

Whitehorse Readies for Arctic Winter Games

WHITEHORSE—A modern place with much evidence of a Klondike origin—that's how visitors to the second Arctic Winter Games, March 6-11, will find the city of Whitehorse.

Whitehorse is an active Yukon city, surrounded by mountains, lakes and forests.

In 1970, the boundaries of the city were enlarged to include an area of approximately 160 square miles, swelling the total population to more than 11,000. It sits at an altitude of 2,100 feet above sea level.

Behind the bustling, neon-bright little city, though, lies a heritage of riverboats and the White Pass and Yukon Route railway, of tents and log cabins, of pan handlers and gold.

That Yukon theme will pre-

vail during the week-long festival of athletics and cultural exchange, which will bring together 1,000 participants from every corner of the North American Arctic.

Visitors, upon arriving at Whitehorse Airport, will find themselves being greeted by a welcoming committee dressed in Klondike dress. Store front windows and the people inside will also be dressed in the mood of the Yukon theme.

Don't be surprised, either, if you happen to see the odd dog sled mushing it to the local corner store.

Despite the holiday mood, the people of Whitehorse are taking the Arctic Winter Games seriously. By the time it opens, more than 700 volunteer workers will be on the job, assuring these Games are run with the precision of a Swiss watch.

The Arctic Winter Games is staged every two years in communities north of the 60th parallel. Athletes come from the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Arctic Quebec and the State of Alaska.

Nearly two-thirds of the operating budget of the Games has been provided in a grant from the Federal Government, through Hon. John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

The Canadian Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate provides special technical assistance to the Games.

Work on making the second Games a success started just

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after the initial one in Yellowknife, NWT, in 1970. Gradually, the buildup to the Whitehorse event grew larger. During the last six months it hit its peak.

More than \$75,000 in improved athletic facilities have been put together. A restoration program is nearly completed on the Klondike, the famed paddle-wheeler that will be used for the opening ceremonies, March 6.

The Yukon Department of Education will cancel classroom instruction in all Yukon schools during the week of the Games. This will free many of the teachers who are involved in one way or another with the Games and also frees the Whitehorse schools to be used as athletic venues.

"More important, though," said James Smith, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, "it will enable the school children to take part fully in the Games' activities."

The Arctic Winter Games will see 12 sports contested, all Canada Winter Games events. They are badminton, basketball, curling, figure skating, hockey, shooting, cross country skiing, alpine skiing, table tennis, volleyball, judo and wrestling.

As well, the Games will feature displays of arts and crafts by natives from all parts of the North and exhibitions of native sports by both Indians and Eskimos.