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## Sports & Recreation

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# A meet at home

*Hay River Lions swim club hosts its first official swim competition*

by **Natalie Dunleavy**  
Northern News Services  
**Hay River**

Swimmers in Hay River were able to hold their first official swim meet Nov. 17 to 18 after preparing their pool for the event.

"It was a lot of work but it was fun," said Kelvin Yee, head coach of the swim club.

The numbers at the meet were almost evenly split, with 18 Hay River swimmers and about 20 from the Polar Bear Swim Club in Yellowknife.

Since the Lions are accustomed to competing against the Polar Bears, Yee was not surprised that Yellowknife dominated the meet.

"We swim against Yellowknife all the time so there were no surprises," said Yee.

But although the outcome

was more or less expected, Yee said that wasn't what the meet was about.

"The most satisfying thing was seeing the little kids swim in their first ever meet and come out with a big smile on their face," he said.

And despite tough competition, many of the Hay River swimmers had a taste of success at the meet.

On top of a slew of medals, Colton Yee and Mason Hachey came close to achieving qualifying times for the 'A' division Alberta age group championships.

Achieving these times would also rank them among Alberta's best.

"We're going to continue to train as we have in the past and

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**Malcolm St. John competed in Hay River's first official swim meet Nov. 16 to 17.**

Paul Bolger/YYC.com

### SPORTS Check

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## Less anxiety at home

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hopefully get them qualified," said Yee. Yee said the meet was also a good experience because swimmers had the opportunity to compete at home.

"It's good for our kids in the fact they're swimming at home for a change rather than having to travel," he said. "There's not as much anxiety.

As well as being good for the town's economy, Yee said being able to host meets will help the club grow.

"As we grow stronger and get better, it's something that's got to happen," he said.

The club will next compete against the Polar Bears at the Shoppers Drug Mart NWT Championships in Yellowknife in January.