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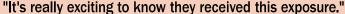




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Jamie Okatsiak, left, and Samuel Pauppa of the Arviat Film Society give the professional gear at Productions 4 éléments in Quebec City a try in February 2016.

# One proud mentor

#### Billard thrilled as young society members are selected for film festival

"It's

something

I'm certainly

proud to

have been

a part of."

Gord Billard

by Darrell Greer Northern News Services

This is an exciting week for members of the Arviat Film Society.

In February 2016, Gord Billard accompanied two youth society members, Jamie Okatsiak and Samuel Pauppa, on a trip to Quebec The two young men were making a documentary comparing the struggles of youth in Quebec City to those of youth in the North, with the focus being the community of Arviat.

Though Billard said he only stayed in Quebec City with the two for a week before having to return to Arviat, they remained in Quebec for an additional week to complete work on the documentary with Productions 4 éléments.

He said the project, Makkuktut (Youth), was greatly helped along by the efforts of Vincent l'Hérault of ArctiConnexion.

"I don't know who submitted the documentary to the Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, but I suppose it was one of those two companies who aided the boys with its production," said something as big as a film Billard.

"It was accepted for at 5 p.m. this past Saturday

evening, Nov. "It was a chore getting the boys down

there due to the weather we had in the region this past week, but they even-tually made it." Billard said

it's the first time any video produced

the Arviat Film Society has received this level of recognition and also the first time a society production has been included in a film festival's lineup.

"We've won awards in the past for our bullying videos and for our safety videos with Worker's Compensation, and to get all that recognition was great, but this is big," he said.

"A lot of people are going to see this documentary and it's always interesting to see how your work fares in

Billard said it's cool to screening and it was shown think of how many people

> documentary and gain an understanding of what life is like in the North for youth, from their own perspective. He said both Okatsiak and Pauppa pleased are and excited about Makkuktut

screening at the

festival. "They're still involved with the Arviat Film Society, but they're adults now with jobs and serious responsibil-ities," he said. "Jamie (Okatsiak) is

engaged to be married and Sam (Pauppa) is working at Meadowbank down in Baker Lake, so they're a lot busier now than they used to be when they were working so much with the society.

"But this will certainly provide motivation for them to keep working on film and looking for stories to do

I'm hoping they came back from Winnipeg filled with all kinds of ideas for new videos.

said Billard Okatsiak and Pauppa have their work recognized means a great deal to him personally.

"It's something I'm certainly proud to have been a part of ... It's right up there with Jordan Konek, who was a student of mine and who I often reference as one of my success stories whenever I talk about my work in the North," he said.

"That's actually one of the ways I measure whether or not I'm doing a good job, in how successful the students are, and, when you see former students winning scholarships, winning prizes for their videos and obtaining high-profile jobs, it validates what you do.

"And it tells me that I. and the people who I work with, are doing something right because these students are experiencing significant and remarkable success."

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# Thirty-four years of pride and commitment

#### Rankin firefighter honoured for three decades of service



Longtime volunteer Michael Aksadjuak, right, becomes overwhelmed with emotion as fellow firefighters Kyle Lowe and George Aksadiuak (Michael's son) hold the special plaque Michael is being presented with for his 34 years of service to the local department, as Assistant Fire Marshal Nathaniel Watson looks on from behind, in Rankin Inlet on Nov 18

by Darrell Green Northern News Services
Kangiqliniq/Rankin Inlet

It was an emotional evening as firefighter Michael Aksadjuak was recognized for his 34 years of commitment to the Rankin Inlet Volunteer Fire Brigade by his peers and members of the community Nov. 18.

A giant feast was held following the ceremony, and then the community got to kick-up its heels in celebration of Aksadjuak's achievement during an eveninglong square dance. Rankin Fire Chief Mark Wyatt said the

decision was made to hold the event at this time because the Office of the Fire Marshal was finally able to present Aksadjuak with his 30-year pin.

He said that's a pretty big milestone, so it only made sense to do something public to mark the occasion.

"We decided to celebrate, as a department, Michael's 34th year in the fire service," said Wyatt.

"He received a presentation from Assistant Fire Marshal Nathaniel Watson, and he also received a couple of certificates and his 30-year pin before we presented him with our plaque on behalf of the department.

'We decided to invite the community out to share in Michael's celebration, and the best way to do that is to hold a feast, so we organized our first feast and square dance and it went pretty well."

Aksadjuak, who was joined by his wife Maryanne and his son George, who are also members of the Rankin department, became overwhelmed with emotion when the local department's plaque was presented to him.

Wyatt said it was quite the moment for the 150 or so community members who attended the event.

He said there probably would have been even more people there if not for the fact they were competing with a bingo game that featured a \$15,000 jackpot.

"The same people within the department who help out with everything else made a big effort in organizing the evening for

"We had about 12 members at the feast, different people helped with the cooking, and we held a team-building butchering exercise during our final practice night

before the event.
"We had a big menu for the feast, which included char chowder, caribou (tuktu) stew, caribou chili, polar bear and a couple of turkeys among other items.

"An event like this is a good morale

booster for the department because there's a sense of pride when you have a member who has put in 34 years, and it was important for us to recognize Michael in a way that would have a big impact on him, and it did, as he was very proud to have something like this done in his honour."

Michael, 54, said his 34 years with the fire service seem to have passed by in the blink of an eye.

He said the ceremony made him feel very proud and excited.
"A few former firefighters came up to

congratulate me and I cried with them,' said Michael.

"I worked with an awful lot of fellow firefighters during my 34 years with the department.
"I'm very happy our department is run-

ning so good right now.

"It's a lot different now than it used to be because I have a lot more help and a much better fire chief here, as well.

Please see page 7



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# Knights may prove golden to NHL owners

**DARRELL** 

**GREER** 

Northern News Services

If things continue in the NHL season as they've gone to date, and the Las Vegas Golden Knights qualify for the

playoffs in their first year as an expansion team, NHL owners may be placing pressure on their general managers to start modelling their rosters following much of the same plan.

The Knights, so far, are proving an NHL team does not necessarily need high-priced superstars to succeed in the league.

However, how far they go in the playoffs may be a different matter all together.

During the past decade, teams like the Pittsburgh Penguins with the likes of Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Phil Kessel, the Chicago Black Hawks with Jonathan Toews, Marian Hossa and Patrick Kane. and the Anaheim Ducks led by the terrific duo of Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry have all had their names engraved on Lord Stanley.

Those are all tough acts to follow, but should the Golden Knights get through a round or two of the playoffs, teams are going to rethink their strategy when compiling their rosters.

The Knights put together a solid core of average to slightly above average NHLers backed by solid goaltending and a deep defensive core.

And, make no mistake about it, a couple of members of that deep defensive core, and possibly a forward or two, will be moved by the NHL trade deadline to deepen the team's already fairly impressive prospects pool.

Indeed, general manager George McPhee did an excellent job of assembling the Golden Knights.

In fact, McPhee was vicepresident and director of hockey operations for the Vancouver Canucks squad that won a divisional championship and made it to the 1994 Stanley Cup Final

before losing a heartbreaking series to the New York Rangers.

The Washington Capitals also made their only Stanley Cup

Final appearance in 1997 under McPhee's guidance, and racked up eight 40 or more win seasons while capturing seven Southeast Division championships with McPhee at the helm.

McPhee also drafted Alex Ovechkin for the Capitals, but for all the star power he had in Washington over the

years - Ovechkin, Jaromir Jagr, Sergei Gonchar, Peter Bondra, Michael Nylander, et al - he was never able to get the Capitals their first Stanley Cup, which they're still looking for today.

Could McPhee have learned a lesson or two about having a roster top heavy in high-priced talent during his time in Washington?

If McPhee takes the Knights into the playoffs, Marc-Andre Fleury gets hot between the pipes, and the team actually makes some noise, there will be a number of NHL superstars thanking their lucky stars that they already signed long-term lucrative deals with their current clubs.

It may also have teams like the Toronto Maple Leafs looking at the signing of players such as Connor McDavid to an eightyear, \$100-million contract, and them turning to their own young stars such as William Nylander, Mitch Marner and Auston Matthews to exclaim I don't think so, while teams like the Montreal Canadiens will be eating contracts such as star goaltender Carey Price's eight-year deal averaging an annual cap hit of about \$10.5 million for a very, very long time with little or nothing to show for it.

While it's been a load of fun to watch an expansion team such as the Golden Knights racking-up the wins, there could be a whole lot more riding on the team's success than a trip to the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Who would have thunk it?

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#### Youth of the week



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#### SABINA IYYIRAO AND TIFFANY PUTULIK

Community: Naujaat Subject: Tuugaalik High School

lyyiraq, left, Grade 9, and Tiffany, Grade 11, are this edition's youths of the week for their enthusiasm and taking part in their school's extracurricular activities. Keep up that great spirit, girls.

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Beverly and Qamanirjauq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) executive director Ross Thompson, from left, and board members Ron Fatt. Napoleon Denechezhe. Ernie Bussidor. Vicki Trim, and former chair David Kritterdlik go over entries into the BOCMB's 2017 Poster and Prose contest in Winnipeg, Man., on Nov. 16.

#### Caribou poster winners

Arviat/Baker Lake

Students from Arviat and Baker Lake made a huge showing in the 2017 Beverly and Qamanirjauq Caribou Management Board's (BOCMB) Poster and Prose contest during the BQCMB's 84th meeting in Winnipeg, Man, earlier this month.

The contest is the second phase of the BQCMB's campaign, You Can Make a Difference – Caribou for the Future, that launched in March.

Phase I of the campaign includes a video, posters and fact sheets on three themes: respectful caribou harvest, the importance of harvest reporting, and cumulative effects.

Phase II – the Poster and Prose contest – required students from Grades 7 to 12 to focus their essays and posters on one of the three themes.

The contest, which received 37 entries from Kivalliq schools, was made possible with funding from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's Nunavut Wildlife Studies

Listed below are the Kivalliq students, their community and school who took home awards from the contest. Grades 7 to 9:

First place essay: Respecting Caribou, Johnathan Campbell, Grade 7, Qitiqliq Middle School, Arviat Second place poster: Keep our Caribou Populations

Sustainable, Cayla Kablutsiak, Grade 8, Qitiqliq Middle School, Arviat

Third place essay: Respectful Caribou Hunting, Irend Komak, Grade 7, Qitiqliq Middle School, Arviat.

Please see page 16



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Kyle Lowe, left, and Fire Chief Mark Wyatt, right, present Michael Aksadjuak with a beautiful plaque from the department to recognize his 34 years of volunteering with the Rankin Inlet Volunteer Fire Brigade on Nov. 18.



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Samuel Pauppa, left, and Jamie Okatsiak of the Arviat Film Society are interviewed by Jean-Philippe Vachon, front left, Adrien Danielou of Productions 4 éléments and Vincent l'Hérault of ArctiConnexion (sitting on floor) in Quebec City in February of 2016.

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# "I couldn't help but cry"

#### Continued from page 4

Michael said he still enjoys every single aspect of being a volunteer firefighter.

He said doing something good for his community always feels good, but there's more to his dedication to the department than that alone.

"It's more like the light of the community right now, and having so many people happy that I made it through my 34th

"I've seen their smiling faces, and I'm still shaking hands with many people in the town.

'I couldn't help but cry a bit when I saw the awesome plaque that our department was presenting to me.

"It meant a lot to me to have my wife and son part of the department and being there for the ceremony, and I hope the evening was something that they will keep inside themselves forever.

Michael said he had no idea what the plaque he was going to receive would look

He said it's hard to put into words what he felt when he saw what was being presented

"A lot of men and women have saved a lot of property and lives in Rankin over the years as firefighters, and our crew members still ask me what to take on a call, what they need to use, and what they need to learn, and I'm always available to them.

"I can still run a little bit, so I can go a little bit longer with our fire service.

"I'm still a few years away from the end of the line as a volunteer firefighter in Ran-



2017 KIA Election - Election Notice An election will be held for the position of Vice-President and Director of Naujaat, Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove.

#### Official Candidates:

#### Vice-President

- Harry Aggark
- Tagak Curley
- Raymond Ningeocheak Simon Okpatauyak
- Paul Angutetuar Helena Malliki John-Ell Tinashlu
- Director for Naujaat
- Director for Rankin Inlet
- Cedric Autut Iack Kabvitok
- Patrick Kaglik
- David Ooloovuk
- Hamish Tatty Bernadette Tutanuak
- Tommy Makkigak
  - Alana Kuksuk
  - - Louie Oklaga

**Director for Whale Cove** 

Agatha Ekwalak

Patricia Enuapik

Simon Enuapik

Micheal Angutetuar

Advance Vote will take place on Monday, December 4, 2017 10:00 am - 7:00 pm Election Day will take place on Monday, December 11, 2017 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Advance Vote Location **Election Day Location** Community Arviat Hamlet Chambers Mark Kalluk Hall Baker Lake Hamlet Office Community Hall Chesterfield Inlet Hamlet Gym Hamlet Gym Coral Harbour Community Hall Naujaat Hamlet Chambers Hamlet Chambers Rankin Inlet Hamlet Chambers Singiituq Complex Hamlet Chambers Whale Cove Hamlet Chambers

Returning Officers: Gabe Karlik /Lucy Maynard Tel: 867-645-5742 / 867-645-5747 Email: gkarlik@kivalliqinuit.ca / lmaynard@kivalliqinuit.ca Fax: 867-645-2348 Toll Free: 1-800-220-6581