

THE NORTH

AND THE RECORD BELONGS TO...GRAND FALLS!



Grand Falls Mayor Marcel Deschênes climbs a very tall ladder to measure the height of the igloo. Builders were ecstatic that the structure is more than three feet larger than the previous record held by a group in Wisconsin. PHOTO: JACQUES-FRANÇOIS LEVESQUE/THE VICTORIA STAR

Huge igloo is an unofficial world record

Fun Massive ice dome holds 300 people during festivities

MADELEINE LECLERC AND JACQUES-FRANÇOIS LEVESQUE
THE VICTORIA STAR

GRAND FALLS — Consider it the latest volley in what has become a friendly international rivalry.

A large crowd gathered last Saturday to witness the efforts of 40 volunteers to create the world's largest igloo, wrestling the title from a group of American upstarts in Wisconsin.

Volunteers have worked for weeks to create the giant igloo behind the E. & P. Sénéchal

Centre. The igloo, which boasted an internal diameter of 30 1/2 feet and a height of 17 feet and eight inches should bring the world record back to Grand Falls. An official confirmation should be received within a few weeks from the Guinness organization. The previous record announced in 2010 was 27 feet, two inches by a team in Wisconsin.

Mayor Marcel Deschênes and Mike Allen, Tobique-Mactaquac Conservative MP, were invited to take the formal measurements of the igloo. "We have put many hours of

volunteer labour to build the igloo. The team spent about a month and a half, during evenings and weekends, to prepare the blocks of ice. In all, we can say that it took 14 days to build it with the help of 40 people, compared with two igloos in the past years, which took eight days," said Eric Ouellette, engineer and founder of the project.

"The construction of this third igloo was far more intense because we wanted to set a new record. We've added three more feet in diameter to set the new record. Measurements were 17.8 feet in height and 30.5 feet

in inside diameter. It took in excess of 2,500 blocks of ice to build the igloo. At the official opening, 300 people could easily stand inside the igloo," Ouellette said.

"We know that a record can still be beaten, but I hope if this is to happen in the future, that this record remains in Canada and not abroad," Ouellette said. A Wisconsin team nabbed the world record from Grand Falls in 2010. The previous record was set in 2009 in Grand Falls.

The annual winter carnival also featured moonlight cross-country skiing, a giant snowslide, free outdoor skating, rappelling with Grand Falls firefighters, and other events.



It took 14 days to build this igloo and over 2,500 ice blocks were used to break the new record. PHOTO: JACQUES-FRANÇOIS LEVESQUE/THE VICTORIA STAR

Highway tolls near border still on table

Revenues Campbellton mayor slams idea, arguing people who want road tax don't know anything about his region

TIM JAQUES
THE CAMPBELLTON TRIBUNE

CAMPBELLTON — Should people from outside the area pay tolls to enter New Brunswick at the J.C. Van Horne and Matapeia bridges?

As unusual as the proposal seems, it is but one suggestion made to provincial Minister of Finance Blaine Higgs as a means to raise revenue. And it has not yet been ruled out, confirmed a department spokesman.

Marc Belliveau, communications director for the Department of Finance, said the suggestion to charge tolls to enter New Brunswick was made more than once at public meetings Higgs held across the province.

"As the topic was continually being brought up, and since we're there to listen to people's suggestions, the minister asked that department officials run some numbers to see if there was a business case to be made to put tolls in the province, and if so, how would it be done, etc. and where: borders, or just on stretches of new highways, etc."

Belliveau said that it was true that the suggestion had not been made at the hearing held in Campbellton. But Premier David Alward has said that he "isn't philosophically opposed to tolls", although he is not yet convinced there is a business case for them. "Because administration costs associated with tolls are quite high, and the fact that if you exclude local residents from them, at borders for example, and so on...it all of a sudden can affect the business case in a big way and make it not so attractive if

the vehicles counts aren't there." However, border tolls are still on the table for now.

"The budget will be tabled on March 22 in the Legislature and we hope to know by then whether it should be looked at in greater detail, or if it's off the table."

Belliveau said that local residents would probably be excluded from any such tolls. "Local residents", however, "would mean people from New Brunswick living near where tolls would be erected," and not residents living nearby on the other side of the border.

Mayor Bruce MacIntosh of Campbellton dismissed the idea.

"As far as the people coming from Quebec, that doesn't make a whole lot of sense because of the fact that a lot of our economy comes from the Gaspé Peninsula, Listugui and Pointe-à-la-Croix. Here are people discussing this, without knowing much about the geography of this part of the province. I think that before they make these kinds of decisions, they visit different parts of the province so that they know what they are talking about."

MacIntosh said it wouldn't be fair to collect tolls on local highways as they aren't as good as those in the south. He thought the cost of collecting tolls anywhere would be high, and that to put the province back into funds it would be better to raise the HST two percentage points for a fixed period, perhaps two years, after which it would automatically drop back down to where it was.

Belliveau said that Higgs was busy and unavailable to be interviewed on the subject.

Brutal 'attack' on dog remains a mystery

Violence Owner believes an animal went after her pit bull, but officials are perplexed by horrible incident

MADELEINE LECLERC
THE VICTORIA STAR

DRUMMOND — Department of Natural Resources officials and a local veterinarian are at a loss to explain the circumstances surrounding an alleged attack on a four-year-old pit bull in Drummond.

The dog's owner, Tammy Michaud, who lives on the Ennishore Road in Drummond, believes her dog was attacked by another animal after she let it out of her home shortly after midnight two weeks ago.

"I had just let Spud out of the house and was waiting to let him back in," said Michaud, who sent photos of the injured dog to the Victoria Star. "When I next saw him, he was covered in blood. A chunk of his back leg had been torn off," she said.

Michaud took the dog to the local veterinary clinic that same morning.

"The veterinarian looked over the injuries. I made the decision to have Spud put to sleep

because of the extent of the injuries and the costs which would have been associated towards surgical and other treatments. I couldn't stand the thought of our dog suffering more pain," she added.

"Spud was a family pet. My family is devastated," said Michaud. "The injuries were not done by a small animal. To tear a chunk off his back leg like that, the animal responsible for this had to be strong."

Michaud, who said she did not hear anything outside her home when the attack allegedly occurred, is adamant that her dog was not struck by a vehicle nor did another dog attack it.

"There were no other animal tracks so I am assuming that my dog was attacked on the road itself. There was blood on the other side of the road, as well as on the road itself and on my side of the road leading up to my door. My dog had also thrown up by the roadside possibly because

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