

our awesome glacier sponsors



LONG JOHN JAMBOREE

March 26, 2015 – Yellowknife, NWT

DE BEERS INSPIRED ICE CARVING COMPETITION IS UNDERWAY

Ten carving teams are here to participate in De Beers Inspired Ice Carving Competition **this weekend** as part of Yellowknife's Long John Jamboree winter festival.

Inspired Ice is thrilled to welcome its first overseas competitor. Junichi Nakamura of Japan is widely regarded as one of the best ice carvers in the world. He has won the gold in two Olympic ice carving competitions, and is a U.S. National Championship winner.

Five teams from the USA include Victor Dagatan, who represented the USA at the Sochi Olympics, and last year's Inspired Ice winners Dean Murray and Chris Foltz. Among the Canadian teams, Edmonton's Stephen Chung returns to Yellowknife for the second time. Fort Simpson's Randy Sibbeston and John Sabourin of Yellowknife will compete for the fourth straight year.

Thanks to First Air for flying our out-of-NWT competitors and judges from Edmonton to Yellowknife.

The complete list of participating carvers is below. Bio information on the carvers is available on the Long John Jamboree website.

The carvers will be able to spend all day for the next three days on the ice, because of the generous support of our catering sponsors, such as The Cellar, Gourmet Cup, After 8 Pub, and Tim Horton's. Carving sessions go from Noon to 10 pm today, 9 am to 9 pm Friday and 9 am to 3 pm Saturday.

Carving ends Saturday at 3 pm with judging to follow until 4:30. The public are invited to vote as well for the People's Choice award. De Beers is serving free hot chocolate to everyone who casts a ballot for their favourite carving. Winners will be announced in the music tent Saturday at 9:20 pm after the Burn on the Bay and the Fireworks. The awards will be given out Sunday at Noon on the Snow Stage.

Unfortunately, four teams have had to drop out of the competition. Two teams dropped out for personal and family reasons; and two teams from Malaysia and Mongolia ran into complications getting entry visas in time to come to Canada.

De Beers Inspired Ice competition is one of the few in the world to use big blocks of naturally

MARCH 27-29.2015
LONG JOHN JAMBOREE.ca

harvested ice. The blocks of natural "Crystal Blue Aurora Ice" were hand-cut from Yellowknife Bay earlier this month, with heavy lifting of the big blocks provided by Det'on Cho Logistics.

The public is invited to come down to watch the carvings take shape during the Long John Jamboree. Admission to the Jamboree is free of charge.

Carving Teams

1. Team Captain: Stephen **Chung**, Edmonton, Alberta
Team Member: Ka Wai **Wong**, Ottawa, Ontario
2. Team Captain: Chad **Hartson**, Napoleon, Ohio
Team Member: Victor **Dagatan**, Marietta, Georgia
3. Team Captain: Kla **Kitburi**, Oxon Hill, Maryland
Team Member: Chan **Kitburi**, Marysville, Washington
4. Team Captain: Don **Lowing**, Havertown, Pennsylvania
Team Member: Peter **Slavin**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
5. Team Captain: Joel **Maillet**, Yellowknife, NWT
Team Member: J D **Hollingshead**, Yellowknife, NWT
6. Team Captain: Dean **Murray**, Kiel, Wisconsin
Team Member: Chris **Foltz**, Oregon
7. Team Captain: Junichi **Nakamura**, Obihiro, Japan
Team Member: Shinichi **Sawamura**, San Jose, California
8. Team Captain: Eli **Nasogaluak**, Yellowknife, NWT
Team Member: Desmond **Nasogaluak**, Yellowknife, NWT
9. Team Captain: Thomas **Pitt**, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Team Member: Peter **Fogarty**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
10. Team Captain: Randy **Sibbeston**, Fort Simpson, NWT
Team Member: John **Sabourin**, Yellowknife, NWT

- 30 -

For more information, contact Keith MacNeill | Coordinator, DeBeers Inspired Ice:
NWT Ice Carving Championships
867-446-0554 | icecarving@longjohnjamboree.ca

