

EARTH WEEK

2015



Students learn about
the environment through environmental practice



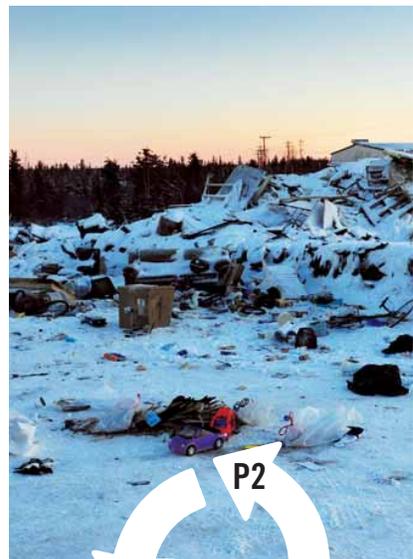
P9

Community Garden plants stronger roots



P3

Terry Pamplin's exhibit at museum gets political



P2

Changes coming to solid waste facility

Landfill's future planned

City looks to acquire land for the next 100 years to meet garbage needs

by Shane Magee
Northern News Services

Earth Day marks decades of efforts to influence environmental policy and take action to reduce garbage production.

So as the community marks April 22, it's natural to take a closer look at the future of the city's solid waste facility off the old Highway 4 that in 2012 received 24,000 tonnes of material.

The city is moving toward asking the territorial government for land to allow its solid waste facility to expand to meet the city's needs for the next century.

"The idea is to put a plan in place for Yellowknifers to not have to worry about relocating the landfill and have a landfill that will be available for them for probably the next 100 years," city administrator Dennis Kefalas told councillors at the April 13 municipal services committee meeting.

According to a staff report presented at the meeting, the city is eyeing land to the north of the facility up to the Ingraham Trail that surrounds Joe Lake.

The report did not state the size of parcel, which based on

a map in the report, would be a significant increase over the existing waste site's 750,000 square metres. The Commissioner's land would be purchased for \$1 from the GNWT.

The space would allow transportation and construction company Monarch Transport's quarry lease in the area to be expanded, which would allow for future landfill growth.

Councillors at the meeting approved the recommendation, which still needs to go to council in the coming weeks for first reading.

Planning for landfill fill-up

Last month, the city filed a revised interim closure report for the solid waste facility.

The city's water licence requires that it submit the report to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board at least six months before closure of a cell at the landfill.

A landfill cell is a space where trash is compacted.

The original disposal cell, near the middle of the facility, is approaching capacity according to the report.

Once a cell fills up, it is capped and various other steps are taken, such as mon-

itoring for landfill gas.

The gas is the byproduct of the breakdown of materials in the landfill and can be explosive.

The city filed a preliminary version of the report last fall but it was rejected in part due to concerns about the lack of information about landfill gas.

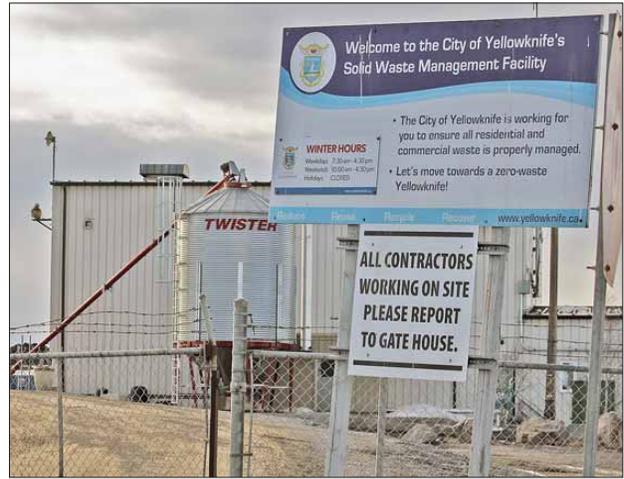
The recently filed report has a section covering the topic stating the city has hired Dillon Consulting to carry out a landfill gas review at the facility.

"The recommendations from Dillon indicated that there are no indications that landfill gas is currently an issue at the (facility) and that the city should continue to monitor the issue through site observations and monitoring at the baling facility," the closure report states.

Chris Greencorn, the director of public works and engineering, did not return requests for comment on this story.

Recycling awards, energy plan update

Last night, the city was set to hold its solid waste forum at city hall last night as part of Earth Week.



Shane Magee/NNSL photo

The city is planning to ask the GNWT for more land north of its solid waste facility to allow for the expansion of the landfill.

It was the first time the forum included an update on the Community Energy Plan and a presentation of certificates to home builders who achieved Energuide 80 levels in new residential building construction.

Recycling awards were set

to have been handed out to environmental stewards by Mayor Mark Heyck.

"The Solid Waste Public Forum is a platform that celebrates the current environmental achievements of Yellowknifers," Heyck said in a statement. "In co-operation

with residents, the City of Yellowknife has implemented a number of environmental programs that will help us build a smart and sustainable future."

The event was held after press time, so a list of award recipients was not available.

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Art gives a voice to the Earth

Terry Pamplin doesn't shy away from provocative pieces about Giant Mine

by Meagan Leonard
Northern News Services

Don't ask Terry Pamplin to paint a landscape for your living room.

"I can't understand people who paint pretty pictures," Pamplin says shaking his head as he reorganizes pieces from his latest show. Outside, an overcast sky of heavy clouds casts a dreary pall over his office – the light making many of the politically-charged pieces seem slightly austere. There are no picturesque scenes of wildlife here – no bouquets of flowers.

Pamplin divides his art into two categories: things he creates for fun and pieces reflecting political issues. With Earth Day coming up, *Yellowknifer* stopped by to chat with Pamplin about the environmental slant much of his work has taken over the years – in particular, his critique of Giant Mine.

As an artist, he says, he feels an obligation to the public, to use his talent to make a difference.

"It's up to us, who have the ability ... we see things differently," he said. "People might not understand a scientific report, but what I can glean out of it might help me create some image ... that's simple and people get it right away."

Pamplin said he had never heard of Giant Mine or the fallout of its production before moving to Yellowknife in 1981, but it didn't take long driving back and forth to work past the site to pick up on the growing tension.

For Pamplin, who says he uses art to figure out the "contradictory and frustrating" world around him, he was drawn to the mine as a subject.

"It was probably the most blatant disregard for the environment," he said. "If you look at the cost of cleanup at Giant Mine and what was produced in profit over the years ... the cost of the cleanup would have outweighed the benefit of the mine for its whole life."

The first piece Pamplin created on the topic was com-

pleted six or seven months after the mine closed. At the time, he said he was angered by the company abandoning the site. Wandering through the refuse, he came upon a lone dump truck and intrigued he took a photo. When he returned to the spot not long afterward the truck was gone.

"You could see these big scrape marks in the earth where they had just bulldozed it over into a pit and dumped it and I looked down in the pit and there was all this garbage," Pamplin recalled. "They were just scraping it

"It just seemed like there's nothing good about the place."

Terry Pamplin

all into open holes and covering it up."

The truck became the focal point of a triptych titled, *Red Sky in Mourning*, set against a stark sky of vivid colours illuminating a wasteland of garbage.

Rarely working in one medium, Pamplin said he does not shy away from incorporating found objects into his work – even if it means refurbishing an old bed pan. A piece titled *Tailings Pond Ripples* visualizes the workers who perished when miner Roger Warren planted an explosive device on a rail car killing nine men. They are represented by plastic skeletons and sit inside the metal pan. Although the work was initially meant to comment on the tragedy, it came to encompass many of the feelings Pamplin had about the mining operations.

"It just seemed like there's nothing good about the place," he said. "You can't see a bed pan without thinking about crap."

Perhaps his most contentious Giant Mine piece is an installation highlighting the lethal amount of arsenic trioxide stored beneath the city. When he first read the report stating there was 270,000 tonnes of the toxic byproduct, Pamplin said he felt an immense sense of fear for his home and friends.

"I've grown attached to this city, I love Yellowknife ... and if we were suddenly exposed to it, that



Artist Terry Pamplin displays one of the many pieces he has created in response to the environmental fallout of mining in the territory.

he said seriously.

For the piece, Pamplin assembled a box of vials filled with arsenic – each container labeled with the name of a real Yellowknifer – and said some who saw the work were confused by its meaning.

"I went through the phone

people's names that I recognized," he said. "When people viewed it and realized what I had done ... they were saying 'what do you mean having me in there?' – they didn't quite get the message that I wasn't threatening them, I was saying I'd miss (them)."

Pamplin said he now has his eye on fracking.

"The Mackenzie Valley Watershed is such an enormous area – obviously it's rich in fossil fuels but to possibly, eventually contaminate the whole region (by) disrupting the underground tributary

know what the consequences are," he said.

"The environment is important, it's what our kids inherit, even if it's not kids, it's the next generation and the generations after that, that will have to deal with what we leave behind."

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> SATURDAY, APRIL 18

EN Coffee House & Silent/Live Auction
- with a circus twist!

St. Pat's High School, 7:00pm - 9:30 pm
Come enjoy a coffee and mingle with friends, while supporting your favourite environmental NGO. We've polished up a few classic features, and have a few new surprises in store!

> SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Backyard Compost Workshop

Meet at Ecology North, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Hands-on workshop. Help build a backyard composter and learn useful tips and tricks to get your compost cookin'!

Compost 4 kids!

Museum (Auditorium), 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Great event for kids aged 5-10. Compost-themed story-time and games for kid-friendly fun! Bring your parents.

> MONDAY, APRIL 20

Alternatives North Movie Night: Toxic Legacy (24 mins) and Contamination Nation (18 mins)
Museum (Auditorium), 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Alternatives North will show two recent special documentaries on Giant Mine by APTN and GlobalTV. A discussion on Giant Mine will follow with host Kevin O'Reilly.

> TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Yoga with Krystal Thompson

Collective Soul Space (4910 - 50th Street),
Noon - 1:00 pm

Join Professional Yoga Therapist, Krystal Thompson for a special Earth Week Yoga Class. We'll get grounded and connect with the earth in a flowing class dedicated to the beauty of our planet.

Solid Waste Forum

City Hall Council Chambers, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Join the City of Yellowknife for an informative and fun environment-focused evening, including: awards ceremony, and waste management presentations.

Arctic Energy Alliance Workshop:

Getting to Know Your House as a System

NUP (Room 215), 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Basic building science. Includes understanding of building envelopes, space heating, hot water heating, ventilation system, as well as occupant behaviour.

> WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Fish Fry

In front of the Post-Office (Franklin Ave),
Noon - 1:00 pm

Think global; Eat Local! Join us for some tasty Great Slave Lake whitefish, and some springtime sunshine.

EN and AFCY Litter Pick-Me-Up

Meet in front of Javaroma, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Pick up some litter to show Yellowknife a little TLC. Work for the planet because you belong to it. Bags, gloves, and warm beverages are provided.

Bike Tune-Up

Sombek'e Park, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Gear-up for summer by giving your cranky and tired bike a good tune-up!

> WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 continued

Amnesty International Movie Night: Defensora
NUP Auditorium, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Defensora is a compelling documentary about Canadian mining companies and human rights in Guatemala.

> THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Environmentalism: it's something to laugh about
In front of the Post Office (Franklin Ave),
Noon - 1:00 pm

Join Stephanie Yuill for a noon-hour walk as she focuses on the lighter side of the environmental movement.

Compost Facility Tour

Meet at Solid Waste Facility Main Office,
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Wanna know where your organics go? Ecology North's Compost Program Specialist, Jade Cambron, will show you the sites (and likely make a few rotten compost jokes along the way).

Solar-Panel Panel and Q&A

Museum (Auditorium), 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Join Council of Canadians, Arctic Energy Alliance, and others special guests for a presentation on solar panels in the north followed by a Q&A.

> FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Critical Mass

Meet at Ecology North, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Be a part of the Critical Mass as we reclaim the streets with a celebratory cycle. Bring your bike!

Ecology North Movie Night:

The Good Neighbour (2014)

NUP (Auditorium), 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
The final film in Earth Week's resource-extraction trilogy, featuring Maud Barlow, and a kickin' veggie-oil-fueled Ford F350, *The Good Neighbour* focuses on Canada's oil sands from a Norwegian perspective.

> SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Earth-Friendly Families

Library Meeting Room, 10:00 am - Noon
Learn about DIY green cleaning supplies and DIY green hygiene products. Bring the entire family for a social event with play and craft areas, a sing along, and snacks.

Seed Bombs 101

Library Meeting Room, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Seed bomb (noun): a small ball made up of compost, earth, clay, and flower seeds, used to beautify public/private spaces. Spread a little love, and a whole lotta flowers, with your very own EN-certified seed bombs. All required materials are supplied.

Pre-loved Clothing Swap

NUP (Auditorium), 11:30 am - 3:00 pm
Keep clothes out of the landfill by giving them away to a good home! Men's, women's, and children's clothes are all accepted provided they are clean and in good shape.



Ecology North contact info: 5013 51st Street (the yellow building next to the Tree of Peace), Yellowknife
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Litter warrior ends reign

Paul Falvo organized the first eight Earth Day cleanups

by John McFadden
Northern News Services

Earth Day means many things to many people. For lawyer Paul Falvo, this year's Earth Day means the end of an era and a changing of the guard. Falvo was one of the original organizers of the city's Earth Day Downtown Spring Clean-up.

It was back in 2008 when Falvo, then a city councillor, got together with others, including current councillor Adrian Bell who owned Javaroma at the time. They came up with a plan to clean up litter from city streets after a long Yellowknife winter.

"We were talking about litter and ways (to) improve downtown. We were always talking about having task forces or committees or studies and Adrian said, 'Look why don't we just stoop down and pick up the litter?' It was really that simple," said Falvo.

"We got volunteers together. We didn't know if anybody would show up but a lot of people did. Hundreds of volunteers have picked up tons of garbage downtown during the annual cleanup."

Sandra Nielson, the special events co-ordinator for the city will be organizing cleanups after this year's, Falvo said, so it's going to become a city project.

"I will remain involved in litter pickup in the city. I've adopted part of a street in my neighbourhood and in future I will concentrate on cleaning up that area," Falvo said.

The initial cleanup back in 2008 was held on several Wednesdays in spring and summer. Now, the cleanup is held on the last two Wednesdays in April and the first Wednesday in May, he said.

"It is important because when the snow melts, all of a sudden you can see all the litter that has been left on the ground throughout the winter," said Falvo. "The event is cost-neutral to the taxpayer. The clean-up tools - vests and gloves as well as garbage bags - are supplied by local businesses and Javaroma covers the cost of a free beverage when the workday is done."

Falvo has a particular issue with cigarette butts being thrown on the ground.

"Some people think that butts aren't litter. There are people out there who would never think of throwing a coffee cup on the ground but they'll throw their cigarette butts on



PAUL FALVO: is stepping down as one of the main organizers of Yellowknife's Earth Day Downtown Litter Clean-up.

the ground," said Falvo. "They are toxic. There are chemicals and plastic in them. Animals eat them. They take a long time to biodegrade."

Yellowknife asked Falvo what the most unusual piece of litter he picked up was.

"I thought it was a balloon," he responded. "I'll leave it to you to figure out what it really was."

Falvo has mixed feelings about stepping down but thinks it's time for some new energy and feels he has left the program in good hands.

In an e-mail, Nielson stated that she has taken over job to organize the downtown cleanup because she has lived and worked in the downtown core for all of her adult life and has taken part in the cleanup in the past because she has a "passion" about litter.

"Through discussions with Paul Falvo and other volunteers last year, I learned the basics about the cleanup. I also learned that Paul was looking to step back from the role of co-ordinating this initiative. I suggested that I could take it on through my job and it went from there," stated Nielson.

It is a natural fit for the city to assist in co-ordinating the event as it is public property that is getting cleaned, Nielson said.

It should also relieve the bulk of the setup work for volunteers who can now just focus on participating each week, she said, adding that is where their efforts are most needed and valued.

People who want to help can simply show up at Javaroma at 5 p.m. today. They will be provided with the equipment needed and can work alone or form small groups. The garbage bags will be placed the dumpster behind the Northwest building.

Before local was a trend

'Caribou Dundee' talks traditional ways, community garden in Ndilo

by Erin Steele
Northern News Services

Visibly detached from Yellowknife only by a sign, the Yellowknives Dene community of Ndilo seems like an extension of the city but, really, it was here first. After curling around the community's main street, one reaches a blue house with a blue door in which Fred Sangris – a former chief of the community – lives.

Sitting at his kitchen table, illuminated by the 10 a.m. springtime sun, Sangris talks about harvesting wild meat and gardening – about challenges of the past and realities of the present. In a way, Sangris speaks about the future.

Although the push toward "eating local" has gained momentum in the mainstream over the last several years, for

some, this has been a way of life for generations.

In the two geographically closest communities to Yellowknife – Dettah and Ndilo – households that get half or more of their meat and fish through hunting and catching it themselves was 70 and 45 per cent respectively in 2008, according to the most recently available statistics.

In Yellowknife, that figure is 10 per cent.

Sangris, a harvester, trapper and fisherman, says he gets about 40 per cent of his entire diet from what he catches himself.

"My friends call me Caribou Dundee," he exclaims.

The 56-year-old has thick, black hair that sticks up in an uncoordinated way and includes the odd white strand,

which tops a full face with purposeful stubble around his lips and on his chin. His face wrinkles into an occasional smile, revealing two front teeth that jut out-of-order from the rest.

Sangris repeats a quote he once heard from an elder: "the land is our store." And then Sangris proceeds down the isles.

He knows the texture of birch leaves in August or September makes them hard to swallow.

"But during June and July the leaves are just young ... cut them up and put 1,000 Island (salad dressing) on it. That's your food," he said.

Lily pads in some ponds, he says, can be pulled out of the water. "A big corn-like, yellow thing will come right out and you just scrape all the rough stuff off ... you can smash it up, you can put it on the grill, you can cook it like bannock. That's food."

Born to what he calls seminomadic parents, who were not educated in the colloquial sense but were raised to live off the land, Sangris spent his early years travelling and eating berries for vitamins and sustaining himself on a variety of wild meat and fish.

After a stint in residential school – where he says he saw food of many colours for the first time – he spent nine years living on the land of the Arctic tundra with nine sled dogs before moving back to Ndilo in 1970.

"I wanted to wash all the residential school away; I didn't want to be part of it; I wanted to go back to being nomadic," said Sangris.

Residential schools stripped

a generation of their culture, he says.

"They're not able to go on the land and fish and hunt and do all those things like their ancestors did – they lost that ability."

Eating local means meals based on the availability of food.

"It's not like Friday you have fish and Sunday you have turkey," said Sangris.

"One day it's whitefish, the next day it's trout, the next day it could be ptarmigan. But every day it's different foods, along with foods from the store," he said, of his diet today.

He and his wife Mary Rose Sangris supplement a lot of their foods with vegetables they buy, but are aiming to curb that habit. With the help of local gardening guru Lone Sorensen, they are about to wade into the fourth growing season of Ndilo's community garden.

'Hunt, fish, gather, grow'

Yellowknifer reached Sorensen by phone early Friday on a sunny spring morning. Her voice cracked in that I-just-woke-up sort of way.

"I'm just sitting here with my morning coffee and just adoring the plants that are already growing in my window," she said.

Along with Lila Erasmus, Sorensen, through her business called Northern Roots helped start Ndilo's community garden. Over the last three years she has watched more than 20 adults learn, or hone their skills at, growing potatoes, peas, beans, cabbages and much more.

The community garden is about enhancing innate skills,



Erin Steele/NISL photo

Former Ndilo chief Fred Sangris is a hunter, trapper and fisherman in his community. Over the last two years, he has also become a gardener, because he believes in the importance of independence and food security.

says Sorensen.

"Many people see this has the potential to be the antidote to solve our problems. The antidote to re-localizing the economy," she said.

The project, she says, is about weaving indigenous

teachings with practical gardening skills. It's about combining ancient gathering practices with more modern growing techniques. It's both a skill and a lifestyle.

"I love this: hunt, fish, gather, grow," said Sorensen.



photo courtesy of Lone Sorensen

Mary Rose Sangris is excited about the vegetables Ndilo's community garden has produced the past three seasons.



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Earth Day celebrated in Yellowknife

Variety of events to take place April 22



The wide variety of activities happening this week in Yellowknife makes it easy for anyone to get involved this Earth Day.

by Meagan Leonard
Northern News Services

The political sphere in North America was buzzing in 1970 as a generation of passionate youth took to the streets to champion civil rights, feminism and ending the war in Vietnam.

While remembered for their controversy, the decades following the Second World War were also a time of decadence and prosperity – characterized by smog-producing factories and gas guzzling sedans. It could not last forever. Laziness

and general disinterest in the environmental implications of human activity led to large oil spills, toxic dumping and loss of wilderness. Suddenly a new movement began to take shape and environmentalism was born. The energy and passion that had fuelled war protests was channeled toward a new goal – small groups joined together and the first Earth Day was held in the United States on April 22, 1970. Twenty million Americans took to the streets hosting rallies and demonstrations coast to coast. By

1990, Earth Day had made it to the global stage. It was celebrated by 200 million people in 141 countries and became the largest civic event in the world. Today the issues are different, but the cause is no less relevant and there are many for Yellowknifers ways to get involved with activities running all week long.

Boulevard for a spring cleanup on Saturday.

The event will involve litter collection, removal of invasive species, re-vegetation and trail improvement.

Bike tune-up

Temperatures continue to climb so many residents will be trading boots for sneakers and hitting the pavement – hopefully on two wheels instead of four. Bring your bike to Somba K'e Park from 5 to 7 p.m. for a tune up.

Fish fry

Ecology North is celebrating all week long with fun for the whole family. Choose local on April 22 with a fish fry in front of the post office from noon until 1 p.m.

Litter pickup

As the snow starts to melt, treasures left behind over the last few months start to resurface. The city, in conjunction with Ecology North is looking for volunteers to participate in a street cleanup. Interested participants are invited to meet at Javaroma at 5 p.m. where supplies and a free beverage will be provided.

Groups will then disperse and cover a street or alley, returning the collected refuse to dumpsters behind the North-westel building.

Cache in, trash out

Geocachers and members of the public are invited to the dumping grounds off Deh Cho

Thursday also has a number of activities to get residents out of the house. Meet Stephanie Yuill in front of the post office at noon and take a walk around town as she chats about the lighter side of the environmental movement or enjoy a tour of the new compost facility with specialist Jade Cambron.

Meet at the main office at the solid waste facility at 4 p.m. to see where organics go and how they are used. Later in the evening, those interested in making their home or business more energy efficient might want to stop by the Solar Panel Q&A at the museum.

Starting at 7 p.m. guests from the Council of Canadians and Arctic Energy Alliance will answer questions the public may have.

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Sissons students enjoy nature

OUTDOORS Feature

by Shane Magee



Northern News Services

J. H. Sissons School students were out enjoying nature through various activities at the Yellowknife Ski Club for the school's Camp de Neige between April 8 and 15.

Besides giving the stu-

dents experience speaking French outside the school setting, the camp allowed them to take part in a range of fun things such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, Dene games, making bannock over a fire pit and playing a version of hide and seek in the forest.



Inais Jackson-Grau, 7, right, leads a group of students on a trail through the woods at the Yellowknife Ski Club beside teacher Alexandre Richard.



Simon Fox, 7, pauses for a photo while putting on snowshoes.



A dusting of snow gave these three students the chance to make snow angels. Among them are Maxine Volstad, 6, left, Kara Nelson, 6, and Ava Nystrom, 8.



Wyatt Cameron, 7, skis near the Yellowknife Ski Club building.

RAGGED ASS BARBERS
CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

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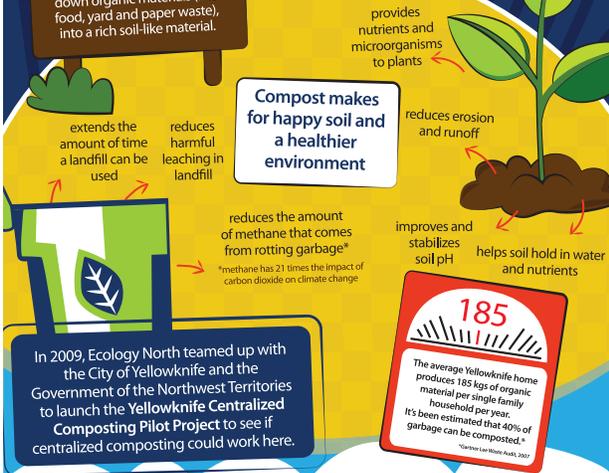
Let's look at our garbage



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

COMPOSTING

is a natural process that breaks down organic materials (like food, yard and paper waste), into a rich soil-like material.



In 2009, Ecology North teamed up with the City of Yellowknife and the Government of the Northwest Territories to launch the Yellowknife Centralized Composting Pilot Project to see if centralized composting could work here.



Since then, the Yellowknife Centralized Composting Pilot Project:

Has kept 1,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent from contributing to greenhouse gases!



That's like taking 225 cars off the road so far!

Has diverted over a million kilograms of organic waste, saving over 1900 cubic meters of landfill space.



And that's with just 30 participants.

Range Lake single family dwellings received Curbside Organics Collection in fall of 2014.

Old Town will receive this service this fall.

And by 2018, all single family dwellings in Yellowknife will be part of the Centralized Compost Program.

Help keep our compost clean by keeping these items out of your Green Cart:

- Non-compostable take-out coffee cups
- Plastic bags (only use certified compostable bags or paper bags when disposing of your compost)
- Clean cardboard
- Diapers
- Glossy magazines
- K-Cups

For a full list of What Goes in Your Green Cart, visit yellowknife.ca.

Imagine what a difference composting can make for Yellowknife then!



Phone: 669-3406
Email: swfinfo@yellowknife.ca



History feared lost by climate change



These Inuvialuit food platters, held by Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre conservator Rosalie Scott, were found at a site near Kuukpak where erosion threatened to destroy archaeological artifacts hidden in a cruciform home built near the sea.

Researchers hope to raise awareness of danger to ancient artifacts

by Evan Kiyoshi French
Northern News Services

Climate change is the buzzword of the decade, but a lesser-known result of a warming planet was the theme behind a lecture delivered by an Aurora College researcher on April 13. Archaeologist Max Friesen told a crowd of around 50 people gathered at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre that global warming is causing a "particularly horrifying" loss of history in the North.

Friesen said delivering his case to people in the city is the first step to increasing public awareness of the problem.

"The most basic thing is to get the information back to the North," he said. "To kind of raise awareness. I know people are very aware of global warming, but not everybody is aware of the impacts of global warming. And so the more awareness there is ... the more pressure there will be on governments and funding agencies to do something about it. It's causing an enormous threat and destruction to history and the archaeological record. Regional archaeologists and governments are becoming more and more aware of this as time goes by."

Thawing permafrost and melting snow means objects that have been preserved for thousands of years will be destroyed by the elements, Friesen said. The active layer of permafrost – the top portion that thaws during the summer months – is growing deeper every year.

"Some of these sites that have been pristine for millennia are exposing beautifully

preserved artifacts," he said.

Receding sea ice and permafrost bring greater human activity in the forms of mining and tourism, said Friesen. Greater human presence and industry subsequently threaten historical material, as it becomes more exposed and disturbed.

Sea levels are projected to continue rising and warmer temperatures bring stormier weather, Friesen said, which all means greater erosion of coastlines. Since the Inuvialuit set their cruciform homes – named for their cross-like shape – close to the sea, a loss of an average of one metre of coastline per year is potentially disastrous for Northern archaeology.

"This may seem obvious, but it is worth saying why we should put time and effort into it," he said. "The archaeological record holds an irreplaceable record of history."

Friesen showed slides demonstrating how the sea is clawing away coastlines around the North. He said, during large storms, the ground can erode up to 15 metres back from the original coastline.

Both Inuvialuit and Dene cultures depend on archaeology to draw links to their historical lands, said Friesen, and archaeological sites are havens for biological history, as well.

"On archaeological sites, we have a large number of animal bones, insect remains ... and other things like that, which aren't necessarily available anywhere else," he said. "If you are looking for caribou remains out on the tundra, it's just going to decompose and fall apart, but if you have

caribou brought back to an archaeological site, the matter is going to build up and the caribou bones are actually going to be preserved. We can actually use archaeological remains to reconstruct ecosystems and other aspects of biology, so it's another reason why it's really worth saving."

Rosaline Scott, a conservator working at the museum, said melting permafrost is exposing the prehistoric objects she works to restore. Scott has been preparing the remains of a nearly 14,000-year-old steppe bison – a huge mammal from the Pleistocene era – found eroding out of a riverbank in Tsighehtchic in 2007. Scott – who has also worked with Friesen's team on archaeological digs in the thawing North – said climate change threatens finds like the steppe bison which quickly degrade once they're exposed and thawed.

The bison was mummified in its entirety because it was buried so deeply within the permafrost, she said, but if it hadn't been properly preserved once it began to appear out of the ground, the rare materials – hair, skin and bones – would have been destroyed. Another artifact she's working on for display at the museum – an ice age mammoth tusk found near Paulatuk – illustrates the kind of damage caused by exposure. The tusk was buried in permafrost but the tip of it was sticking out of the ground, she said.

The end has turned grey, cracked, and isn't as useful for researchers as the rest of the ancient ivory which was preserved underground.

No yard, no problem

Community gardens allow apartment dwellers and the outdoor space-deficient to dig in

by Elaine Anselmi
Northern News Services

Community gardens are growing in numbers across the city, from the initial site in Kam Lake, to a sixth site opened last season in Niven.

"There are 239 spots available this year; that's an increase of 25 spots from last year and 50 spots from the year before," said David Taylor, Yellowknife Community Garden Collective board member.

Of those available spots, fellow board member Jennifer Broadbridge said 210 allotments have already been claimed.

When the collective started up in 1995, neither Taylor or Broadbridge were members, but they said the group grew out of an interest in gardening, despite the restrictions of small properties and a lack of access to garden space.

"There were enough people who had the idea that they'd like to have garden spots but they didn't have the property," says Taylor.

The concept has certainly gained momentum and Broadbridge said many gardeners return each year.

This year, she said 140 people will reclaim their spots – garden space is assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis but if they apply on time, gardeners are generally able to return to the same spot.

The plots are used for food gardens, said Broadbridge, and an important part of the program is giving back to the community.

The garden on the Weldeh Catholic School site shares a quarter of its garden plots with the students. The collective members collaborate with the school on the garden, helping the students care for their plots, said Taylor – particularly once school is out for the summer and students are no longer on site.

"At the other sites, gardening members are required to take a quarter of their plot and donate the harvest to a local charity," said Broadbridge.

Last year, the collective handed over 1,236 pounds of locally grown produce – predominantly greens – to charities including the Salvation Army, the Centre for Northern Families and the

YK Food Bank. That works out to 268 bags of food, said Broadbridge.

As well as sharing their yield, the collective also focuses on doling out knowledge of urban food harvesting in the city.

"We offer educational programs because we do have a lot of new gardeners," said Taylor.

Even experienced gardeners need a helping hand – or green thumb – sometimes, Broadbridge said, to help them navigate the local climate and terrain.

"I grew vegetables in Ontario and Newfoundland and I still depended on locals to tell me what I could grow here," said Broadbridge.

Taylor says there is a focus on educating the novice gardeners because they are the people with the most to learn, who will see the greatest improvement, and if successful could continue growing their own food garden.

"It's important for people to know where their food comes from," said Taylor.

"Having a garden of your own and attempting to grow food yourself, you can much better appreciate that."



David Taylor, Yellowknife Community Garden Collective board member, tends to his garden this past season.



What grows in the Northern climate was one of the things Jennifer Broadbridge, Yellowknife Community Garden Collective board member, says she had to learn when she moved to town.



NAPEG Office, Council and the Environment Committee challenge other offices and committees in the Northwest Territories to make their environment greener.

We made these easy changes and you can, too!

- Turn off lights when a room is not in use
- Reuse the same mug for coffee/tea/water
- Recycle paper, glass, plastic and cans
- Use only washable dishes and stainless steel cutlery
- Compost food that is appropriate for composting (*no meat or dairy*)
- Only print paper documents when absolutely necessary
- Attempt to conduct paperless meetings
- Purchase appliances and electronics that are certified energy efficient
- Use water jugs and washable glasses (*instead of plastic bottles*)

Happy Earth Day 2015
REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE

NAPEG - Integrity and Excellence



Northwest Territories and Nunavut Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists

WWW.NAPEG.NT.CA

Students recycle for ice cream

*Saving the animals
one juice box at a time*

by Stewart Burnett
Northern News Services

For Lux Thompson, the light at the end of the recycling tunnel isn't ice cream, it's animals.

"We're helping the environment and making sure the earth stays safe so the animals don't get hurt," said Thompson, a Grade 4 student at N.J. Macpherson School.

She's part of a 60-person strong "green team" at the school that collects recycling and compost, organizes it and cleans the buckets after.

Students often sacrifice their lunch hours to run the recycling program, which has been in place for six years.

Earlier this year, they took a trip to the city's dump, which was when they decided to start composting as well.

"Saving the earth from dirtiness" is the goal, explained Grade 3 student Anna Idris.

She had lots of ideas for alternative uses for recycling and garbage.

"You can put googly eyes on a cereal box and make a cereal face out of it," said Idris. "Then you can have a juice box as its friend."

She and her friends came up with a new slogan on the spot: "We do it for the earth, not the ice cream."

For fourth-grader Ava Mailloux, Earth Day isn't only about doing your part to help the environment, but also sometimes stepping in when others don't.

"Earth Day is when you pick up

stuff that people throw on the streets," said Mailloux.

Grade 3 student Rianna Brownlee said she enjoys the school's recycling program.

"It helps the environment," she said while sorting recycling bins.

Students at N.J. Macpherson do more than just sort juice boxes. They make art out of recycling.

Teacher Kim McKnight showed off a snack pouch made with old juice containers and a colourful bottle cap mural on the wall.

The school's healthy food program has presented students another opportunity for art: grocery store trays that carry fruit.

McKnight is currently trying to come up with a project to make use of the non-recyclable containers.

Showing the full cycle of reuse, students are using compost to fertilize their school garden this year.

"It's so important, especially for the younger kids," said McKnight about teaching recycling.

Asking if they liked recycling spurred an enthusiastic, "Yes!" from the students.

"They've worked really hard throughout the year," McKnight said proudly.

"We thought we should reward them on Earth Day, so we're going to do a big ice cream party for them."

— see more photos on the next page



Grade 4 student Lux Thompson is on a mission to save the world's animals. She does her part by recycling at N.J. Macpherson School.

We Support

Earth

Day 24/7

Congratulations
to everyone for their efforts.

DID YOU KNOW?

As of March 31, 2012 we have recycled 98% of all beverage containers that come through the bottle shop depot!

CONTAINERS & WHERE THEY ARE SHIPPED:

Plastic - Calgary, Vancouver
Aluminum - Berea, Kentucky USA
Tetra/Gables - Cheboygan, Michigan
Domestic beer bottles - Edmonton
Cardboard - Metro, Edmonton
Non-refillable glass - to Airdrie, Alta

RECYCLING REMINDERS

- Use recyclable containers when bringing in your beverage containers
- If you must use regular plastic bags, take them home with you and dispose of them
- **Take all the lids off** your beverage containers at home
- Do not bring garbage with your recyclables, **our health depends on this**
- **Please** rinse milk jugs

Caps Off!
No lids means empty bottles.

HOURS Monday-Friday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm | Saturday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday and Statutory Holidays: CLOSED

Don't Trash NWT - Recycle

The Bottle Shop Recycling Depot



Grade 3 student Anna Idris shows her ninja recycling skills.

Continued from, page 10



Shawn Dragon is glad to be wearing gloves as he inspects some leftover bits of juice.



N.J. Macpherson "green team" students including Chelsea Rowsell, left, Kali Skauge, Amna Idris, Logan Cairns, Lily Lloyd and Shawn Dragon take a break.



Rianna Brownlee, Lux Thompson and Ava Mailloux sort recycling at lunch.



Lux Thompson, Rianna Brownlee and Ava Mailloux are busy sorting recycling.



Logan Cairns crushes a can for Earth Day.

Earth Week
2015

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