

Did we get it wrong?

Deh Cho Drum is committed to getting facts and names right. With that goes a commitment to acknowledge mistakes and run corrections. If you spot an error in Deh Cho Drum, call the editor at (867) 695-3786, or e-mail dehchodrum@nnsi.com. We'll get a correction or clarification in as soon as we can.

NEWS Briefs

Wolf pack spotted around Fort Simpson

A pack of wolves that has been lingering near Fort Simpson has the Department of Environment and Natural Resources cautioning people.

The pack of approximately six wolves was first seen shortly before Christmas. It has been spotted on and off since then, most recently Feb. 10 on the far side of the on island airport, said Carl Lafferty, the department's regional superintendent.

There are no indications that the wolves are a danger to the public, but people should take precautions, he said. People should restrict their walking to well used roads, not trails, during daylight hours and go in groups if possible. Dogs should also be kept on leashes.

Film festival in Fort Simpson

The Yellowknife International Film Festival is back for a second year in Fort Simpson.

The festival will be screened at the OSC Gallery below the John Tsetso Memorial Library on Feb. 15 and 16, starting both nights at 7 p.m. Each night three short films will be shown along with a longer feature film. Most of the films were created in the North by Northern directors.

The feature film on Saturday is Chasing Ice by Jeff Orlowski and on Sunday it is Uvgana, a film in English and Inuktitut with subtitles, by Marie-Helene Cousineau and Madeleine Piujuq Ivalu. Admission is free.

Exhibition by Fort Smith artist

A new exhibition by a northern artist is coming to the OSC gallery.

Thebacha Trails and Roadside Ditches by Fort Smith's Brandy Wilson will be on display from Feb. 15 to April 1. A reception for the show will be held on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

The exhibition features large photographic works. The gallery is open for viewing Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Other viewing times can be booked by appointment.

Registration services go online

The Department of Transportation's online vehicle registration service is now available.

People have to set up a service account so the department can issue email notification for the renewal of drivers licences, vehicle registrations and drivers medical forms. The system is expected to reduce the amount of time needed to renew registrations for passenger vehicles and trailers, according to the department.

Validation stickers will no longer be required on future vehicle registrations in the NWT. In the first year, people will receive a blank sticker to cover their previous date sticker.



Brandon Moses, a youth delegate with Pehdzeh Ki First Nation in Wrigley, looks at a demonstration model of solar collector tubes during the Dehcho Community Renewable Energy Forum in Fort Providence Feb. 5.

Focus on renewable energy

Leaders participate in forum in Fort Providence

by Roxanna Thompson
Northern News Services
Deh Gah Got'ie Koe/
Fort Providence

Dehcho First Nations' leaders are showing increasing levels of interest in how renewable energies could help power their communities.

First Nations' chiefs and Metis presidents along with their delegates were gathered in Fort Providence last week for the Dehcho winter leadership meeting. They devoted a day and a half of their time to participate in the Dehcho Community Renewable Energy Forum on Feb. 4 and 5.

The Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA), the Pembina Institute, based out of Yellowknife, and Dehcho First Nations (DFN) co-organized the forum. This was a chance for leaders and residents of different communities to connect with each other and share information about renewable energy programs they have in their communities and also discuss the potential for future projects they could jointly research or participate in, said Teresa Chilkowich, the Deh Cho community energy co-ordinator for AEA.

During the forum, participants were also able to talk with, connect and learn from staff with AEA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who have technical expertise on renewable energy technologies, she said. It was also a chance for those specialists to hear from the communities about the realities of setting up and maintaining a system.

"It's for people to have some insight of what it will mean to bring a renewable energy system to their community," Chilkowich said.

The forum specifically looked at solar and biomass technologies, which have been identified as the most effective renewable energies for the Deh Cho region. Technolo-

gies based on both types of energies were outlined by specialists and then the forum participants circulated between discussion tables, each with a focus on a different aspect of that technology.

"We had great participation by the community leaders and members," said Chilkowich.

"There were many engaged conversations."

President Marie Lafferty of the Fort Simpson Metis Nation said that she enjoyed the forum. It provided a lot of new information, but also brought back memories of technologies that used to be used including the wood burning boilers that heated the mission hospital in Fort Simpson in the 1950s, she said.

"It's a good awakening because we need to start thinking of new ways of generating power," Lafferty said.

"If people in the communities want to switch I think it is a good idea, but it will take money."

Lafferty said she is now considering the possibility of adding solar panels to the Nahendeh building in Fort Simpson, which the Fort Simpson Metis Nation is the partial owner of, if the other partners agree.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge of Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation in Fort Providence agreed that the forum was very effective. There was a good discussion on how to be sustainable and self-sufficient, he said.

From this forum, Bonnetrouge hopes another, larger one will be held, that more youth and technical people can be part of. Young people are excited and interested in energy and these technologies are providing opportunities to create jobs for residents, he said.

There is a parallel between these green technologies and the traditional lifestyle Dene people have and are continuing to live, said DFN Grand Chief Herb Norwegian.

Both are linked to keeping the Earth intact, he said. Norwegian

said he also sees a link between DFN's process to be self-governing and the ability to be self-sufficient in energy.

The forum provided an opportunity for people to learn about the technologies, like the solar panels they have seen around the region. Renewable energy is a good fit with a leadership meeting because it provides a balance to the more intense topics like the Dehcho Process, he said.

People, including elders, were engaged in the forum and wanted to find out more, said Norwegian.

And there will be more to come.

The goal is to use this forum as a springboard towards a larger, stand-alone event on renewable energy technologies, said Chilkowich. That event will have space for more community members to participate and will include a trade fair component with businesses on display who sell and install green energy systems, she said.



Tom Gross, third from left, a technical manager with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation explains the solar water heating system on the Fort Providence seniors' centre to Vanessa Sanguet, left, Margaret Ireland, Chief Minnie Letcher of Liidlii Kue First Nation, Dean Pickering and Margaret Mahon, an energy management specialist with the Arctic Energy Alliance at one of the discussion tables at the Dehcho Community Renewable Energy Forum.

Push for green power

Leaders consider possibilities of renewable energy

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DEH CHO
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FORT SIMPSON • NWT • LIIDLII KUE

Culture camp by the river

Roxanne Thompson/NIS, photo

News

Dehcho Process creeps forward at DFN meeting



Sports

Three Simpson basketball teams claim medals



QUOTE: "This is probably the most decorated and honored choir in Canada."

- Marie Coderre, executive and artistic director of the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre, commenting on visiting Elmer Iseler Singers, page 4

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