

# Kam Lake KRONICLE



Summer/Fall 2004

## Big Year for Ecole St. Joseph School

Everyone is relaxing on summer holidays now, but this past year has been a busy and eventful one for students and staff at Ecole St. Joseph School, located in the Kam Lake riding. They have been celebrating the school's silver anniversary of 25 years.

Built in 1978, Ecole St. Joseph was the result of much foresight and planning on the part of Jack Keenan, the Yellowknife Catholic Schools Chair at that time. The area was undeveloped back then, with few residents. When the school opened its doors, it had 200 students and approximately 10 teachers. Last year the crowded halls packed in 644 students and 58 teachers.

Dave Ramsay attended school at "St. Joe's" from 1980 - 1985. He has many wonderful memories of those days and maintains a strong connection with his old school. "We had a great time," says Dave. "Classes were not overcrowded and we enjoyed the space around the school

to explore, especially the old playdeck. We had big clunky "Commodore 64's" in the computer lab and some great teachers, several of whom are still with YCS today.

"My favourite activity was floor hockey," continues Dave, "especially the intense tournaments, and my favourite class was anything taught by Mr. Dawe (Bob)." The Ramsay tradition continues today, as Dave has two nephews, Aaron and Ryan, who attend St. Joseph's, and soon niece Julianna will also be there.

In honour of Mr. Keenan and the 25 year anniversary, a statue was placed at the entrance to the school. Other activities to mark the year included an aerial photo shoot of staff and students forming the number 25 on the school field, as well as the creation of a time capsule, which is slated to be opened in another 25 years. Congratulations Ecole St. Joseph's School!

## Public Speaking Contest

### Promotes Literacy Skills

As a former student of Ecole St. Joseph School, Dave was pleased to be asked to participate as one of the judges in the school's annual Public Speaking Contest back in February.

Students in Grades 4 - 8 were asked to write a two to four minute speech on a topic of their choice. About 20 students made it to the finals, where they read their speeches to parents, students and staff at a public event.

"I was impressed at how well the students spoke and with the topics they chose," said Dave. "This is an excellent way to help young people gain confidence and



Grade 6 student, Cara Dormody, shows the certificate she won in the Speaking Contest at Ecole St. Joseph School. She was also presented with the medal she is wearing. Three other winners in the background are (l-r) Joel Neudorf, Fraser Oliver and Jordan McGowan.

skills to speak to large audiences. We didn't have this when I went to school here. It would've been fun."



Usingi Drive is the name of the newest street currently under construction in the Kam Lake Industrial Park.

## Industrial Park Expansion

Looking for a lot with a bit of a view? The new subdivision under construction in the Kam Lake Industrial Park might be just what you're looking for.

Perched on the hillside north of Deh Cho Boulevard (the first right as you come down Kam Lake Road), the area includes a new street called Usingi Drive. It is accessed by extensions of Drybones Road, Etthen Drive and Taltheilei Drive. According to the City, no plans are in the works for a direct access from Kam Lake Road.

# Tracking the Issues

As your MLA for Kam Lake, Dave wants to make sure your tax dollars are being spent appropriately by our territorial government. He actively tracks issues that raise a red flag in his mind, as well as issues raised by constituents and other members of the community. The following lists issues and points that Dave made in his Member's Statements in the House since the start of his term. If you wish to see the entire statement, go to [www.daveramsay.ca](http://www.daveramsay.ca) or call the office and we'll provide you with a copy.

## Access Road Connecting Highway 3 and Kam Lake

- Airport Road gets so congested during peak traffic hours that residents in the area avoid it, as do many potential customers of businesses along the route.
- The number of large trucks and service vehicles using Airport Road can create a safety problem for people who bike, run or walk along the road.
- In efforts to ease the traffic on Airport Road, the City of Yellowknife would like to construct an access road from Highway 3 to the Kam Lake Industrial Park. The first issue is the availability of the land to construct this much needed strategic piece of road infrastructure.
- I would hope that this government is not getting in the way of the City of Yellowknife and their ability to get this initiative started. We must do whatever we can to help facilitate this project.

## Proposed Mackenzie River Bridge

- It causes me a great deal of concern that this government is going down the path of building a bridge without all the answers to many questions. I should state for the record that I am a supporter of putting a bridge across the Mackenzie River. However, we should, at the very least, get a handle on some key concerns.
- I have not seen a design. It seems to change on the fly. I also have some concerns regarding the financial arrangement for this project and how other initiatives brought on by this government, such as the Taltson hydro project – what impact that will have on the possible toll revenue for the bridge project?
- I have many questions surrounding the cost and viability of this project. The last cost we have seen is in the neighbourhood of \$57 million. How sound is this number and, again, what exactly is being proposed?



Constituents Dickie Bernatchez and Jennifer Poissant came out to see Dave at the Kam Lake constituency meeting on June 10.

## Delivery of Health Services in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre

- I received a petition signed by over 100 inmates incarcerated at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. They cited some serious deficiencies with the delivery of health services at the centre. I drafted a letter to the Minister asking for swift action to their concerns and that he keep me apprised of what was happening.

- I learned through an outside source that, as a result of the petition, a service audit was commissioned by his department. The service audit was to be conducted by an outside professional from Correction Services Canada and the departmental corrections investigator.
- The concerns about the delivery of health services at the centre are coupled with many other issues at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. The staff morale continues to suffer, even though most had hoped the change of scenery in the new building would help. My concern is for the safety of the staff and of the inmates at the centre. Under the current circumstances, it may be just a matter of time before a serious incident takes place.



While golf is his main game, Dave is always happy to pick up a bowling ball if it means raising money for a worthwhile cause like the Kids Help Phone. According to organizer and former Kam Lake constituent, Lynell Broadbent, more than 250 bowlers raised over \$49,000 at the annual Yellowknife bowlathon in March.

## Resource Development Trust Fund

- While Ottawa continues to milk us on resource royalties, as they have for years, can we not tell them to start putting this money aside for us in trust so we can benefit from it in the future?
- The state of Alaska has a permanent trust fund that pays an annual dividend to each Alaskan resident, which can vary from year to year from \$1,300 to \$2,200. There are over 600,000 residents in Alaska and their trust fund is based on oil and gas revenues.
- The NWT is rich in oil, gas, diamonds and other precious metals and certainly a trust fund here for our 42,000 residents would only make sense. The establishment of a trust fund would be an incentive for people to move here and to stay here, and it would help offset the high cost of living faced by all residents of the Northwest Territories.

## Det'on Cho Diamonds Loan Guarantee

- I have a lot of questions regarding the grant in kind of \$120,000 to forego the interest on a \$2.6 million loan guarantee for Det'on Cho Diamonds.
- I am a supporter of economic development and business here in the Northwest Territories, and will continue to be, but we must make sure that any dealings are as transparent and as upfront as possible. I look forward to working with the Premier, Cabinet and my other colleagues here over the next four years to ensure that we safeguard public funds to the best of our ability.

# Keeping in Touch

Staying in touch with the various community groups and organizations is important. Dave has attended meetings with the following groups over the past few months, several of which occur on a regular basis:

- ✓ Aurora College Board of Governors
- ✓ Yellowknife City Councillors
- ✓ Yellowknife Education District #1
- ✓ Yellowknife Catholic Schools
- ✓ Commission Scolaire Francophone
- ✓ Northern Arts and Cultural Centre Board
- ✓ NWT Teachers' Association
- ✓ Akaitcho Assembly (N'dilo)
- ✓ NJ MacPherson School, Principal
- ✓ Ecole St. Joseph School, Principal
- ✓ NWT Construction Association

MLAs are often asked to participate in various award ceremonies, presentations or community events. Sometimes the schedule gets pretty packed, but he tries to

attend as many as possible. Some of the events he was able to attend include:

- ✓ Ecole St. Joseph Public Speaking Contest
- ✓ RCMP Awards
- ✓ Caribou Carnival Royalty Contestants Luncheon
- ✓ Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Awards
- ✓ City of Yellowknife Heritage Award evening
- ✓ Yellowknife Catholic Schools Career and Technical Centre opening
- ✓ NJ MacPherson School – job shadowing for a day with Kathy Harvey's kindergarten class
- ✓ National Diamond Round Table reception
- ✓ Sport North Awards Dinner
- ✓ Premier's Awards for Excellence
- ✓ 8th Annual Seniors Walk
- ✓ Ecole St. Joseph School Farewell Dinner for Grade 8 students
- ✓ Kids Help Phone Bowlathon

## What's With All the Committees?

Committees are an essential part of the Legislative Assembly, as they allow Members to look at issues in more detail. Most MLAs sit on one or two of the four Standing Committees and/or the Board of Management. In broad terms, this is what they do:

### Board of Management (5 members)

- Manages the operation of the Legislative Assembly, which includes the staff in the Office of the Clerk, as well as the building and grounds.
- The Chairperson is always the Speaker.

### Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight (11 members)

- Includes all 11 Regular Members (no Cabinet Ministers).
- Reviews issues which have government-wide implications, including the budget and financial statements.
- Conducts more detailed reviews of the Executive Offices, the Financial Management Board Secretariat, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Finance.

### Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development (6 members)

- Reviews policies, budgets, plans and performance of the following departments: Public Works & Services; Municipal & Community Affairs; Resources, Wildlife & Economic Development; Transportation.

### Standing Committee on Social Programs (5 members)

- Reviews policies, budgets, plans and performance of the following departments: Health & Social Services; Education, Culture & Employment; Justice; NWT Housing Corporation.

### Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures (5 members)

- Reviews how elections, plebiscites or votes in the NWT are conducted.
- Reviews and makes recommendations on the implications and impacts that self-government agreements will have on the Legislative Assembly.



Dave met up with constituent Jim Philip at the opening of the Kimberlite Career and Technical Centre, located across from St. Patrick's High School. The centre is geared towards trades training for middle and high school students, but courses will also be offered to the community at large. Jim, known for his hearty Scottish accent and humour, is one of the electronics instructors at the centre.



## Note from Dave

Time has gone quickly since the November election and I'm happy to say that I have enjoyed every minute of it. There have been three Sessions of the Legislative Assembly so far this year – one of which was focused on the 2004-2005 GNWT Budget. That was a busy Session, with binders and binders of information to read and digest in a short time. It's important to look at it thoroughly, though. I want to know where our government dollars are going and make sure they are being spent responsibly.

Along with the general orientation that comes with a new job, I have also been active on three committees. Part of the job of being an MLA is serving on one or more of the various committees. The three that I serve on are Accountability and Oversight, Governance and Economic Development and the Board of Management. (Sound confusing? See the article on committees in this newsletter that explains what each one is all about.) I am also Deputy Chair of Caucus and Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole.

The other main part of an MLA's job is helping constituents, and that is where I try to spend my time. People call for many different reasons and I try to help sort out their concerns. As your MLA for the riding of Kam Lake, I want to hear about any issues or concerns you may have, as well as any suggestions. The many ways to get in touch with me are listed below, and – unlike most politicians – I answer my own phone at work, so feel free to call.

Thank-you for taking the time to read my first newsletter. The Kam Lake Kronicle will let you know what I've been doing as your MLA, what's coming up at the Legislative Assembly and what's going on in the Kam Lake riding.

The next Sitting of the Legislature will be in October. Until then, I hope you have had a safe and enjoyable summer.

### Contact Dave ...

David Ramsay, MLA Kam Lake  
 PO Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
 Office: 669-2296  
 Cell: 444-4896  
 Fax: 873-0276  
 Email: david\_ramsay@gov.nt.ca

Constituency Assistant:  
 Lynda Comerford  
 Tel: 669-2295  
 Email: lynda\_comerford@gov.nt.ca

## Legislative Assembly Tours

Monday - Friday  
10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm  
Sunday 1:30 pm

## Next Sitting of the Legislative Assembly

October 13 - November 4, 2004

## Legislative Assembly website

[www.assembly.gov.nt.ca](http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca)

## Prospects North Conference

September 14 - 16, 2004  
Yellowknife

## NWT Statutes, Regulations and Rules of Court

You can find all this information at  
[www.justice.gov.nt.ca](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca)  
(then click on legislation).

## These organizations are out there to help the consumer. Contact them for information or assistance:

Better Business Bureau  
(613) 237-4856

Consumer's Association of Canada  
(613) 238-2533

## Volunteer!

If you're looking for information on volunteering, check out [www.volunteernwt.ca](http://www.volunteernwt.ca). It lists a directory, opportunities and events. You can also call Volunteer Canada toll free at 1-800-670-0401.



For those who don't already know – Dave and Amanda quietly went off to Victoria in May and got married.

# Congratulations to Constituents

## Athletic Award

Kevin St. Germaine received recognition as Youth Male Athlete of the Year at the Sport North Awards Banquet in May. Congratulations Kevin!

## Minister's Awards

Sean Magee and Jonathan Millard received the 2002-2003 Minister's Award for Academic Achievement. These awards are for attaining the highest mark in the NWT in various departmental examinations. Sean was recognized for his work in Biology 30 and Jonathan was recognized for Physics 30 and Social Studies 30.

## Mushing Champ

John Beck and his team of top notch dogs won Best Yellowknife Team as well as Overall Champion in the NMI Mobility Canadian Championship Dog Derby during Caribou Carnival.



Welding instructor Doug Wourms, who is also a Kam Lake constituent, shows Dave some of the finer points of arc welding in the state-of-the-art welding lab at the new Kimberlite Career and Technical Centre.



Manuel Jorge and his son Martin dropped by the Legislative Assembly for Dave's constituency meeting in June.

## Volunteer Recognition

Kathy Yurris was recognized for all her volunteer time and effort in the community. She was a Territorial Recipient of the 2004 Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

## Attaboy

Three Kam Lakers – Grant Beck, Sam Perrino and Warren Palfrey – headed south of the border this past winter to the AttaBoy 300 World Cup Sled Race in Bent, Oregon. Grant placed third, Sam placed fifth and Warren came in thirteenth place. There's no doubt that Kam Lake breeds some mighty fine racers!



Kenneth Hoddinott shows Butthead that he's given him the boot. Quitting smoking was a big win in itself, but Kenneth also found out that he was the grand prize winner of the Quit and Win NWT 2004 smoking cessation contest. The prize was an all-inclusive one week trip for two to Mexico. Congratulations Kenneth!

## Anchorage to Nome

Sam Perrino also challenged the famous Iditarod, an 1800 km dog race that takes place each year in Alaska. This was the first long distance race for the 26 year old Kam Lake constituent, who was among 34 other rookies in the race. Congratulations for taking up the challenge!

## GNWT Long Service Awards

5 years	Tim O'Loan	Derek Bran
	Darrel Mack	Josephine Mackenzie
	Ranilo Ramirez	Clayton Ravndal
	Riel Vasas	Wendy McPherson
10 years	Marc Gauthier	Bonnie Lynch
15 years	Donald J. Smith	Cheryl Fennel
20 years	Harvey Hopkins	Caroline Johnson
	Jo-Ann Simpson	

## Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Awards of Excellence

Paul Davies, an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer for First Air, was one of two people to receive the honour of Top Graduating Apprentice for 2002/2003. This award is presented to the apprentice who achieves the highest mark in their final year of technical training.

Ty Burton was recognized with the Top Journeyperson Plumber Award. JSL Mechanical Installations presents this award each year to the journeyperson who finishes at the top of their class in plumbing and welding. Ty also made it on the 2002-2003 Apprenticeship and Occupational Intern Honour Roll as a Fourth Year Plumber/Gasfitter 2nd Class.

Three more constituents made the 2002-2003 Apprentice and Occupational Intern Honour Roll:

Nathan Doering	Fourth Year Automotive Service Technician
Ian Gaffney	Third Year Automotive Service Technician
Terry Joy	First and Second Year Carpenter