

Paralympic experience

Fort Simpson teen represents in Vancouver

by Roxanna Thompson
Northern News Services
Vancouver, B.C.

Watching sledge hockey players battle it out on the ice Malorey Nirlungayuk gained a new appreciation for the sport and the athletes who play it.

"It's just so rough," she said.

Seeing a game between sledge hockey teams from Japan and Korea was one part of Nirlungayuk's Paralympic experience. Eighteen-year-old

Nirlungayuk from Fort Simpson was one of four youth ambassadors from the territory who volunteered at the Paralympics from March 10 to 22.

Like their youth ambassador counterparts who went during the Olympics, the group of four spent most of their time at Canada's Northern House. The youths rotated through a series of stations each day including acting as a greeter, working in the gallery

and handing out pins.

"I thought it was really busy, lots of people every day," Nirlungayuk said.

Her favourite part of the experience was talking to people and meeting everyone who came through.

"There was a lot of people who came up to us and talked about the North," she said.

Impressed

Many of the visitors commented on how impressed they were with the pavilion and the displays.

It was a love of volunteering that led Nirlungayuk to apply to the youth ambassador program. The idea of volunteering at a bigger event like the Olympics of the Paralympics excited her.

When she first arrived in Vancouver Nirlungayuk said she was disappointed that she wasn't chosen to volunteer at the Olympics because everyone seemed to have a good time during them. Her perception, however, soon changed.

"I figure I had more fun," she said.



photo courtesy of the GNWT, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

Debra Richards, left, of Enterprise and Malorey Nirlungayuk of Fort Simpson were two of the youth ambassadors who represented the territory at the Paralympics in Vancouver.

COMMUNITY Clips

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Carnival time

Sambaa K'e/Trout Lake

The Ndu Tah Carnival was held in Trout Lake from April 1 to 5. The carnival began with a chili bannock supper on Thursday followed by a movie night for children.

On Friday residents enjoyed a pancake breakfast followed by face painting and youth outdoor activities including egg toss, sack races and snowshoe races. In the evening youth competed in the jigging and animal calling contest.

On Saturday, adults joined in the fun with outdoor activities including log splitting, log sawing, nail pounding, tug of war and tea boiling competitions. Adults also had a chance to try jigging and animal calling in the evening.

The carnival wrapped up with an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday followed by a community feast and mini snowmobile races on Monday along with a cookout.

"There was good participation in the youth and adult categories," said Norma Jumbo, one of the volunteers.

Joyce Jumbo and Troy Lomen, the acting recreation coordinators, organized the carnival.

Happy birthday to Kaechoa Jumbo on April 6 and Tyler Jumbo on April 8.

Talking parks

Thenaago/Nahanni Butte

Parks Canada will be holding a lunchtime meeting on April 13 in Nahanni Butte to discuss the creation of the proposed Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve.

A chainsaw safety course began in the community on April 6 and will run until the 9th.

The dates will soon be announced for the spring carnival in Nahanni Butte.

Springtime at the lake

Thek'ehdeli/Jean Marie River

A spring camp is tentatively scheduled for next week at Ekahli Lake.

Signs of spring

Ka'a'gee Tu/Kakisa

A few geese and ducks have already been spotted on the open water in the Kakisa River.

Students return back to classes at the Kakisa Lake School on April 12.

Happy belated birthday to Sadee Simba on April 6.

Talking to trappers

Acho Dene Koe/Fort Liard

Acho Dene Koe First Nation members who are traditional trappers in British Columbia are encouraged to attend a meeting at the community hall on April 13 at 7 p.m.

A public meeting on the review of the Child and Family Services Act will be held on April 14 at the community hall from 7 to 9 p.m.

Belated birthday wishes go out to Hillary Deneron who celebrated on April 6.

At your service

Deh Gah Got'ie Koe/Fort Providence

Representatives from Service Canada will be in Fort Providence on April 7 and 8.

Nirlungayuk said she was able to experience a lot of things including the opening ceremonies for the Paralympics, a Vancouver Canucks game and the sledge hockey game.

"It was really fascinating to

see," said Nirlungayuk about the sledge hockey.

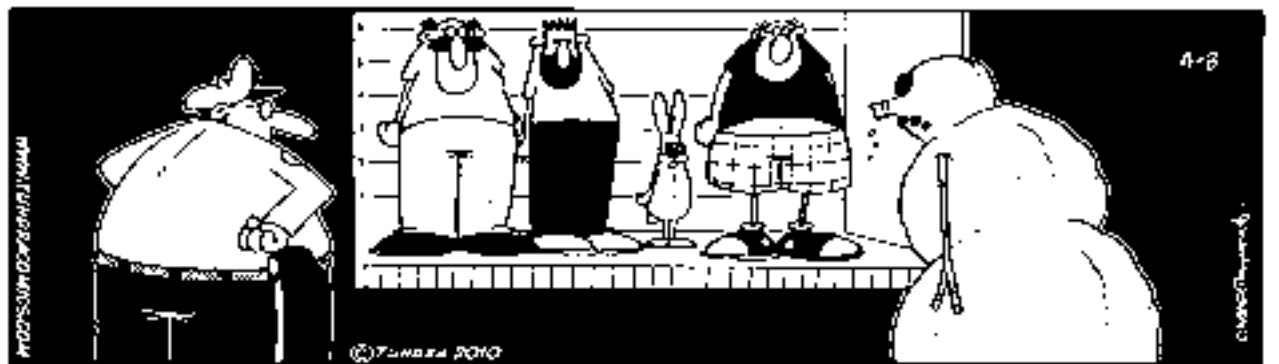
Outside the venue there was a small ice rink set up where people could try a sledge. A lot of people found it really hard, she said. Nirlungayuk said she was impressed with how fast

the hockey players can skate with a sledge.

Looking back Nirlungayuk said she would repeat her Paralympic experience in an instant if she had the chance.

"I loved it. I enjoyed it so much," she said.

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