



News Release

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Moving day memorable for Tompkins family as latest Sinawik Home constructed by NMCC students and faculty makes trek across town

Aroostook County - "This is a very special day – a once in a lifetime day," said Holly Tompkins, as she sat on the children's swing set with her nine month old daughter Sadie on her lap in the shadow of their new home on the Houlton Road just south of the Aroostook State Park turnoff.

It was moving day for the Tompkins 1,248 square foot modular ranch-style home, which more than four dozen students and their instructors in five trade and technical occupations programs at Northern Maine Community College had been constructing for the past six months inside the residential construction lab at the College. The house, the 32nd built through the non-profit Sinawik Corporation, a partnership of Northern Maine Community College and the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club, was delivered to site on May 28.

The memorable occasion was enjoyed by the entire family. Holly and Sadie watched, while husband and father Kevin was busy helping a work crew transfer the house from two trailers onto the foundation that had been previously poured on the site. Even six-year-old Avery, who stayed home from kindergarten to take it all in, was his father's special helper.

"This is an important day for our family," said Holly. "We wanted to share it together. After all, it's not every day you move your new house."

In addition to the Tompkins family, another proud and prominent participant overseeing the move was veteran NMCC residential construction instructor Guy Jackson. As the two parts came to rest on the foundation and the Tompkins' watched the home they will raise their family in come together, Jackson beamed with pride in the handiwork of his students.

"Each one is different," he said of the 28 homes of which he has overseen construction. "It's a lot of work, but when it all comes together and you feel the appreciation and pride of the new homeowners, it is well worth it!"

Moving day this year was especially rewarding for Jackson, as it marked the first time in a few years that a young family will occupy the Sinawik House. In recent years, the dwellings have been purchased by couples who were looking for a quality built retirement home. Sinawik 32, the Tompkins' family home, features three bedrooms, two full baths, a kitchen/dining area and living room.

Since the very first Sinawik (Kiwanis spelled backward) home was constructed in 1976-1977, Crawford Homes of Houlton has volunteered their services, at a significantly reduced cost, to move the modular homes.

"I have employed a number of students from NMCC over the years. The students who graduate from the College are well prepared and well trained, and have been a great addition to our workforce. Moving the home each year is a way that I can give a little back to the college and community," said Carl Crawford, who has led the team moving the Sinawik House for three decades.

Giving back to the community has been the longstanding goal of the Sinawik partnership forged between NMCC and the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club in 1976. In addition to providing students in several trade programs at then Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute with a "real-life" practical experience, the project provided a way for Kiwanis to raise scholarship funds to invest in the local community.

"The willingness of Crawford Homes to help us each year by moving the home from the Residential Construction lab to the permanent location saves the College and Sinawik program thousands of dollars. Their willingness to do this year after year is greatly appreciated by everyone involved with the project," said Jackson.

Work on the 33rd Sinawik House will begin this fall on the NMCC campus. Individuals interested in learning more about the project, or who would like to be considered as a future Sinawik homeowner, should contact Presque Isle Kiwanis Club President Janet Kelle at 472-3802.

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Northern Maine Community College residential construction instructor Guy Jackson (left) talks with homeowners Kevin and Holly Tompkins, with daughter Sadie, as their new home is placed on its foundation on the Houlton Road in Presque Isle on May 28.



The team from Crawford Homes of Houlton work to move the two halves of the Sinawik home, which were constructed in the NMCC residential construction lab, onto the home's foundation on the Houlton Road in Presque Isle.