Town to the rescue

Municipality to offer assistance to Jamboree after bingo licence mix-up

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Mystery and intrigue swept over the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex Jan. 31 for the Second Annual Starlight Masquerade Ball hosted by the Inuvik Figure Skating Club. Jennifer Maier, left, Adam Maier, Jennifer Cockney and May Cockney show off their finery. For more photos, see inside.

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Town to the rescue

Making the most of the masquerade

Going gluten-free is easier than it looks

Glimpse at future of early childhood education

Kicking it at the youth centre

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Elders and students meet with flavour

Connecting students at East Three Secondary School with elders in the community is something teacher Patrick Gauley-Gale believes is important. So being able to combine healthy eating and nutrition with traditional knowledge and values is at the core of the new twice-weekly elder lunches being hosted at the school.

Gauley-Gale is the food and gardening teacher at the school and said with some recent funding from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, he’s been able to launch a series of new food-based programs that help incorporate traditional knowledge and learning into his classroom.

“The idea is elders will come in and facilitate these events and kids get a free hot lunch with it,” he said. “There was an option to access funding and we’re always trying to find ways to incorporate traditional values into the school.”

Grade 11 student Kyla Hbatum said the program helps expose students to their culture and connect with elders in the community.

“It encourages people to eat lunch, especially those who might not have anything to eat,” she said while helping serve food to at least 30 students at the school on Feb. 3.

Since beginning his teaching career at the school in 2011, Gauley-Gale said he’s seen students who aren’t getting proper meals or enough healthy foods in their daily lives.

This program is an opportunity to provide support to those students while giving them a chance to learn from elders in the community.

“There are a handful of kids who suffer from food insecurity and it’s a chance to provide a warm meal and healthy activity,” he said.

The lunch is prepped by older students that Gauley-Gale works with, and he said the example they set for the younger students helps to build a stronger community, both inside the school and out.

“It’s leading to this community building aspect that’s so important.”

Patrick Gauley-Gale

Gualey-Gale said the school has also received funding from the corporation for two other projects.

Students will be making a trip out to the reindeer station to harvest reindeer to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the herd coming to the region, something he said he’s excited for because of the chance to learn from the students.

“I’m more of the student in those settings and it gives them some confidence to stick out the classroom work,” he said.

“It’s important for kids to get time outside the classroom. It provides a setting for them to take on a leadership role.”

They have also received funding for a community kitchen program to involve adults in learning how to prepare meals for their families at home.

The lunch-hour activity currently runs two days a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Traditional values come to school with a hot meal to boot

Grade 11 student Kyla Hbatum serves up a piping hot bowl of carrot and ginger soup during the elder lunch program at East Three Secondary School. The program provides a hot meal for students and physical activity.
**Satellite station to get new antenna**

The Swedish Space Corporation (SSC) plans to increase its capacity at the Inuvik Satellite Station at the beginning of this year with the installation of a new multi-mission antenna.

The expansion is driven by an increasing need for communication with polar-orbiting satellites, normally used for Earth observation and atmospheric monitoring.

With increased capacity at Inuvik, we will not only be able to maintain the high level of services for our current customers but we will also be able to offer our services to new customers,” said Leif Osterbo, president of SSC’s satellite management services division.

The new 13-metre antenna is expected to be fully operational late this year.

**Curling territorials kick off**

The 2015 NWT Curling Men’s Brier Championship gets underway today at the Inuvik Curling Club.

The four-day event to determine who will represent the territory on the national stage in Calgary from Feb. 28 to March 8 will see three Inuvik teams and three Yellowknife teams face off in a round-robin format.

The three teams from Inuvik are skipped by Nick Satamino, Larry Greenland and Dave McLeod, while the three Yellowknife teams are skipped by defending champion Jamie Kee, Greg King and Steve Moss.

The Brier final is slated for Feb. 8.

**Mama Mia, it’s Italian**

Get your Italian food fill this weekend at the Italian dinner and auction hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary in support of East Third Secondary School Art Travel Club.

Club members are on a mission to raise $80,000 for a trip to Italy this spring.

The event will take place at the Legion on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. with silent and live auctions to be followed by dinner. Eat-in and take-out are available, and gluten free and vegetarian meals can be made upon request.

**Justice committee hosts boys night**

The Inuvik Justice Committee is hosting a weekly boys night for youth in the community to come out and do fun activities in a boys-only environment.

Free for boys in grades six through nine, the first weekly event was held Jan. 26 and will continue each week at the Inter-agency Building behind the Igloolik Church from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Child-centred curriculum celebrated by teachers**

Educators praise Aboriginal Head Start program at workshop

Eduardo Lippincott/Aliyak NNSL photo

**About 40 early childhood educators with the Western Arctic Aboriginal Head Start Council from across eight NWT communities convened on Ingamo Hall from Jan. 27 to Jan. 28 for professional development and to work on improving the curriculum the organization has worked with for the last three years.**

“$80,000 has been raised to send the teams to Italy next spring. "Sight and Live auctions to be followed by dinner. Eat-in and take-out are available, and gluten free and vegetarian meals can be made upon request.”

**Validation received**

Reanna Erasmus, chair of the Aboriginal Head Start in the territory, said when she heard Murphy speak over two days, she was happy to hear that the curriculum the organization has developed over the last decade, and brought into action in 2012, was similar to approaches by other education specialists.

“When I saw her presentations I knew where she was coming from,” said Erasmus.

“It really validated what we were doing. We’re on the cutting edge of early childhood education.”

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**Why did we get it wrong?**

Inuvik Drum is committed to getting facts and names right. With that goes a commitment to acknowledge mistakes and run corrections. If you spot an error in Inuvik Drum, contact the editor at (867) 777-4545 or e-mail inuvikdrum@nml.com.

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**Town lends hand to Jamboree**

Council offers free use of recreation complex to king and queen contestants, offers community hall for one-night event to help raise money

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**The future of childcare in Inuvik**

"It's the teachers job to articulate the play in the classroom and link it back to the domains so that it doesn’t just mean the kids are doing anything they want," Murphy said.

"You'll have kids expected to hold a pencil but not let them run around and be kids. All of that physical development needs to happen first. It's not that we're letting them run around for the sake of it, but it's a thing they have to do to help them develop balanced."

"We need to help them raise these funds without using taxpayer dollars," said Lindsay, adding the committee didn't come to the town for a cash donation, but donation of town facility space. "It'll shine on us all."

"We don't know if it's fair to donate to people who are going to benefit in the end," he said.

Acting senior administrative officer Gary McBride all but quashed the idea of giving a portion of the money collected when he said it contravenes the town bylaws. Organizations aren’t allowed to pay out compensation under fundraising efforts. In the past, the jamboree gave cash prizes or more extravagant winnings like plane tickets or trips, among other things.

Coun. Terry Halifax asked the town to bend its policies for the jamboree because of its long-standing status in the community as Inuvik’s premiere event that involved residents of all ages. He also said the concern of some councilors that by donating the space it could set a precedent for the town and open the door to more requests wasn't to be taken seriously.

"I can't see we're going to be getting an outpouring of requests for donation," he said.

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**Quilting Weekend**

Eight-year-old Tessa Jenks concentrates on sewing the fabric for a section of the quilt she is making, while her mother Anick Jenks looks on as support and guidance. The Jenks women were part of a two-day quilting workshop hosted at Aurora College on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. The group was able to bring up two instructors from Yellowknife, Hazil Wainwright and Dawn MacDonald, using grant money the Inuvik Quilting Club had been awarded.
The Muskrat Jamboree is one of the most important events to take place in the town. But the organizing committee revealed to town council on Jan. 26 the sad news that it had failed to submit a lottery licence application for its annual mega bingo. After much discussion, the town council decided to make a day available for the jamboree due to already-approved licences. There would be no bingo for the 2015 festival.

While it’s disappointing residents and jamboreegoers won’t be able to dab their cards this year and win big money, the more concerning part is the loss of approximately $30,000 in revenue for the jamboree to operate. When you’re budget to put on the event is close to $120,000, that kind of revenue hole is tough to fill.

In steps town council. The committee had requested the town donate facility use for the jamboree’s king and queen contestants. Every year, contestants raise funds through chili sales, raffle draws, among other things, and the committee wanted to use a town facility for them to run their events. Council unanimously voted to allow contestants the use of the recreation complex for one night each.

For Coun. Derek Lindsay, the jamboree is the most important event the town has every year. With the loss of the bingo and revenue generated from the event, he felt it was important for the town to step in and help.

Coun. Terry Halifax, Joe Lavoie, Clarence Wood and deputy mayor Jim McDonald all agreed -- the town needed to help the king and queen contestants be able to raise more money to help the jamboree cover its expense bill. If they didn’t, it could spell financial disaster for the 57-year event. No one wants that to happen. The jamboree brings the town and surrounding communities together. It builds friendship, creates fun competition and strengthens the community.

So, they took it one step further. Mayor Floyd Roland suggested the town offer a Saturday night at the community hall for the jamboree to host a community event for all the contestants to be a part of. By doing this, he hoped it would help them raise some more money. Council didn’t hesitate to vote yes, resoundingly.

This is what makes this town so special, council and community organizations working together for a common goal -- to make Inuvik an inviting and fun place to live.

The jamboree plays such an important role every year, and council did the right thing by stepping up to bat and doing more to help fill the void left by the loss of bingo. Lindsay said the move to help would shine on them all.

Kudos, council, for your efforts. It’s shining down on you.

DO YOU THINK THAT HAVING AN ACTIVE ARMY CADET PROGRAM IN INUVIK IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUTH AND THE COMMUNITY?

Yes, it helps keep the youth out of trouble and teaches them important life skills.

HAVE YOUR SAY

How important is early childhood education for the community in your opinion? Go online to www.nnsl.com/inuvik to vote in this week’s poll.

BALLIN’ AROUND

Justin Kovalcik, a Grade 12 student at East Three Secondary School, keeps the ball moving during recreational soccer on Feb. 2. The school’s gym is open Mondays and Wednesdays for soccer for anyone 13 years old and up.
Student poetry comes alive

Music made from poems to become concert for East Three students

by Andrew Livingstone

The thought of the poetry Lexis McDonald has created being turned into music makes her excited.

The Grade 7 student at East Three Elementary School has been working with her classmates to create poetry that will be used to create a musical performance. "It makes me feel proud,” she said. “The thought of my own words being turned into music is amazing.”

Abe Drennan, an English teacher at the school who has been working with his class of students on creating the poetry for the collaboration, said the year-long project has opened up students to the world of expressing their feelings and emotions through words and music.

"Under the direction of professionals from across Canada, students have been writing poetry, participating in workshops and working on vocal and performance techniques in preparation for a regional event in May in Yellowknife," he said. "They're going to get this chance to sing their song," he continued. "They're going to experience a unique way is an exciting opportunity for Northern youth voice to be heard in such a unique way is an exciting experience for his students to be a part of such a memorable, artistic experience."

Ten students have been selected to represent Inuvik in Yellowknife and their poetry will be on display at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre during a performance with the Yellowknife Youth Choir and 80 other students from across the Beaufort-Delta and Yellowknife regions.

"These kids are going to fit well,” said Drennan. "They were taking their poetry and adding rhythm to the music of Michael Jackson's Thriller, the children are opening up to the project. They were taking their poems and adding rhythm to their worlds," he said. "They began to think of their poems as more than words.”

The students heading to Yellowknife for the performance have raised $5,000 in order to attend, and have been holding bake sales and other events to raise the needed funds.

"He said the opportunity for young people to participate in a unique way is an exciting experience for his students to be a part of such a memorable, artistic experience."

Feast to mark sun's return

Baskets/Sachs Harbour

Sachs Harbour residents gathered at Inuvialuk School Jan. 30 to welcome the sun with a potluck feast. About 30 to 50 people attended and were treated to reindeer, salmon, smoked salmon, dry meat and more.

"Everything was great actually," said Andrea Keogak, justice committee co-ordinator. "More people than we expected showed up. All the food was prepared very good.”

The justice committee in partnership with the Sachs Harbour Community Corporation and the recreation department ran the event.

Sachs student brings home gold

Baskets/Sachs Harbour

Students at Inuvialuk School all wanted to try on Casey Ta's medals Feb. 3. Tai competed in a badminton tournament in Yellowknife the preceding weekend.

He took gold in doubles under 19 and in singles under 16. He also finished second in mixed doubles.

Teacher Jennifer Griffin said the school is very proud of the Grade 8 student's accomplishment.

Youth Valentine party planned

Tsiigehtchic/Arctic Red River

Tsiigehtchic youth are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day with a bingo and pizza party in the community gym. The event runs Feb. 11 starting at 6 p.m. for ages six to 15.

"There's going to be a lot of door prizes and everybody is guaranteed to go home with something," said organizer Sasha Blake.

Prizes include chocolates, gift cards, iTunes cards and Valentine's Day cards.

Many youth at hockey camp

Aklavik

Dozens of youth improved their hockey skills during a clinic held Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 in Aklavik.

Andy Nowicki of Red Deer, Alta., flew in to run the event. Dean McLeod, hamlet recreation co-ordinator, said he was pleased to see 48 youth participate.

"Some of them, they come a long ways in that little time," he said. "It was a really good clinic. They had three days of learning new skills and drills in hockey because a lot of the kids have never played before. It’s too expensive so we bring in a good instructor." Nowicki worked with ages 9 and younger, 10 to 13 years old, and 14 and older.

McLeod said he is thankful to Canadian North for sponsoring the clinic.

"They made it possible for the kids to have this opportunity," said McLeod. "To do the best job for the kids and the coach."

Any community members interested in the clinic are welcome to stop by, said McLeod.

"The main thing is to come out and have fun.”
The Second Annual Masquerade Ball at the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex on Jan. 31 brought out the mysterious and plenty of intrigue.

With more than 60 people in attendance for the Inuvik Figure Skating Club annual fundraiser, event-goers were decked to the nines. From two-piece suits to ball gowns, it was a night of good food, great prizes and music.

Patrons were treated to a succulent beef dinner complimented with homemade french onion soup and a trio of salads.

After the dinner, live and silent auction, and dessert auction – which made more than $900 – were done, Tony Devlin pumped up the volume and treated the crowd to its very own dance party.

The Mexican wrestlers are joined by Patrice Stuart, left, Angel Simon, Jennifer Maier, Jennifer Cockney and May Cockney during the dance portion of the Masquerade Ball on Jan. 31.

Dave DeKwant shaves the roast beef in preparation for the sit-down dinner at the Masquerade Ball.

Dressed to the nines, Patrice Stuart, left, Laura Worsley-Brown and Tanya Gruber pause for a photo during the Masquerade Ball at the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex on Jan. 31.
Safety Matters:  
Open Letter to Residents of the NWT

I want to respond to public discussion about the issue of violent behaviour by patients or visitors at Stanton Territorial Hospital recently. Much of this discussion is based on misunderstanding or incomplete information, and it is time to set the record straight.

First, it has been reported that no action was taken at Stanton in response to a 2011 review of an incident in the Emergency Department. This is simply not true. One recommendation – to establish a new class of security guard with legislated powers – was rejected as unnecessary. But Stanton leadership has made numerous changes, including increased security guard coverage in the Emergency Department; installation of doors, locks, and alarms; and training and improved operational responses for incidents of violence.

Secondly, there have been calls for new legislation to fix the problem. Lack of legislation is not the problem – the Criminal Code of Canada provides a framework that allows security personnel to respond to violent situations.

Finally, and most important, it has been stated that we have failed to respond to renewed staff concerns about safety at Stanton since a November 2014 incident. This is simply not true. Stanton leadership has enhanced security guard coverage in the Emergency Department, and put in place several infrastructure improvements requested by staff. Further major changes to the physical layout are being assessed, and enhanced training for staff and security personnel is being organized.

Finding the right solutions is not an easy task. I have been criticized for setting up a Safety and Security Working Group, which is seen as delaying action. But while there are clearly situations where trained security personnel are needed, there are also many situations where health care staff are the appropriate first responder to a disturbed patient; for example, in the case of an elder with dementia, or a confused patient coming out of anesthesia. Finding a balance between responding to a disturbed patient with compassion and responding to an escalating violent situation is a challenge faced by every health care system, and we can learn from others’ successes and failures. We all want action – but there is not one simple solution to this complex issue.

I take these issues very seriously. To build on the good work already done by Stanton’s leadership, I have made it clear that I expect additional action, including:

- The Department will be provided with a summary report on every Code White situation;
- A security expert will be brought in early this month to review Stanton’s physical environment, and operating procedures, to identify areas for immediate improvement;
- The Safety and Security Working Group will return with concrete recommendations for action within 3 months;
- Stanton will work with their security contractors to implement immediate improvements in responding to violence.

Once this initial work is completed, my officials will broaden their work to address safety concerns of staff in every health and social services facility.

The NWT is lucky to have a dedicated group of highly skilled health care professionals who do their jobs with passion and commitment. It is my absolute top priority to ensure that we continue to provide quality patient care, while creating a safe and supportive workplace.

Best Health, Best Care, for a Better Future
I'm having a terrible time with stress. I work full-time, take graduate classes and have a busy family life. My young daughter has severe ADHD and was having problems at school that took me away from work.

My job is stressful, but I love it and it pays well. Yet I am often sent out of town for weeks at a time and expected to perform to high standards. We are due to move for my job this June, and I don’t know where yet. In addition, we’ve been coping with a medical condition involving my son.

On top of this, we were already coping with severe financial stress. My husband developed a gambling problem two years ago. When I discovered it, my first impulse was to leave. But I was eight months pregnant and terrified of the idea of having the baby alone while caring for our rambunctious daughter.

So I gave my husband a list of tasks he had to accomplish to stay with me. To my surprise, he did all of these, including seeing a counsellor and putting his name on a list making it illegal for him to enter casinos. I’ve seen the paperwork. It’s not just his word.

Yet for all the stress, I am deeply satisfied with my life, my family and others make life harder. As a result, I cut off my mother’s feelings, how I have a better relationship with my dad, and how she doesn’t want to lie to mom that I am in town.

I told my sister she never has to lie. I am not hiding that I am in town, but when the purpose of my visit is something else, I can’t overburden myself trying to see everyone.

I want to give our relationship the chance to repair and does. For instance, when I visit my hometown, she watches over your husband (because a single action of his blinding husband and a stressful job. Watch over your kids, your imagination in the next few days so you your daydreams get you into trouble. Harness your creativity and imagination. Be patient and have a little patience.

Go no farther with sister

I want to write my sister as well, but every time I start with “I miss you,” the letter stops because while I want to be loving, I don’t want to give ground. The letter stops because I am afraid it invites more stress.

I miss her. I really do. But I am hurt by what she says and does. For instance, when I visit my hometown, she lectures me about how I don’t visit enough, how it hurts my mother’s feelings, how I have a better relationship with my dad, and how she doesn’t want to lie to mom that I am in town.

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I want to give our relationship the chance to repair before we move, but time is ticking and I am frozen.

Zena, in the last episode of the TV show Columbo, Peter Falk matches wits with an Irish writer who is a murderer.

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Zena, in the last episode of the TV show Columbo, Peter Falk matches wits with an Irish writer who is a murderer.
Northern games draw the young

Inuvik Youth Centre hosts popular traditional activities

by Andrew Livingstone

French cows, ankle-biting dogs and monkeys.

Not your typical animals of the North, but at the Inuvik Youth Centre’s weekly Northern games night, it was like a scene out of the zoo.

Each week 10 to 15 youth descend on the youth centre for two hours of traditional games. From one and two-legged high-kick to laughing games, the youth enjoy camaraderie with their peers while running, laughing and partaking in cultural growth.

And despite the frigid cold temperatures, 20 youth were in attendance Jan. 29, some trickling in after the 7 p.m. start time, throwing off their boots and snowmobile pants to jump right into the games.

Kyle Kuptana’s laughter infects each child in the room. The youth all know Kuptana, and respect him when he speaks. Some of the children are a little shy, and he works hard to include them all in each game they play.

Kuptana is a dream come true for the youth centre, said executive director Renee Theoret.

“Think the kids come here for Kyle,” she said. “He really encourages the girls and the young boys not to be shy and that means a lot to them and they trust him.”

Theoret said his personality is larger than life and his connection with the youth in the community helps to keep the room full of children on Thursdays.

“It’s a great energy to have him here,” she said. “We’re so lucky. Even for us as adults, he makes people feel comfortable and he’s really in his element.”

Joseph Semmler, drop-in supervisor at the youth centre, said when he was growing up not many children his age were involved in Northern games, adding it’s important to pass on the traditions to the younger youth.

“To see how many kids like to participate now, it’s great to see,” he said. “It’s important to stay in the culture.”

Semmler added that Kuptana is respected by the children and is crucial to the success of the weekly program, which runs during the school year.

“It’s awesome to have him come in because the kids, they love him,” he said. “He’s really good with them and knows the games so well and he’s a great teacher. It would be a lot different if someone who barely knew the games taught them. He’s great to have involved.”

Jovian Pokiak gets some serious vertical airtime during a round of one-foot high kick at the Inuvik Youth Centre’s weekly Northern games night.
02/05/15

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE NORTH

WELDER - Flagstaff County seeks permanent full-time Weld. er, will consider Apprentice/Journeyman. Competitive salary, benefits, pension plan. Apply to: Kevin Kinzer; kkinzer@flagstaff. ab.ca. More details at flagstaff.ab.ca.

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Living with dietary restrictions

While challenging, Inuvik residents making transition to gluten-free find it easier than they thought

By Andrew Livingstone

Kaytlin Cooper, who just moved to Inuvik late last year said she figured she would have to order gluten-free products to be delivered to her, but found the products available to suit her dietary needs were beyond what she imagined.

"I was amazed that what products have gluten in them aren't always sure what is what food has gluten and what doesn't has also been a big barrier."

Kaytlin Cooper

"I was brought in the North is a particularly challenging situation. The higher cost of food and the sometimes reduced quality of products that help to maintain a healthy lifestyle can be difficult for some to attain, either through limited access or financial cost.

For people like Cooper with dietary restrictions, the challenge can be even greater and may require more effort in order to maintain those needs. However, Cooper has found it much easier than she thought it was going to be.

"I thought I would have to order foods and flours online, but was very surprised and happy to see a good stock of items here," she said.

Both Northmart and Stanton's carry a variety of gluten-free products like pre-packaged flour mixes, cookies and veg ground, tofu, frozen bread, pizza, vegan cheese, almond milk and soy milk.

"I was amazed that the prices were not much more than I was paying back in Ontario," she said. "Sure, buying flours from the bulk store and mixing it yourself is cheaper than packages, but for a small town in the very far north of Canada, I'm very happy with the choices."

Cooper said she has more options here in Inuvik than her mother in England does, and even her sister who lives in Australia.

"They can get different flours, but a lot has to be ordered online or they have to travel to specialty shops," she said. "They don't have much access to cookies, crackers, or mixes."

Jana MacKay, regional nutritionist for the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority, said eating healthy is challenging for people who aren't trying to eat with dietary restrictions, let alone those who are.

"Some places down south there is much more choice, but up here the choices overall are limited but with a specific restriction it is even more so," she said, adding it's important for those living with dietary needs to try and make it as easy as possible.

"It's important to plan ahead and cook more at home, which in many ways is a benefit because it's usually a lot healthier and you are able to control the ingredients going in."

For two weeks Tanya Milheron-Badgley has been eating gluten free for health reasons. Milheron-Badgley was diagnosed with a chronic illness almost two years ago and has been trying to find ways to keep it under control. After getting advice from her doctor and nutritionist, she decided to go gluten free for at least a month to see if it would have an impact on keeping her illness in check.

While impressed with the options that are available to her at the grocery stores in town, she's found it challenging in a number of ways.

"It's a total lifestyle change," she said. "What's most challenging is preparing a meal for me and then for my family. And with a busy lifestyle, it's challenging to stick with it."

Because of the higher cost of eating gluten free, she said her family continues to eat regular non-gluten-free food. She added being aware of what food has gluten and what doesn't has also been a big change.

"If you're out socializing you aren't always sure what is acceptable," she said, adding reading labels and knowing what products have gluten in them but aren't labelled is a big barrier.

For the first few days, the best way to describe it was overwhelming," she said. "I think the awareness is there and it's good to know you have options."