

Eagle River readies for Arctic Winter Games '96

Snow is on the mountaintops around Anchorage. Along with winter this year comes growing activity as volunteers prepare to host and developing athletes prepare to compete in the 1996 Arctic Winter Games to be held in Chugiak-Eagle River, Alaska, next March.

On October 19, 20, and 21, the Arctic Winter Games International Committee and Chefs de Mission representing team delegations from Tyuman and Magadan, Russia; Greenland; Northwest Territories, Alberta, and Yukon,

Canada; and Alaska visited the 1996 Arctic Winter Games Host Society in Eagle River to review final arrangements for the March 3-10 pageantry and competitions.

Each of the seven participating teams will bring athletes between the ages of 10 and 50, as well as a cultural delegation which will present performances representing songs, dance, music and other unique aspects of their homeland. The Games will be held in venues from Kincaid Park to Eklutna during the Anchorage School District's Spring Break in March.

The peoples of Russia, Alaska, Northern Canada and Greenland, areas with seven to nine months of snow, ice and cold temperatures, have plenty of opportunity to concentrate their extra energies on outdoor "winter sports" — Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Hockey, Dog Mushing, Short Track Speedskating, Ski Biathlon, Snowshoe Biathlon, and Snowshoeing.

These outdoor and 11 indoor competitions — Arctic Sports, Badminton, Basketball, Curling,

Figure Skating, Gymnastics, Indoor Soccer, Silhouette Shooting, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Wrestling — will make up the 1996 Games.

Arctic Winter Games International

Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) supervises the overall development and implementation of the Games. The Committee guards and sets policy and rules of the Games, selects sports and prepares the technical package of rules, categories, team composition and format

and medals to be awarded. The International Committee's nine directors are essentially appointed by the governments of the units they represent and are volunteers.

1996 Arctic Winter Games Host Society

The Chugiak-Eagle River Community established the 1996 Arctic Winter Games Host Society in 1993 to stage the Games in March of 1996. Financial support comes from state and municipal grants, corporate, community, and individual donations, special