

## FOCUS ON DOWNTOWN N.B.

# World record igloo constructed in Grand Falls

BY HEIDI CYR  
THE VICTORIA STAR

The igloo built for the Grand Falls Winter Carnival over the weekend is large enough to break the World Guinness Record, breaking a record held by Hydro-Quebec who built an igloo with an interior diameter of 24.2 feet.

"We worked hard to attempt to break the record and we succeeded," said Éric Ouellette, organizer of the Grand Falls igloo building competition and team leader on the attempt to build the world's largest self-supporting dome igloo.

The Grand Falls' igloo built by the Northwestern Branch of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of NB (APEGNB) measures 25.9 feet in diameter and is 13.8 feet high. On Sunday the igloo measurements were adjudicated by Mike Allen, MP for Tobique-Mactaquac and Ronald Ouellette, Minister of Agriculture and Aquaculture and MLA of Grand Falls, Drummond and Saint-André.

"The structure is quite impressive and the team worked very hard to try to break the record," Allen commented.

Documents and official measurements will be sent this week to Guinness to be validated and recorded.

"We will have to wait to get word from Guinness if we are the record holder for we don't know if someone else somewhere is attempting to break the record as well. The wait could be of a couple of weeks or months," Ouellette said.

The igloo took over 70 volunteers to build and used approximately 2 000 blocks of ice which were kept in a refrigerated trailer. The team started freezing the blocks back in November and they took about 50 hours to build the igloo with the blocks.

On Sunday Feb. 17, over 200

people crowded the igloo at one given time.

"We could have accommodated about 50 more, if we wanted," Ouellette remarked. He said he has other plans to break another World Guinness Record next year for the third edition of the Igloo competition.

### Igloo building competition

Ten different teams entered the APEGNB Igloo building competition held in Centennial Park in Grand Falls. Seven teams completed their structure to be judged for the competition. They all succeeded the strength test, which was measured by the support of the dome of each igloo. Two large truck tires measuring 250 pounds each were placed on the dome for the competition.

The igloos were also evaluated by its shape, dimensions and aesthetics. Bonus points will be awarded to team members who actually slept in their igloo overnight. Three teams had someone stay overnight in their igloo.

The team from John Caldwell School included teachers Stéphane Laforge and Gilles Michaud and students Eric Levesque and Matthew Delahavey, slept overnight in their igloo with minus 30 degree temperatures.

"It was cold but we got warmer and we were so tired from all the work we had but into building the igloo that we fell asleep as soon as we lay down," Levesque recalls. Last year's silver medal winner captured the gold, Restigouche Construction's team came out on top with their igloo which looked like the head of a seal. Falls Construction won the silver medal and SNC-SNAM from St-John, NB took the Bronze. This igloo competition took place during the Grand Falls winter carnival which took place from Feb. 14 to 17. This is the second year for the APEGNB igloo

building competition. APEGNB holds this event to demonstrate how engineering is "fun, cool and creative."

**Français :** Dans le cadre du Carnaval d'hiver de Grand-Sault tenu en février, les membres du chapitre du Nord-Ouest de l'Association des ingénieurs et géoscientistes du NB ont construit ce qu'ils croient être le plus grand igloo dans le but de se qualifier au sein du Livre de records Guinness. Leur igloo mesurait 25,9 pieds de diamètre alors que l'ancien record, détenu par Hydro Québec, était de 24,2 pieds.



Visitors to the Grand Falls winter fair examine the world's biggest igloo, built by the northern branch of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick built. The association hopes their accomplishment earns Guinness World Record

Photos by Heidi Cyr

### GREAT CAR - LOW PRICE!



### FORD FOCUS

4 cylinder, auto, air, CD, cruise, block heater, keyless entry, pwr windows/mirrors/locks, roof rack, tilt steering, sedans & wagons available.

Lots to choose

Starting at

**\$9,995**

Kms as low as 45,000!

[www.monctonautocenter.ca](http://www.monctonautocenter.ca)  
[sales@monctonautocenter.ca](mailto:sales@monctonautocenter.ca)



Mario Dugas  
Finance  
Manager



Marc Robichaud  
Sales



Mario Duquette  
Sales



Roger Carroll  
Sales

**MONCTON**  
*Auto*  
**CENTER**

1545 Mountain Rd.  
859-4724

## Excellent Job Placement



# Atlantic Business College

450-1408

FREDERICTON CAMPUS

857-3011

MONCTON CAMPUS

[www.abc.nb.ca](http://www.abc.nb.ca)