

New Brunswick engineers to attempt world record igloo

The Northwestern Branch of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick (APEGNB) will be attempting to build the world's largest dome igloo as part of the second annual APEGNB Igloo Building Competition Feb. 15 to 17 at Centennial Park in Grand Falls.

Event organizer, Eric Ouellette, P.Eng., has notified Guinness World Records in London, England, that they

will be submitting evidence of their completed ice igloo next month for authentication as a world record holder. Ouellette estimates that APEGNB's world record igloo attempt will require approximately 2,500 blocks of ice.

"Our goal is to build a self-supporting igloo which is 12.5 feet high (3.8 m) with an inside diameter of 25 feet (7.6 m), nearly double the size of the flagship igloo we built last year. When we finish construction, about 100 people should be able to stand it

in comfortably," he said.

In addition to hosting the world record attempt, the 2008 APEGNB Igloo Building Competition will also have at least 10 teams of igloo builders vying for the coveted APEGNB igloo trophy. The teams will have the weekend of Feb. 15 to build their own igloo using only traditional and environmentally friendly tools like snow shovels and saws.

Igloos will be scored according to:

- Construction (e.g., minimum/maximum dimensions, shape, etc.).
- Strength (must support the weight of at least one large truck tire).
- Aesthetics (to be determined by public voting process).
- Safety.

Bonus points will be awarded to team members who actually sleep in their igloo overnight.

The winning team will have their names engraved on the base of a dazzling, illuminated crystal trophy. In

addition to bragging rights, the individual team members will receive a first, second or third place medallion.

Visitors are encouraged to drop by Centennial Park during the competition to tour the site, check out the igloos under construction, vote for their favourite igloo and see the world record igloo attempt at the entrance to Centennial Park.

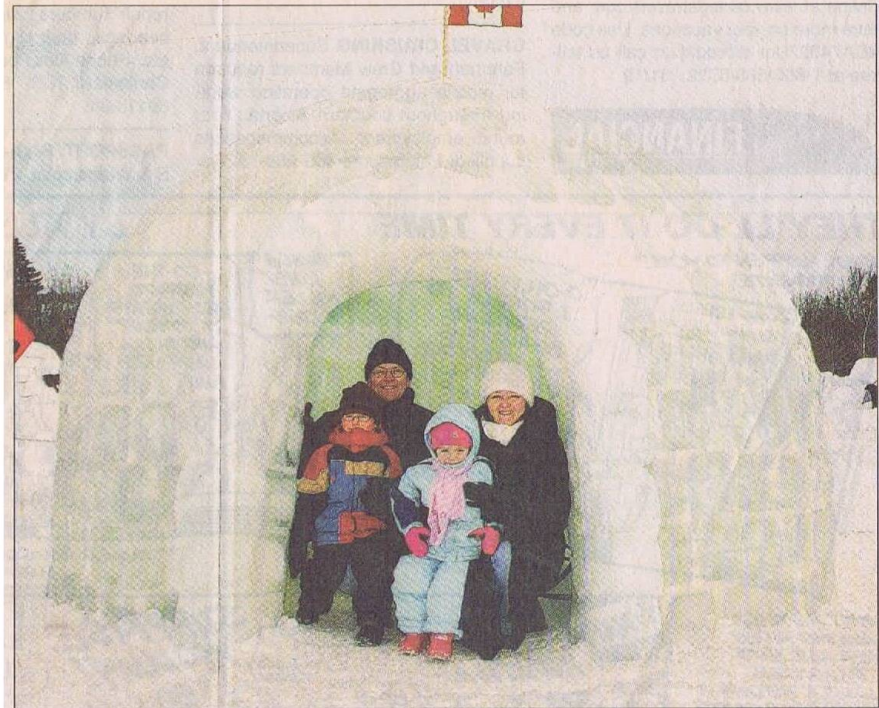
In conjunction with the Igloo Building Competition, APEGNB and the Town of Grand Falls will also be hosting a series of sporting and other community events as part of the town's winter festival. There will be an APEGNB Igloo Kids Colouring Contest for Grades 1 to 6 in five local-area schools. The artwork, which can be downloaded from www.igloocompetition.ca, will be on display during the Igloo Building Competition. Deadline for entries is Friday, Feb. 8. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

"We believe the APEGNB Igloo

Building Competition is a great way for families to understand how engineering impacts their everyday life in ways they never think about," stated Ouellette. "The igloo is one impressive example of how imagination and ingenuity can solve a practical problem. And that's what the profession of engineering is all about—finding ways to improve our lives. We hope the competition may even inspire children to pursue careers in science and engineering."

Future and current engineers, families and corporate citizens are all invited to join in this one-of-a-kind community event that will raise money for engineering scholarships and fund Habitat for Humanity's upcoming projects.

To download team registration forms, or for more information on the APEGNB Igloo Building Competition and the world record igloo, visit the official website at www.igloocompetition.ca.



Going for a new world record

Engineers will attempt to establish a new world record next month. They are planning on building a dome igloo which will surpass the one that was built last February at Centennial Park in Grand Falls. (Submitted photo)