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The Story of a Bishop's Dream for a Better Education System

By: Dana Hart

"...there are youth throughout our land, including in the Yukon, who are on the verge of becoming, or who have already become, casualties of our society." - Bishop John Frame (8th Bishop of Yukon)

During this summer at the Old Log Church Museum I was searching through the photos in our database when I came across some groovy photos of young people working on machinery and fixing cars. I discovered that the photos were from the Carcross Community Education Center, which ran from 1972-1979. In 1971, Bishop John Frame wrote a proposal to the Anglican Diocese of Yukon to use the old Chootla Indian Residential School as an alternative education center. Carcross Community Education Center (or 'the Community') was an experiment in alternative education and community living sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of Yukon. The goal was to establish a community to meet the needs of young people who had become alienated by the impersonality of the prevailing school system and the stresses of modern life.

The Community was directly responsible, through Bishop Frame, to the Diocese of Yukon. There were up to 12 committees composed of students, teachers who were known as parent members, and Diocese members, that made up the organizational structure of the school. According to Bishop Frame,

"All major decisions and policy [would] be decided upon unanimously by the staff. Both staff and students [would] live and learn together as a large family or community". On Wednesday nights ,they would hold a meeting open to every person in the community. The meeting was an opportunity for coordinators to bring the rest of the community up to date on what is happening in each of their areas, announcements to be presented as a group, and issues for discussion to be brought forward and if need be voted on by each community member. Courses were taught by 'Parent Members' who were individuals volunteering or being paid a small honorarium to spend two years of their lives working at the Community. Parent Members would offer specific skills or educational backgrounds to teach various courses at the school. Students knowledgeable about a specific topic were also able to participate in teaching other students in their class. Courses ranged from baking, auto repair, plumbing, and agriculture to the more traditional mathematics, sciences, and english. Students who attended were able to earn their high school diploma at the B.C. Department of Education standards and continue on to postsecondary education if they so wished.

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Photo credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2013

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The Community was funded by the Anglican Diocese of Yukon as well as private donors. The school itself aimed to eventually become financially self sufficient. Sales from crafts, baked goods, canoes, and other products earned the Community a decent income. Bakery sales in Whitehorse and Carcross collectively raised over \$150,000. Unfortunately, the grounds were in great disrepair and required constant maintenance and upgrades. The school

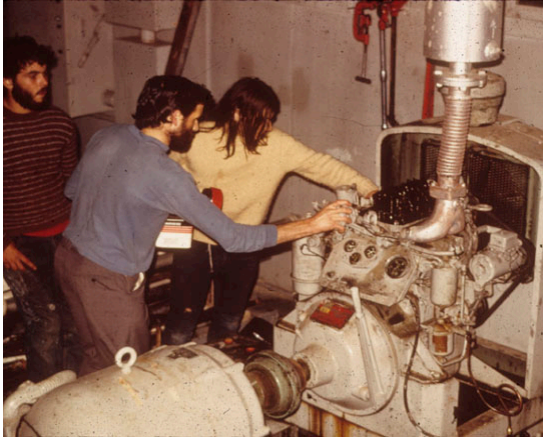


Photo credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2013

had to increase tuition fees paid by students to levels that surpassed private boarding schools in British Columbia. The Yukon government denied the school a per diem payment for the wards they had sent to attend school at the Community. Due to the need for students to pay for their increasing tuition, many of the students worked in the Yukon during the summer to pay for their tuition the following fall.

Further research at the Yukon Archives uncovered a film produced by CBC for their program "This Land". The video includes scenes of Carcross Community Education Centre with students engaging in discussion and other activities. Parent members stated that students were learning to value the land and discover themselves. From what I saw, the program was unique from other secondary schools because the students were equally involved in the responsibilities of running the school. Everyone took part in chores, meals, classes, games, and meetings. They would meet to discuss plans and problems and to find solutions. Watching this video reminded me of my time in the Katimavik program where I volunteered for six months

and lived with 9 other people in three communities across Canada. The comments of the students reflected the similarities of this experience as well. One student shared that the Community teaches you to "...care about other people and really get out of yourself."

Unfortunately the Carcross Community Education Center closed in 1979 due to lack of funds, interested parent members, and lack of applicants. Bishop Frame said in the film "as long as the need exists I think we'll be here." Whether or not the need ceased to exist, as there may be such a need in today's society, my research has shown that the Carcross Community Education Center was a place where people's lives changed for the better and where youth who were lost and seeking direction were part of a community where they could take charge of their lives.

At the Old Log Church Museum we have a collection of artifacts that were owned by Bishop Frame as well as a selection of photos from the Community. The Carcross Community Education Center is just one of the many examples where the Anglican Church has played an important part in the history of the Yukon. Visit the Old Log Church Museum to learn more about the history of this important institution.



Photo credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2013

Gift Shop Picks



Get a great gift, christmas ornament or an interesting book at the Old Log Church gift shop.

Snow Globes



There is something calming about snow falling. This old log church will enter its 113th winter this year. Even if you are not here to see the snowfall yourself you can still appreciate the gentle white blanket falling from the sky with an Old Log Church Museum snow globe. (\$19.95)

Replica Stained Glass Window

Rampart House, the home to Reverend Vincent Sim in the years 1882-85, was a congregation on the move: being displaced three times in its life. This window is a replica from the mission in the town, and is real stained glass! (\$39.95)



Carved Bone Kayak



Nothing says "Yukon" like a natural carving. Though you may not have gone paddling in the Yukon River during your stay you can still impress your friends with your own tiny 4" kayak. This incredibly detailed replica of the traditional First Nations aquatic transport makes an awesome gift to yourself or anyone you feel deserves something truly special. (\$99.00)

The gift shop provides vital revenue for the operation and maintenance of the Old Log Church Museum. We greatly appreciate your business.

Hilda Hellaby

By: Kylie Malo

Wearing her Canterbury cap, well earned pin and medal Dr Hellaby stands out. Though what she wears partially represents who she is, it is her kindness that shines through.



Photo credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2013

Hilda Hellaby is a prime example of a person with a colorful past and a humble heart. She's known for becoming not only the first woman student in the Anglican Theological College, but also the first to receive a Licentiate in Theology. She was born and raised in England until her father's passing when she was 9, and with one immense change quickly came another. Her family moved to Vancouver where Hilda did the new and unexpected ~ got an education. She didn't stop there though, a strong participant in the Anglican Church, she helped out as much as she could, and was always looking for an opportunity to head to the northern Anglican missions. At the time it was deemed improper for a young lady to participate in such missions, thus, her dream of going North to help the First Nation peoples was put on hold for a time.

Hilda's life as a member of the Anglican Church began in the 1920's, and she continued to be an influential figure in Vancouver during the Depression in the 1930's. Her missionary work in Vancouver began with preparing Chinese children for the transition to public school. She studied Cantonese, to help ease the children's transition, and visited many of the young, frightened, and beleaguered Chinese mothers. As the years went on she adopted a Chinese baby girl: something unheard of at the time. During the

Depression, Hilda also organized a soup kitchen where food was made out of whatever scraps they could get, feeding an overwhelming 1,200 people twice daily. After many years of whole-hearted missionary work Hilda, finally, was given the opportunity to live her childhood dream.

The Great North was a possibility for Hilda when Archbishop Adams asked her to come to Dawson City. Her assignment was to look after a hostel for First Nation students, putting Hilda in a completely new and unknown situation. After taking care of the Chinese children in Vancouver for so many years, the First Nations children in the northern reaches of Canada were an immense change. Not only were the boys and girls a challenge, but it took motivation and extremely hard work to properly run the hostel. After many years in Dawson City, Miss Hellaby was, again, approached with a proposition, this time due to a dire situation. The rector at Mayo had drowned and there was no one to take his place. Never one to balk at a call for help Hilda packed up herself and her daughter, and headed for the mission. She happily lived there for nine years before moving to wherever her missionary work took her.

With countless compassionate acts throughout her life Hilda's hard work paid off. She was a talented woman who made the most out of every situation, a loving single mother, grandmother, and a missionary who successfully completed numerous journeys. Not only was she loved by all who knew her, but she was also the first woman ordained in the Anglican Church. As well, she was the first Yukoner to be awarded Order of Canada, and also received a "Persons medal" by the Governor General on December 7th, 1983. A woman of selfless acts, and compassion for all.

"When in doubt take the losing side. The winners don't need you. They're doing ok."

- Hilda Hellaby



Photo credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2013

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A History of Whaling in the Bering and Beaufort Seas

By: Dana Hart

1848 was the first year an American whaling ship, the *Superior*, entered the Bering Sea. Residing between the Russian and Alaskan coasts, the Bering Sea was discovered to house large populations of whales. In 1849, a "maritime Gold Rush" ensued. Over a hundred ships headed north in search of whales and by 1850, they brought back 1,719 whales. Another 348 whales were killed but not recovered. 1852 was the peak whaling year in the Bering Sea with a total of 2,682 bowhead whales being killed. However, the following years were extremely unreliable in their catches, with some years yielding no returns whatsoever.

Whales had been hunted by local Inuit groups for thousands of years for sustenance and materials. Whalers, however saw riches to be gained from them. Whales were hunted for their oil which was used for fuel and lubrication, and their baleen which was used in buggy whips, fishing rods, and corsets. While whaling could be extremely profitable, it was also highly dangerous. In September of 1871, 32 of the 41 whaling ships in the Bering Sea were trapped by early ice. All but one of the ships were crushed by the ice and were unsalvageable the following spring. Salvaging crews, however, were able to rescue 1,300 barrels of oil and \$10,000 worth of baleen from the wrecks.

Traveling beyond Point Barrow, Alaska into the Beaufort Sea was considered to be a particularly hazardous

journey. Due to early freezing in the fall and the brief whaling season in the summer, ships were forced to winter over in the ice. By 1888, whale populations in the Bering Sea had dropped so low that new hunting grounds were needed. That summer, the Pacific Steam Whaling Company sent the first whalers into Canadian Waters. They returned the following summer to report that the bowhead whales were "as thick as bees" in the Beaufort Sea and the prime place to winter over became Pauline Cove on Herschel Island, Yukon Territory.



Photo credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2013

In 1890, the ship *Mary D. Hume* sailed to Herschel Island and returned two years later to San Francisco with whale oil and baleen valued at \$400,000, the most valuable U.S. whaling cargo to date. Soon after the turn of the century however, the whaling rush was coming to a halt.

Due to the combination of depleted whale populations and the market for baleen and whale oil being replaced by manufactured items, whaling was no longer a profitable venture. By 1907, the price of baleen had dropped from a high of \$7 per pound to 50 cents. Furthermore, spring steel began to replace baleen in corsets and petroleum for whale oil. Nearly all whaling had ceased by 1912 in the Bering and Beaufort seas. Whaling in southeast Alaska, however, continued well into the 1930s.

The Old Log Church Museum has a wide selection of artifacts from Herschel Island on display. Come on in to view our exhibits as well as our tour on Herschel Island. We are open 10am-6pm 7 days a week.

Summer Events and Programming Update

High Tea at the Old Log Church Museum

We have been busy here at the Old Log Church Museum. The summer season started off on a "High" note with "High Tea at the Old Log Church Museum," which was held Monday, May 27th at 6pm. It was a lovely and delightful event which launched the Canadian Museums Association Annual Conference which was held in Whitehorse, May 27 - June 1. Len Beecroft, Treasurer of the Yukon



Photo credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2013

Church Heritage Society, said a few words welcoming people to the event. Guests were able to visit the museum and mingle in Stringer Park at their leisure. Museum tours were also available, while food and refreshments were served next door in Hellaby Hall. Over 40 people attended and Westmark Whitehorse provided the catering.

Canada Day at the Old Log Church Museum

Canada Day is not only a time of appreciation, but of rich history and community. Here at the Old Log Church Museum we make it our goal to educate the young and old on the Yukon's vibrant

past. From hands on learning such as, making snow goggles and stained glass replicas, to unique special occasion tours the Museum was filled with energetic



Photo credit: Old Log Church Museum, 2013

people. This day was fun and memorable. We offered free admission, and were able to offer a variety of tours given: all of which were enjoyed by the people who visited.

Upcoming Events

Discovery Days

Canada Day was not your only chance to enjoy a holiday at the Old Log Church Museum. Come down on Discovery Day, August 19, 2013, and get free admission to the museum. We will also be offering many guided tours including our tour of Pioneer Cemetery. These unique holiday events are a great way to honor the Yukon's most intrepid explorers, entrepreneurs, and settlers; be they miners on the rush for gold, or missionaries on the rush for souls.

The Old Log Church Museum offers three guided tours daily: free with admission!

Herschel Island:

Past and Present

- A detailed look at the Arctic Island's history, as well as Bishop Stringer's story there.

First Nations Art & Beading

- Explore the different beading artifacts on display in the OLCM.

Anglican Church in Yukon: History & Practices -

Learn the story of the Anglican Church through the artifacts at the OLCM.

Famous People of the North -

Find out about the spirited characters connected to the Anglican Church in the Yukon.

Pioneer Cemetery Tour

- By request, minimum 3 people. Usually takes an hour.

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 Dana Hart: Collections Technician
 Kylie Malo: Museum Attendant
 Michael Hemmings: Museum Clerk

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