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ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



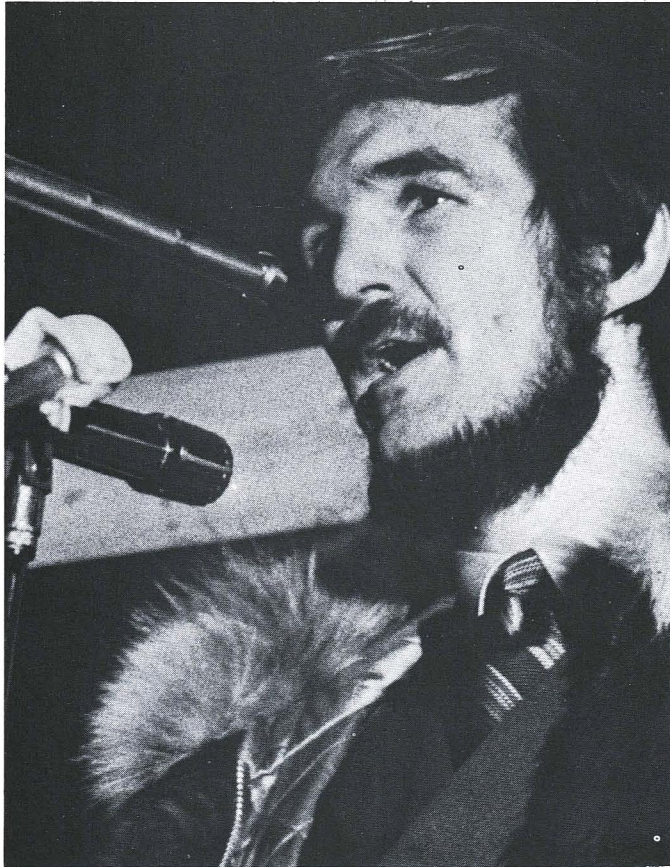
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 1970





YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.



Ken McKinnon first President Arctic Winter Games Corporation



Arctic Winter Games Corporation



The first Arctic Winter Games will long stand as a shining tribute to the memories of men and women whose volunteer efforts made the Games a reality.

A particular thanks must go to the Canadian Department of National Health and Welfare, to the Government of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Alaska, and to some fifty-four Canadian companies which contributed money, goods and services in making the event a success.

We must recognize the foresight and determination of the Directors of the Arctic Winter Games Corporation in developing the international concept of the Games. Last but not least we salute the outstanding effort of the people of Yellowknife, Canada's newest capital and the organizational ability of the Yellowknife Arctic Winter Games Society.

The first Games is only the beginning of a great concept which will grow to include northern peoples from around the top of the world. It is to this end we look forward as the second Arctic Winter Games is staged in Whitehorse Yukon Territory in March, 1972.

Signed *J. H. McKinnon*

THE CONCEPT

A dream of Polar Region unity became partial reality during a week in March, 1970, when the City of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, hosted the world's first Arctic Winter Games.

Conceived during the Canada Winter Games in Quebec City the unity idea achieved two major goals — providing Northern athletes, through international competition, the incentive to improve their skills against athletes of similar background and ability, and strengthening mutual understanding and friendship between the races of the Arctic, fostering good international relations through sports and cultural activities.

The concept was readily accepted by Yukon Commissioner, James Smith, Northwest Territories Commissioner Stuart Hodgson and former Governor of Alaska, Walter Hickel. An Arctic Winter Games Corporation was formed to mastermind the event, comprised of two representatives from each of the participating areas. The corporation selected Yellowknife as the first host city so as to help celebrate the first Centennial of the Northwest Territories.

The planning of the Games was financed by a fifteen thousand dollar entry fee from each area. The Federal Government of Canada's Department of National Health and Welfare provided seventy percent of the games operating costs and the remainder was raised from amongst one hundred and fifty major Canadian companies approached for donations of cash, goods or services.



TRANSPORTATION

Northwest Territories competitors arriving in the capital after one of the many charter flights organized to bring people together from all parts of the North American Arctic.

The immense breadth of Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories provided a formidable task for the games organizers, but using vehicles, aircraft and the occasional dog-sled, over one thousand athletes and entertainers were ferried in and out of Yellowknife during the six days of festivities.

The possibility of inclement weather was always a potential hazard, but although some flights were delayed, the games opened on time with full contingents from all areas. Participants from the Western tip of Alaska and the East coast of Baffin Island arrived without incident due to the efficiency of the transportation arrangements and the knowledge and foresight of the co-ordinators.



GREENLAND

ARCTIC OCEAN

ALASKA

POND INLET

FAIRBANKS

OLD CROW

AKLAVIK
INUVIK

CAMBRIDGE BAY

IGLOOLIK

YUKON
TERRITORY

CLINTON CREEK
DAWSON

ELSA
MAYO

FARO

BAKER LAKE

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

ARCTIC QUEBEC

RANKIN INLET

YELLOWKNIFE

HUDSON BAY

WHITEHORSE

HAY RIVER

PINE POINT

60th PARALLEL

FT. SMITH

HAINES
JUNEAU

PELICAN

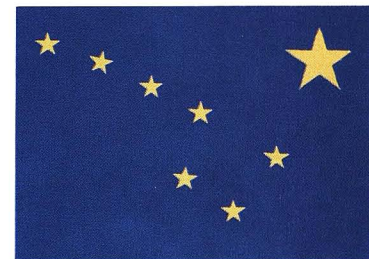
PACIFIC OCEAN

PARTICIPANTS

In the Northwest Territories, participants came to Yellowknife from locations as far north as Holman Island situated 300 miles above the Arctic Circle. They came from places with names like Igloodik in the Keewatin, from Inuvik in the Mackenzie Delta and from Fort Smith, Aklavik, Hay River and Pine Point.

From the Yukon there were competitors from Whitehorse, Dawson City, Faro, Mayo, Clinton Creek, Elsa and Old Crow.

The Alaskans drew their athletes from the larger centres of Anchorage and Fairbanks, and from smaller centres like Juneau, Pelican, Haines and Seward.







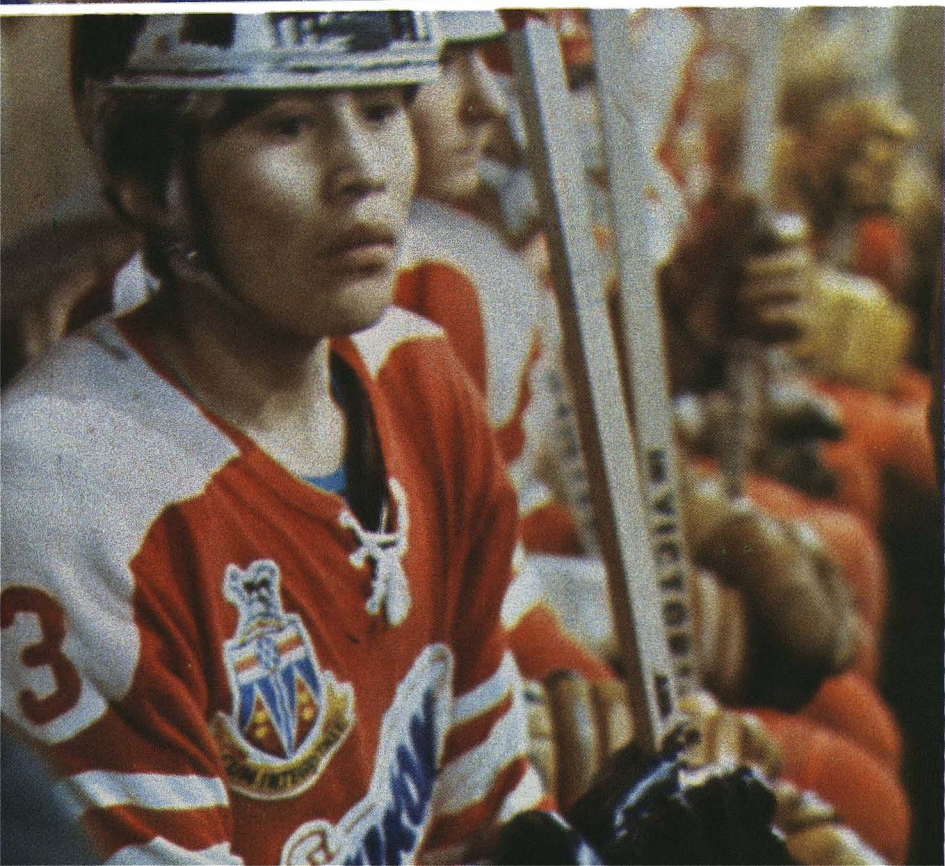
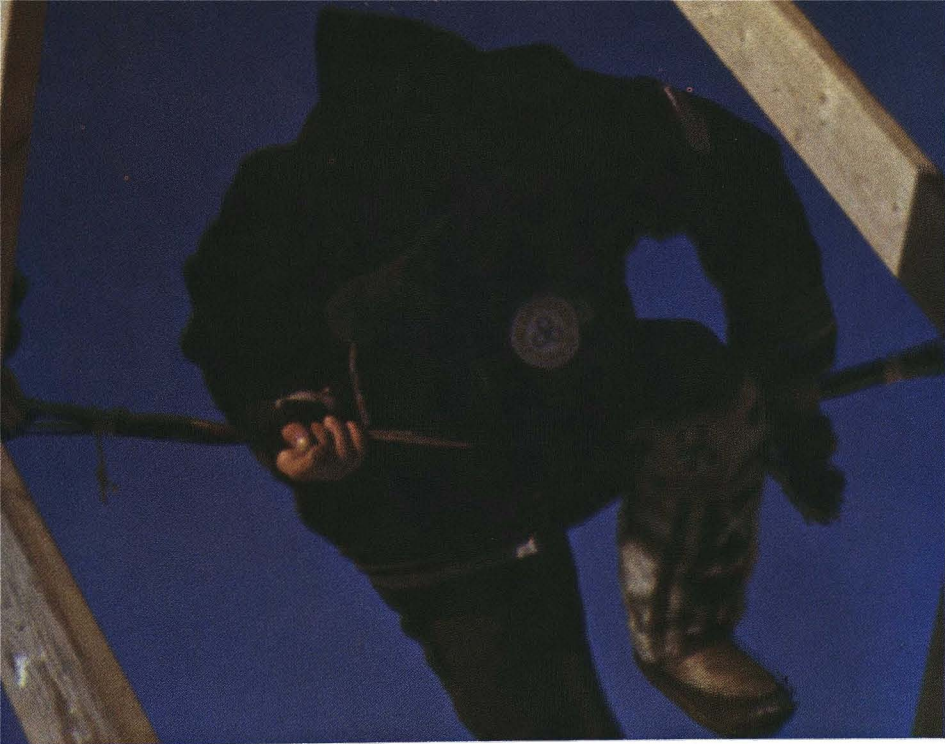
An accurate forecast predicted temperatures between 0 and 10 degrees above zero and fine weather and blue Arctic skies framed the opening day activities. The spirit which lured the participants to Yellowknife was clearly expressed in the opening parade. It moved cheerfully and noisily along Franklin Avenue, the montage of coloured mitts, muk-luks and parkas delighting the three thousand spectators who cheered themselves hoarse in five dialects.

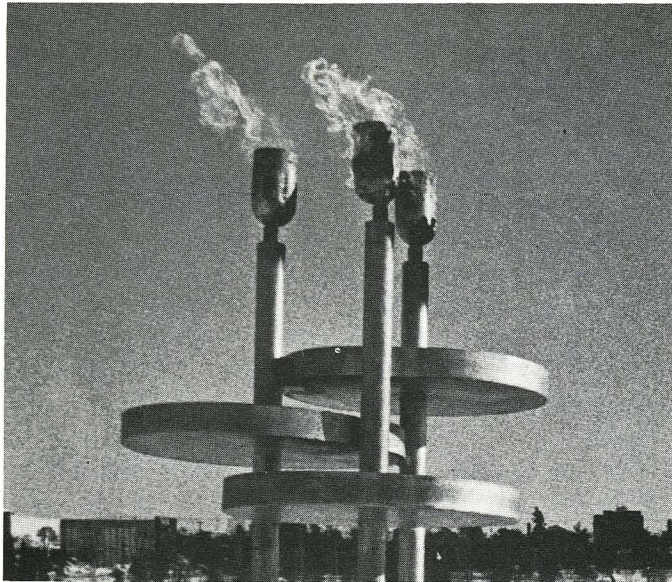
A colour party of Yellowknife Army Cadets, RCMP and Alaska State Police led the seven hundred strong parade to the opening ceremony at Petitot Park where Prime Minister Trudeau officially opened the first Arctic Winter Games:

“If by some piece of magic,” he said, “the Indians and Eskimos who lived for hundreds of years in this country and the Whites who explored this country for a hundred years, could be here, they would be filled with wonder.

“They would be amazed that people were playing games where it had taken every ounce of their energy to survive. But the same qualities that were required then are still required today and the people who built the North then and the people who are building it today need the same qualities of courage and resourcefulness as was then required if the future is to belong to us.

“It is fitting that the athletes who come here to congregate, to compete in the following days will be showing their courage and resourcefulness and that the traditions will be carried on.”





The Games Torch. Three jets coming together into one flame symbolizing the concept behind the games — the community of the North.

A skier is off on a gruelling fifteen kilometer cross-country race. Sixty-three competitors entered the event and cross-country skiing proved to be one of the more popular sports of the games.

Hockey was the best attended sport in the games. Continuous games from Midget to Senior classes kept the Arena booming day and night culminating in a heart-stopping one-goal Senior championship for the Northwest Territories over the Yukon.

An extensive native cultural events program stole the show with scenes like Aksunaiqtug—rope gymnastics. The object of the game is to complete as many revolutions as possible while keeping out-stretched arms stiff.

OPENING CEREMONY

At the conclusion of opening remarks by visiting dignitaries. Prime Minister Trudeau lit the torch of an athlete from Alaska, Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. Holding the torches high above their heads the three ran across Frame Lake to the site of the Arctic Winter Games Torch which was to burn for the duration of the games. A loud cheer greeted the rising flame which signaled the games officially open.

MEDALS AWARDED

Athletes were selected at pre-game trials held in, and sponsored by each of the three participating areas.

Three hundred and fifty players and coaches from eleven (11) major centres across the Northwest Territories took part in the mid-winter territorial trials. Months of toil and frustration preceeded the trials, but a Northwest Territories Government grant of twenty-six thousand dollars permitted contestants from the far reaches of the Territories to meet competitively and pick the cream of Northern athletes.

In other trials previously completed selectors had drawn on competitors from Whitehorse, Dawson City, Faro, Mayo, Elsa and Old Crow in the Yukon and Anchorage and Fairbanks and smaller centres like Pelican, Haines and Seward in Alaska.

A total of 710 athletes represented the three areas with 239 from Alaska, 230 from the Yukon and 241 from the Northwest Territories.



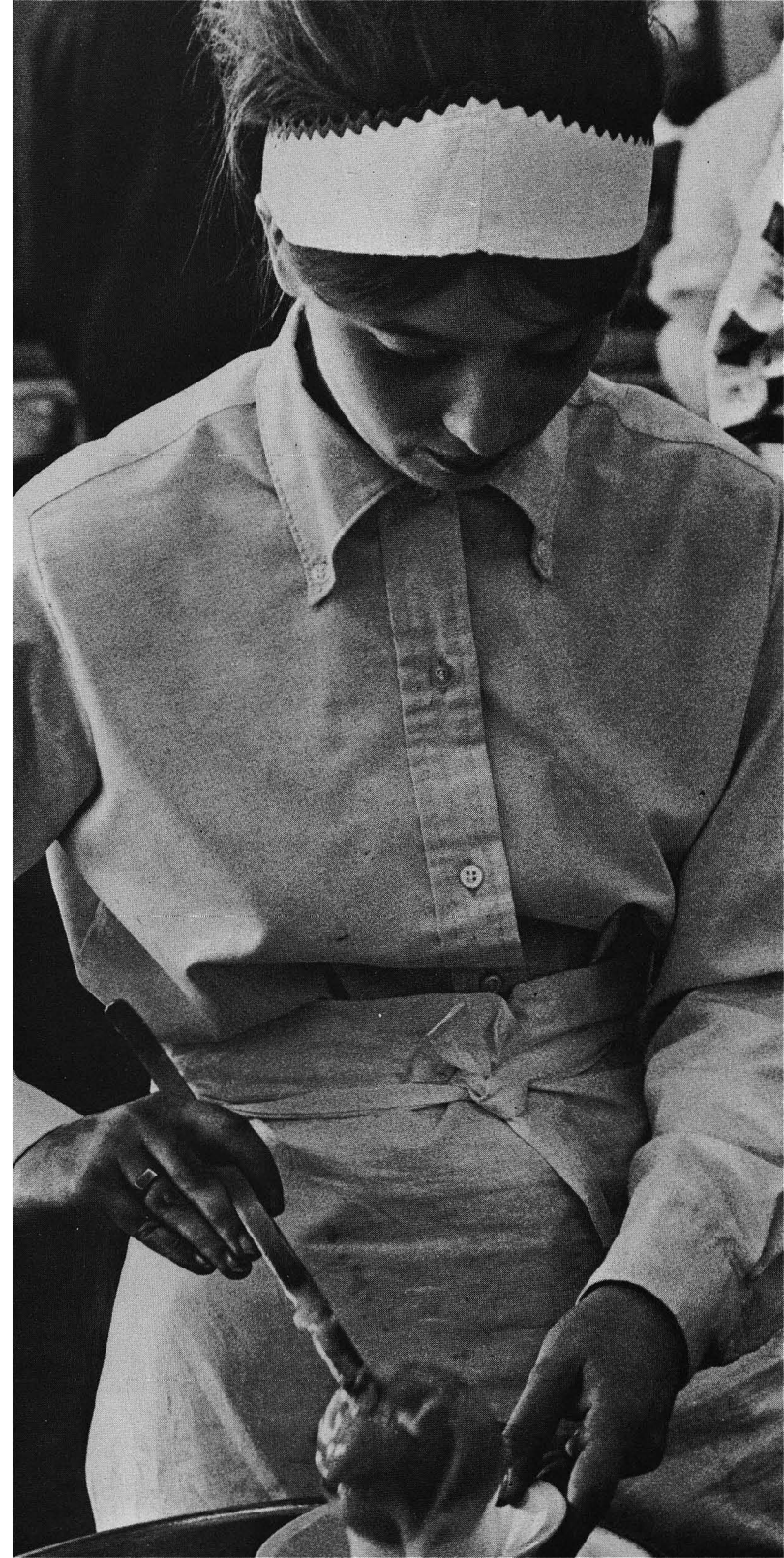
The skill of various athletic organizations in the different areas permitted a fair and smooth selection of representatives.

Although the object of the Arctic Winter Games was to develop athletic competition between areas of similar population and environment, the first games demonstrated that the Northwest Territories completely dominated the Badminton, Hockey, Volleyball and Curling events, while Alaska took all the Gold Medals in Shooting and Basketball and was outstanding in Table Tennis.

The Northwest Territories won the Games Flag in 1970, but the first contest has stimulated the Yukon and Alaska to win it back in 1972.

SPORT	N.W.T.			YUKON			ALASKA		
	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Badminton	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
Basketball	0	3	1	0	1	3	4	0	0
Boxing	5	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	0
Curling	5	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	3
Figure Skating	4	3	3	4	2	2	1	2	0
Hockey	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Shooting	0	4	0	0	0	4	4	0	0
Skiing	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	5	2
Table Tennis	2	5	3	1	3	6	7	2	1
Volleyball	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	3
TOTALS	34	20	10	7	25	21	22	17	20







Without the assistance of the five hundred volunteers in Yellowknife the games could not have gone on. Here two hundred of them take time out to attend a final rally only hours before the games begin.

The pulse centre of the games. Left is Jack Adderley, editor of 'Ulu News', the games official daily newspaper.

Willing hands at lunch time. One of the volunteers who helped prior to, during, and after the games.

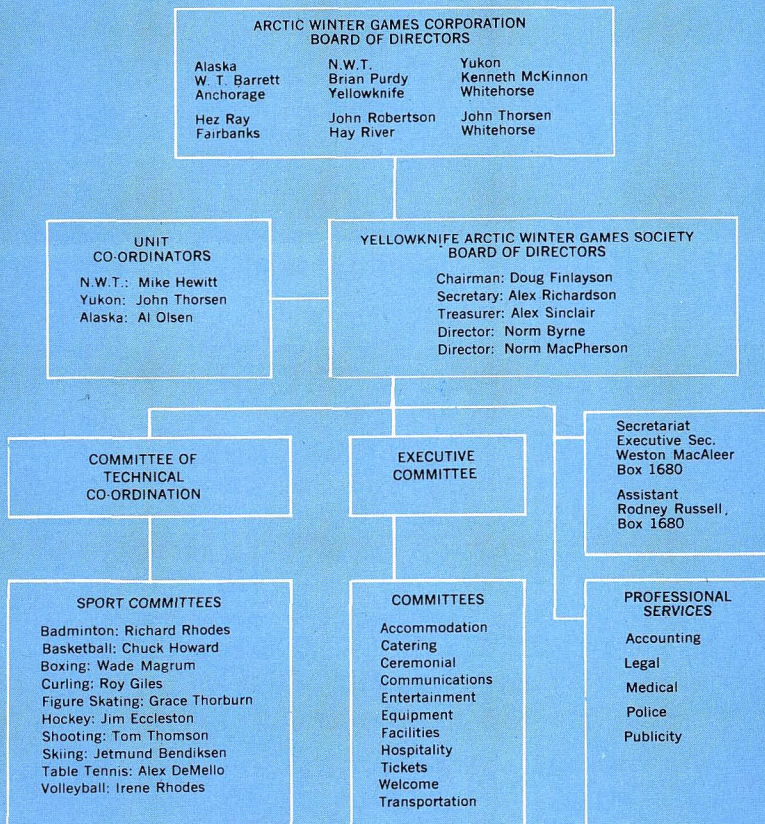
ACCOMMODATION

Almost a year in advance, serious preparations began to ready the city for the event.

Two major problems confronted organizers in Yellowknife; a shortage of accommodation space and a lack of catering facilities. It required a total community effort from 6000 Yellowknife residents. About 300 bunk beds, 600 mattresses, pillow and pillow cases were flown to Yellowknife from Cobourg, Ontario, by the Department of National Defence. Easter Vacation was declared three weeks early so that the imported beds could be used to turn forty classrooms of the three Yellowknife schools into dormitories. In addition, bunkhouses at Giant Yellowknife Mines and spare rooms in private homes were requisitioned all over town, while most hotel rooms doubled up.

To solve the catering problem, five ladies' church groups joined forces to serve an estimated 25,000 meals and \$50,000 of food with the assistance of six chefs from two major Edmonton hotels.

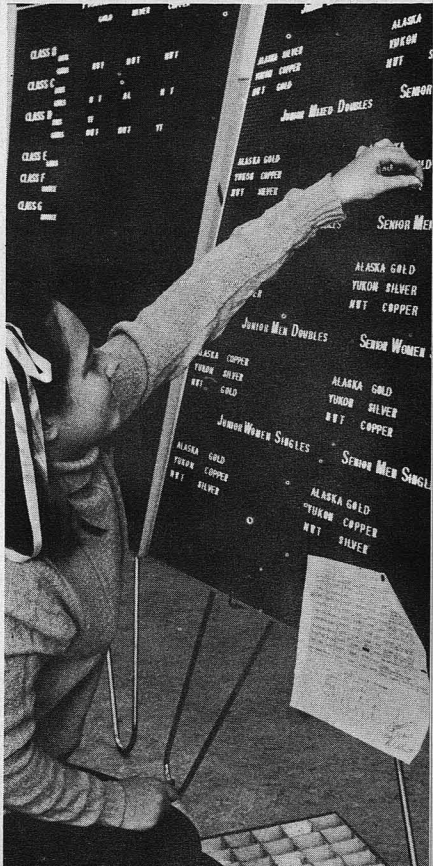
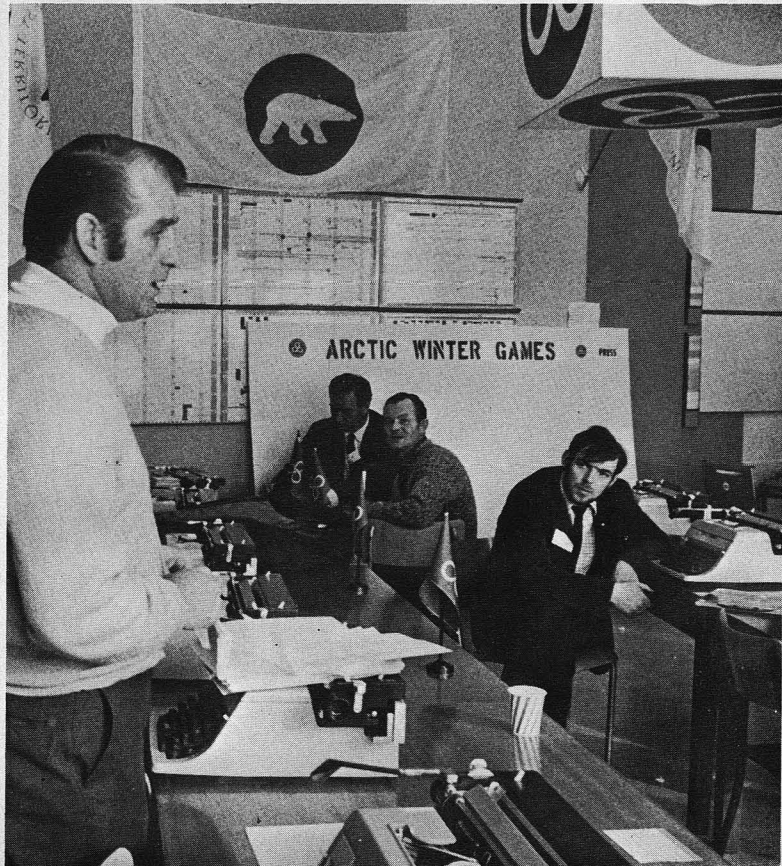
The Yellowknife Arctic Winter Games Society did much to keep the budget at the two hundred thousand dollar mark. The community involvement included twenty-seven committees totalling five hundred and thirty volunteers who helped put the games together.



ORGANIZATION



Action in and around the games headquarters. (Centre bottom) Vic Chapman briefs newsmen on the Prime Minister's itinerary. (Top right) Volunteers put the finishing touches to the Headquarters sign. (Bottom right) One of the squad of girls who worked day and night keeping track of the scores in the eighty events.





Proud winners in the competitive sports received Arctic Winter Games medals in the form of miniature ulus in gold, silver and copper bearing the three interlocking circles of the Games symbol.



The 'ulu' is a crescent shaped knife usually made of copper or steel with a bone handle and used by the Eskimos for skinning and cutting whale and seal.



HOLMAN BROS.
CO. INC.



The warm friendship and enjoyment which prevailed throughout the games is best expressed on the smiling face of Felix Nuyaviak, eighty-seven-year-old Inuvik resident who steps to the rhythmic beat of the seal-skin covered drum during an Eskimo dance.

ENTERTAINMENT

As well as the fashion show and sporting events, a top flight variety program was available every night. Shows, movies, northern handicraft and sculpture displays and a spectacular northern fashion show kept competitors and spectators busy during the spare time they had available.

Sedna the Sea Goddess of Eskimo folklore captured the hearts of the crowds who lined up each night to view 'Fantasy in Fashion'. The show included free dance interpretation, Eskimo folklore sketches and fashion displays. All the actors and dancers were clothed in traditional Eskimo and Indian dress.

Artisans were on hand to display their skills, producing breathtaking carvings and graphics.



LOCATION

This is the Arctic, and this was the dawning of a new era, the coming of an event which would create a new awareness about a land once known as the bleak, cold, unfriendly North.

As the contestants prepare to pack up, already the talk was of the 1972 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse. Finland, Iceland, Japan, Norway and Greenland have already indicated an interest in participating, and Arctic Quebec has become a new competing unit.

Whitehorse, situated on the banks of the Yukon River and fifty miles above the 60th parallel, is a bustling, bright little city surrounded by mountains, lakes and forests.

Everywhere there is evidence of its pioneer origin in the Klondike Gold Rush.

It was here on the "Trail of 98" over which most of the gold rush stampedees travelled in 1898, that men transferred their freight to wooden tramways to by-pass the treacherous waters of Miles Canyon just south of the present city. From a small settlement of tents and log cabins sprang a City which now boasts an area of three square miles and a population of 11,000.



WHITEHORSE, Y.T.

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

A staggering figure of ninety-eight thousand, four hundred and eighty dollars was donated in cash, goods and services. Listed below are those companies and individuals who gave so generously to the most spectacular athletic and cultural event ever staged above the 60th parallel.

Air Canada

Bank of Montreal

Bank of Nova Scotia

Byers Transport

Canadian Arctic Producers

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Canadian Industries

C.N. Telecommunications

Carling Breweries

Chateau Lacombe

Coca-Cola

Cominco Mines

Consolidated Hydrocarbons

Corby Distilleries

Eldorado Nuclear

Engineered Homes

General Motors

Giant Yellowknife Mines

Gilbey Canada

Grimshaw Trucking

Gulf Oil

Hawker Siddeley

Labatt's Breweries

Laronga Aviation

Longines (Canada)

Macdonald Hotel

Molson's Breweries

Northwest Territorial Airways

Olivetti-Underwood

Pacific Western Airlines

Quaker Oats

Robin Hood Flour Mills

St. John's Ambulance

Scott National

Shell Oil

Standard Surgical Supply

Territorial Hotels

Thomas Adams Distillers

Toronto-Dominion Bank

Transair

White, Hosford and Impey

Winchester Rifles

Xerox of Canada

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