hotel, with 25 of them sleeping on cots in the beer parlour. Rooms cost \$3.00 a day, "and you didn't squawk if you have to bunk in with your business rival," says a magazine article of the day. Once, the article adds, a fugitive from the law found himself in

the same room as the officer who had been searching for him far and wide around the county.

A dozen years later, life was settling down, and people were beginning to resent — a little — the visiting reporters' frantic search for "colour stories".

In his book, "The Mysterious North", published in 1956, Pierre Berton quotes from an editorial in News of the North written the week he arrived which lambasted the sensation-seeking reporters.

Undoubtedly, says Berton, publisher Ted Horton was thinking of the spring of 1951, when an American picture magazine learned that the year's first boatload of supplies would soon arrive in town. "The magazine wired Horton: 'Should be exciting and colorful pix of arrival first supplies enthusiasm and frenzy among YK citizens as they break open crates and cases of whiskey after long winter of abstinence.'" The magazine wanted to send in a photographer.

Ted Horton wired back — collect — that the photographer could fly in by scheduled flight any one of six days a week. When he got here, the photographer could have a Martini in the hotel lounge and study the city's drinking habits by the hour. Replied the magazine: "OOPS SORRY".

Ted was one of a line of crusading newspaper editors. A few years earlier, Jock McMeekan published the Yellowknife Blade, which had taken over from the Prospector after the war. "Ottawa fiddles while we burn," states a typical editorial. We are governed by orders-in-council upon the recommendation of imported incompetents...

That was vintage Jock McMeekan. But it also seems to sum up the Yellowknife of 30 or 40 years ago, when it was a town populated by independent characters about whom stories could be told endlessly.

One of the more fabulous of those stories concerns Salmitta Mine, and is told in an article which appeared in National Home Magazine in 1950.

Mike Mitto was packing his prospector's equipment along a trail more than 100 miles north of what was to become Yellowknife, when it began to rain hard. He found shelter in a cave usually used by wolves.

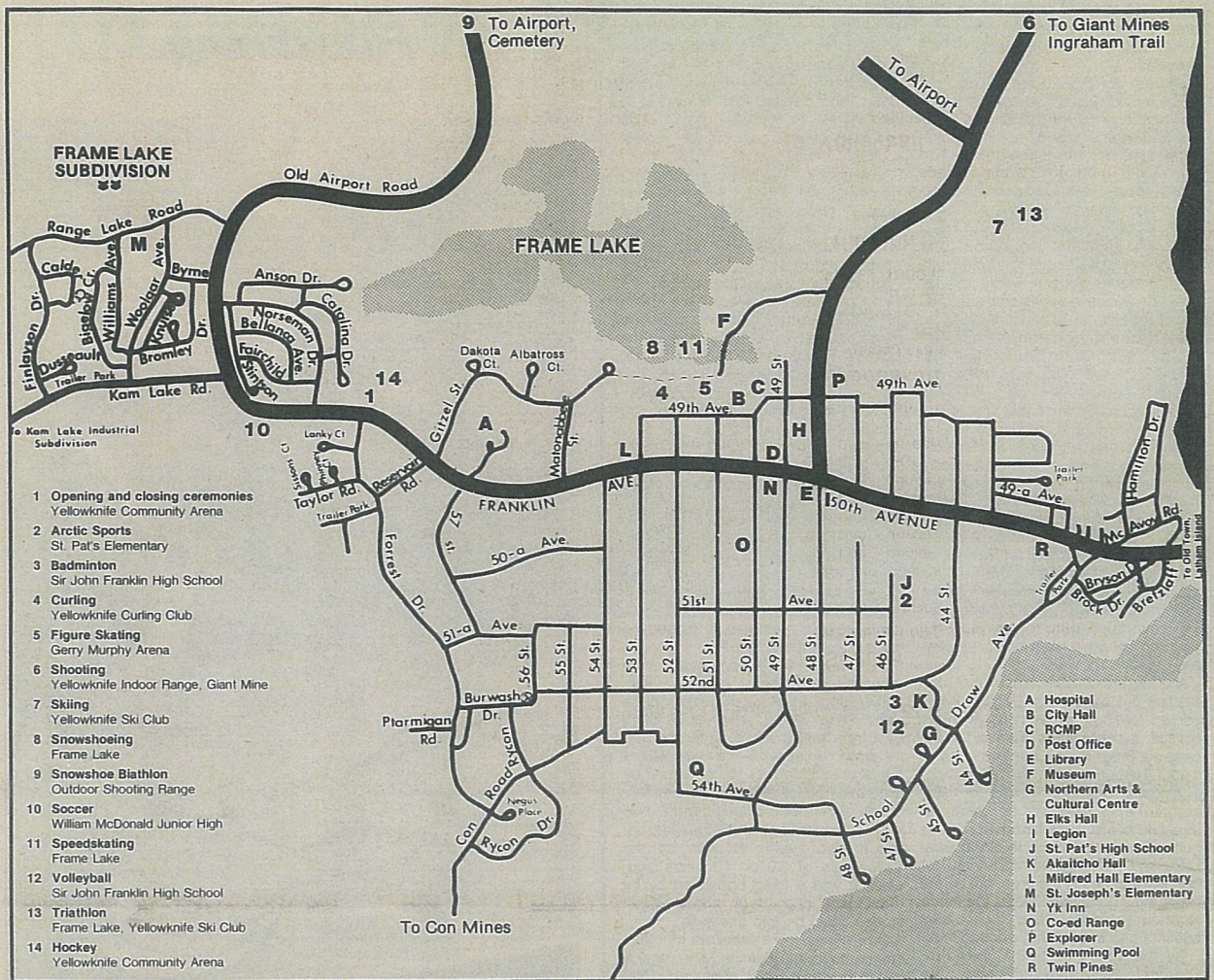
"The wolves were not at home, fortunately for the wolves. For Mike is no man for wild animals to trifle with. Once, in his own unique shorthand version of the English language, Mike described an encounter with a bear thus: 'Bear chase me, I throw stick. Bear stop to catch. I hit with axe.' End of description. End of bear."

After the rain stopped, Mike came out of the cave — and saw a rainbow. He walked toward it, and where he figured the end of the rainbow should be, he explored. The result was what became known as Salmitta Consolidated Mine.

This story, and countless others like it, form the pot of gold at the end of the Local History Project's rainbow. Some of them may turn out to be a trifle exaggerated, no doubt; other may turn out to be understated.

But, once sifted through the memories of the people who lived in Yellowknife in the days when the magazine writers called it "the Manhattan of the North" and "Yellowknife the Fabulous", all those wonderful nuggets will be included in a history book that will introduce us to the characters and the events of Yellowknife's first half-century.

Story courtesy  
Type Unlimited



# Tuesday's schedule of events

## Arctic sports

### At St. Pat's Elementary

- 1 p.m. - Men's one-hand reach
- 2 p.m. - Medal presentations
- 3 p.m. - New sport demonstrations
- 7 p.m. - Women's kneel jump
- 8 p.m. - Men's head pull
- 9 p.m. - Junior two-foot high kick
- 10 p.m. - Medal presentations

## Badminton

### At Sir John Franklin High School

- 5 p.m. - Men's and women's singles
- 8 p.m. - Junior mixed
- 9 p.m. - Open mixed

## Curling

### At Yellowknife Curling Club

- 2 p.m. - Third draw - junior men, Yukon vs. Alaska; junior women, N.W.T. vs. Yukon; open men, N.W.T. vs. Yukon; open women, N.W.T. vs. Alaska.
- 8 p.m. - Fourth draw - junior men, N.W.T. vs. Yukon; junior women, Alaska vs. N.W.T.; open men, Alaska vs. N.W.T.; open women - Yukon vs. N.W.T.

## Figure skating

### At Gerry Murphy Arena

- 1 p.m. - Preliminary ladies figures
- 3:30 p.m. - Preliminary men's figures
- 4 p.m. - Juvenile ladies' figures

## Hockey

### At Yellowknife Community Arena

- 8 a.m. - Pee wee - Alaska vs. N.W.T.
- 10:30 a.m. - Midget - Alaska vs. Yukon
- 1 p.m. - Senior - Alaska vs. Yukon
- 3 p.m. - Pee wee - Yukon vs. N.W.T.
- 6 p.m. - Midget - N.W.T. vs. Yukon
- 8:30 p.m. - Senior - N.W.T. vs. Yukon

## Shooting

### At Yellowknife Shooting Club, Giant Mine

- 8 a.m. - Pistol competitions (to 3:30 p.m.)
- 4 p.m. - Rifle competitions (to 8 p.m.)

## Skiing

### At Yellowknife Ski Club

- 9:30 a.m. - Opening ceremonies
- 11 a.m. - Juvenile 3 km, junior 5 km
- 11:30 a.m. - Women 5 km, Men 10 km
- 1 p.m. - Medal presentations

## Snowshoeing

### At Frame Lake

- 2 p.m. - 800m sprints
- 3 p.m. - Medal presentations

## Snowshoe biathlon

### At Yellowknife Outdoor Shooting Range

- 10 a.m. - 5 km
- 1 p.m. - Medal presentations

## Soccer

### At William McDonald Junior High

- 10 a.m. - Juvenile girls, Yukon vs. Alaska
- 11 a.m. - Juvenile boys, Yukon vs. Alaska
- 12 p.m. - Junior girls, Yukon vs. Alaska
- 1 p.m. - Junior boys, Yukon vs. Alaska
- 2 p.m. - Juvenile girls, N.W.T. vs. Yukon
- 3 p.m. - Juvenile boys, N.W.T. vs. Yukon
- 4 p.m. - Junior girls, N.W.T. vs. Yukon
- 5 p.m. - Junior boys, N.W.T. vs. Yukon
- 6 p.m. - Juvenile girls, Alaska vs. N.W.T.
- 7 p.m. - Juvenile boys, Alaska vs. N.W.T.
- 8 p.m. - Junior girls, Alaska vs. N.W.T.
- 9 p.m. - Junior boys, Alaska vs. N.W.T.

## Speedskating

### At Frame Lake speedskating oval

- 10 a.m. - 400 m heats
- 11 a.m. - 1000 m heats
- 2 p.m. - 400 m finals
- 3 p.m. - 1000 m finals

## Triathlon

### At Yellowknife Ski Club

- 9:30 a.m. - Opening ceremonies
- 11 a.m. - Skiing - Women's 5 km, men's 10 km

## Volleyball

### At Sir John Franklin High School

- 8 a.m. - junior, Alaska vs. Yukon
- 9:30 p.m. - senior, Alaska vs. Yukon
- 11 a.m. - junior, Yukon vs. N.W.T.
- 12:30 p.m. - senior, Yukon vs. N.W.T.
- 2 p.m. - junior, Alaska vs. N.W.T.
- 3:30 p.m. - senior, Alaska vs. N.W.T.