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A day with John Nosotti

By John Nosotti

I am John Nosotti, District Director of Northern BC/Yukon office. My mission is to meet with the principal of Klappan Independent School in Iskut and find out how they are progressing with the National Satellite Initiative (NSI). The NSI is aimed at bringing high-capacity Internet to communities in the far and mid-North, and in isolated or remote areas of Canada, where satellite is the only reasonable means of connecting residents.

Iskut is located about an hour's drive south from Dease Lake and about two hours north of Bell II along the Cassiar Highway which runs between Kitwanga, BC and Watson Lake, Yukon. From Prince George, it takes about two days to drive up to Iskut. I began my trip on Monday.

When I arrived at the school on Tuesday, I found out that there was a fundraiser happening that night for the Grade 4/5 students. The picture (right) shows me pitching in with the event. The fundraiser featured Chinese take-out dinners, and it raised \$700.00 toward the \$4K needed to fund the class trip to Vancouver in the Spring. It was a great event, lots of fun and lots of community involvement.



The next day, I was up at the school meeting with the principal. We talked about the possible installation of a high capacity satellite link from the NSI to improve the communities' access to the real world through high-speed internet.

To my surprise, it turns out that Iskut had a new Chief and Council. As can be expected when the leadership changes in an organization, the new administration needs time to look over its overall objectives and prioritize all the issues on the table. It was anticipated that any decision on NSI would be delayed for a few months.

In anticipation of a positive outcome, I took GPS readings at the water tower. Now, we have the basic information to complete some radio signal modeling for penetration in the community, if they select a wireless system for the last mile.

All in a day's work and lots of fun as well.



These two pictures are of the water tower (left) and the view of the school from the water tower (right).

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