

Highway repairs ongoing

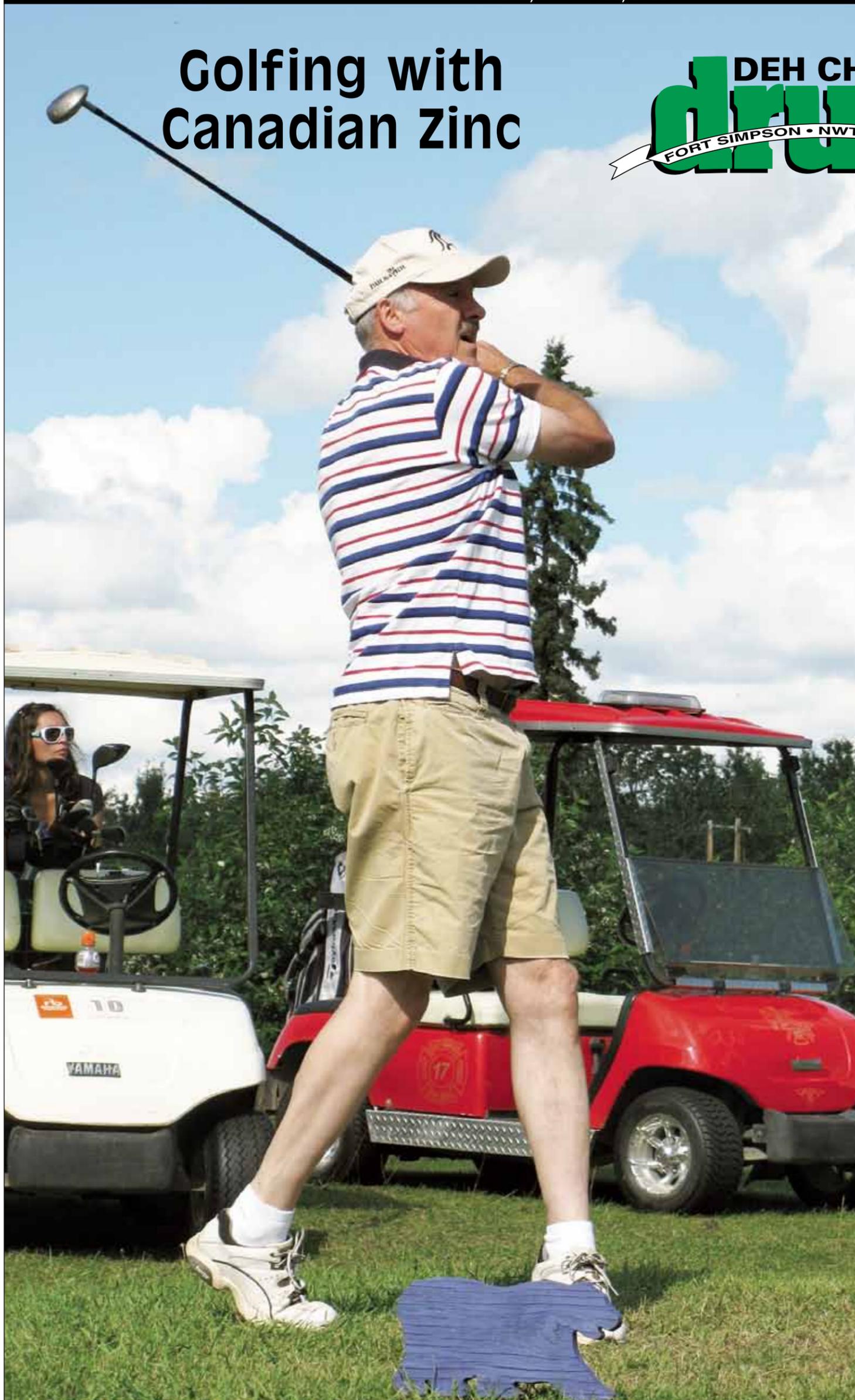
Water might be to blame for Highway 1 chipseal damage: GNWT

Volume 18 Issue 1

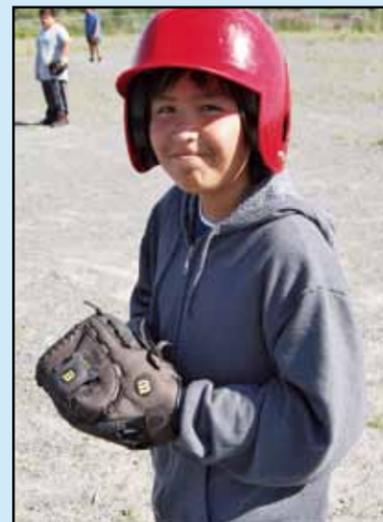
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011

75 CENTS

Golfing with Canadian Zinc



Fort Liard's young athletes compete in Dettah



Community says goodbye to church built in 1923



Fort Simpson hydrant maintenance overdue

Ted Grant aims for the flag while driving his ball on hole seven during the Canadian Zinc Open. See inside for more on the two-day golf tournament at the Seven Spruce Golf Course in Fort Simpson.

Roxanna Thompson/NNSL photo

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A dream riddled with potholes

Northern News Services

There seems to be a dream among many in the Deh Cho that involves seeing the end of gravel highways.

In this dream the gravel portions of highways 1 and 7 would be chipsealed, creating a smooth highway surface loop through the region. Those who yearn for a bump-free drive would have thought their dream was beginning to come true when the Department of Transportation announced 70 kilometres of Highway 1 was going to be chipsealed in 2010.

Only 40 km were actually laid down that year but it was a glorious stretch of road. If you were approaching it from the Fort Simpson side, the chipseal was like a god-send after seemingly endless kilometres of dusty and often bumpy gravel. The chipseal was smooth, quiet under tires and a delight to drive on.

The chipseal, however, soon began to crack, along with the dream. One by one, small sections of the chipseal started to come apart. As the chips came loose and revealed the undersection of the highway, the areas soon grew and turned into potholes or rutted soft spots that force tires into set tracks.

Drivers were left wondering where it all went wrong.

As it turns out, a lot can go wrong with chipseal. First of all, the roadbed has to be in just the right condition or it won't support the chipseal surface.

Secondly, the chipseal has to be laid in a water-free environment. If any water, even moisture in the air on humid days, is present during the 10 days after the chips are laid and the oil is curing, the chips

can later unravel.

Even if the roadbed is sound and the chips are laid in a dry spell, success isn't guaranteed. Trucks over a certain weight have to be kept off the road in the spring as the frost is coming out of it or their weight can damage the surface.

THE ISSUE:

Chipsealed highway

WE SAY:

Previous gravel stretch was superior

The Deh Cho has gone from having a 40-km dream stretch of highway to a section that is far worse than the previous gravel surface.

What's left is for Deh Cho residents and motorists to revise their dream. Yes, a chipsealed loop would be ideal but this example has shown that chipseal doesn't always live up to expectations or its average five-year lifespan.



ROXANNA THOMPSON

Maybe what residents should be asking the territorial government for instead are the best highways possible. These highways could be chipsealed if conditions permit or they could be well-maintained gravel surfaces.

All residents want to be able to travel safely and expeditiously across the region and, at this point, chipseal, despite its allure, might not provide that driving experience.

NNSL WEB POLL

GIVEN THE CONDITION OF THE CHIPSEAL THAT WAS LAID ON HIGHWAY 1 LAST YEAR, SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BE PUTTING DOWN MORE CHIPSEAL IN THE DEH CHO?

Yes. As long as the highways are upgraded first, chipsealing should continue in order to improve the transportation network.

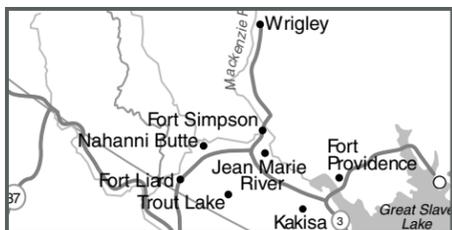


No. Although the surface isn't as smooth, the current gravel surface is easier to repair than failed chipseal.

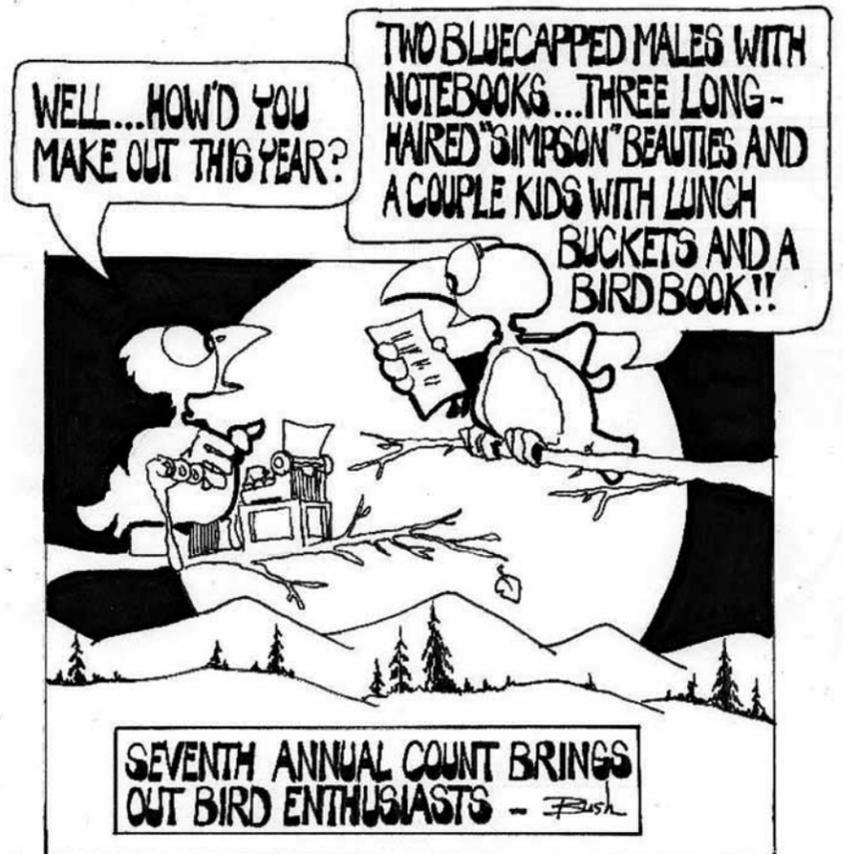


HAVE YOUR SAY

Should the Village of Fort Simpson dig up a 33-metre section of the main street to install a length of sewer line? Go online to www.nnsl.com/dehcho to vote in this week's poll.



BUSH - the lighter side



Jan. 12, 2006

Bush is currently away on sabbatical



Roxanna Thompson/NNSL photo

ONE BURGER COMING UP

Canadian Zinc Corporation staff member Joseph Lanzon cooks chicken burgers and hamburgers on a smoking grill during the company's community barbecue in Fort Simpson on Aug. 5.

DEH CHO drum
FORT SIMPSON • NWT • LIIDLII KUE

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Letters of over 200 words, open letters and those published elsewhere are seldom used. We reserve the right to publish excerpts, to edit for length or taste and to eliminate inaccurate or libellous statements.

We may also choose to use a letter as the basis for a story. All letters submitted must be signed with a return address and daytime phone number.

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Roxanna Thompson/ANSL photos

John Kearney, centre, president of the Canadian Zinc Corporation, congratulates Roger Candow, left, David Shaw, Arnold Hope and Kele Antoine on winning the Canadian Zinc Open.

Close scores mark Canadian Zinc Open

Two-way chip-off decides first place

by Roxanna Thompson
Northern News Services
Lidli Kue/Fort Simpson

A crowd lined the edge of hole nine at the Seven Spruce Golf Course on Aug. 7 to watch the dramatic end of the Canadian Zinc Open.

After two days of golfing and 36 holes, first place came

down to a chip-off. The four-person teams of Kele Antoine, Roger Candow, David Shaw and Arnold Hope and of Rylan Hardisty-Gillis, Kevin Menicoche, Eric Menicoche and Jim Antoine were both tied at 133 – 11 under par.

One at a time, players on alternating teams took

their turn chipping towards the green on hole nine. The crowd, which at times had to part to avoid being hit by over-zealous shots, heckled and cheered on the competing golfers.

The team of Antoine, Candow, Shaw and Hope emerged as the winners after landing

their balls closer to the pin. The team was particularly aided by Shaw's chip, which stopped 10 feet, seven inches from the hole.

The entire tournament was a team effort, said Candow. Everyone carried his or her own weight and made clutch putts for birdies, he said.

The team finished six under on Saturday and five under on Sunday. Candow said he like hole eight best.

"It's just a good straight-away par four," he said.

Holes three and four, the back-to-back par fives, offered more challenges, he said.

This was the second time Candow, who's from Hay River, has played the course.

"I had a great time," he said.

Rylan Hardisty-Gillis, the youngest member of the second-place team, said he was "pretty nervous" about the chip-off.

His shot landed approxi-

mately six inches from the green.

The key, he said, is to try not to listen to the crowd.

"Just play your own game, do what you can," he said.

Like Candow, Hardisty-Gillis said his team stayed 11 under par through a team effort. Hardisty-Gillis said he looked after distance drives down the fairway while his teammates took care of the other aspects of the game.

"It was a really great tournament," he said.

Third place in the tournament went to local golfers Keyna Norwegian and Gabe Buggins along with Barb and Bob MacArthur from Fort Smith at 134.

"It was really fun," said Norwegian.

"We couldn't have asked for better weather."

The team was most successful on hole three. They eagled it once after Barb drove approximately 210 yards to the green, Buggins got it on and Norwegian made a 15-to-

20-foot putt. The team birdied the hole on their other three passes.

Norwegian also did well in the individual competitions winning the women's closest to the pin on Saturday and both the women's longest drive and longest putt on Sunday. At 28 feet, Norwegian said the putt was one of the longest she's made.

Other individual prize winners over the two days included Gordon Thompson, Steven Thompson and Laurie Ozmun for the longest drive; Kenny Harrison for the longest putt and Bob MacArthur, Maggie O'Neill and Chris Reeves for closest to the pin.

Ten Canadian Zinc staff members participated in the tournament.

"We're very pleased to support the golf club and support the tournament," said John Kearney, president of Canadian Zinc.

Kearney, who kept the gathered golfers laughing with golf-related jokes and stories during the closing ceremony, said there's always a welcoming atmosphere in the village and at the golf course.



The care she took in lining up her ball may have been what helped Keyna Norwegian nail a 28-foot putt on hole five, winning her the longest putt prize on Aug. 7 during the Canadian Zinc Tournament.

"Just play your own game, do what you can."



DILLON BROWN

SPORTS CARD SWIMMING

AGE: 9

FORT SIMPSON

Dillon took Red Cross swimming lessons earlier this summer and also enjoys coming to public swim at the pool. Dillon said his favourite things to do at the pool are to retrieve weighted rings from underwater and float so his feet don't touch the bottom.