



ULU News

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

Wood Buffalo Edition | ISSUE 4 - JAN. 31, 2023 • The Official Newspaper of the Arctic Winter Games



Follow at www.awg2023.org • LinkedIn • Facebook • Twitter • Instagram

@woodbuffalo2023 #AWG2023



STEPHEN HARRIS | 2023 ULU NEWS

ON THE COVER — Archery debuts at the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. LEFT: Rene Schaub at the first-ever AWG archery competitions. Schaub is from Lac La Biche, Alberta, and was recently honoured with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for his commitment to Archery Canada on January 26. Read more about archery coming to the Games on page 9.

Treaty & Land Acknowledgement

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society acknowledges Treaty 8 Territory, ancestral and traditional land of the Cree, Dene and Métis people.

We are thankful for these borrowed lands along with the traditional teachings and lessons of resilience they offer us in the spirit of maintaining good relations with others for future generations.

As long as the sun shines, the river flows and the grass grows, we will honour these lands.

Nih Beghonoł't'a ʔą T'e (Dene)

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society, S̱anáts'dé betłasł hoʔą. Yanisoł'ine dene, Dene, Ena, Begahgaze benéné, thı bechaniye hotiye ẖotł'thé beghonołta, Treaty #8 keyaghé.

Hotiye marci nederı nih beghé s̱anáts'ede ha nogẖo nat'a, begħalthene Yanisoł'ine bechaniye beta honowetłno łat'e. T'a t'o Yanisoł'ine dene bahorenihele hodel kolo, bechaniyé kası ẖotł'thé S̱anáts'dé ha thı eyita elchıtan nowejıye neẕo helchı yonathı thá sekwi daniyáh cho ha ʔat'e.

Nederı Sa gheałho, Des heljho, T'ogh neseho, hotiye ẖoıethe nederı nih begħodi ẖa t'a.

Nitaskinan (Cree)

Arctic Pison Metawiwın Society Emamiskotakwaw Treaty 8 Nehiyo, Ochiponiw, Métis Askıy.

Nanaskomananak Otaskiwaw Entatamoyahk Ahkamemotwaw Opimachihonowaw Epimatisakwaw Miyoti Ototemkoyakwaw.

Esko Pisim Pimoteti Esko Sipiy Pimichowaki Esko Maskosiya Opikikwawe

Treaty 8 Adhesion 1899 Signed by Chiefs of RMWB.

*Land Acknowledgement Developed by Allison Flett and Elder Alice Martin
Translated by Elder Rita Marten*

The ULU News Team

Publications Chair & ULU News Editor in Chief Dawn Booth

Programs Manager of Marketing & Communications Elizabeth Priest

ULU News Writers
Greg Bennett, Stephen Harris and Becki Storie

Games Record Chair
Robert Murray

ULU News Headquarters
1 MacDonald Dr., Fort McMurray,
Shell Place Ballroom

Direct Line:
780-838-1972

Have a news tip or story to share?
Email: ulunews@awg2023.org

Stay connected with the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Scan the barcode to download the AWG 2023 mobile app and follow the social media accounts for news and updates about all things AWG!



AWG 2023 Live Updates on LinkedIn • Facebook • Twitter • Instagram | @woodbuffalo2023
Hashtag: #AWG2023



WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

"Games are finally here," Host Chair says

Following the spectacular kick-off on Sunday with the Opening Ceremony presented by Bouchier at Legacy Dodge Field at Shell Place, the Games are underway!

Attended by thousands of participants, coaches, mission staff and Games supporters, the Opening Ceremonies marked the beginning of the Games where nearly 1,700 participants representing eight contingents from across the circumpolar North, will compete in 20 sporting categories.

"After years of planning and preparation the Games are finally here," said Melissa Blake, Chair of the Host Society,

"If the energy, friendship and friendship displayed at the Opening Ceremonies are any indication, this will truly be a week to remember," she said.

"Thank you to Bouchier for its support of the Opening Ceremonies and to all of our partners, the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, AWG Board of Directors and staff, volunteers, participants, and everyone supporting the Games: This is possible because of you."

The next few days will also feature a series of cultural events and experiences open to everyone, including the Cultural Gala, community showcases and exhibitions. For more information about upcoming events, visit awg2023.org/events — **2023 AWG**

Staff
In Every ULU News

Land Acknowledgement	02
2023 Sports Schedule	06
AWG Venues Map	07
Contingents Feature	08
Seven Sacred Teachings	10

— SNOWSHOE SPORTSMANSHIP —



GEORGE KYRIACOULLIS | 2023 ULU NEWS

Competing athletes were spotted at Sunday's snowshoeing race crossing the finish line at Doug Barnes Cabin. Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games volunteer photographer George Kryriacoullis captured the shot and shared. "The Games are about so much more than winning and medals. Here, the spirit of the Games has been captured in an inspiring moment, as two young athletes show us the true meaning of sportsmanship and friendship as they cross the finish line hand in hand in yesterday's snowshoeing competition. Their unwavering support and encouragement for one another serves as an inspiration to us all and a reminder of what these games are truly about."



ULU TRACKER

The Wood Buffalo
2023 Arctic Winter

Track the medal count in ULU News and online at www.awg2023.org

FORT McMURRAY'S ROCK STATION

FORT McMURRAY'S ROCK STATION



FORT McMURRAY'S ROCK STATION

Shine on the Snye sparkles

STEPHEN HARRIS

2023 Ulu News

Shine on the Snye kicked off on Monday with a good turnout of locals and visitors at Snye Point Park.

It was a vibrant setting with free dog sled rides for those looking for an adventure, illuminated tipis with fires burning inside for those looking for perfect ambiance, and tents with wood stoves for those looking to shake the frost from the bones.

Inside the tents were opportunities: to try bannock doughnuts and hot chocolate,

learn the art of indigenous storytelling, receive a lesson on drumming around a fire, brush up on indigenous language skills, or learn how to perform a moose-call.

Every tent offered a friend and a story in a merge of cultures. Finding fresh and hot bannock cooked on a wood stove in a cast-iron pan is a real treat on a cold winter day.

The event is being hosted and facilitated by the Athabasca Tribal Council to showcase and celebrate northern living and the northern lights. If you missed yesterday's event, check it out today from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.



2023 ULU NEWS

With the "Time to Shine" theme in the event's backdrop, guests of the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games joined together to celebrate the north at Snye Point Park.





SHINE

ON THE S NYE

MONDAY, JANUARY 30
& TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

PRESENTED BY



ATHABASCA
TRIBAL COUNCIL



WOOD
BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER
GAMES



WoodBuffalo2023

2023 SPORTS SCHEDULE

SPORT	VENUE	28-JAN	29-JAN	30-JAN	31-JAN	1-FEB	2-FEB	3-FEB	4-FEB
ALPINE SKI	Vista Ridge	ARRIVAL DAY	T	C	C	C	W	W	W
ARCHERY	Shell Place - MIP*		NC	T	C	C	C	C	NC
ARCTIC SPORTS	CNOOC Fieldhouse #1 - MIP*		T	C	C	C	C	C	NC
BADMINTON	Anzac Recreation Centre		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
BASKETBALL	Ecole McTavish & Holy Trinity High School		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
BIATHLON (SKI)	Fort McMurray Golf Club		T	C	C	W	C	C	NC
BIATHLON (SNOWSHOE)	Fort McMurray Golf Club		T	C	C	W	C	C	NC
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	Birchwood Trail/Doug Barnes Cabin		T	C	C	C	C	C	W
CURLING	Suncor Community Leisure Centre - MIP*		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
DENE GAMES	CNOOC Fieldhouse #2 - MIP*		NC	C	C	C	C	C	NC
FIGURE SKATING	Frank Lacroix Arena		T	T	C	C	C	C	NC
FUTSAL	Fieldhouse 3, SSWC**		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
GYMNASTICS	Norfort Gymnastics		T	T	T	C	T	C	NC
HOCKEY - FEMALE	Centerfire Place		C	C	C	C	C	C	NC
HOCKEY - MALE	Arena #1 & #2 - MIP*		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
SNOWBOARDING	Vista Ridge		T	C	C	C	C	W	NC
SNOWSHOEING	Birchwood Trails/Doug Barnes Cabin		T	C	W	C	W	C	NC
SPEED SKATING	Fort McKay Arena		T	T	C	C	C	C	NC
TABLE TENNIS	Shell Place, MIP*		T	D	C	C	C	C	NC
VOLLEYBALL	Composite High School & SSWC**		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
WRESTLING	Fieldhouse 2, SSWC**	T	C	C	D	C	C	T	

C COMPETITION DAY **NC** NON-COMPETITION DAY **T** TRAINING **W** WEATHER DAY **D** DEMONSTRATION/CLINIC

*MacDonald Island Park | **Synchrude Sport & Wellness Centre



Athlete of the Day

ATHLETE: Noah Qaunaq, 17
TEAM: NUNAVUT
SPORT: Dene Games

In every Ulu News edition, our field reporter Stephen Harris will feature an Athlete of the Day to get to know a little more about the participants taking part in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

What was your favourite childhood meal?

Seal meat. (Seal meat is a common diet staple in Nunavut. It's popular and nutrient-dense meat.)

What is your favourite wild animal from home?

The polar bear

What is the most special thing about your community?

Narwhal hunting

If you could travel to any place on earth, where would you go?

Where the fun is.

What is your favourite expression in your language?

In Inuktitut, 'Qanuipi' is asking someone how they are.



Sports Legend

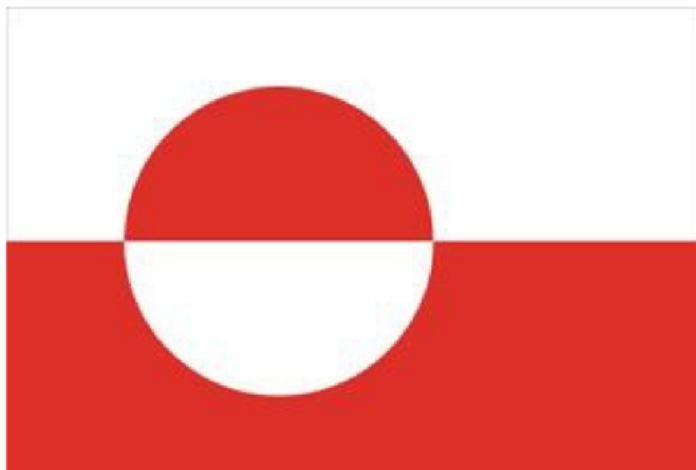
- Alpine Skiing
- Anchovy
- Arctic Sports
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Biathlon Ski
- Biathlon Snowshoe
- Cross Country Ski
- Curling
- Dene Games
- Figure Skating
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Speed Skating
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball
- Wrestling



Venues

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: All accredited volunteers and participants have complimentary access to The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) transit system, WOOSH, during Games week. Volunteers must show their accreditation badge to ride for free. Learn more at awg2023.org/ground-transportation/

CONTINGENT SHOWCASE: TEAM GREENLAND



2023 ULU NEWS | GRAPHIC SUPPLIED

Team Greenland - the most northern of contingents

Eight contingents are participating in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Every edition of the Ulu News will feature each contingent.

Chef de Mission - Aviaaja Geisler: Aviaaja has been with team Greenland and the Arctic Winter Games since 2014 but in 1998 she also participated as an athlete.

"I was able to represent Greenland as an athlete with the badminton team in the Yellowknife Games, it was a lot of fun!" she said. Greenland has been participating in the Arctic Winter Games since 1990. In 2002, Greenland hosted the Games for the first time in Nuuk, and they last hosted the Games in 2016. Greenland is the most northerly of the jurisdictions involved in the Arctic Winter Games.

2023 & 2024 Games: Aviaaja explained how excited the athletes are and trained hard for the 2023 Games, despite some unique challenges in Greenland. Greenland is bringing a smaller-than-usual delegation for the 2023 games after the cancelled Games.

"We hope that in 2024, we will be able to have more athletes from Greenland compete, because of the postponements, it caused some difficulties that meant we didn't have as many athletes able to participate," explained Aviaaja.

Message to Athletes: In a message to all Team Greenland athletes, Aviaaja said, "For the Greenlandic team, our board would like to see good results, I'm not talking about medals but taking advantage of networking with other cultures. I remember from my Games, it was not about winning - it was the friends and connections I made. I hope our Greenlandic athletes learn something about unity, culture, fair play and friendships across borders." — **BECKI STORIE, 2023 Ulu News**

W B E
WOOD BUFFALO ENTERPRISE
W B E

PROUDLY
SUPPORTS
THE



WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Archery debut makes big impression

STEPHEN HARRIS

2023 Ulu News

Teams from Northwest Territories, Alberta North, and Yukon gathered at Shell Place for the first-ever archery competition of the Arctic Winter Games.

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games is hosting archery competitions for the first time in the history of the games. The sport was previously intended to debut at the 2020 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, which were unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19.

Rene Schaub, from Lac La Biche, Alberta, and a long-time supporter of the sport was helping with the organization of the event. Schaub said, "In 2019 we had the archery 3D World's Championships and it was very successful. We had 318 archers and over 70 support staff from 26 countries. It was the first time in North America, and they came to Lac La Biche."

In January, Schaub received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for nearly 30 years of volunteer work in archery.

Team Alberta North was represented by six athletes, three female and three male including sisters, Jorgie and Mattea Visser of Valleyview, Alberta,

"When I was nine, my parents rented out a bowling alley, and we split off half of it and it is an archery way," Jorgie said. "My dad competed when he was younger and he got all of us kids in it."

In total, 22 athletes 11 male, and 11 female, took to the line to draw bows. Spectators can watch the

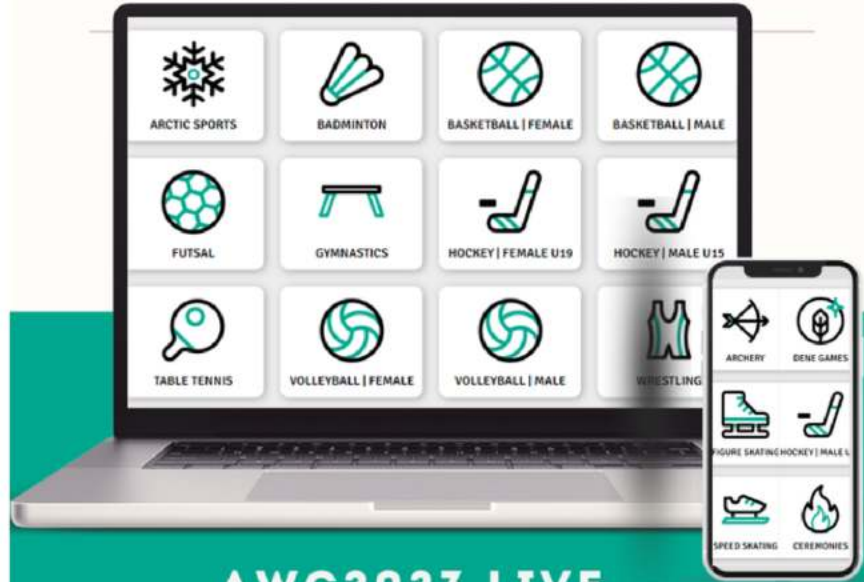


STEPHEN HARRIS | 2023 ULU NEWS

Grayson Groenewegen competing for Team Northwest Territories.



LIVESTREAM 2023 AWG



AWG2023.LIVE



proud supporter of the games

Tridon got its start in Fort McMurray back in 1981. We have seen and been a part of all the incredible ways the community, and the Wood Buffalo region as a whole, have grown and come together since then.

We're proud to provide superior wired and wireless communications solutions to the businesses and industries that make this province thrive. And, we're prouder still to call Fort McMurray our home.

tridon.com | 780-791-1002

we are the solution



— ULU NEWS SNAPSHOT OF THE DAY —



CRYSTAL MERCREDI | SUPPLIED PHOTO

ATHLETES IN ACTION — Inuit Wrestling competitions between Team Northwest Territories and Team Nunavut were packed with action yesterday at the Syncrude Sports and Wellness Centre. Wrestling at the Arctic Winter Games includes a team competition consisting of a dual meet round-robin tournament, as well as individual competition and optional Inuit wrestling competition in each weight class. A wrestling team consists of up to 12 athletes in different weight categories.

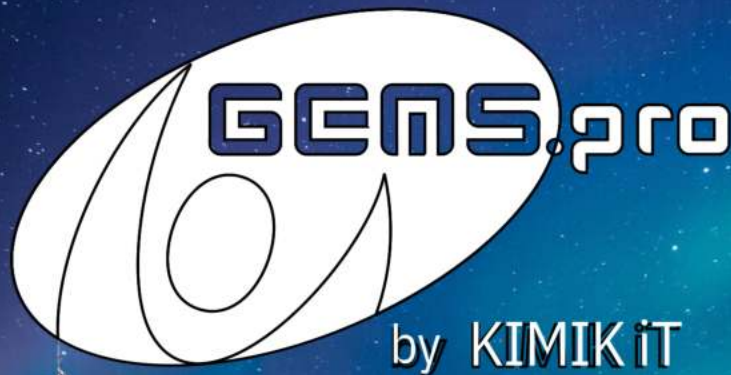


HONESTY

The Seven Sacred Teachings

The act or condition of being honest or never deceiving, stealing, or taking advantage of others. Honesty Gift of the SABE. It is believed the Sabe is closer to the spirit world than humans and reminds us that we must be truthful to who we are and to walk tall with integrity. It was believed the Sabe walked among us to remind us of the creator's wish to stay true to our natural self.

The Seven Sacred Teachings will be highlighted in each edition of Ulu News to honour the land the Games are played on.



by KIMIKIT

- ◆ Event Registration
- ◆ Volunteer Management
- ◆ Results & Scheduling
- ◆ Accreditation
- ◆ Accommodation
- ◆ Medical Management
- ◆ Communication SMS/Email
- ◆ Payment Management



**Proud Supporter and Hosting Partner
2023 Arctic Winter Games**

visit us at: www.GEMS.pro





A Proud Supporter
of the 2023
Arctic Winter Games

**Proud Sponsor
of the Arctic
Winter Games**

GARDAWORLD



GARDANORTH



ATCO SALUTES THE VOLUNTEERS

We celebrate the vibrancy and passion that volunteers bring to the Games and to our communities. ATCO is proud to power the volunteer program and to continue our support as a Legacy Sponsor of the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

[ATCO.com/awg](https://www.atco.com/awg)

ATCO[™]

WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES