

# The Transporter



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



## Season's Greetings from Minister McLeod



As we count down the final days of 2004 amid thoughts of holiday festivities with family and friends, the past year stands out as another record of accomplishment and commitment to service by the Department of Transportation.

I, as a minister just completing the first year in his portfolio, have relied upon and appreciated the support the department has provided to me as we work together to improve our highways, airports and marine facilities and advance other important initiatives on behalf of the residents of the NWT.

I traveled extensively to communities throughout the territory to discuss transportation issues. It was a tremendous learning experience. I gained a much greater appreciation for how critically important transportation is to the daily lives of people and to their hopes and dreams of creating economic opportunities that strengthen our communities and provide a bright future for our young people.

The department moved forward in many areas over the past year that will help create that better future for all who live in this great territory. One of the most significant achievements was implementation of new measures to combat the serious problem of drinking and driving. Amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act that went into force December 1 as part of the department's Strategy to Reduce Impaired Driving will play an important role in reducing the number of people killed and injured on our roads.

The department also continued its aggressive plans to invest in our highways system by concluding an agreement under the federal Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund that has committed millions of dollars to reconstruct highways and build permanent bridges along the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road.

Progress also continued towards the goal of building a bridge across the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. The department maintained its support for the efforts of the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation and to continued to negotiate a final concession agreement between the two parties that I expect will be ready for signing by the spring of 2005.

I have every confidence that this department, blessed with men and women committed to excellence and to high standards of service, will continue to excel at fulfilling its important mandate in the year ahead. Challenges lie in front of us but opportunities will also present themselves. Success and satisfaction will come from hard work, a common sense of purpose and the knowledge that what we do, individually and collectively, does make a difference.

At this special time of year, from my family to yours, may you have a safe and joyful holiday season and a bright and prosperous new year.



Bill Hval, Manager of Fort Smith Airport, submitted this Christmas time landing pad. The replica was created to participate in the annual Christmas tree contest hosted by the Northern Lights Museum in Fort Smith. The employees put their creative talents to work and built a replica of an airport, complete with aircraft, snow and a 'monstrous' pine tree. Merry Christmas from Fort Smith Airport staff.



## Awards of Excellence 2004

Deputy Minister Russell Neudorf (centre), congratulates Marv Ringham (left), Manager, Buildings and Planning, Airports Division, and Bob Powless, Drive Examiner, North Slave Region, after presenting each with a 2003 Award of Excellence at November ceremonies in Yellowknife. The awards are presented annually by the department to employees nominated by their peers on the basis of their service to the public, commitment to their work and dedication to excellence through innovative thinking that has provided new and better ways of doing work. Bob and Marv were cited for their integrity, respect for the public and their colleagues, their work ethic, and dedication to excellence in all aspects of their work.

A third award recipient has been chosen but had not been announced and recognized by the time The Transporter was printed.



## SAFETY TIP

\* This month's Safety Tip is brought to you by the Yellowknife Airport Firehall.

- ⇒ Check all Christmas lights and extension cords; if frayed or worn, replace.
- ⇒ Ensure that all Christmas decorations are fire safe.
- ⇒ Do not overload plug-in outlets.
- ⇒ When using candles during the festive season, ensure that they are away from flammable objects and always supervised.
- ⇒ And, as always, when celebrating the Christmas season, plan ahead. Take a taxi or arrange for a designated driver, but never drink and drive.





## Take Our Kids to Work Day- another great success

November 3 was the annual national Take Our Kids To Work Day. Ten Grade 9 students spent the morning at Yellowknife Airport learning about everything from how weather affects air travel to putting out fires. Students then spent the afternoon touring various DOT offices to learn how to build highways and about new laws on impaired driving.

Photo: Airport firefighter Lee Stroman teaches a Grade 9 student how to use a fire extinguisher.

## Now that's a lot of service



Twenty-two Yellowknife and North Slave employees with a combined total of 244 years of service with the department were recognized for their long service during ceremonies in Yellowknife on November 9. Accepting awards are:

Standing left to right:

Back row-

Pat Ayiku (10 yr), George Poirier (20 yr), Charlotte Baggs (5 yr), Debbie Kelly (5 yr), Suzanne Parent (20 yr), Kim Snodgrass (5 yr), Pearl Chen (5 yr), Marie Blackduck (5 yr), Charles Wright (5 yr), Karen Decker-Brien (10 yr), Bryan Peterson (15 yr), Lawrence Wellin (5 yr), Glenn Riffel (20 yr), and Gary Walsh (5 yr).

Kneeling in front row-

Ralf Lehniger (25 yr), James Peters (20 yr), Leon Rabesca (5 yr) and Marvin Zaozirny (25 yr).

Missing from photo are-

Rhonda Batchelor (5 yr), Barb Brown (5 yr), Darlene Delorey-Oulette (5 yr) and Jay Laroque (5 yr).

## Award Recognizes Energy Saving Actions at NWT Airports

Kayhan Nadji (right), president of the NWT Architects Association, presents Mar Marvin Zaozirny, Director, Airports Division, with an Energy Action Award from Arctic Energy Alliance during ceremonies in Yellowknife on December 2.

The Energy Action Awards are presented annually to recognize the efforts of northern people, businesses and organizations that value and practice energy efficiency. The Department of Transportation was recognized in the Renewable Technology category for the Airport Division's accomplishments in energy conservation, energy efficiency and, in particular, its use of renewable technology.

The energy initiative that resulted in the award was the installation of photovoltaic/battery systems in the Tulita and Wha Ti Air Terminal Buildings. Solar power is used in conjunction with solar panels to charge a battery bank. The bank, through an inverter, provides normal AC power to operate the heating systems in both buildings in the event commercial power fails. The system at Wha Ti also feeds power back into the commercial grid.

When accepting the award on behalf of the department, Mar Marvin recognized the support the projects received from RWED and the Energy Secretariat. He singled out the division's Assistant Director, Paul Guy, John Currie, Senior Technical Specialist –Electrical Systems, and Paul Curren, former Airports

employee now with NWT Housing Corporation, for their part in the two initiatives. He also praised Whiponic Wellputers Ltd and Lac La Martre Development Corp, general contractors for the two projects.

"As a program, with airport and regional office involvement, we have made great strides in conserving energy and reducing our energy costs at airport facilities in the last five or six years through installation of T-8 fluorescent lighting and electronic ballast conversions/upgrades at 17 airport buildings, as well as other initiatives identified in energy audits completed for 26 buildings at 10 NWT airports," Mar Marvin says.



Art Barnes wins silver medal again



For the second year in a row, Art Barnes, South Slave Regional Superintendent, brought home a silver medal from the Canadian Fly Fishing Championship and Conservation Symposium. This past October, the Hay River resident traveled with the four other Team NWT members to the Kenauk Reserve near Montebello, Quebec to take part in the competition.



On December 3, Corporate Services gave its first "Gift of Literacy" to the 25 children who attended this year's kid's Christmas party in Yellowknife. Children received a book and pencils, along with either pads of paper or pencil cases.

Above: Sigrun Geirsdottir, transportation planner, and daughter, Rena, contemplate their next move on the bowling alley.

## HR UPDATES

### Farewell...

Elaine Lawrence- Directorate

### Transfer...

Mark Salvor- Planning and Policy to Department of Executive



Member of DOT's Social Committee for Yellowknife, Kelley Merilees-Keppel, (left) accepts a cheque from Union of Northern Workers representative, Rhonda Batchelor. The union replaced the committee's membership that was lost during December. Also in photo: Committee members Lynell Broadbent (left) and Peggy Embleton and Eleese Scott (UNW).

Know of any new and exciting story ideas? Contact:

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