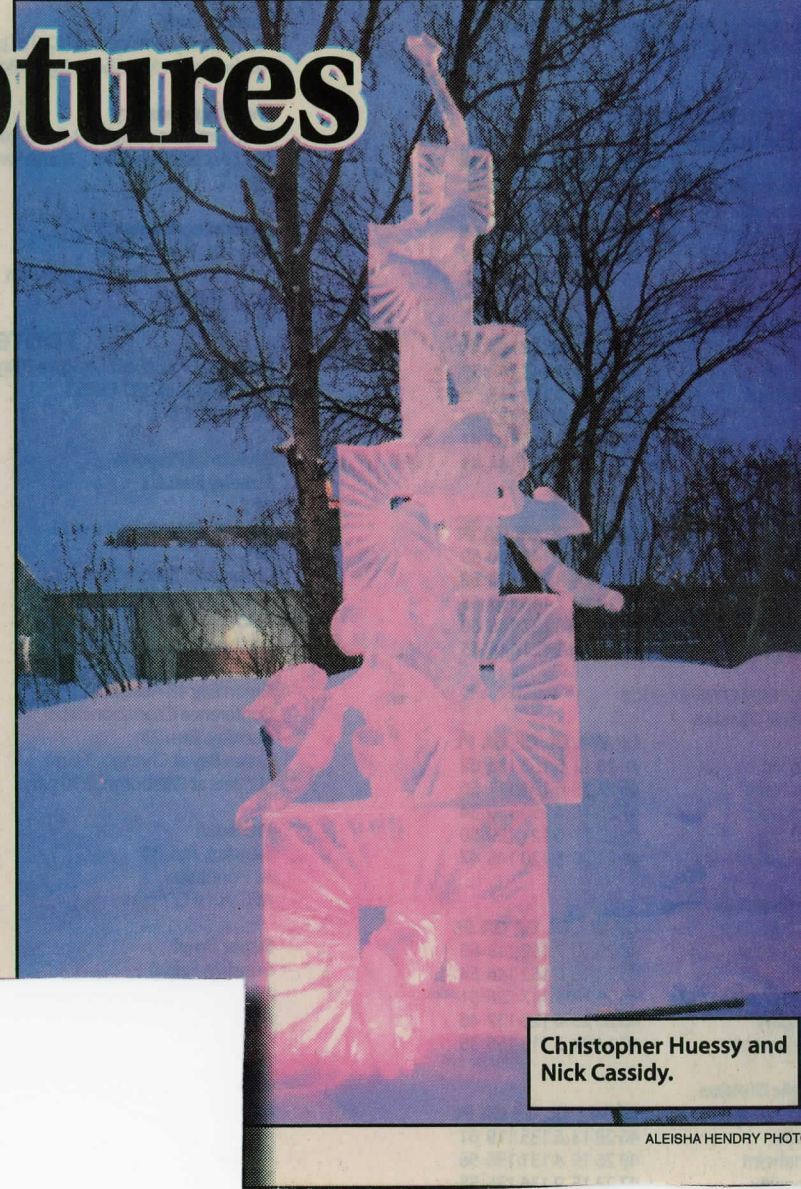


COMMUNITY

Spectacular sculptures



Dean Murray and
Chris Foltz.



Christopher Huessy and
Nick Cassidy.

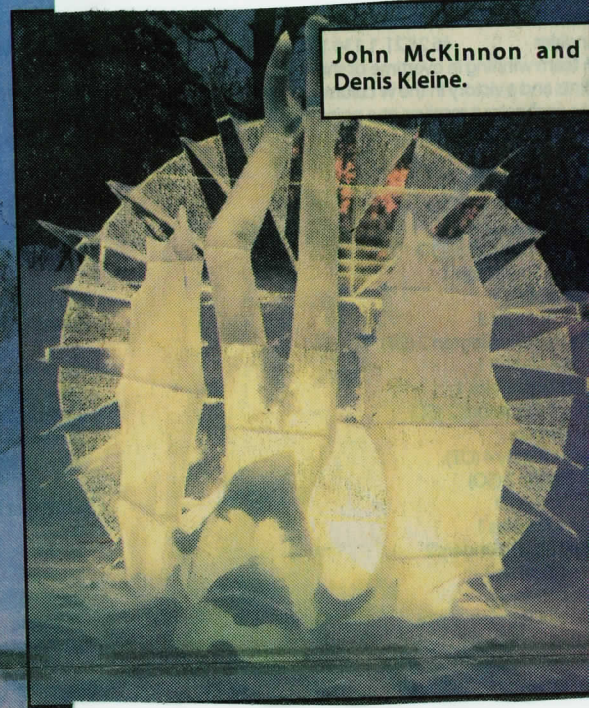
ALEISHA HENDRY PHOT



Mark Davis and
Edwin Winslow.

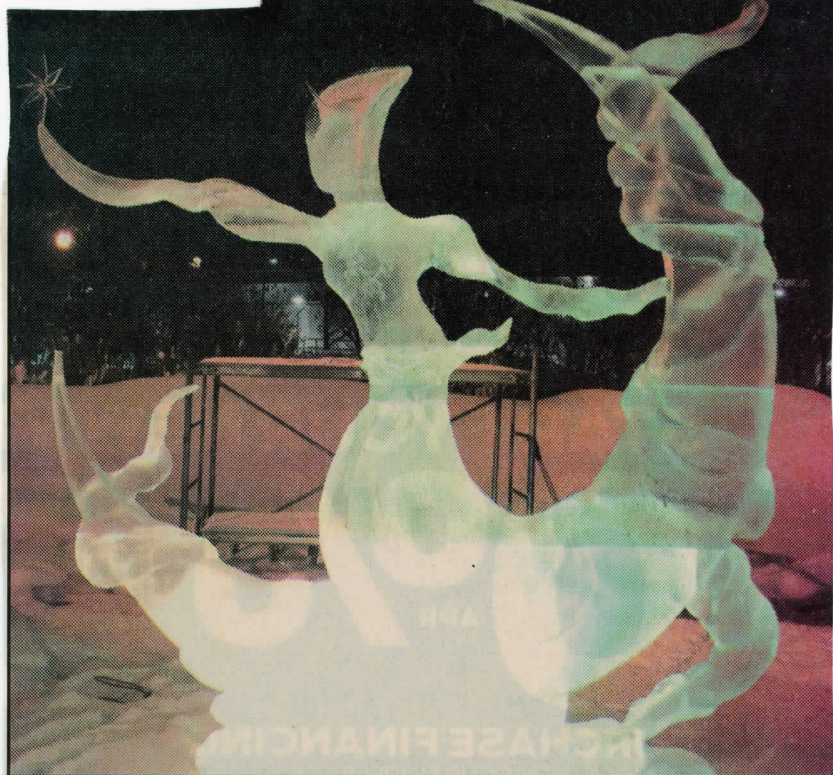


Darren Jackson and
Stephanie Quayle.

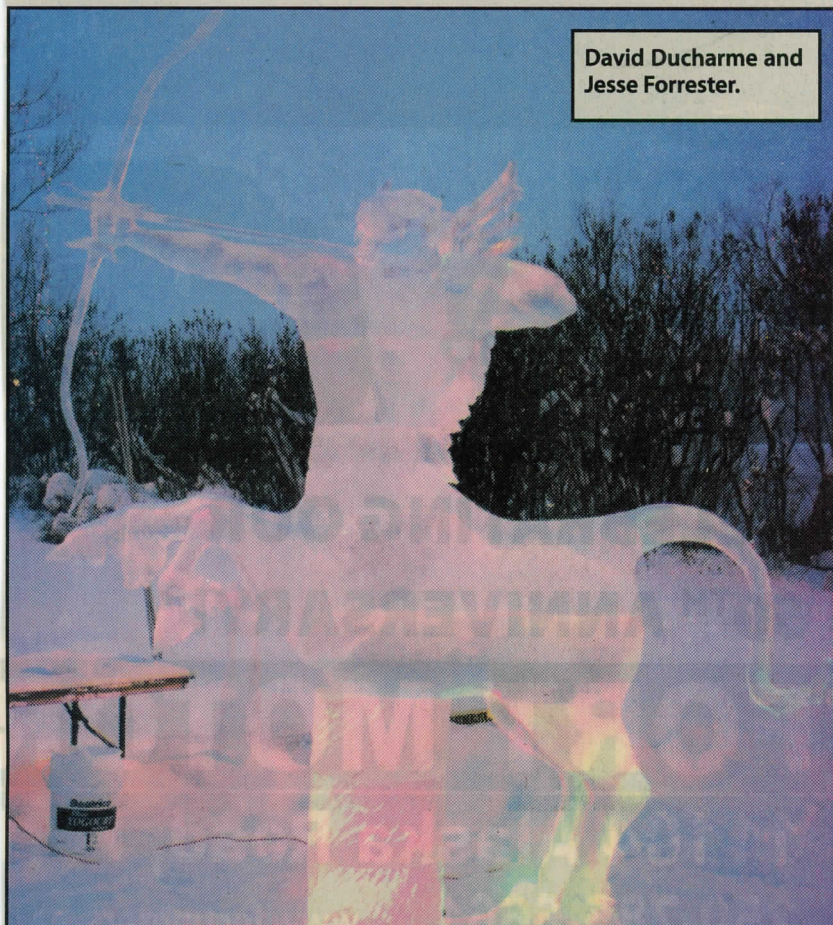


John McKinnon and
Denis Kleine.

**Takashi Ito and
Keijiro KG Miyata.**



**David Ducharme and
Jesse Forrester.**



Cool victory

ALEISHA HENDRY
Staff Writer

What does it feel like to be a winner? Cold. Very, very cold.

I'm not a professional by any stretch of the imagination, but I like to think of myself as an adequate ice carver. I first picked up a chisel at the High On Ice beginner ice carving competition in 2007, after having done a one-day workshop on the craft. I'd never even considered that ice could be anything more than a way to cool down my drink prior to that day.

Oh, how wrong I was.

In those five years, I've discovered a whole new medium in ice, one that can be tricky as all get out to work with, or the most amazing material ever created.

Weather had always been a huge factor in High On Ice. There have been years where it's been a nice -15C, years where it's been well above zero and years where it's been so bitterly cold that cravers wind up with frost-nipped noses and frost-bitten toes.

The last two years have been horribly cold, like this-is-what-Hell-would-feel-like-if-it-froze-over cold. It's weather that's fit for neither man nor beast, and yes, we as hearty northerners still venture out to observe or take part. It's the real crazies that do the taking part.

The professional carvers have more motivation – there's prize money on the line, and it helps their professional reputation on the ice carving circuit. Us amateurs that do it? We do it because we love it. And we want more people to love it.

This year was my foray back into ice after a two-year hiatus where I just did snow. I was actually thrilled that there



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

wasn't enough snow to build the snow blocks for that particular competition – they never let media do ice. Like they're scared of us using chainsaws or something. Fortunately, no one lost any appendages due to frostbite or chainsaw-related calamities.

And yes, as I said, it was freakin' cold. Boot warmers that are supposed to last six hours last maybe 45 minutes. Gloves were freezing solid. My teammate, Tim Cramer, had some very impressive icicles growing on his beard. But we forged on, for six hours less a quick lunch and warm-up break. Our colleagues in Fort St. John media worked just as hard, some lacking a few certain necessary items of clothing (I'm looking at you, Brent Hodson of Northeast News!), but everyone finished what they set out to do, and we all had a good time doing it.

I am pleased to say that Tim and I did

come out just a teeny bit better, as they judges award us, the Alaska Highway News team, with first place in the Media Challenge. Which has reaffirmed my belief that I, with some excellent help, can still turn this medium into some sort of recognizable figure – in this case, a Snowy Owl that kind of bears a resemblance to Bubo the mechanical owl from the original Clash of the Titans. Or Hedwig, for the younger crowd.

I strongly encourage everyone who wandered through the park on the weekend and marveled at the wonder that is ice carving to give it a try next year. I know you'll be just as hooked as I am.

Oh, and a super special thank you to the awesome man that found my cell-phone that I dropped during my wanderings through the park, you saved my life!



MELISSA MCGEE PHOTO

Alaska Highway News Assistant Editor Aleisha Hendry and Graphic Designer Tim Cramer show off their first place trophy and ribbon after winning the Media Challenge at the High On Ice amateur ice carving.



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

ICE SLIDES WILL STICK AROUND

Staff Writer

The sudden cold snap that hit Fort St. John on Saturday is good news for those hoping to enjoy the ice slides and sculptures from the High On Ice

weekend for a little while longer.

"They stay where they are until they melt or until they cause a safety concern in the park," said Jocelyn Schick, CEO of Bizzybody Events and Ice and Snow Coordinator for High

On Ice 2012, discussing the slides and sculptures.

"The ice slides are okay to use," she added. "And if you look at the temperature, it's probably going to be okay for a couple of weeks."

COMMUNITY

High on Ice 2011 winners



Cold as Ice

RYAN LUX
Staff Writer

High on Ice 2011 will go down in history. Not so much for the mythological creatures carved from ice and snow decorating Centennial Park, but for the legendary cold festival participants had to endure over the course of the weekend.

Temperatures hovered around the -40 mark Friday and Saturday and warmed slightly to high -20s on Sunday, making this year's festival the coldest yet in the history of High on Ice.

Weather like that required participants to be as creative keeping warm as carving ice.

The cold weather even sent one veteran ice carver, someone used to braving the winter elements, to hospital with a severely frostbitten toe.

Bitter weather kept many residents from heading down to Centennial Park to watch the carvers at work and from admiring the world-class finished products.

"Attendance was almost non-existent this year," said event coordinator Jocelyn

Schick, "But when we saw the forecast on Thursday we kind of expected that."

Schick said the upside is that the cold temperatures mean that the ice sculptures aren't going anywhere soon and once it warms up to a tolerable temperature residents can come check out the sculptures in the park. If sculptures aren't enough to bring people to the park, Schick said another attraction is sure to bring out crowds.

"The slides will be here for the next few months so people can come down and enjoy them for the rest of the winter," said Schick.

While she focused on the bright side of the cool weather by emphasizing that it will preserve the icy works of art, Schick had no reservations about how the weather impacted the festival itself.

"Among the carvers there is a unanimous decision that the weather couldn't have possibly been worse," said Schick, "Between the freezing cold and the two days of constant snow, carving conditions were awful."

•SEE COLD ON A3



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

Ice sculptor Sarah Costic stays as bundled up as she possibly can. She was carving in the unusually frigid weather during the High On Ice professional ice carving competition on Jan. 15.

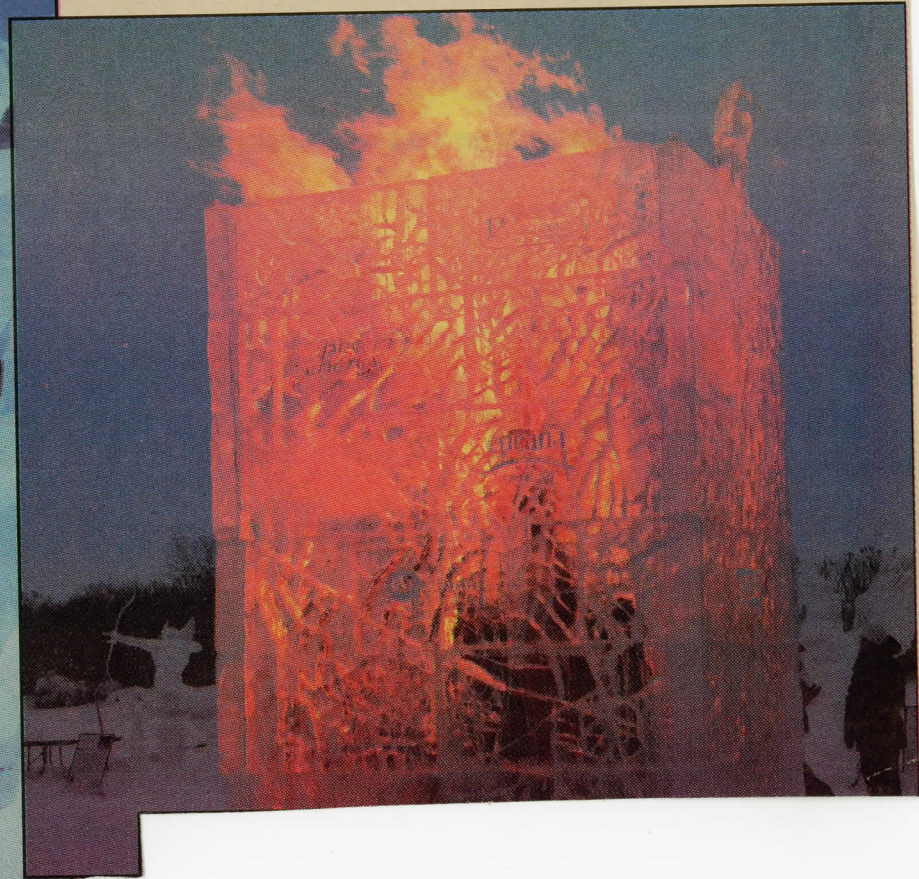
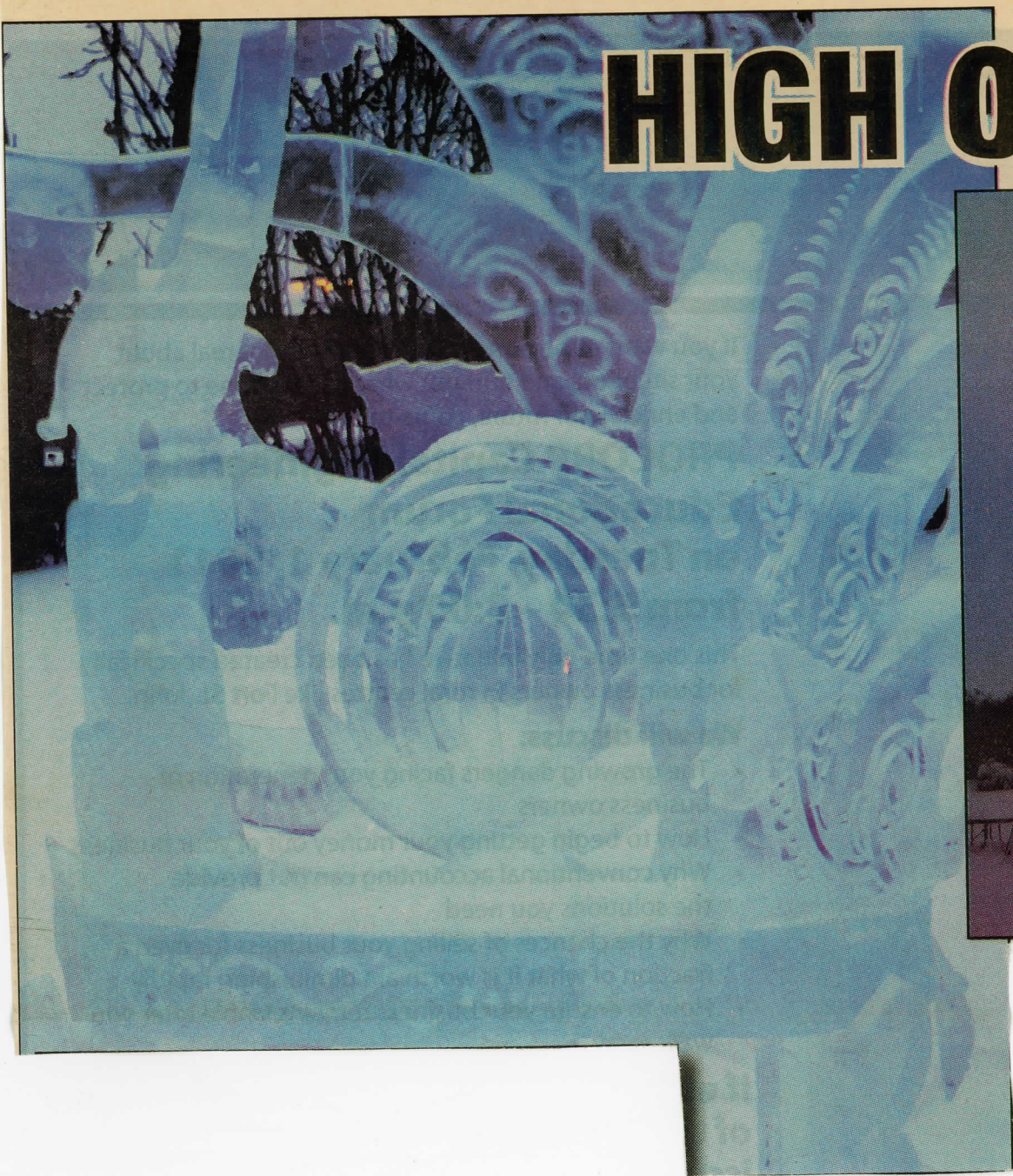
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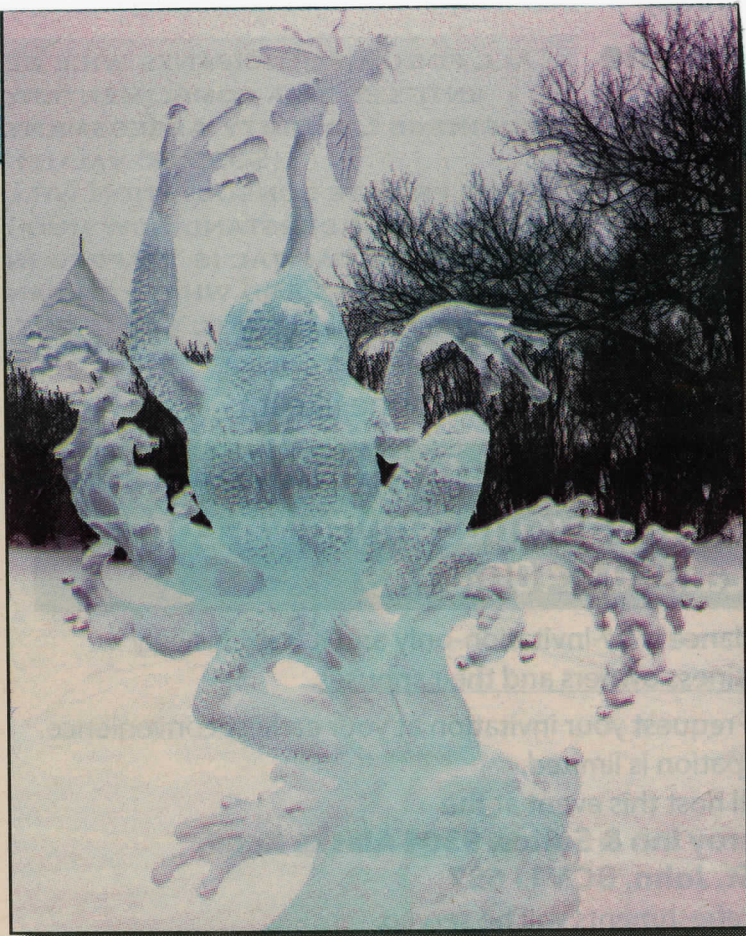


ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

Over 32 centimetres of snow was dumped on Fort St. John over the weekend, which made for some gruelling conditions for the High On Ice competitors, as well as making roads treacherous and forcing many people to stay home.

HIGH ON ICE 2011





Photos by Aleisha Hendry and Kirstyn Kerr

