

# Ouellette wants to bring Guinness World Record back to Grand Falls

## Volunteers needed for construction of world record igloo

By Madeleine Leclerc

In an effort to regain the status as Guinness World Records holder for the largest dome igloo, which is currently held by a Wisconsin, USA team, Zip Zag co-owner Eric Ouellette and his group of volunteers will be building a new igloo

next month and thus bring the honour back to Grand Falls.

Ouellette hopes to attract volunteers to help in his quest. "Ice block production has started and will continue until February, at two or three times a week including weekends," he said.

Once the blocks needed are ready, the igloo's construction will begin in February for approximately two weeks, at three to four hours every evening until the structure is completed.

Ice block production is located behind the E. and P. Sénéchal Centre and the igloo itself will be built in front the same structure, on the now mowed-over grass area.

"We will need approximately 4,200 blocks of ice to break the record. We have approximately 100 buckets, giving us at least seven batches to be produced in a short time," Ouellette said. "Block production is highly dependent on weather. The colder it is, the quicker the blocks freeze and the quicker we can empty them out to get another batch started." The blocks are then stored in a refrigerated trailer.

The igloo construction will start once the block production is finished and if weather conditions are acceptable.

Ouellette is a civil engineer who was born and raised in the Grand Falls area. He started the igloo building competition with goals of raising awareness to the engineering profession through the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientist of New Brunswick (APEGNB).

Ouellette started building igloos in his back-

yard for his kids for many years, leading to the idea of a competition.

Every year, the backyard igloos attracted quite a bit of traffic to his street and the popularity of one igloo brought about the idea to put together an igloo building competition.

The APEGNB igloo building competition ran from 2007-2009 and always featured a very large ice igloo onsite serving as the competition headquarters.

In 2008, Ouellette wanted to generate some visibility to the igloo building competition by attempting to beat the record for the largest igloo ever constructed with his own ice igloo design.

The attempt was successful and the igloo, with an internal diameter of 25 feet 9 inches, was featured in many magazines and newspapers all over the world, including the Guinness World Records, National Geographic, Readers Digest and the Discovery Channel.

In 2010, the APEGNB record was broken by a group from Wisconsin, USA with an internal diameter of 8.3 m (27 feet 2 inches).

Those interested in joining Ouellette and his group in their efforts to regain the record in 2011 can contact them by phone at 473-4924 or by email at [iglooinfo@zipzag.ca](mailto:iglooinfo@zipzag.ca)