

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ely Winter Festival Slated for February 3-13, 2011 in Ely, Minnesota**

ELY, Minn. – January 11, 2011 – Preparations are underway for the 17th annual Ely Winter Festival slated for February 3-13, 2011, in the northern Minnesota tourist city known for its local beauty and wilderness. The volunteer Board has announced a schedule of events with something for all ages and interests, ranging from the annual Mukluk Ball, Sled Dog Rides, and historic Voyageur Encampment, to a crafts fair, ice fishing contest, food events, and the Ely ArtWalk taking place over the Festival's 10-day period.

The cornerstone of the Festival is the International Snow Sculpting Symposium in the town's Whiteside Park with 20 smaller "amateur" blocks and 20 large "expert" blocks, each carved by a three-person team. "We have about 60 snow carvers, both local and some who travel here each year just for this event," said Chris Ellerbroek, co-director of the Symposium. "This year we have a theme, 'Mythology and Folklore,' so we're looking forward to seeing the creative interpretations brought by the carvers."

The downtown area of the City of Ely, this year elected "America's Coolest Small Town," becomes a veritable art gallery, as merchants clear their windows to display local artists' works in the Ely ArtWalk, which also runs over the 10 days of the Festival. Over 450 pieces of art by 120 artists will be displayed this year.

The Festival kicks off with the "Snow Carvers Jam" on Thursday night, February 3, at the Ely Steak House. Some of the visiting carvers bring their instruments and join in with local musicians for a night of shared musical fun.

The Kizer Foundation hosts a Spaghetti Feed on Friday evening, February 3, and co-hosts with the Ely JayCees a WinterFest Dance on Saturday night, February 4. The events benefit the Foundation, which helps area residents with medical financial burdens.

During the day on Saturday, February 5, is the NLAA crafts fair, a fish fry at Veterans-on-the-Lake Resort, and a "Friends of the Trezona" meet and greet at Northern Grounds sponsored by the Nordic Ski Club. Skiing the trail is encouraged, with equipment rental available next door at Piragis Northwoods Company. Fishermen and women can gather at the Grand Ely Lodge for the first annual Ely Rotary Ice Fishing Classic (TERIFC) for big prizes and lots of fun.

Also on Saturday, Vermilion Community College holds an open house, the Dorothy Molter Museum is open for visits and the Ely ArtWalk holds its official opening at the Chocolate Moose.

Both Sundays of the Festival, Northern Lights Lodge hosts dog sled rides for the whole family. The Amateur Snow Carving Contest is judged on Sunday morning, February 6.

On Wednesday, mid-week of the Festival, the Energy Efficient Ely (E3) hosts a panel discussion at 5:30PM in Vermilion Community College Rm 104.

The second weekend of the Festival is packed with events as well. For outdoor and history enthusiasts, on Friday morning, February 11, Outward Bound guides a group of snowshoers to

view the Hegman Lake Native American Pictographs. Friday begins a long weekend event by the International Wolf Center, "Mush with Dogs, Howl with Wolves."

Saturday night, February 12, Steger Mukluks presents the Lamont Cranston Blues Band playing at the annual Mukluk Ball, hosted by owner Patti Steger and Broadcasting Hall of Famer, former anchor and reporter of Minneapolis station WCCO-TV, Don Shelby. The Mukluk Ball will be held at the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa's Fortune Bay Resort Casino near Tower, MN. Bus service is being provided from Ely.

Also on Saturday night is the Dorothy Molter Museum fundraising dinner at Grand Ely Lodge. Entertainment and prizes will be on hand.

Festival pins, brochures and information are available both weekends at the Festival Headquarters, the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co., which has free wi-fi for customers' laptops and computer rental time available, as well as organic hot beverages and light, healthy food.

Up-to-the-minute details on events and Festival news can be found on the Festival's website [ElyWinterFestival.com](http://ElyWinterFestival.com). Of special interest is the gallery, containing video and still shots of past years' snow sculptures. A web cam of the park and the snow sculptures is also available on the site during the Festival.

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More information:

Ely Winter Festival: <http://www.elywinterfestival.com> (media page: [elywinterfestival.com/media.html](http://elywinterfestival.com/media.html))

Ely ArtWalk: <http://www.elyartwalk.org>

Ely Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.ely.org>

The Ely Winter Festival is a non-profit organization whose activities are made possible in part by grants from the Ely Chamber of Commerce and Arrowhead Regional Arts Council through an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with support from local businesses and organizations.

Attachment: Detailed event schedule

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Irene Hartfield, Chair


Ely Winter Festival

<http://www.elywinterfestival.com/contact.html>

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# Ely Winter Festival Event Schedule

Thu - Jan 21 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<p><b>EWV Wine Tasting Fund Raiser</b></p> <p>A Grand Taste of Ely Wine &amp; Food Tasting to benefit the Festival held at Grand Ely Lodge. Come mingle with your friends, taste fine wines and complementary food. Tickets should be bought in advance and are available <a href="#">online here</a>, at Grand Ely Lodge, Front Porch Coffee &amp; Tea Co., Mike's Liquors, and the Ely Chamber office.</p>
Sat - Jan 30 1:00 PM	<p><b>Learn to Carve a Snowblock! FREE</b></p> <p>Amateur Snow Carving Workshop by professional carver Mike Sinesio - Free in Whiteside Park sponsored by <a href="#">Ely Greenstone Public Arts</a>. All ages welcome!</p>
Mon - Feb 01 -- Fri - Feb 05	<p><b>Amateur Snow Carving Contest</b></p> <p><a href="#">Nothorn Lakes Arts Association</a> (NLAA) sponsors an Amateur Snow Carving Contest <b>February 1 - 6</b> with judging at 10 a.m. on Sunday, February 7th. <a href="#">Click here for more information and an entry form.</a></p>
Thu - Feb 04 -- Sun - Feb 14	<p><b>Ely Winter Festival / Ely ArtWalk</b></p>
Thu - Feb 04 -- Sat - Feb 06	<p><b>INTERNATIONAL SNOW SCULPTING SYMPOSIUM - FREE!</b></p> <p>Watch skilled Snow Sculptors, many who visit our area just to participate, carve huge blocks of compressed snow in Ely's Whiteside Park.</p>
Fri - Feb 05 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<p><b>Kizer Spaghetti Feed</b></p> <p>Annual fundraiser for community service group held downstairs in the Community Center (1st Ave &amp; Harvey St). Adults \$6.00, 12 and under \$3.00.</p>
Fri - Feb 05 7:00 PM	<p><b>Opening Ceremonies</b></p> <p>NLAA presents the Ely Winter Festival Opening Ceremonies at Washington Auditorium. Entertainment by local talent, the Grand March and the official opening of the Festival with the Mayor and City Council. The presentation of the paddle to the Grand Marshall. Admission: pin plus \$1.00.</p>
Sat - Feb 06 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	<p><b>Historic Voyageur Encampment</b></p> <p>Historic reenactment of a winter encampment from the fur trade era. Extremely interesting to discover how voyageurs survived in extreme conditions. FREE. Cocoa and hot drinks served. Whiteside Park</p>
Sat - Feb 06 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	<p><b>Vermilion Community College Open House</b></p> <p>Vermilion is hosting their Winter Open House, so feel free to stop by to meet with Faculty and Staff, tour the campus and on-campus apartments, learn more about Vermilion's academic programs. A complimentary lunch and live music will be provided! Stop by the registration table for a chance to win a prize! Please register for the open house by completing the <a href="#">Registration Form</a> or by calling the enrollment office at 800-657-3608. <a href="http://www.vcc.edu">www.vcc.edu</a></p>
Sat - Feb 06 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	<p><b>NLAA Arts &amp; Crafts Fair</b></p> <p>Arts and Crafts by local and regional artists on display and for sale at the Ely Community Center Cafeteria, (30 S. 1st Ave E., downstairs) Admission \$1 - FREE with EWF pin. <a href="http://www.elyarts.org">www.elyarts.org</a> 218-365-5070</p>
Sat - Feb 06 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	<p><b>Fish Fry</b></p> <p>Veterans on the Lake sponsors their annual fish feast at their resort. 161 Fernberg Road. <a href="http://veterans-on-the-lake.com">veterans-on-the-lake.com</a> 218-365-6900 adults \$9 (\$8 with button), 4-12 \$6, under 4 Free.</p>
Sat - Feb 06 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<p><b>ArtWalk Opening</b></p> <p>Come to the Chocolate Moose (Sheridan St and Central Ave) to meet ArtWalk artists over a hot drink and cookie. Art activities for children. FREE</p>

<p>Sat - Feb 06 7:00 PM - 12:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Mukluk Ball</b></p> 	<p>This year held at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Vermilion Lake in Tower. Tickets now available at the Steger Mukluk Store, online at <a href="http://www.mukluks.com">www.mukluks.com</a> and at Fortune Bay Casino.</p> <p>Music by Lamont Cranston. Your hosts: Don Shelby, WCCO Anchor; Patti Steger, Owner, Steger Mukluks; Will Steger, Will Steger Foundation. Transportation from Ely to/from Tower will be available. Contact Fortune Bay for special room rates, mentioning the Mukluk Ball.</p> <p>No dress code - just be comfortable! Hors d'oeuvres served. Tickets are \$25.00, with proceeds donated to non-profit organizations, including the Ely Winter Festival.</p>
<p>Sun - Feb 07 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Amateur Snow Sculpting Contest Judging</b> NLAA Judges the Amateur Snow Sculpting Contest (20 teams) in Whiteside Park (520 E. Sheridan St.). This is a FREE event and fun for all ages! See who wins a chance to Carve with the Professionals in 2009! Hot Food and drinks available!</p>	
<p>Sun - Feb 07 10:00 AM - 2:45 PM</p>	<p><b>Dog Sled Rides</b> Treat yourself to a one plus mile ride. Lakeside winter bonfire, complimentary hot cocoa, tea or coffee, cookies and fresh popcorn before or after your ride in front of the Lodge hearth. Departures every 15 minutes. \$25 each rider. Reserve by credit card at <a href="http://NorthernLightsLodge.com">Northern Lights Lodge website</a> or call 218-827-2501.</p>	
<p>Sun - Feb 07 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Johnny's Polka Showcase</b> LIVE - Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Noon to 3:00PM, Grand Ely Lodge Ridgeview Room. Sponsored by ELY TV and the Grand Ely Lodge. Hosted by Johnny Pouchnik. Performers from all over the range. Food &amp; Beverage Available. Tickets \$5 available at the door. \$1 off ticket price and \$1 off lunch menu with Festival Pin. Additional \$1 off if member of ELY TV. Bring Your Dancing Shoes!</p>	
<p>Fri - Feb 12 11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Snowshoe Trip to Hegman Pictographs</b> Outward Bound is your host as you snowshoe to the <a href="http://HegmanPictographs.com">Hegman Pictographs</a>. Limited to 30, so call to reserve your spot 218-365-5761 or 1-866-669-2362.</p>	
<p>Fri - Feb 12 6:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Bagpipe Demonstration</b> Come to Northern Grounds on Friday, Feb 12th for a bagpipe demonstration. Cash bar available. More details to come!</p>	
<p>Sat - Feb 13 3:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Tyler Fish Arctic Trip Event</b> Tyler Fish will give a presentation about his 2009 unsupported trek to the North Pole on Saturday, February 13th at 3:00 pm at the Wolf Center auditorium, with multimedia, pictures, and video. There will also be a display of expedition gear. Q and A to follow. This is a once in a lifetime experience! Visit <a href="http://www.northpole09.com">www.northpole09.com</a> for more info on the trek. Admission is FREE with an Ely Winter Festival pin (donations to the expedition are welcome, and t-shirts will be for sale).</p>	
<p>Sat - Feb 13 7:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Irene Hartfield Concert</b> Pianist/vocalist/composer Irene Hartfield, longtime New York City musician now local resident, will present a Valentine's concert at 7:30 on Saturday, February 13 at the Vermilion College auditorium. Sponsored by the Northern Lakes Arts Association. Tickets \$15 or \$10 with an Ely Winter Festival pin. The program's theme will be Love in its many forms: romantic, love of friends, family, country and spiritual love. Irene played professionally in the New York tri-state area for many years, traveling also to Sweden, Venezuela, Vegas and Bermuda. She also worked for Holland America Cruise Lines as an entertainer. <a href="http://www.irenehartfield.com">http://www.irenehartfield.com</a></p>	
<p>Sun - Feb 14 10:00 AM - 2:45 PM</p>	<p><b>Dog Sled Rides</b> Treat yourself to a one plus mile ride. Lakeside winter bonfire, complimentary hot cocoa, tea or coffee, cookies and fresh popcorn before or after your ride in front of the Lodge hearth. Departures every 15 minutes. \$25 each rider. Reserve by credit card at <a href="http://NorthernLightsLodge.com">Northern Lights Lodge website</a> or call 218-827-2501.</p>	