

Igloo world record back in Grand Falls

By Madeleine Leclerc

It's official! The Guinness World Record for the largest dome igloo made out of ice is back in Grand Falls. Eric Ouellette, who built the igloo with a crew of 40 volunteers in February, was advised last week by Guinness officials that they had successfully set the new record and a complimentary certificate to commemorate the achievement would be sent to the group shortly.

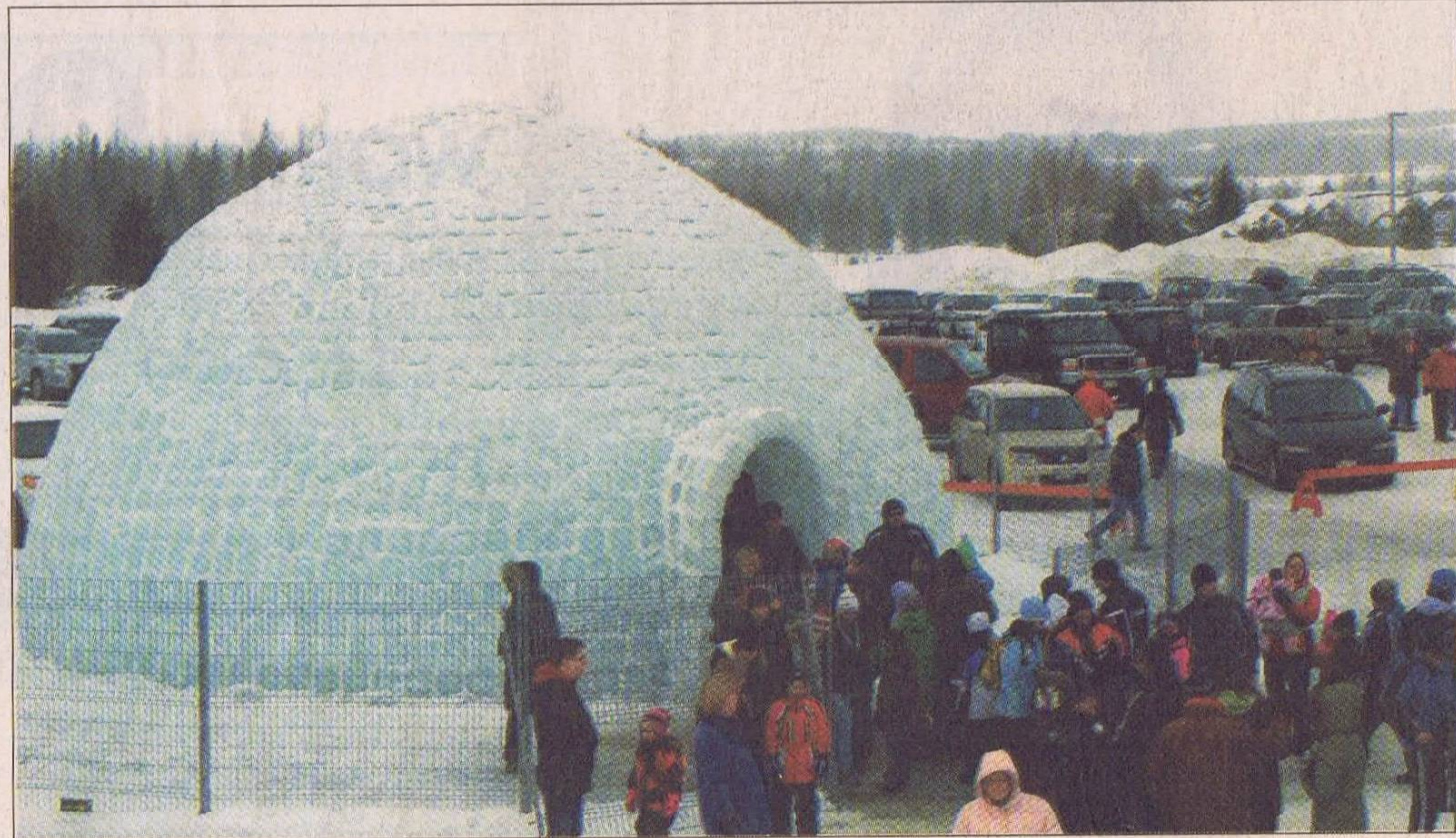
"When we decided to try and get back the world record, we wanted to go all out. After the group in Wisconsin nabbed the world record from Grand Falls in 2010, we told ourselves we wanted it back. After all, we had set the world record in 2009," stated Ouellette.

Ouellette and the group worked for weeks to create the giant igloo behind the E. and P. Sénéchal Centre. The igloo had an internal diameter of 30 and a half feet and a height of 17 feet and eight inches. The previous record was 27 feet, two inches.

"We put many hours of volunteer labour to build the igloo. The team spent about a month and a half, during evenings and weekends, to prepare the blocks of ice. In all, we can say that it took 14 days to build it with the help of 40 people, compared with two igloos in the past years, which took eight days," said Ouellette.

The engineer said the construction of this third igloo was far more intense because the team wanted to set a new record. Three feet larger than the Wisconsin structure, the volunteers used more than 2,500 blocks of ice.

"At the official opening, 300 people could easily stand inside the igloo," he added. "We know that a record can still be beaten, but I hope if this is to happen in the future, that this record remains in Canada and not abroad."



Another world record

The giant dome igloo accommodated up to 300 people last February when the official measurements were taken. These were then sent to the Guinness World Record organization which confirmed last week that the Grand Falls igloo had again won the world record. (Jacques-François Levesque photo)