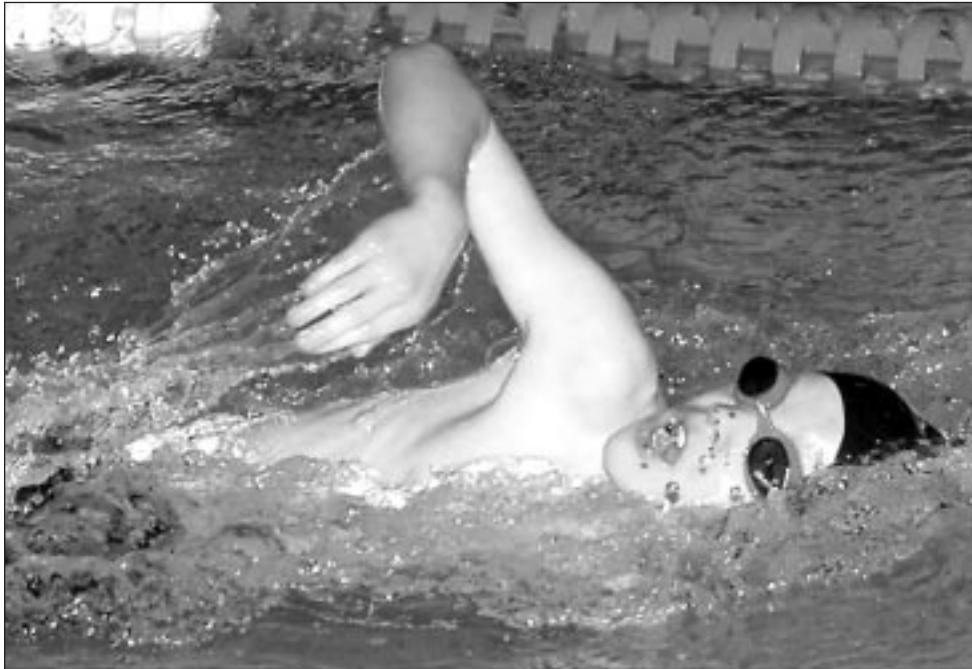


Sports & Recreation

Swimmers look forward to fall

New Hay River pool will improve competition across territory



Chris Puglia/NNSL photo

Lyndon Yee was one of 16 Hay River swimmers who attended the Shopper's Drug Mart NWT Swimming Championships in Yellowknife, Feb. 25 to 27.

by **Chris Puglia**

Northern News Services
Somba K'e/Yellowknife

Next season is going to be a big year for Hay River swimmers.

Their new full length 25m pool will come on stream this fall and that is going to do wonders for their level of competition, said Hay River Lions coach Kelvin Yee.

He and 16 of his swimmers were in Yellowknife Feb. 25 to 27 for the NWT Swimming Championships.

Bigger pool pays off

Although impressed by how his athletes performed, he said it's easy to tell the difference between Hay River swimmers who train in an 18 metre pool and Yellowknife swimmers who train in a 25 metre pool.

"For the shorter races, they are doing fine. Anything longer than 100 metres and they are noticing the difference," he said.

"(The new pool) will make a big difference in conditioning. It will basically double practise time."

It seemed pool size wasn't an issue for Michelle Daigeneault, 13. She said the longer

lanes weren't making her swims all that harder.

She was also quick to point

out that she beat Colton Yee, one of Hay River's stronger swimmers, in one of her races.

Colton was equally quick to call the feat a fluke.

The Hay River swimmers are not the only ones looking forward to the new pool.

Yellowknife swim coach Daryl Dolynny said the new Hay

River pool will improve calibre and opportunity for competition in the territory as a whole.

"It will basically double the practise time."

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