

the LOG

Yukon's Spirited History



Summer 2011, Volume 2, Issue 1

Life and Times: Historical Evensongs



Photo Credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2011

Mike Oram, Lay Minister for the Diocese of Yukon, and his wife Barb are staying in the rectory for the summer months to deliver Historical Evensongs at Christ Church Cathedral Wednesday and Sunday evenings at 7PM.

Since the end of May, Mike and Barb have been living in the rectory, behind the OLCM. They say living there is like "going to the cottage at the side of a lake, but with no lake." The rectory has been in use by visiting and resident clergy since it was built in 1901. Great and historic figures have resided there such as Reverend and Mrs. Bowen and Bishop Isaac O. Stringer with his wife Sadie and their five children. While staying in the rectory, it is said that you can feel the spiritual presence of those who survived and flourished through many hardships of living in the north. The stories of past clergymen have fascinated both those at Christ Church Cathedral and at the OLCM.

Mike was asked by Larry Robertson Bishop of Yukon, to lead biweekly Evensongs for the congregation and public alike. The goal is to teach people a bit about the early church leaders: what they were like and how they were received by the public and their peers. Since June there have been averages of 8-12 attendees each night. Some are members of the church while others are residents of Whitehorse. As the summer picks up more tourists will discover these unique events.

Mike and Barb lived in Yellowknife, NWT for 25 years before retiring in Leduc, Alberta. Mike became a Lay Minister in what he describes as a "natural" way: he was asked to help deliver the chalice. This began a life of working in and for the church. Training was led by Larry Robertson, Former Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of the Arctic. A friendship ensued and when Robertson was elected Bishop of Yukon he asked Mike to help out at Christ Church Cathedral in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Mike compiled many different sources to create his Evensongs. Research by Old Log Church Museum staff has been gathering information

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Student Bios

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to make biographies on many past clergymen of the church and Yukon. The Book of Common Prayer, a modern version, and King James Bible are used to create the sermons delivered for the Evensong.

While Mike is busy preparing for his sermons on historical figures, Barb is also keeping herself very busy with attempting to rid the Isaac O. Stringer Park of weeds. Barb's goal for the summer is to prune the overgrown gardens and bring it back to its original splendour. Let us hope the great weather persists but with a few rain showers for the plants' sake.

The end of August will mark the conclusion of their stay at the rectory and in Whitehorse. Even though their stay is nearing its end, it is safe to say they've made an impression and surely will be missed.

My name is Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé and I am the Collections Technician at the Old Log Church Museum (OLCM). I am a member of White River First Nation of Beaver Creek, Yukon and I am proud to represent First Nation people at the OLCM.

I am enrolled in my second year at the University of Victoria, aiming to achieve my Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology as well as a Minor in Indigenous Studies. I will then continue on to Law School to achieve my training in First Nation Governance Law and possibly Entertainment Law.

The OLCM has provided me with training and experience with handling artifacts, working with customers, and interacting with

people from across the globe. Working at the OLCM was a huge learning experience for me as well as my coworkers, Tessa and Ava. I couldn't have asked for two better coworkers!

I'd like to thank Taryn for allowing us to have the opportunity of working at the OLCM. And I would also like to thank you, the customers for bringing a smile to my face with your questions and interest in Yukon's rich history.



My name is Ava Russell and I am the museum assistant at the Old Log Church Museum. Having grown up in Vancouver, BC, coming to Whitehorse for the past two summers is a wonderful way to get a break from city life and enjoy the great outdoors.

Working at the OLCM allows me to learn more about First Nations culture and some history about Yukon Territory which I love because I have family ties to Whitehorse, my mother was baptised in the church in the late 50's.

When the summer is over I will return to Vancouver and continue attending Langara College as a Psychology student. I plan on attending the University of British Columbia the following year to finish off a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in American Sign Language. Next summer I plan on adding another great summer in Whitehorse onto the two I've already experienced.

My name is Tessa Murphy. I am excited to be working at the Old Log Church Museum this summer as I am very interested in doing museum or gallery work. I am an Art History and Women's Studies double major at the University of Alberta. My studies have enabled my passion for art and social justice. This summer I have renewed my interest in sewing clothing; I have made one dress so far with another one in the works. I am also an avid animal lover; I have a horse and two dogs. My family moved to Whitehorse in 1992 and I grew up in Whitehorse, however, I have been living in Edmonton for the past 5 years and this is my first full summer back for a while. I love the Yukon and have missed its majestic beauty greatly.

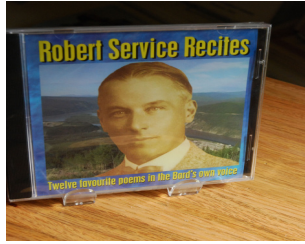


Photo Credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2011

Gift Shop Picks

Robert Service Audio Book

Are you driving the Alaska Highway anytime soon? If so, this is the perfect CD to take along with you. This disc includes 12 Robert Service stories.



are told in the Bard's own voice! Come down to the Old Log Church and snatch one up before they're all gone. Price: \$16.95



Art Nouveau Cards from "Colcards"

Come in and take a look at our beautiful new gift cards in the gift shop. We have eleven new cards with images of designs from the Arts and Crafts Period to late Art Nouveau. There are three different sizes: 4" x 4", 2" x 2" and 5" x 2". The cards are images of tiles, stained glass windows and embroidery done by such design greats as Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh, Louis Comfort Tiffany, William Morris and William de Morgan. All these artists believed in the beauty of unique and handcrafted items and the outstanding elegance of nature. This can be seen in these colourful and distinct greeting cards. These cards make exceptionally beautiful statements for any occasion. Prices: \$2.00 - \$4.85.

Twisty Earrings

Have your earrings ever fallen off? Mine have, but then I discovered the twisty earrings. Featured in the Old Log Church gift shop, these



earrings are guaranteed not to fall off. Whether you're attending a nice dinner out or jamming to your favourite band, these earrings will last the night. Enjoy some Canadian-made jewellery, hand crafted by Jennifer Nicholson from Waterloo, Ontario. Made of sterling silver, they come in many eye-catching colours and are designed to twist easily onto your ear. Price: \$16.00

"Just Perfect Designs" Jewellery

New to the museum are our tree and cross jewellery. Made in Ontario by Jennifer Nicholson, these sterling silver pieces evoke the essence of the OLCM. The tree branch pendants and earrings are reflective of the museum's new logo. The branches are reaching out of the frame the same way the church and the museum reaches out into the community. The cross pendant is a modern, simple design. Both the cross and tree designs are elegant, stylish and make the perfect accessory for every day or special events. Prices: \$28.00-\$56.00



Country Chapel

The Old Log Church Museum presents: the Country Chapel. This item is great for all ages because it:

- includes all required items;
- it is environmentally friendly;
- made in Canada and
- you build it yourself

Enjoy!

Price: \$25.95



Photo Credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2011

Collections Corner

with Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé



Photo Credit: Bishop Ferris' mitts, OLCM Collection, 2010.1.4 a-b



Photo Credit: Bishop Ferris' mitts, OLCM Collection, 2010.1.5

Shown here are two sets of traditional First Nation beaded gloves. These gloves were recently donated to the OLCM by Bishop Ferris in 2010. I had the privilege of adding these gloves into our database and collection. Bishop Ferris indicated that these gloves were farewell gifts to his wife, Jan Ferris and himself from Helen Charlie of Old Crow, Yukon.

Helen Charlie was a well respected First Nation elder and an excellent traditional beader. Helen Charlie is also known for her extensive work in her First Nation language of Gwitch'in Athapaskan. Helen sadly passed away recently; she will be missed by many and remembered through her work in the field of First Nation languages.

This is the first set of gloves where I have seen both beaver and rabbit furs used together. Generally, no more than one type of fur is present on a specific article of clothing.

The use of two types of fur was pointed out by another First Nation beader as being very creative.

Not only are the gloves flawless but the beading (seen in the photos above) is exquisite. These gloves were not only owned by an influential Anglican clergyman but they were made by a gifted and loved First Nation woman. I believe these gloves represent the talent, beauty and creativity of First Nation.

These gloves are excellent examples for new generations of First Nation beadworkers. Beading skills continue to be passed on through each generation. Traditions and teachings will also be passed along and soon enough our heritage will thrive once more.

Tsin'ii choh

(Thank you, Merci),

Teresa (Collections Technician)

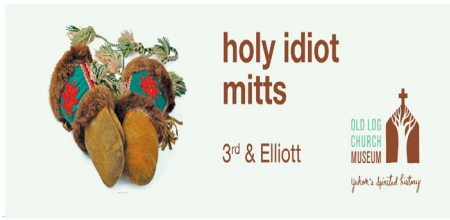
Cocertina Story

In 1894, Reverend Bowen travelled north to help Bishop Bompas in his missionary work. On the Reverend's voyage, his efforts to learn how to play the small concertina were not always appreciated by those within earshot. As his skills increased, so did the comfort his playing brought to the lonely, isolated places he visited. During church services it had the bellow of an organ and at the gravesite it became the soft accompaniment to sorrowful voices.



Photo Credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2011

Curator's Message



Have you seen this image around town this summer? I bet you are wondering what it's all about.

We have worked with Aasman this past year to launch a local awareness campaign to promote the OLCM for the summer season. This project is helping us achieve one of our goals: to capture the public attention and heighten awareness of the museum and its activities.

The basic message we would like to get out is that church history is Yukon history. It is engaging and spirited, and is a completely original experience. By visiting the museum, we aim to provide a stronger understanding of the history of Yukoners and their stories.

New to the OLCM!

Our New Logo

You may have also noticed that in the last year or so we have a new logo and a new tagline, "Yukon's Spirited History". In the past few years we have undertaken new marketing and branding projects. Have you wondered what our logo means and what the various elements represent?

Our logo is comprised of a church building, cross and tree silhouette. The church building presents an immediate acknowledgement of our key museum artifacts: the Old Log



Church building itself, one of the oldest buildings in Whitehorse. The cross is a visual connection to the unique focus of the museum: Yukon's history within the context of church history - Yukon's Spirited History. The tree is represented as a living, and thriving tree: stories and artifacts of the past shape and reveal what Yukon and Yukoners

We hope that visitors realize the deep connection the church has in the Yukon, the wilderness, and the environment.

We tried to develop a clean, simple visual campaign that speaks directly to our target audience's lifestyle and contemporary point of view. The core messages of this campaign are:

- The OLCM has fascinating artifacts and stories and is a place of interest for me, my family and friends

- I will learn more about the history of my home if I visit the OLCM

- A visit to the OLCM is easy and convenient

The creative elements included 4 photos of museum artifacts, the "story" of the artifact condensed in an intriguing, unexpected phrase, a call to action, OLCM's brand and our website. We used 4 different

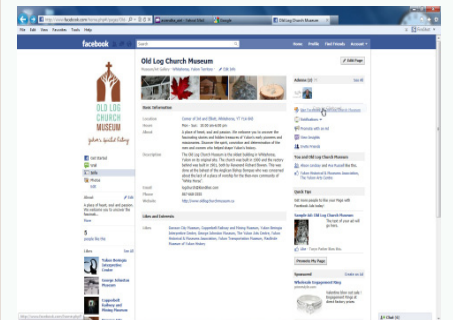
artifact/story combinations to maintain the audience's interest and show the diversity of artifacts in the museum.

We have tried to reach our audience in a variety of ways: city transit benches, planters, newspaper ads, posters, digital signage and media and 2 for 1 coupons.

Let us know if you have seen this campaign throughout town and tell us what you think!

Our New Facebook Page

That's right! The Old Log Church Museum has launched a new Facebook Page! On the site you will find pictures of some items in our gift shop, current and past exhibits and information about upcoming and past events. You can also find a link to our website with more great information. Search for Old Log Church Museum and "Like" our page.



were and are today. The tree moves into the building shape, out and beyond: the museum experience begins within and takes you beyond the walls of the building. The tree also connects to the actual log construction of the church.

Events and Summer Programs

Tours

When visiting the museum why not get a more in depth look at the exhibits and artifacts throughout the museum. Tours are a great way to gain more knowledge and get your questions answered from a knowledgeable guide. Offered as part of admission, tours run twice daily at 11:45 and 3:45 lasting for roughly 20 minutes each. Five tours are offered by museum staff including:

- Yukon has an Island? Herschel Island: Past and Present
- Celebrating Cultures: First Nations Art and the Anglican Church
- Anglican Church in Yukon: Centuries Past and Present
- Spirited Characters of Yukon's Early Church: the Famous People of the North
- Pioneer Cemetery Tour

Mrs. Bompas, Bowen and Stringer: Women of the Early Church



An interpretive program delivered by Barb Forsyth called, "Mrs. Bompas, Bowen and Stringer: Women of the Early Church" will be returning to the museum. This program will bring the history of these three women to light and is a fun and exciting way for people of all ages to learn more about the early Church. Visitor admission allows access to this program which runs from July 13-August 6 every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 2:30pm. Bring your family and friends to experience life in the north through the eyes of three of its unsung heroines.

Canada Day

Canada Day was a great success! Thank you to the 114 people who came out and took part in our activities. Many visitors left with self-made dream catchers or stained glass windows while others enjoyed learning more about the people who had a hand in making Whitehorse what it is today on our Famous People of the North and Cemetery tours. We encourage visitors to join us for next year's Canada Day where we look forward to bringing more First Nations traditional crafts and great tours about Yukon's history to the public.

Contest

A draw was held in June to win a \$120.00 gift basket full of Old Log Church Museum merchandise. Congratulations are in order for Michelle Watts of Surrey, BC, the winner of June's prize pack. Another draw will be held in July and the winner will be randomly chosen at the end of the month. One lucky visitor could win a \$100.00 prize pack including The Bishop Who Ate His Boots, a dog sled pin, The Rush for Souls, reproduction vintage postcards, Alaska's Secret Door, an OLCM postcard and several oversized postcards, great for fun snail mail. Free entry with every admission.



Photo Credit: ExploreNorth Blog, Murrey Lundberg, 2011

Old Log Church Museum Staff
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Tara McDowell

Clare McDowell

Millie Jones

The Right Reverend Larry
Robertson, Bishop of Yukon (Ex-officio)



Photo Credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2011

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