

Summer 2008

Volume 7, Issue III

Northern Passages

Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Contents:

- 2** Aboriginal film nights encourage dialogue
- 2** Speaker applauds NOSM's focus on innovation
- 3** Residents get wilderness medicine training
- 3** NOSM receives go-ahead for new residency program
- 4-5** Breaking Ice with ICEMEN
- 6** Saying goodbye to Dr. Judith Woodsworth
- 6** Board marks beginnings and endings at latest retreat
- 7** A conversation with Dorothy Wright, retired CAO
- 8** Un nouveau président nommé à la GTF
- 8** Summer programs reach out to youth



Northern Ontario
School of Medicine

West Campus
Lakehead University
955 Oliver Road
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1
Tel: 807-766-7300
Fax: 807-766-7370

East Campus
Laurentian University
935 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6
Tel: 705-675-4883
Fax: 705-675-4858

www.nosm.ca

ICEMEN a 'phenomenal success'



(Left to right) Anne Weir Chater, Dr. Ruth Stewart, Dr. Alan Bruce Chater, and Dr. Denese Playford, standing in front of the mighty Hearst Moose welcome statue. They were part of the ICEMEN northern-route bus trip, travelling from Sudbury to Thunder Bay.

The inaugural International Conference on Community Engaged Medical Education in the North (ICEMEN) was, in the words of NOSM Founding Dean Dr. Roger Strasser, "A phenomenal success."

"By all accounts we had the right mix of people, of presenters and programs," says Strasser. "Participants were extremely pleased with the event. They left the conference with an understanding of the innovative work being done at NOSM."

ICEMEN brought together nearly 130 community-based medical educators from five continents. Events took place at the School's various campuses and centres, running from June 8 to 14. It was co-hosted by Flinders University of Australia.

See pages 4-5 for full coverage

\$3M for Aboriginal Research Chair

NOSM is now home to Canada's first Research Chair in Aboriginal and Rural Health, thanks to a \$3 million donation made by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (HSFO) and the Ontario government.

"We are thrilled to be receiving this funding," says Dr. Greg Ross, NOSM's Associate Dean of Research. "This will allow the School to increase the capacity for research that focuses on health issues relevant to rural and Aboriginal communities."

The new Chair is intended to conduct leading-edge research into health issues of particular relevance to Aboriginal and rural communities of Northern

Ontario. One prime example is cardiovascular disease.

It is well known that rates of cardiovascular disease in Northern Ontario significantly

exceed those of the rest of the province. In particular, research has shown that people from

Continued on p. 6

Research conference biggest yet

The third annual Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC), held this past May in North Bay, was the largest attended to date, with over 150 delegates from various backgrounds and institutions. This year the event was hosted by Nipissing University.

In keeping with the School's social accountability mandate, and to address the cultural diversity of the region, presentations covered a broad variety of research topics, all of which shared in the common theme of improving the health of the people of Northern Ontario.

Dr. Joshua Tepper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources (HHR) Strategy Division, Ministry of Health and Long

Continued on p. 2

Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Aboriginal film nights encourage dialogue

If a picture tells a thousand words, then moving pictures tell a thousand stories. Telling stories is what is at the heart of NOSM's Aboriginal Film Nights.

Marion Maar is Assistant Professor of Aboriginal Health, Human Sciences. She is also one of the coordinators of this twice-annual film night. She says film is a great way to share ideas and perspectives, and to promote dialogue.

"That's really what we're trying to do here," explains Maar. "The films are chosen to encourage discussion, and to educate people about some of the issues."

These film nights happen twice each year, in the Spring and Fall. Everyone is welcome to attend, with rooms set up on both main campuses. Maar says they usually get about 20 people in the audience, which is a good turn-out, but more are welcome.

A recent film night featured: *Qallunaat! Why White People Are Funny*. This docu-comedy, as it is called by its creators, uses humour to turn the mirror around onto North American "white culture." In doing so it reveals much about stereotypes, cultural biases, and misunderstandings.

"We picked this movie because it is a great way for people to step outside their own culture and examine what they are doing, and how they are thinking," says Maar. "It was amusing, but it is also a bit hard to watch."

As the movie's promotional material says, *Why White People Are Funny*, is a humbling portrait of what it must feel like to be the object of the white man's gaze. As always, the movie prompted excellent discussions, which is the real point of the evening.

Past movies have dealt with other issues such as residential schools and racism. The most recent film, *Seeking Bimaadiziwin*, is a movie that

deals with issues of depression, suicide and racism. The film was written by Michelle Derosier of Eagle Lake First Nation, in Northwestern Ontario.

Dr. Paul Mulzer is a NOSM Lecturer on mental health issues. He is also President of First Nation Initiative, one of the production companies behind *Seeking Bimaadiziwin*. The other co-producers of the film are Thunderstone Pictures and Shebandowan Films. All three are based in Thunder Bay, with the film itself being shot in Thunder Bay, and on the Fort William First Nation.

"This town (Thunder Bay) has a real depth of talent," says Mulzer, who also acts as Executive Producer of *Seeking Bimaadiziwin*. "We had 140 young people show up for the screen tests. The response from the community was tremendous."

First Nation Initiative is a not-for-profit organization focused on film and video production and distribution for and by First Nations people. So far they have produced two films: the drama, *Seeking Bimaadiziwin*, and a documentary called *Sharing Tebwewin*.



A scene from *Seeking Bimaadiziwin* being filmed in Thunder Bay.

"Research conference ..." cont. from p. 1

Speaker applauds NOSM's focus on innovation

Term Care, opened the conference. In his keynote address he spoke about the challenges, and opportunities, in health care.

His talk, entitled *Contemplating HHR Research Or 10 Things I Wish I Had Known*, both entertained and enlightened the audience. He also made special mention of NOSM's commitment to innovation.

"You are doing things very differently here by bringing in a different group of students and educating them in a fundamentally different model, in different settings, and under different principles and philosophies," says Tepper.

"I think all this will lead to a group of physicians that are willing and eager to stay in the North. It's great to have a new school, but

it's the way it's designed that is really momentous," Tepper adds.

In his keynote address, Tepper spoke about the importance of Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN) in the distribution of research funding. He also discussed the stewardship role of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, describing the evolution of the Ontario health-care model into a more collaborative and patient-centred focus.

More than 80 papers involving over 200 authors were presented. In addition to the oral presentations and poster viewings, a session for 37 high school students from the North Bay region provided opportunities for youth to learn about health research, health careers, and the NOSM MD program.



Residents get wilderness medicine training

Members of NOSM's Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (RoCS) went on a "Flight into Danger" recently – all part of their training for a Wilderness Medicine Retreat in Dryden.

"This retreat aims to expose our residents to some of the common cases they are likely to see from patients residing or vacationing in Northern Ontario's outdoors," explains Dr. Ric Almond, Program Director for Family Medicine. "These are scenarios that within a larger urban center may seem obscure or odd, but within the vast geography of the North, are quite common and important to know how to treat."

The City of Dryden is located about 350 km northwest of Thunder Bay. It is host to many outdoor tourists. As such, the area provides a perfect setting for the wilderness-themed RoCS sessions.

In addition to its relative remoteness, and large number of outdoor enthusiasts, Dryden also has the unfortunate distinction of being home to the 1989 Air Ontario crash that killed 24 of its 69 passengers. This provides an ideal scenario and setting for the outdoor emergency medical training portion of the RoCS program.

As Almond says, "These circumstances often occur far from major urban centres and hospitals.

Family physicians practicing in rural Northern Ontario should be prepared to handle these varieties of situations." All residents from the Northeast and

Northwest sides of the program



Members of NOSM's Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (RoCS) gather for dinner during their recent wilderness medicine retreat in Dryden.



gathered to take part in presentations on the crash, as well as aviation physiology and altitude sickness. They also worked in small group sessions with their colleagues, learning about the preparation and resources of the air transport of patients.

The two-day retreat focused on assessing, and providing care for, outdoor-related cases. Situations like stings and bites, hypothermia, exposure to the elements, and of course procedures for fish-hook removal.

Participants agreed that the wilderness-focused sessions provided a worthwhile learning experience and a chance to get together and work

closely with their colleagues who are normally dispersed across Northern Ontario for their residency training.

NOSM receives go-ahead for General Surgery pan-North residency program

The School's Postgraduate Office is excited to announce that the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada has granted its approval for NOSM to move forward with offering its own General Surgery pan-northern residency program.

Historically, the Northern streams of the General Surgery programs have been affiliated with the University of Ottawa, and McMaster University, and were delivered and administered in collaboration with NOSM.

Now, this specialty residency program will be added to the growing list of those being offered directly through the School.

NOSM's general surgery residency program will maintain ties with Ottawa and McMaster. This will provide the best of both worlds for NOSM's residents, with rotation opportunities available across Northern Ontario.





Breaking Ice with _____

ICEMEN

"We hadn't hosted an international conference of this kind before. So we thought it would be good for the two groups to get together and have a chance to share their experience and information, and spread their knowledge to other universities and schools that were beginning to think of a community-based model of medical education."

By almost any measure, the International Conference on Community Engaged Medical Education in the North (ICEMEN) held in Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and points between, was a resounding success.

Medical professionals from every continent, excluding Antarctica, came to Northern Ontario to discuss the practicalities, challenges, and opportunities arising from the adoption of a community-based model of medical education. The five-day event, hosted by NOSM and Flinders University of Australia, brought together medical education leaders eager to learn more about this model.

The participants converged on NOSM's East Campus on June 8 to participate in two days of lectures, symposia, and learned discussions. A diverse group of physicians and health professionals reflected an equally heterogeneous program of workshops, oral and poster presentations, debates, skill stations, group sessions, and master classes.

For example, a debate entitled "The Teaching Hospital Is Extinct" concluded the first two days of content-heavy learning on a lighter note. Dr. Paul Worley, Dean of Flinders University School of Medicine, valiantly rose to the defence

of the teaching hospital, arguing, tongue and cheek, that this esteemed and time-honoured institution is not extinct. His strained arguments in mock defence of this traditional teaching model elicited laughter and applause from an enthusiastic audience.

Dr. Arnie Aberman proved equally adept in his denunciation of the teaching hospital, bravely relegating it to the dustbin of history - a notion that starkly contrasts with his career, distinguished by professional achievements in major Canadian teaching hospitals.

The third and fourth days, spent travelling some 1200 kilometers from Sudbury to the NOSM West Campus in Thunder Bay, introduced delegates to several communities that offer NOSM students community-based training. Participants visited health-care facilities, witnessing firsthand the delivery of patient-centred care in several rural, remote, and Francophone and Aboriginal communities throughout Northern Ontario.

Both bus routes introduced delegates to the vast beauty and enormous size of Northern Ontario, as well as sightings of moose and other wildlife species typical to the North. At each stopover, local dignitaries generously extended their

"It was apparent that this conference was alive and sparkling, and that participants were really engaging with the issues. Overall, the ICEMEN conference has advanced the agenda of community engaged education and led to a network of people whom I predict will start transforming medical education around the world."

- Dr. David Prideaux, Department Head, Medical Education
Flinders University School of Medicine, Australia

hospitality to delegates by providing delicious cuisine, and entertainment. Informational sessions apprised visitors of cultural and historical points of interest.

Direct observation of clinical environments and a vigorous exchange of ideas provided ample opportunity to compare and contrast the traditional method of medical training with community-based models from NOSM, Flinders University, and elsewhere. The timing of a conference that pooled together practitioners with a shared vision from around the world couldn't have been more appropriate.

Dr. Sarah Strasser, an expert in rural-based medical education at Flinders, and the principal driving force behind an event a year in the making, reflected on its importance. "We hadn't hosted an international conference of this kind before. So we thought it would be good for the two groups to get together

accountability in health-care delivery.

Drawing on her Native American heritage, Dr. Dine'Chacon spoke of the challenges she faced with educational models that conflicted with her traditional beliefs. Dr. Dine'Chacon continues to promote the health needs of Native Americans by consulting with tribal leaders, councils, health boards, and departments in order to identify and respond to critical issues.

On Thursday evening, Dr. Campbell Murdoch hosted a "Hypothetical" which explored the challenges of successful community-engaged medical education. The audience was well aware that Dr. Murdoch's voice of authority sprang from a long medical career that spans several decades, and is rooted in a long-standing belief that students in remote areas can have a medical education equivalent to that of any urban teaching hospital. In her keynote address Friday morning,



and have a chance to share their experience and information, and spread their knowledge to other universities and schools that were beginning to think of a community-based model of medical education." A roster of keynote speakers, distinguished by their pioneering efforts in community-based education, or by noteworthy accomplishments in the medical profession, set the tempo of the week-long itinerary.

Dr. John Hamilton drew on his extensive background in community-engaged medical education (CEME) to discuss key themes such as population health, community experience, individual health, and a shift towards a pattern of social

Dr. Ann Poncelet from the University of California discussed the strengths and learning experiences derived from her involvement with the Parnassus Integrated Student Clinical Experiences (PISCES), a one year integrated third year clerkship that she co-directs at UCSF.

As the final keynote speaker for the ICEMEN conference, Dr. Ian Couper drew on his lifelong practice of rural medicine in South Africa to explore the common characteristics essential for the establishment of a community. [N](#)

Saying goodbye to Dr. Judith Woodsworth



The School said goodbye to one of its founding Board members recently. Dr. Judith Woodsworth, President of Laurentian University and Chair of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's Board of Directors, is taking up her new post as President at Concordia University in Montreal in August, 2008.

Woodsworth was born in Paris, France, but grew up in Winnipeg. She earned her first degree at McGill University, receiving a B.A. in French and Philosophy. Woodsworth then went on to earn a *Licence ès Lettres* from the Université de Strasbourg in France, and a PhD in French Literature from McGill.

Her full-time academic career began in 1980 when she joined the Département d'études françaises at Concordia University. Over the next 17 years, she held various administrative positions at Concordia.

Since July, 2002 Woodsworth has been President of Laurentian University, and a founding member of the NOSM Board of Directors.

The Board, and the entire NOSM community, wishes to thank Woodsworth for her significant contributions to the development of the School.

Board marks beginnings and endings at latest retreat

The School's Board of Directors held their annual retreat this past May, marking both beginnings, and endings, within the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Arie Hoogenboom is in his first year on the Board. He says the highlight for him was hearing reports from the medical students, as well as various associate deans.

"Being relatively new, it was great to hear from our students and deans on the various aspects of the School," he says. "They really helped put all the pieces together of what is a very large, and complex, organization."

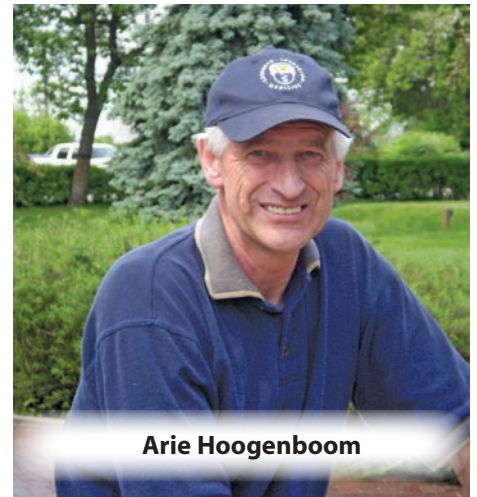
Medical students Adam Moir and Kimberley Perlin recently completed their third-year Comprehensive Community Clerkships (CCC). They were on hand to describe their experiences to the Board. In addition, NOSM residents Drs. Romy Masri,

Nadia Bowen, Lindsay Sit, and Jay Labbe also participated. They shared their experiences of residency training in Northern Ontario.

"Our students are NOSM's greatest ambassadors," says Hoogenboom. "They are the ones that will be spreading the word about our medical school, and about the benefits of Northern Ontario in general."

Hoogenboom officially joined the NOSM Board of Directors last Fall as an appointee from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA). As Dryden City Manager, Hoogenboom is well aware of the unique challenges Northern Ontarians deal with, particularly in the Northwest.

One of these challenges is maintaining capacity within smaller communities so they can continue to welcome new medical students from the School.



Arie Hoogenboom

"Having medical students and residents in our communities is one of the great benefits of NOSM, but it can also be a challenge, particularly for smaller centres," says Hoogenboom. "We on the Board must continue to ensure there is fair compensation going to the community people who are supporting out students."

This year's retreat included two special recognition ceremonies for people leaving NOSM. The first was for Dr. Judith Woodsworth, President of Laurentian University and Chair of the NOSM Board of Directors. The second event recognized the achievements of Dorothy Wright, NOSM's founding CAO.

Both Wright and Woodsworth made outstanding contributions to the development of the School, and will be greatly missed.

["\\$3M for Aboriginal ..." cont. from p. 1](#)

Aboriginal health a key focus

First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities are more likely to have high blood pressure and diabetes. This puts them at a greater risk of heart disease and stroke, compared to the general population.

"The Heart and Stroke Foundation is committed to improving the heart health of all Ontarians," says Rocco Rossi, CEO, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. "By focusing on cardiovascular issues, we will work with Aboriginal and rural communities to better prevent and treat these conditions."

Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Founding Dean, commends the HSFO and the Ontario Government for this new funding. "The establishment of a Research Chair in Aboriginal and Rural Health is another step toward fulfilling the School's commitment to contribute to improving the health of the communities and people of Northern Ontario," he says.

A conversation with Dorothy Wright, retired CAO

Dorothy Wright has been crucial in creating the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. She joined the School in the Fall of 2003, back when NOSM was little more than a dream on paper. Dorothy retired June 1, 2008 after nearly six years at the administrative helm.

Northern Passages Editor, Michael O'Reilly, speaks with Dorothy:

NP: What comes next, now that you are footloose and fancy-free?

DW: Well, I'm not quite footloose and fancy-free, but I am going to try and get caught up on a bit of living. Certainly the development of the School has totally engulfed me, and my life, for almost six years.



I've put many things on hold over that period of time so, certainly the key right now is to spend more time with family, getting my own health and fitness back in place, and then getting back into some of the other activities that are important to me.

NP: Like what?

DW: Giving back to the community has always been important to me. I really want to spend more of my time volunteering. I'm not looking for any full-time, Monday to Friday work. But I am looking for projects, particularly here in the North.

NP: So you plan to stay here in the North?

DW: Oh absolutely. We have no plans to move out of Thunder Bay. My family is here. We certainly have no desire or intention of moving down south.

NP: NOSM has been a huge undertaking. Are you looking forward to some down time?



DW: Well, so far I haven't had a day that I'm not busy. Between fitness class, tennis, golf, going to the cottage, and taking a look at various unfinished projects at home, I have more than enough to do. I'm also planning to take a couple of courses in alternative dispute resolution. Mediation is an area that I've worked at in the past, looking at things such as harassment and work-place investigations. I think I'll probably do a bit of consulting work in those areas.

NP: (chuckling) I guess your six years at NOSM would leave you in good stead for work in mediation?

DW: You could say that. Certainly as a senior administrator I was always involved in negotiations of some sort.

NP: You were "retired" before you were recruited into what was then called NOMS (Northern Ontario Medical School), correct?

DW: I thought I was retired, and was looking for a break from a very high-activity/high-profile position with the Ontario Ministry of Finance. I thought I was coming back to a simpler life when I was asked to help out with the medical school.

NP: Looking back, did you know what you were getting into when you agreed to help with the School?

DW: Not really. I don't think any of us really understood the full scope of this. But as I got into it, and saw the potential, and realized how important this was, not only to the people of Northern Ontario, but also to me personally, I got excited. This is what gave me the passion. This is what fired the drive to build something meaningful.

NP: And we have – you have. But with all the challenges facing NOSM in those early years, did you ever sit back and say "This is nuts."

DW: Well, it did cross my mind at times. There were things that created significant challenges, and made it much more difficult that I thought it really had to be. Although, I will say that some of these things have taught me how to step back and be a bit more patient.

And in the end, most of these turned out to

help us come up with our unique model that is NOSM.

NP: You must be proud of what you've done.

DW: I've never really thought of it in terms of being proud of what I've done, because it's not done by me. It was done – is being done – by the team of people. I am extremely proud of the staff who have come through this with me. I don't think that anyone is irreplaceable. I believe that I've put a good team in place. If I did anything, it was to get the right people in place, and then give them space, and support, to take risks.

NP: Looking back, what are the highlights?

DW: There are so many, but certainly one that stands out is when we received our very first provisional

accreditation. I think that was an exciting time for us, and more so because it happened on my birthday (June 4th, 2004). Another significant highlight was the inaugural Board meeting. The ground breaking of the School was great, the celebration ceremony around our Charter Class, and the inaugural Bursary Fund campaign. Bringing in close to \$13 million. To be able to support our students is a major success story.

NP: How do you think you will be remembered by NOSM?

DW: Well, I hope I'll be remembered as the person with a heart. Although I've been very tough on issues, I've never been tough on people. I'm hoping that that's what is remembered. The fact that I was approachable, and was there to resolve things. And that I left the School on firm grounding, with an opportunity to go forward. I really have been blessed to be part of it all.



Une nouvelle présidente au GTF



Carole Lamoureux

En tant que présidente du Groupe témoin francophone de l'EMNO, poste auquel elle a été récemment nommée, Carole Lamoureux se dit encouragée et impressionnée par ce que l'EMNO a pu accomplir à ce jour.

« C'est merveilleux de voir tout ce qui a été fait en si peu de temps » dit-elle. « Nous avons vu des changements si importants – des progrès aussi remarquables – qu'il est facile d'oublier que l'École n'est encore qu'à ses débuts. »

En effet, l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario a accueilli ses premiers étudiants en septembre 2005 et au fil des promotions, observe Lamoureux, elle a atteint, voire dépassé ses objectifs quant au taux d'inscription des francophones.

« Depuis la promotion fondatrice, les effectifs sont au rendez-vous et notre défi, explique-t-elle, est de garder le cap vers l'avenir. »

Ce défi est au cœur du rôle du Groupe témoin francophone. Fondé en 2003 et formé de bénévoles représentatifs des communautés francophones dans le Nord, le GTF a pour mission d'assurer la liaison avec ces communautés et d'aider à cerner à leurs besoins et à y répondre dans le cadre du développement de l'École.

Les membres du GTF ont joué un rôle moteur dans le Symposium francophone qui s'est tenu avec succès à l'automne 2007. Intitulée *La*

grande séduction ... des médecins du Nord de l'Ontario, cette rencontre a mis l'accent sur les efforts de recrutement des étudiants, des résidents, des médecins et des communautés du Nord.

Selon Mme Lamoureux, le GTF s'emploie à travailler étroitement avec l'Unité des Affaires francophones de l'École pour organiser à l'automne 2008 une séance de planification stratégique de haut niveau. Cette séance fera progresser les travaux et les thèmes mis en relief lors du Symposium francophone éditions 2007 et 2005.

L'une des questions épineuses que cette séance devra aborder touche au perfectionnement et au maintien des médecins professeurs en milieu communautaire, d'autant que les précepteurs francophones sont peu nombreux et fortement sollicités dans les communautés où ils travaillent.

« On est un peu dans une impasse » souligne Lamoureux. « Nous avons besoin d'eux en tant qu'enseignants mais, pour jouer ce rôle, il leur faudra peut-être voir moins de patients, au moins à court terme. »

C'est un vrai casse-tête, mais le soutien et l'enthousiasme de la communauté francophone restent forts, dit-elle.

Carole Lamoureux est devenue membre du GTF en décembre 2006 lorsqu'elle a entamé ses fonctions actuelles de coordonnatrice du *Consortium national de formation en santé (CNFS)*. Elle est devenue présidente du GTF suite au départ de France Gélinas, élue l'automne dernier à l'Assemblée législative provinciale.

Le CNFS est une alliance pancanadienne de dix établissements d'enseignement offrant en matière de santé des programmes d'études en français. L'objectif de l'alliance est de renforcer la présence et la contribution des professionnels et des chercheurs de manière à ce qu'ils puissent répondre, en français, aux besoins des communautés francophones dans tout le Canada.

Summer programs reach out to youth

For most high school students, summer means getting away from classes, but for some the enticement of NOSM's Summer Science Camp programs are simply irresistible.



At the 2008 Northwest Science Summer Camp, camper Krystella Suganaqueb (right), places a cast on staffer Maryjo Dorion (left).

Each year the School sponsors week-long programs aimed at high school students in Grades 8 through 11. Eligibility is based on level of interest rather than grades.

There are two camps held each year. One

is held on NOSM's West Campus at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, and the other on the East Campus located at Laurentian University, in Sudbury. This year 13 students are attending camp in the West, with 27 taking part in the East.

Students will participate in a variety of activities including: plaster casting, DNA analysis, herbal remedies, healing ceremonies, physiology, and generally learn about how to prepare for careers in health care.

The science camps are part of NOSM's broad youth outreach initiative, which aims to engage young people, particularly those from Aboriginal backgrounds, Francophone backgrounds, and rural environments. The goal is to encourage all youth of Northern Ontario – particularly those at-risk – to complete high school, and to consider science and medicine as a possible career choice.

Two government programs; the Youth Health Career Awareness Program (YHCAP),



The NOSM Awesome youth dragon boat team, training for the big race.

and the Youth Science and Technology Outreach Program (YSTOP), provide important support for NOSM's youth outreach initiatives.

These initiatives include the science camps, as well as the Summer Studentship Program (SSP), and the *Awesome NOSM* youth dragon boat team. This year there are 21 youth competing under the NOSM banner at the Sudbury Dragon Boat Festival in July.