

Engineering group aims for world record igloo

DERWIN GOWAN
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Spy satellites might show a strange object at Grand Falls this weekend.

The Northwestern Branch of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick (APEGNB) claims responsibility for the large white dome in the Centennial Park ball field.

The group built it of ice-blocks in an attempt to beat the record for the world's biggest self-supporting igloo – 25 feet in diameter, 12 and one-half feet high.

Organizers hope the structure will draw a huge crowd to the second annual APEGNB Igloo Building Competition in Grand Falls from Friday to Sunday.

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Structure took about 2,500 blocks of ice

IGLOO ← A1

Ten teams were registered for the competition at last count, said Grand Falls assistant tourism and economic development director Denis Boucher on Wednesday.

Besides providing Grand Falls with a needed winter celebration, it will serve raise money for scholarships for engineering students, and for Habitat for Humanity, he said.

Event organizer Eric Ouellette, P.Eng., has notified Guinness World Records in London that the engineers will submit evidence to authenticate this igloo as a world record holder.

It took approximately 2,500 blocks of ice. It is nearly double the size of the igloo the group built last year, big enough for 100 to stand it comfortably.

While the public marvels at this creation, the teams entered in the competition will be busy building their own snow houses.

Boucher said the engineering group will prepare the snow in the ball field by going through it several times with snowblowers, then compacting it with a bull-dozer to turn it nice and solid so competitors can cut it into blocks.

He said that teams must use only the snow on the piece of real estate assigned to each on the ball field.

They cannot use power tools. Boucher said that last year many competitors used bucksaws.

The judges will rate the igloos after the competition ends at 10 a.m. Sunday. The criteria for judging includes construction (minimum/maximum dimensions, shape, etc.), strength (it must support a large truck tire), aesthetics (the public votes on this), and safety.

Teams can earn bonus points by spending the night in their igloos.

The winning team will have their names engraved on the base of a crystal trophy. Individual team members will receive a first, second and third place medallions.