

# Opinions

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## Editorial

# Live your dream

Just because you're from a small town doesn't mean you can't dream big.

That was the message a number of Hay River youth received last week during Olympic swimmer Mike Brown's visit to town.

Brown, a native of Perth, Ontario (population 6,000), met with local swimmers, parents, teachers and students during his short visit to tell his story. And those he met with certainly heard his message.

While Brown grew up in a community nearly twice the size of Hay River, he had access to a swimming facility that was by no means modern. So, in a sense, local swimmers already have a leg up on Brown.

Brown's secret to success was to set goals for himself starting at a young age. The goals were small at first, but increased in size and scope as Brown's talent started to take shape in the pool.

Setting goals, working hard and persevering through hard times are keys to success in any forum, Brown said, from sports to business and school.

In addition to Brown, local athletes can now look to two of their own for motivation and inspiration.

Biathlete Brendan Green finished up another successful season on the biathlon circuit recently and will be returning home soon. Green, who finished the season ranked third on the senior men's National Team is slowly inching closer to his dream of competing in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics as each day passes. Green's career started out like many other biathletes in Hay River, but his dedication to his sport and his determination have allowed him to make a name for himself on the World Cup circuit. His secret to success? Hard work, perseverance and dedication.

Joseph Lirette, another local biathlete, made his national debut at the end of March and seems to have a positive future in the sport ahead of him. Perhaps Hay River has another Olympic hopeful in its future.

Snowboarder Michelle Brodeur, daughter of Hub publisher Chris Brodeur, is another athlete on the cusp of the Olympics who once called Hay River home. Brodeur's talent and determination have taken her to the world stage.

Live small, but dream big.

### CORRECTION

In last week's page one photo, *Jump for Gold*, the student in the photo was incorrectly identified as Shanise Mandeville.

The student in question was actually Joslyn Mabbitt. *The Hub* regrets the error.



## Writing to the Editor?

**Keep it short...** Ask yourself how long you would spend reading a letter. Try to keep it below 250 words.

**Don't rant...** Use a persuasive, rational argument supported by facts and figures.

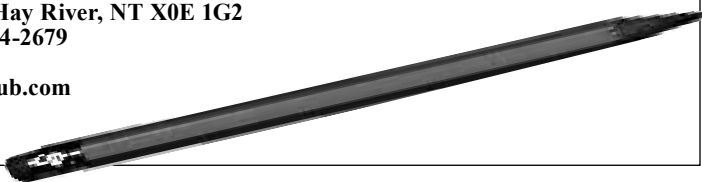
**Be topical...** Write about things that are in the news, particularly locally.

**Be legible...** If possible, type. If not, make sure your handwriting is legible. If necessary, print.

**Be humble...** Expect to be edited, then if it doesn't happen, great. We try not to change the impact of a letter, but for the sake of readability, clarity, space or legality, we may have to do minor editing. The more carefully you write, the less editing will be needed.

Letters should be signed and include your full name and a phone number for verification. Send your letters to:

Editor at The Hub  
8-4 Courtoreille, Hay River, NT X0E 1G2  
Or fax us at 867-874-2679  
Or e-mail  
editor@hayriverhub.com

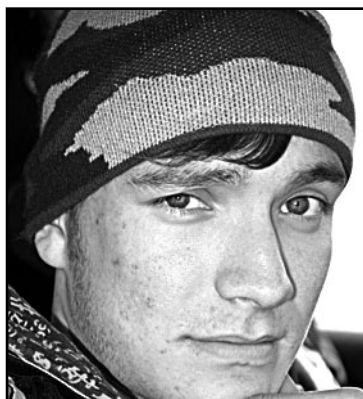


# You Said It!

In regard to the "sin tax" increases, are you planning on changing your habits?



**Bruce Biggin:** I'm going to quit smoking.



**Keaton Roy:** I'm going to stop drinking. It's too expensive.



**Kelly Allinott:** I don't have any habits, so I've got nothing to worry about.



**Pat Pekok:** I'm going to quit drinking.

**PUBLISHER**  
Chris Brodeur  
publisher@hayriverhub.com



**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Lorna Desilets  
classifieds@hayriverhub.com



**ADVERTISING**  
Lehaina Andrews  
advertise@hayriverhub.com



**EDITOR**  
Patrick Teskey  
editor@hayriverhub.com



**REPORTER**  
Diana Yeager  
sports@hayriverhub.com



**DESIGN/PHOTO**  
Scott Clouthier  
photo@hayriverhub.com



**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Chrissie Morgan  
design@hayriverhub.com



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**Phone (867) 874-6577**  
**Fax (867) 874-2679**  
hub@hayriverhub.com  
www.hayriverhub.com