

# World record igloo constructed in Grand Falls!

By Heidi Cyr

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 As-

sociation of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of NB (APEGNB) measures 25.9 feet and is 13.8 feet high in diameter. 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 accomodated 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.

PLEASE SEE -----» Igloo, A3

