



Yukon Grain Farm cabbage  
Photo: Rick Tone



# The Plough Boy

A quarterly newsletter of the Yukon  
Agricultural Association

August 2011



Sylvia Gibson, YAA executive  
director

## New Executive Director: Sylvia Gibson

Hello! I look forward to meeting those of you I don't know, and working with those of you, I do in my new role as executive director for the Yukon Agricultural Association.

When I relocated with my husband to his Yukon homeland I knew there were very few jobs in agriculture... it is exciting to be employed as an advocate for agriculture in the North.

Let me tell you a little about myself: growing up in Calgary, I was always fascinated with farming and how far food had to travel to get to the City. When it was time to leave home, I

volunteered on a variety of farms in Ecuador, Ireland, Spain and France. Upon returning to Canada, I managed a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm in Newfoundland for four seasons.

My passion for agriculture encouraged me to complete my Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science and Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture (2006). During this time I received some funding to study soil erosion and farming practices at the University of Awassa in Ethiopia.

I went on to work for Canada World Youth, facilitating international youth exchanges focused on international relations,

community development and environmental issues. This work took me to Ukraine, Moose Jaw (SK), Tanzania and Canmore (AB).

In July of 2008 I established EarthShare Solutions Ltd. to be able to work in community engagement and food sovereignty education. My first contract had me leading The Edmonton Food Security Network through the process of becoming a formal organization.

As Rick moves into retirement (and hopefully some R&R!) I am able to job-share with him, and be at home part-time with my 7-month-old son, Kai. I will be working part-time as of September 1st.

Do call, stop by or e-mail...

## INTRODUCING SYLVIA GIBSON (CONT.)

if we have not met, I look forward to it, and am looking forward to working with you to support Yukon agriculture!

## AGRICULTURE PHOTO CONTEST

With farming providing a great subject for photos, the Yukon Agriculture Branch is holding a photo contest. The contest is looking for your best agriculture photos in three categories: crops and gardens, livestock, and farmers in action. The photo contest is looking for photos that scream Yukon agriculture, whether it be through telling a story, showcasing the breathtaking scenery, or capturing a unique moment in farming.

Photos will be collected over the growing season and the top photos will be posted on the Agriculture Branch website in October for you to be the judge. The winners will be announced at the annual North of 60° Agriculture Conference and Banquet. The prize for each category will be bragging rights and two free tickets to the banquet (one of the best Yukon-grown dinners of the year).

Submit your photos to [agriculture@gov.yk.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.yk.ca) or provide a copy to the Agriculture Branch.

Location:

300 Main Street, Suite 320, Elijah Smith Building, Whitehorse

Mailing Address:

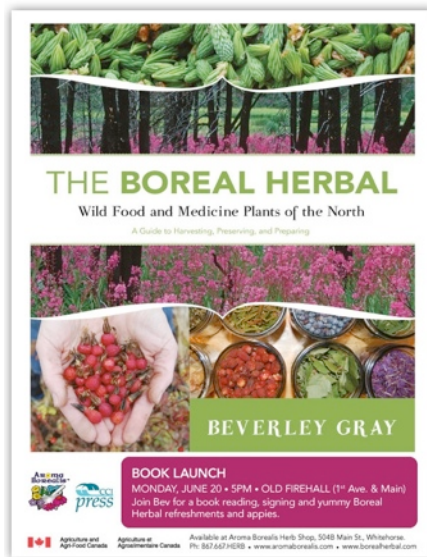
Box 2703 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Happy picture taking!



Photo: Yukon Agricultural Branch

## BOREAL HERBAL: WILD FOOD AND MEDICINE PLANTS OF THE NORTH



The YAA/ACAA/CAAP Council supported 'The Boreal Herbal' through funding provided under Agriculture Canada's old ACAA program (Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food). The writing and subsequent production of the book took nearly 30 months from its start to its official launch here three weeks ago on June 20. Over 300 people attended the launch. Since then, it has sold 1400 copies and is well on its way to becoming a Canadian best seller.

The author, Bev Gray, is a well-known herbalist and owner of Aroma Borealis, a very successful business located in Whitehorse. Bev prepares many of her store's products locally from scratch using wild ingredients that she carefully harvests by hand from Yukon's pristine natural environment. Her products are unique and are sought by customers far and wide.

Bev wrote 'The Boreal Herbal' to preserve and share her knowledge and appreciation of the Northern natural environment she has gained over many years. The book describes a host of plants, their medicinal properties, herbal remedies for a wide range of needs and conditions, recipes for using wild plants for food, plus all sorts of other interesting and valuable information, including what a motivated reader would need to know to start his/her own herbal business.

## BOREAL HERBAL (CONT.)

It was and remains the opinion of our YAA/ACAA/CAAP Council that The Boreal Herbal can be a great reference and help to farmers and gardeners alike, as well as a boon to everyone interested in knowing more about their natural environment, its special qualities and the secrets it holds for their own natural health.

Bev's book is stunningly beautiful, well indexed, easy to read, and full of promise. We think you will agree 'The Boreal Herbal' is a treasure in itself.

Copies may be purchased directly from Aroma Borealis per the contact information in the book, or from CCI Press, University of Alberta.

**Invitation to all YAA members for a general meeting!**

**What:** YAA Director's meeting open to YAA members

**When:** Saturday September 17, 3:30 PM

**Where:** Drury's farm, km 1459.5 on the Alaska Highway (33 km West of Whitehorse)

**R.S.V.P. to Sylvia or Rick 668-6864**

**Please join us!**

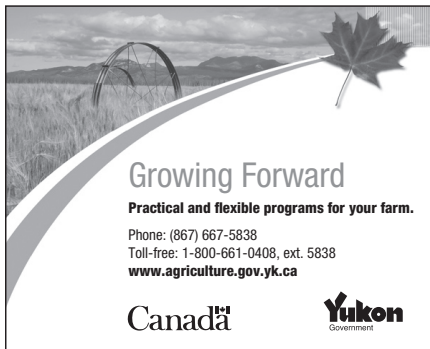
## WE WILL MISS YOU, RICK!

Six years ago Rick Tone moved up to Whitehorse with his family. From roots in a mixed farm in Saskatchewan, Rick brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to his position as executive director for the Yukon Agricultural Association. Over the past four and a half years, most of us have grown accustomed to his warm and friendly ways on the phone, and in the office. Rick worked hard to foster an atmosphere of collaboration and build relationships in the community.




RICK TONE AT RIVENDELL FARMS

Rick has been an important part of the fabric of the YAA. As he moves into retirement we all wish him good health, many good times and great fishing!



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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm



Test plots at the Agricultural Department Demonstration Day

Photo: Rick Tone

## Invitation for proposals

**The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP)** is a 5 year, \$163 million national Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) initiative to help the agricultural sector adapt to new issues as they emerge, and remain competitive. In Yukon, CAAP is delivered by the Yukon Agricultural Assn. (YAA).

Eligible projects could be in the areas of capacity development, traceability, environment, climate change and more. Anyone at any level of Yukon's agriculture and food industry is eligible for funding - industry organizations, aboriginal groups, for profit companies, individual producers, processors and retailers.

Proposal intake deadlines for 2011 are Sept 16, and Nov 4. For more information, call the YAA-CAAP Council office at **867.668.6864** or Email us at [admin@yukonag.ca](mailto:admin@yukonag.ca).

You may also call AAFC toll free at **1.877.290.2188**, or visit AAFC's website at [www.agr.gc.ca/caap](http://www.agr.gc.ca/caap) for additional info in French or English.

Call us, and let's talk.



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

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Yukon Agricultural Association



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