

MACCA Newsletter

October 2002

New Youth Advisor for Deh Cho by Mellissa Wood

On April 29, 2002 Mellissa Wood joined the Deh Cho Regional team with the Sport, Recreation and Youth section as the Regional Youth Program Advisor for the Deh Cho. Mellissa is a graduate from the Aurora College Recreation Leaders Program in Inuvik. She will be with us until April 2003.

Now that Melissa has joined the team, the Sport, Recreation and Youth section (SR&Y) is actively coordinating our fall youth tours in conjunction with the Deh Cho Divisional Education Council, Deh Cho Health and Social Services and the Regional Justice Coordinator.

SR&Y has lined up an excellent range of individuals who will come and present to the schools and community members in the Deh Cho Region. Our goal is to reach the youth and other community members in all the Deh Cho communities. We want to leave a positive and lasting impression on these youth while exposing them to new ideas.

Tours of the communities will include:

1. Mike Ryan and Sharon Firth will be discussing their life stories leading into sessions about self-esteem. Mike is a former drug addict and career criminal who turned his life around and Sharon is a champion cross country skier.
2. Cooper Studios, who are organizing a weeklong workshop, is committed to developing an individual's

voice and theatrical skills. Through voice development they encourage youth to explore their self-awareness and self-esteem while also enabling them to develop their team building skills.



Mackenzie Youth Summer Games

3. Meika MacDonald will be on tour throughout the fall teaching youth the theory and practical side to Inuit Games.

At the conclusion of these tours, we will be hosting the 6th Annual Mackenzie Youth Conference. The organizing committee is still working out the logistics of the conference and we are confident this will be an event that should not be missed!

Some of the activities that the Deh Cho communities took part in this summer were the Mackenzie Youth Summer Games, the Mackenzie Regional Swim Meet, and after a three year hiatus, the Dene Games. As well, our summer students were involved with the Community Recreation Coordinators, with the assistance of Sport North, coordinating and hosting various Multi-Sports Camps in the Deh Cho.

Role of the Office of the Fire Marshal by Bernie Van Tighem

A fire breaks out in a remote community and the local fire department rushes to extinguish the blaze. When the fire is out the fire fighters go home to their families, leaving the embers to smoke, right? Wrong! There is much more to a fire than just extinguishing the blaze. There is an investigation to determine the cause and recommend possible corrective actions. This investigation may lead to changes in standards that make life safer for all of us.

How does all of this happen? That is where the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) comes in. The Fire Marshal is

tasked, through the Fire Prevention Act, to report on fires and their causes throughout the Northwest Territories. National Building and Fire Codes and Standards are developed on the causes found during fire investigations.

The Fire Marshal reports this information on fires in an Annual Report to the Minister, required under the Fire Prevention Act. This



Report not only discusses fire losses, but also analyzes trends and highlights initiatives of the OFM to improve the overall fire protection system in the Northwest Territories.

In addition to investigating fires, other vital components of the OFM mandate are fire fighter and fire officer training standards, fire inspections, code compliance review, fire prevention and education, as well as youth life safety programming.

The OFM maintains professional affiliations with national organizations such as the Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners (CCFMFC), the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The OFM consists of two full time headquarters staff, three regional Assistant Fire Marshals (AFMs) in the South Slave, Sahtu and Inuvik Regions, an AFM Trainee for the Deh Cho Region and a Fire Service Advisor in the North Slave Region. In addition to these regular staff, the Fire Chief in each community is a Local Assistant to the Fire Marshal under the Fire Prevention Act. All of these dedicated professionals continually develop their skills in order to prevent fire and minimize damage when fire does occur in the future.

For more information on GNWT's Office of the Fire Marshal, contact the Fire Marshal, Don Gillis at 873-7469 or visit the MACA website at <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/about/emergency.html#fire>.

NWT Fire Marshal Recognized

Don Gillis received a Fire Services Exemplary service medal at the opening ceremonies of the recent Canadian Council of Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners meetings held in Yellowknife. Don was actually awarded the medal last year but the Award Committee Chairman waited for this opportune time to present the medal.

The conference was chosen as the forum for the presentation as it consisted of members of Don's peers from across the country. Yellowknife Fire Chief Mick Beauchamp and Deputy Minister Debbie DeLancey were in attendance.

The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal was created on August 29, 1985, to recognize fire fighters who have served in an exemplary manner, exhibiting good conduct, industry and efficiency. They must have completed 20 years of such service and have served as a member of a recognized Canadian fire service on or after the Medal's creation date. Recognized fire services include Canadian fire departments, Fire Marshals' Offices, Fire Commissioners' Offices and the Canadian Forces Fire Services. Consideration is only given to periods of service for which no other long service, good conduct or efficiency decoration has been awarded by the Crown.



*Deputy Minister, Debbie DeLancey
congratulating Don Gillis*

The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal is part of the Canadian Honours System established in 1967. Awards are made on behalf of the Sovereign, by Instruments signed by the Governor General and are announced in the Canada Gazette. Engraved medals and certificates of award are forwarded to the nominating authority for formal presentation on behalf of the Governor General.

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