

Walk Softly

Newsletter of the
Yukon Conservation Society
Spring 2017



photo: Cameron Eckert

Inside: • Gerry Couture Stewardship Award • Social Energy • Caribou

Recognizing Yukon's Conservation Champions:

Jimmy Johnny Wins the 2016 Gerry Couture Stewardship Award



We are pleased to announce that Jimmy Johnny has been awarded the 2016 Gerry Couture Stewardship Award for his work to protect the land, water and wildlife of the Yukon. Since 2009, an anonymous donor has provided the Gerry Couture Stewardship Medal and \$1,000 prize to an individual chosen for outstanding personal dedication to natural resource conservation and management in the Yukon.

“Jimmy has driven countless miles up and down the highway from his home in Mayo to Whitehorse and Dawson, to attend government consultations and board and council meetings to share his knowledge and call for protection of the water and wildlife of his traditional territory,” said Executive Director of the Yukon Conservation Society, Christina Macdonald. “He has been a tireless spokesman for the Peel River Watershed and a fierce defender of the plants, animals and culturally important areas of the region.”

Jimmy Johnny was born four miles downriver from Mayo. In 1958, as a young man, he began what would be a long career as a hunting guide and outfitter in the headwaters of the Bonnet-Plume, the Snake, and the Stewart Rivers of the Peel River Watershed. Jimmy Johnny's knowledge of the terrain has made him one of the most well respected guides in the territory. Jimmy now serves as a member of the Mayo Renewable Resources Council.

The donor of the award is inspired by Gerry Couture's fearlessness, creativity, innovation, and 'curmudgeonliness'. Gerry Couture has a long and varied past as a commercial pilot, homesteader, trapper, commercial fisherman, and placer miner. For years he was on the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Yukon Salmon Committee. Gerry most recently worked as YCS's Mining Coordinator until he retired in 2009.

Said Jimmy Johnny about receiving the Gerry Couture Stewardship Award: “I am honoured and I remind people when you are in the wilderness and you see water, remember how it keeps us all alive – everyone needs to try hard to get it protected.”

Graham Van Tighem on his relationship with Jimmy Johnny

Not much has changed with Jimmy Johnny since I first started working with him through the processes and challenges of the co-management machinery that graced the Yukon's management frameworks back in 1993. He still wears the same boots and the same belt buckle but more importantly he still evokes the same passion and demonstrates the same profound commitment he did for fish and wildlife and their habits today as he did when he first started.

Jimmy Johnny always introduces himself when he speaks. I have always really admired that about him, because by using his name every time he speaks up at a meeting Jimmy effectively says, “This is me, I'm Jimmy Johnny from Mayo, and I stand behind what I am saying, I stand behind the principles and consequences of what it represents and I'm proud to say it”.

I was fortunate enough to spend a fall with him as a hunting guide. There is nothing like a 5'4" man schooling you on how to quarter and pack up a moose properly. On a bit of a humorous side note, many of you know Jimmy has a pretty distinctive voice and when you hear him do a moose call, it actually sounds like a “Jimmy Johnny Moose”.

I'm really glad someone with so much passion and commitment has been awarded this honour – Jimmy is a true conservationist. Gerry Couture was on the YFWMB for the better part of 15 years and he would be proud to know that someone like Jimmy was being named to this honour. Jimmy's work with co-management, Traditional Knowledge, Conservation, public education/entertainment, and of course his work with the Peel make him exactly the right fit for what I would envision this award was designed.



Congratulations, Jimmy, and thanks to the anonymous donor for creating this award and to YCS for supporting it and bringing people together to celebrate Yukon's conservationists.

*Graham Van Tighem,
Executive Director
Yukon Fish and Wildlife
Management Board*

An Army of Problem Solvers: Reconciliation and the Solutions Economy, by Shaun Loney



The newest addition to the Yukon Conservation Society library is an inspiring and optimistic tale of how economic development can be an act of Reconciliation. But a very different economic development from what we are used to.

An Army of Problem Solvers: Reconciliation and the Solutions Economy, by Shaun Loney, clearly articulates the path to prosperity for Canada in the face of the multiple issues and crises that we face. Climate change, economic leakage (i.e. money flowing out of communities), food insecurity, disease and illness, and incarceration are some examples made worse by institutional inertia and a focus on the problems, rather than their solutions.

Reconciliation is on our minds after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but what does that look like for the economy?

The book highlights the many systemic barriers that prevent First Nation communities from participating in the economy, and how misguided government spending is not meeting the needs of people nor does it recognize the opportunities that the “expensive problems” present.

Loney describes how he works to help the re-emergence of local economies. The outcomes are impressive. His experiences show that localization through social enterprises repurposes investment to increase the well-being of people and the environment.

Repurposing investment includes diverting money spent on incarceration towards social enterprises that treat offenders by offering meaningful employment. Many current food-system subsidies are only for food transported to communities in airplanes, rather than encouraging small farms that provide healthy food and jobs. Most health expenditures are spent treating illness and disease, not the promotion of healthy living. Energy subsidies are directed at the fossil fuel sector, when subsidies should invest in energy efficiency projects and local renewable energy development to reduce costs, environmental damage and climate change while providing jobs.

The objective of the solutions economy is to value economic activity that produces desired outcomes, and devalue economic activity that detracts from social and environmental goals.

Book Review by Anne Middler

First Nations and rural communities are often given an impossible dilemma: choose jobs in resource extraction industries like mining and oil and gas that can cause environmental, socio-economic and cultural harm, or choose economic stagnation. But that is a false and unnecessary choice.

While we desperately seek alternatives to globalization, and solutions to address the myriad problems created by colonization, problem solvers seek to implement solutions that address multiple problems while developing a local economy.

The book describes on the ground problem solvers in Manitoba. For more than a decade, Loney has incubated 11 social enterprises. His first was BUILD, started in 2006, that hires people in the criminal justice system to complete government contracts for energy efficiency and water conservation improvements on low-income housing. This work reduces waste and lowers costs for residents and sometimes governments who subsidize the costs.

Using a Pay-As-You-Save model, Aki Energy provides financing, training and employment to install geothermal heating systems, or ground source heat pumps, on First Nations to reduce energy costs and provide good jobs.

Loney described how in the community of Tadoule Lake, more money is spent on importing diesel (for electricity and heat) and cleaning up its toxic spills than on housing, economic development and healthy food combined. Yet Manitoba Hydro has a monopoly on electricity sales, so the Dene cannot meet their own needs with renewable energy. There are opportunities, but barriers must be removed first.

To allow the re-emergence of local economies, and to empower problem solvers, government must be reinvented, Loney says. He outlines how new mandates for institutions and new regulatory frameworks for transformative and systemic approaches must be created to foster the re-emergence of local economies because they are best positioned to implement solutions.

He presents convincing arguments for Basic Income Guarantees to replace welfare, a \$15/hr minimum living wage, and local complementary currencies.

I like that Loney’s sensible approach is non-partisan. It’s a plea to work together, for all political parties to recognize and support these policy spaces and program structures for this new approach to flourish and realize its vast potential.

Loney’s groundbreaking work in decolonization and reconciliation is the clear path forward. Although most of his examples are in Manitoba, there is much to be learned and can be applied here in the Yukon. I ordered ten copies to distribute to cabinet ministers and other key people. I hope they are inspired and share this book with others in the community who can activate its messages.

I encourage everyone to read this exciting book! The new paradigm is about small-scale, entrepreneurial and compassionate economic ventures that solve social and environmental problems. It finally articulates how we can stimulate community economic development while solving problems, rather than creating new or exacerbating existing ones.

This may be new territory for YCS in that it’s not exclusively environmental work. Yet in this time of multiple crises, we need to join forces and put energy into actions that address the many problems we face at once. Good social and health outcomes positively impact the environment and vice versa. It is all connected.

What’s new with Anne’s energy work?

In my capacity as part time YCS energy analyst, I am working on two projects that are aligned with this new paradigm shift:

- 1) I am part of a group working to help get the first co-operative community energy project built in the Yukon.
- 2) I am putting together a presentation about Community Economic Development in Renewable Energy. It is intended to inspire decision makers and the public in Yukon communities that are feeling pressure to embrace resource extraction economic development – whether it is mining or oil and gas or both.

In addition to showcasing inspiring community energy projects in Western Canada, Shaun Loney’s solutions economy will feature prominently in this presentation. I hope we can bring him to the Yukon! This approach to development alternatives will no doubt have far greater returns than what we have traditionally known as economic development.



Walk Softly

is published by the Yukon Conservation Society for members and subscribers. Memberships and information about the Society can be obtained by contacting the YCS office.

302 Hawkins Street
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 1X6

PHONE: 867 668-5678

FAX: 867 668-6637

EMAIL: info@yukonconservation.org
WEBSITE: yukonconservation.org

We welcome newsletter submissions and letters to the editor. Deadlines for submissions are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, and Nov 1. Views expressed in **Walk Softly** are not necessarily those of the Society.

Publications Mail Agreement number 4154991
Changes of address or undeliverable copies should be sent to YCS at 302 Hawkins St., Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1X6

YCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Meagan Christie (President)
Joshua Hunt (Vice President)
Stuart Clark (Treasurer)
David Neufeld (Secretary)
Bonnie Burns
Dave Mossop
Alberto Suárez-Esteban
Mike Tribes
Skeeter Wright

STAFF

Christina Macdonald
(Executive Director)
Lewis Rifkind (Mining Analyst)
Anne Middler (Energy Analyst)
Sebastian Jones (Energy Analyst)
Judith van Gulick (Office Manager)
Julia Duchesne (Communications & Outreach Manager)

WORKERS ON THIS ISSUE

Tanya Handley
Julia Duchesne

printed on 100% recycled paper

ROAD TO RAU

One of the many reasons most Yukoners like it here is the perception of vast unspoiled wilderness. The concept of tracts of land without permanent human disturbance such as roads, pipelines or clear-cuts means, at least by conventional perspectives, raw untouched nature. It is surely a beautiful thing.

Of course, to recent Yukon arrivals (basically, anyone who has moved here since 1896) the land might look untouched but of course it has been utilized, treasured, and respected for millennia by First Nations. If anything, this use greatly increases the importance and value of leaving the land as it is.

The things that can impact this land are many but few are as destructive as a permanent road. It would appear we have one of on our plate right now.

A company called ATAC Resources wants to put in an all-season sixty-five kilometre road from just north of Keno City and then head north-east to a region known as the Rau gold deposit. It is pretty unusual these days to see a new permanent road of this length be suggested for just a mining exploration project. The road proposal is currently being reviewed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

Permanent roads can have all sorts of negative environmental impacts. These include habitat fragmentation; cumulative impacts in that roads lead to more roads and trails branching off; increased wildlife disturbance and hunting pressure as anyone with a car or off-road vehicle can now access new regions; stream crossings that affect fish habitat and water quality; and loss of wilderness tourism potential.

Now it must be recognized that the Rau Road is proposed for an area that has been heavily explored by mining types for many decades. The road itself will overlap existing trails for short sections, including bits of the Wind River Trail. However, what is being proposed is an all-season road, not a winter trail like the Wind River Trail. This will permit year-round access.



An interesting aspect of this proposal is that two alignments are being proposed for the road. One alignment bypasses Nacho Nyak Dun Settlement Land, and one crosses Settlement Land. The latter option could give the First Nation the ability to control access to the road as well as limit when it can be used. Restricting access could reduce some of the associated environmental impacts. However, gates have a tendency to be skirted and bypassed. The only truly effective gated road in the Yukon is the Kudz-Ze-Kayah access road, and it is usually staffed.

Of particular concern to YCS is the 46 permanent creek and river crossings envisioned. This includes 8 bridges; one of which is a multi-span bridge over the Beaver River; seven clear span bridges; and 38 culverts. Impacts on fisheries from all these creek and river crossings could be very negative.

The lack of land-use planning in this region is another issue of concern. Without fully understanding all the other values this region has to offer, putting in a permanent road to facilitate mining could be doing a great disservice to the environment, other economic interests, and other land users.

The Yukon Conservation Society is still compiling the comments it will be submitting on this project, but for the reasons stated above there would appear to be little justification on environmental grounds for this project

*Lewis Rifkind, Mining Analyst,
Yukon Conservation Society,
mining@yukonconservation.org.*

To learn more visit the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board website at www.yesab.ca. In the contract registry look for project 2016-0129, the All Season Access Development to Rau Property, by ATAC Resources. Comments on this project are being accepted until Friday, 27th February.

Celebrating the Porcupine Caribou

The Porcupine Caribou are among the most iconic northern animals. Famous for their long migration, the caribou have sustained the Gwich'in and Inuit people since time immemorial and more recently have provided harvest opportunities for other Yukoners.

The Porcupine caribou have inspired such passion that when the American government proposed drilling for oil on their calving grounds (on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 1002 land), the Gwich'in, a tiny northern nation, took on the might of the U.S. congress and fought them to a draw – not just once but several times.

Now, the caribou are threatened again. A new government in the USA is seeking to open ANWR for drilling. In Canada, Northern Cross Yukon (NCY) is trying to obtain the permits to drill up to 20 wells at Eagle Plain, a favoured wintering ground of the Porcupine herd. Yukon's environmental assessor (YESAB) referred the application to a more rigorous review based on the potential effect of the project on caribou movements, and thus the ability of people to harvest them. NCY objected, and is seeking a judicial review of the referral.

As caribou make headlines in the USA and Canada, YCS considered how to contribute to the conversation. YCS is organizing a Caribou Celebration on April 21st and 22nd at the Beringia Centre in Whitehorse.

The celebration will bring together science, traditional knowledge and the arts with the goal of informing and inspiring Yukon people to advocate for the caribou.



Recently, the Committee on Endangered Wildlife (COSEWIC) in Canada recommended that the Species At Risk Act (SARA) list barren ground caribou as "threatened". This happened because almost every barren ground herd in the world (the Porcupine herd is an exception) is undergoing rapid decline and if measures are not taken to bring them back and to protect their critical habitat, there is a risk they could decline further and potentially die out. COSEWIC is meeting in Whitehorse at the time of the Celebration and the lead caribou scientist has graciously agreed to present at the Celebration.

NCY's Eagle Plain case will be heard on April 24th, immediately after the Celebration. The scientists who studied how industrial activity affects caribou will also present at the Celebration.

We will hear how the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) has taken a groundbreaking approach to wildlife management that is probably part of the reason why the Porcupine herd is healthy to this day.

Representatives from Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation will tell us about how they have co-existed with the caribou for tens of thousands of years.

We will be screening several movies on the caribou, one of which will be a world premiere! *Camera Trap*, directed by Marty O'Brien, follows photographer Peter Mather in his quest to get the perfect caribou photo. We will also be screening the classic *Being Caribou* among other films.

There will be child-friendly events and other fun events, to be announced later.

YCS hopes you can come to the celebration, to learn, to be entertained and to get inspired!

*Sebastian Jones,
YCS Energy Analyst*

The Perils of Peer Review

We live in a world where facts are not always facts - in the inimitable phrasing of Kellyanne Conway, we also have “Alternative Facts”.

Most of us, reacting in alarm to this news, try to establish the veracity of the “facts” that are presented to us.

What are our options? Facebook? Twitter? Our friends? Encyclopedias? Wikipedia?

All these options have their pluses and minuses, but there is a method commonly used in science, that of peer reviewed papers in respected journals.

Peer reviewed means that a paper has been critiqued by experts in the field. The gold standard is “Nature”, particularly if you are British, and “Science” for an American source.

For scientists and academics, getting published in a peer-reviewed journal is a metric of success.

For the reader, the idea is that one can rely on the contents to be accurate as far as is known with current knowledge.

BUT, and it is a large but, due to the rampant proliferation of knowledge, and the papers that record the knowledge and the journals created to hold the papers, the process of peer review is creaking.

Because these papers, these facts, are used as building blocks for new research, or to drive policy decisions, they can have very real effect.

A case in point: I was recently asked for my opinion on a paper that had already been through the peer review process and been published in a relatively well-known journal.

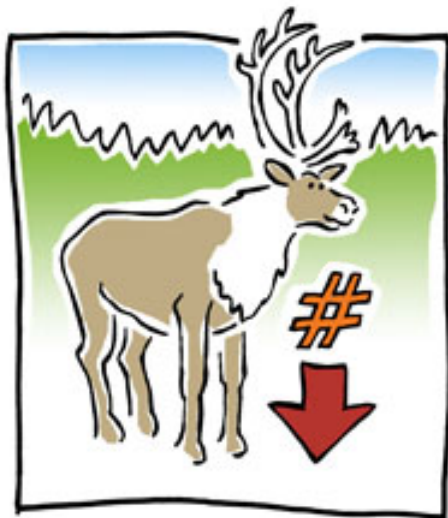
The paper examines the effectiveness of wolf control on the 40 Mile Caribou herd.

So far as I am qualified to tell (I’m not a wildlife biologist), the science is good and the main conclusion lines up with my understanding (wolf control is almost useless unless applied at a level that almost extirpates the wolves from the caribou’s critical habitat).

However, some alternative facts crept into the paper. I can only speculate as to the reasons and I shall, after I lay out my concerns with some of the “facts” in the paper.

Contrary to established science, which says that the 40 Mile herd in the 1920s was about 500,000 strong and ranged all the way from Circle, Alaska to Lake Laberge, the paper says that the peak herd population was in the 1960s at 50,000.

They do not correlate extent of range with herd size, rather they view the range as fixed, as if there is a fence around the herd, which in turn constrains maximum herd size. They do not recall the irruption when the herd first crossed the Yukon in Canada (something that my partner and I were privileged to witness), or a couple of years back when they went all the way to the Dempster and much of west central Yukon.



I am concerned that they think that stakeholders (Alaskan hunters) should “focus on describing a preferred, sustainable herd size” etc. I should have thought the rather extensive historical record would be a better way of defining a target herd size, or herd size range.

I remember when wolf control was first proposed for the 40 Mile herd; it was because the herd was in a critical state and was not increasing and rarely venturing into Canada, and the Alaskans could not bring themselves to completely stop killing the caribou. It was always intended to be temporary, and as I recall, was to be ended when the herd reached a threshold where it was likely that it would start to act like a regular barren ground herd again, and begin population cycling. This was reckoned to be at around 50,000. That is, this number was viewed as the MINIMUM sustainable number, not the MAXIMUM sustainable herd size.

The paper looks at herd growth as a way to decide if wolf control was effective.

They did not look at climate and weather as factors affecting parturition and calf survival. Weather and climate effects can be so strong as to mask other factors such as wolf and human predation.

The study area was extensively burned during this period, in the early ‘90s and in 2004. What effect did this have? The YFWMB is funding an interesting study that looks at exactly this. The paper does not.

I therefore think that their conclusion that late ‘90s habitat size is the main limiting factor in a sustainable 40 Mile herd size is flawed at best and disingenuous at worst – it is a cry for hunters in Alaska to be allowed to hunt harder to keep the herd from overgrazing its habitat. This despite the fact that harvest in Yukon is currently almost completely shut down (led by the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in).

FARO MINE HEADLINES



In workplace situations it is quite common for co-workers to give one another nicknames. Often terms of endearment, they also reflect what others see in a person. Well, around YCS I am pleased to report that I rejoice in the moniker ‘media-magnet’ (and several others not fit to be printed).

To borrow a concept from the Great Eastern radio show (last of the coal-fired broadcasters), whenever I see a journalist I always mentally ask myself: is that a sound microphone in their pocket or are they pleased to see me? Usually it’s a microphone and that makes me very happy.

Over the past few months there has been much occasion for happiness as both of Canada’s national newspapers, the Globe and Mail and the National Post, have not only featured articles mentioning the Yukon Conservation Society but also extensive quotes from yours truly.

Both articles were about the ongoing cleanup and closure at the abandoned Faro mine site. It would appear that over the last decade anywhere from 250 to 350 million taxpayers’ dollars have been spent, and not a single square inch of the mine has been remediated.

As nothing breeds success like success, the coverage in the papers has led to further interviews with other publications. To get the links to the articles, visit the Yukon Conservation Society website at www.yukonconservation.org. There’s a whole page devoted to the Faro mine under Programs: Mining.

You are also welcome to phone the YCS mining analyst (that’s me) if you want to discuss Faro, or any other Yukon mining situation. If you’re a journalist, I’ll be extra pleased to hear from you.

*Lewis Rifkind, Mining Analyst,
mining@yukonconservation.org, (867) 668-5678*

If this was simply another cry from Alaskan hunters, it could be safely refuted and ignored, but when it comes in a peer reviewed journal written by Alaskan State biologists, it has considerable credibility.

Why would these scientists risk their credibility thus? The answer, I believe, lies in the Alaskan constitutional requirement that wildlife managers determine the “Maximum sustained yield” and if they impose any restriction below this level they can be, and often are, sued.

So, faced with a herd that has effectively plateaued, that is barely growing, and faced with increasing pressure from hunters for more opportunity to hunt, they have been sucked into a vortex where they are creating a new reality, one where increased human predation is the only thing standing between continued herd strength and a catastrophic collapse due to over grazing.

Incidentally, managers tried this in the 1960s. They managed to reduce the herd to only 5,000 animals, but this did not fix the problem back then. There is no reason to assume that the fundamentals of biology have changed since then.

Sebastian Jones

Further reading:

<https://twitter.com/JournalAltFacts>

Boertje et al. (2017) “Demography of an Increasing Caribou Herd

With Restricted Wolf Control”. The Journal of Wildlife Management.

DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.21209

Something to Think About: A Dispatch from Spaceship Earth

The measures of a person's success.... In saving the best part of the world, will be reflected in the abundance of fish and wildlife....of flourishing plants and trees and a clean environment.

Just as fish and wildlife are the truest indicators of a quality of a natural environment... so is fishing and hunting the truest indicator of the quality of freedom.

A world that cannot sustain fish and wildlife as well as a clean environment, may be well groomed and prosperous, as well have a soaring Gross National Product, but is a synthetic place that is unable to sustain the human spirit.

It should be no surprise that the vast majority of our concerns...even our assumptions on what really constitutes progress...are primarily generated by... and contained by the echoes and the patters of a metropolis.

For some...the dollar gain within the metropolis, regardless of the dangers to the environment, give way to the metropolitan social structure...that guide some lives...to alienate them from the wilderness..

There is a push to develop lands surrounding McIntyre Creek...that would certainly put dollars in some pockets...it has even been suggested that the Yukon has a vast supply of natural resources and we should be quick to use them up before the demand for them runs out. I class such people's joint thinkings, that would think this way, as nature's enemies.

The "ecological order of nature" is being thrown out the window, and only comes to people's attention... when some environmental problem threatens them.

Has our modern use of technology made we humans such powerful mutants... that we no longer care to fit into nature's systems? Do we only see a small portion of what is wilderness, as a time to time playground... or a resource that we might use occasionally, or to put it BLUNTLY... as a convenient store house of some natural resource, that exists solely for our own benefits?

Have we removed ourselves so far from our historical natural environment... that we have forgotten that the City of Whitehorse seems so proudly to proclaim itself as "THE WILDERNESS CITY"?

There is hardly a place of commerce that you could walk into, that does not portray a "Wilderness City" in some way: a T shirt with mountainous scenery, bear pictures and wild scenic rivers. The City and our Territorial government laud the Yukon wilderness in their public releases, yet fail to commit McIntyre Creek Watershed, Sub Watersheds and drainage areas, as a natural City and Territorial Park.

We can no longer accept a Territorial government, to be so secretive on the Peel as well as McIntyre Creek that their wheels squeak from back room secrecy. While birds and animals are protected under game laws and Migratory Bird Acts, the wilderness, so fragile, is not protected, less protected even now, from the bulldozer, draglines and subdivisions, that are far more deadly than a hunter's bullets.

IN CLOSING, I OFFER YOU THIS:

Everything on earth is unique in its own way. Once gone, it is gone for ever... It is part of the Science Genetic Pool, the great reservoir of life on earth. Evolution and unknown combinations and mutations of genes within the reservoir, will produce forms of life in ages to come, that are not known in these times. As responsible passengers on this Spaceship EARTH... we would be foolish to wipe out any of our shipmates. They will... at least, make our voyage less lonely, as we drift slowly through the endless, lifeless reaches of space, and make us wiser and better as well.

Murray Martin is a Whitehorse resident who is concerned about the future of McIntyre Creek.



Getting ready for summer

Our Trail Guiding Team spends the summer outdoors introducing visitors and Yukoners young and old to the wonders of Miles Canyon. If you know a young person who would make a great addition to our team, tell them to keep an eye out in March for our job postings, which will be listed on our Facebook page, website, and YuWIN. The deadline to apply to the Trail Guide Coordinator job will be in early April and the Trail Guide deadline will be in early May.



YES! I want to protect the Yukon's environment and support the Yukon Conservation Society!

I'd like to make a tax deductible gift!

\$60 \$200 \$500 \$1000 Surprise us! _____

I'd like to make a monthly pledge by credit card of \$_____ (charged on the 15th of each month)

I have made a bequest to YCS in my will

Please, sign me up as a member:

Student \$10 Individual \$25 Family \$40 (2 or more people)

I am a **new** member!

I am **renewing** my membership for 2017!

Do not send me newsletters. Instead, **notify me by email** when they are online.

Memberships are activated on day of receipt and good for 1 year, and include a subscription to the Walk Softly newsletter. Both donations and memberships are tax-deductible.

Payment Method: Total \$ _____

Cheque # _____ enclosed (payable to Yukon Conservation Society)

Visa/Mastercard # _____ Expiry _____ Signature _____

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email – for Tax Receipt and YCS Email List _____

Mail completed slip to: 302 Hawkins St. Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1X6 – Phone: 668-5678 – info@yukonconservation.org

Thanks to everyone who keeps our ship sailing, especially:

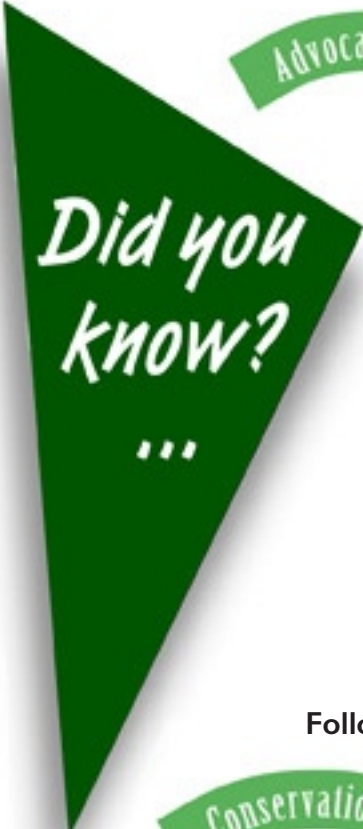
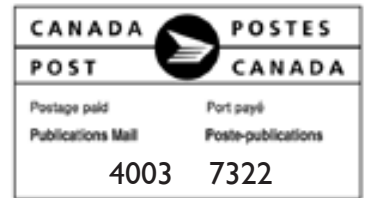
- André Petheram for his work on the Peel Portrait Project.
- Jane McIntyre for sorting through piles of old papers for re-use and recycling.
- Joshua Hunt for all his time spent on upgrading the YCS computers.
- Maeve O'Neill Sanger for her work on the Peel Portrait Project.
- Mary Amerongen and Anat Tal for keeping the YCS membership database up to date!
- Tanya Handley for her design work, including putting together this newsletter.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

to all of you who renewed your membership for 2017 and made a donation to our society in 2016!! We're happy to let you know that we reached our 2016 fundraising goal – thanks to your generous financial support! We wouldn't be able to keep this organization going without our supporters. With your help, we'll do great work in the coming year to continue to protect the Yukon's land, water, and wildlife.

Thank you Judith!

In March we are saying goodbye to Judith van Gulick, our Office Manager. After four years at YCS, she is now going to be spending more time focusing on her work at Bean North Coffee Roasting – and enjoying the Yukon wilderness like the avid skier, hiker and biker that she is! We know she'll be doing great things but we'll miss having her around the office, guiding our financial matters with a sure hand and keeping everything ship-shape. Don't forget... for your Judith fix, just head out to Bean North's cafe for an organic, fair-trade cuppa!



YCS Annual General Meeting (AGM) - you're invited!

Tuesday March 28, 5:30 PM, YCS office (302 Hawkins St.) Refreshments will be served!

Join us to learn about our work over the past year and our projects for the coming year. We'll also present the Volunteer of the Year award. Catch up with our staff and board members, and touch base with other familiar folks as well.

The AGM is an opportunity to nominate new members to our volunteer board. If you would like to nominate someone, or are interested in joining the YCS board yourself, now is the time. Any nominations should be submitted to YCS by Tuesday March 14, 2016 – please include the nominee's contact information and a short bio. Feel free to contact us if you are interested in finding out more about the roles and responsibilities of board members.

Please RSVP (info@yukonconservation.org or 668-5678) your plans to attend so that we may ensure quorum (and seating).

Follow us! YukonConservationSociety @YukonConservati YukonConservation

