

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 238th Edition – January 27th, 2008

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

To use an e-mail address from the MocTel, replace the * with @.



White Wing and Red Crossbills

Photo courtesy Betty Sutton elizabethsutton@yahoo.com (In Whitehorse)

Here's a few pictures of birds at my feeder this week... Red Crossbills, White Winged Crossbills, lots of Redpolls, Chickadees etc... Pine Grosbeaks occasionally. Some days my feeder has been busier than an airport.

According to local birders, it's not that common to have White Winged Crossbills coming to feeders and I've had both species at my feeder at the same time....

The one picture of the Male Crossbill at the top of the feeder with the female fluttering underneath... I call it ..."Honey, what's for dinner?"

Betty



"Honey, what's for dinner?"

Photo courtesy Betty Sutton elizabethsutton@yahoo.com (In Whitehorse)

Nielsen fights for Indian rights to make them equal citizens

The Whitehorse Star, August 25, 1960

Yukon MP Erik Nielsen received a letter June 2 from John Melling, executive director of Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada, commending Nielsen's speech delivered to give Indians the right to vote in federal elections. He described the speech as the best speech of the decade on Indian Affairs. A portion of MP Nielsen's speech appears below.

I would draw a very definite line, as many hon. members have done in debates on the subject in the past, between the integration of the Indian people. This is why it is so important that the amendment now before the house should be couched in its present terms, giving a choice to the Indian people so that if they do not wish to vote they need not vote, and whether they vote or do not vote they lose none of their rights.

The federal government alone cannot fully discharge the whole of the responsibility. Each level of government, each voluntary association, each individual citizen must play a

part if success is to be expected. The aim of the government would, in my view, fail regrettably if the Indian people of Canada were not brought to the point at which they could, if they wished, take their place in the community as citizens in all respects, to the same extent as any hon. member of this house, having the same rights and assuming the same responsibilities as all other citizens without discrimination or distinction of any kind.

Here I disagree with the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate as to the acceptance of the Indian people by other Canadians as fully fledged citizen: I do not think there is that acceptance, or that there has been such acceptance for many years. We may pay lip service to the idea of accepting Indians as fellow citizens equal in all respects to their white counterparts.

Under the treaties themselves the Indians obtained a legal status inferior to our own. Under the Indian Act as it existed in the past the legal status of Indians was in my view reduced even further. The Indian Act which was passed in 1868 has not been improved to any great extent. While I do not propose to review the terms of the act, even if it were in order to do so, I wish to consider some aspects of the present act in so far as they relate to the bill under discussion.



Erik Nielsen - Member of Parliament

Undoubtedly, in the past some special legislation was required in order to protect the Indian. Nowadays, however, thousands of Indians are able to take advantage of the experience gained while they were in Europe during the last world war. They can read, they can write, and they have radios. In short, they now know that they live in a democracy, and they would like some of the benefits of that democracy themselves.

I am speaking now of the Indian people I know best, those people who live in the Yukon and in the north.

Courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse) and the Whitehorse Star



Robert Lowe Bridge – Miles Canyon

Photo courtesy Lucinda (Hall) Carter (In Abbotsford BC)

The Robert Lowe bridge at the Canyon was built in 1922.

Les McLaughlin leslorn.rogers.com (In Ottawa)



This picture was taken by Florian Boulais, late last Summer, and it was taken on the trail from Dawson to Moose Hide, the exact location is suicide point on the trail. It is looking

down the Yukon river, the island in the middle is 'Dog Island' and the left of it is 'Sisters Island'.

Hope you can use this picture in some future edition of news.

Fred Berger fpbrgr*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

AERIAL PHOTOS OF WHITEHORSE

I've put the aerial photo doc on my webspace, so please just put this link in a MocTel.

Thanks. Ralph

[Aerial Photos](#)

Ralph Lorie rlortie001*sympatico.ca (In Mississauga ON)

Old buildings around Dawson – Photos by Kris (Haydon) Janus

If any of the readers out there are interested in providing more history that would be great.

Thank you Kris Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Yukon Saw Mill Co.

Photo courtesy Kris (Haydon) Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



St. Andrew Church

Photo courtesy Kris (Haydon) Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This picture is of the now [historic site] **Commissioners' Residence**. Years ago there use to be a senior citizen home on the first floor; Sister's of St. Ann lived on the second floor. They also cared for the seniors on the first floor.

Photo courtesy Kris (Haydon) Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Masonic Hall- between 3rd & 4th Ave. Someone had painted a picture of Newt Webster on one of the windows. (*Who did the image of Mr. Webster?*)
Photo courtesy Kris (Haydon) Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Klondike Motors- not in use any more. Willy & Irene Crayford use to run this.
Photo courtesy Kris (Haydon) Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This building use to be Fred Caley's Warehouse. If anyone out there remembers, Fred Caley had probably the only neon light in Dawson, advertising his store.
Photo courtesy Kris (Haydon) Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This building use to be a garage run by Frank Osborn. His daughters Harriet & Valerie may remember this. They use to live right across the street. This building is still standing between 3rd & 4th Ave.

Photo courtesy Kris (Haydon) Janus janus*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

EDITH JOSIE COLUMN - WHITEHORSE STAR 1963

(with permission from Edith and Whse Star)

OLD CROW NEWS

By Edith Josie

June 12--Mail plane,Susie Linklator arrived backOld Crow safe. Alfred Charlie is doing very nice work in radding hunt. He been up river all spring cutting wood. He really bring big sight raft of 10 cords of wood. or about two days he been packing up the bank with his shoulder and pile it by theRCMP.

He sure make good money for his family during summer. He still has 15 cords of wood up River. Later on he will make raft again so he really doing very good work.

John Joe Kay and Dick Nunikon supposed to get rats across the river but they say no rats and move to town so Joe Netro, trader, and he tell these two boys to make warehouse for him so they been working for three days and been working hard so that is how they could get grub from the store. After people get here from Crow Flat, I will hear from Crow Flat and I will write another news.

June 13 -- Connelly aircraft arrived Old Crow with two men and Father Mouchat come back. Same evening at 11 p.m. aircraft arrived Old Crow with few mail and stay overnight. To bring people into town from Crow Flat.

June 14 -- The plane left to Flat around 8:30 a.m. and bring Dr. Daniel Frost family into town. Daniel is doing fine with rats. He had about one thousand rat skins. He's lucky man. Second trip they bring Mrs. Tannie Charlie and the kids Third trip, they bring Mrs. John Yootte and her family. They all look good and come to town Fourth trip they bring Pharse Thomas and also his dogs.

The people could easily coming down with boat but they hire plane they have to pay their fare and also pay their Delwit at store what they got from store. Afterward by hard for them to get stuff from store but they hire plane and come into town with plane.

The Whitehorse Star, Whitehorse Yukon, Thursday, May 1, 1963

Fifth trip, they bring Gordon Frost and Jerome Thomas and all their stuff and all their dogs. Sixth trip they bring Mrs. Eliza Ben in spring time when she drive dogs she fell on her arm and I hear she go hurt so she never do nothing all spring cause she was little ill. She never hunt for Rats and just stay out in the Flat.

Last trip is Elias and her daughter Mary Paul Ben came into town. They say it is good for rats and people are doing good and bring rats skins to town. Everybody glad to see people get back safe but some of them will come in boat and they get here June 15.

Connelly aircraft will go to Dawson tomorrow so Mr. Rev. J. Simon and Mrs. Simon and Joe Kay will go to Dawson and Whitehorse. The plane won't come till July so they have to go tomorrow. While Mr. Simon is gone, Charlie Abel and Neil MacDonald will try make service at Sunday for people in Old Crow.

June 15 -- Rev. J. Simon and Mrs. Simon and Joe Kay left to Whitehorse for the Synod.

June 16 -- Morning around 10 - 15. Everybody got to Old Crow with their canvas boat. By the time it's going to 11 a.m. and Mr. Peter Charlie he's getting ready for the service he sure make nice church that morning. Everybody are glad for him. Sure nice service we have.

Mr. Joe Netro he's really busy with the rat skins in his store. People are doing very nice with rats at Crow Flat. But some of them didn't get any rat.

June 18 -- Mr. Albert Frost he expect plane from Inuvik if

it come he will go to Inuvik for a trip and also his sister Martha and her mother Clara Frost will go for a trip to Inuvik. The Connelly aircraft will arrive here on June 19. Sure nice to see him plane every week.

June 18 -- RCMP plane arrived here around 5 o'clock. They camp here overnight.

Mr. Albert Frost and his brother Freddy Frost, they have no canoe to hunt for rats and they have been found one old canoe frame out in the flat and they cut it half and they made it little canoe out of it. And after that they hunt rats with that canoe they sure doing nice with it.

About last week ago they saw two white men left from Fort McPherson toward Old Crow and they been canoe all way and didn't expect them that quick and here they arrived here June 18 at 6 p.m. They will go down Porcupine River.

Continued



Rev. J. Simon - Old Crow

I received the following story from my niece Laurie Daniluk (*Hayes/Lelievre*) in Calgary and have the permission of Tricia to forward to you. Tricia will also be contacting you for membership. She is a writer and also has a story of the hospital burning in Dawson. Should be very interesting.

Vivian Stuart lornellis@shaw.ca (In Victoria)

Article from City of Calgary staff December newsletter



Tricia (centre) with two of her siblings that memorable Christmas in Dawson.
Note the stockings hanging so hopefully over the fireplace.
On the left, my brother Peter, now another Dr. Duncan. On my right, my sister Barb.



Tricia (Duncan) Sirrs with her father, Dr. Barrie Duncan, at the 2006 Calgary Alzheimer's Society, fundraising walk. Although confined to a wheelchair the last years of his life, Dr. Duncan practiced pediatrics in Regina for 40 years. He died in late January 2007, a few days before his 91st birthday.

Christmas in Dawson City: the year Santa was grounded

By Tricia Sirrs

*This is a true story about a special Christmas Eve in remote, isolated Dawson City, Yukon, which of course all the children “knew” was just a few miles from Santa’s home at the North Pole. **Tricia Sirrs**, now senior writer with Corporate Marketing & Communications, was just in Grade 1, but remembers every detail of that remarkable night, and how an entire community banded together to save Christmas.*

December 23, 1950. The temperature had dropped to near -60 F earlier that month, and stayed there. Everything was frozen solid. Nothing moved, including the propeller planes that brought supplies in from the “outside” twice each week. It was just too dangerous to fly in weather like that.

Dawson’s Christmas parcels were stranded in the post office in Whitehorse, gifts from families in the south. And even more important, the toy orders parents had placed through Eaton’s and Simpson Sears catalogues months earlier.

The parcels had reached Whitehorse by truck – which was where the highway from the south ended – but to get to Dawson, it was by plane, or wait for the river to open up in May.

The children were worried, and their parents were even more so. What if this cold weather grounded the reindeer, too? Maybe Santa would be a little late this year, but parents reassured their children that as soon as it was safe to fly, he’d surely come to Dawson.

But it didn't look good.

Then the U.S. Air Force and a group of Canadian postal workers – an unlikely combination if ever there was one – came to the rescue of Dawson's children.

(Think back to what was happening in the world at that time. Communist North Korea, aided by the Chinese army and Soviet "military advisors," had invaded South Korea six months earlier. The United Nations – led by the Americans – moved in on the side of the South Koreans.

But just a few miles of water separated the North American and Russian continents. In fact, it was practically possible to walk over the ice from Alaska to Russia.

Not surprisingly, the Americans established an auxiliary air base in Whitehorse, from which to better protect the mainland U.S. from any Russian attack from the north.) Two USAF pilots – both young, single, and likely more than a little foolhardy – volunteered to try and fly a load of Christmas gifts into Dawson. They would make one attempt to reach us, but one only.

At that time of year, in the days before sophisticated instruments, these northern pilots flew with, at most, a two-hour window of hazy daylight in which to navigate.

A plan to save Christmas for Dawson's kids was in the works.

The Whitehorse and Dawson postal workers, and townspeople like my father, Dr. Barrie Duncan, held a conference via radiophone, and came up with a plan.

The Whitehorse workers would open any and all parcels addressed to Dawson, separate out any toys and other items obviously intended for children, and load them into the small American plane. They certainly couldn't waste any of the precious space on things like household items or gifts for adults.

This was a Christmas toy run. Period.
Full stop.

Meanwhile, in Dawson, a list was drawn up of every child in the area, not just children living in the town itself, but those from nearby mining communities. Everybody helped with that list – teachers, parents and dad – to make sure every child was included, and nobody inadvertently left out.

The Dawson postal workers went down to the station, ready to allocate the gifts, should that plane get through.

Bush pilot Pat Callison – who so often flew my father in to the remote mining camps to look after the sick, patch up the injured, or to deliver a baby – warmed up his tiny, skiequipped aircraft, and circled the town once or twice at treetop height so wide-awake Dawson children could hear, and perhaps, go to sleep . . . because of course Santa only comes to sleeping children.

The USAF plane got through; the pilots were heroes, and were rewarded with some well-deserved drinks.

Then virtually every adult in Dawson got to work. And stayed working all night long.

The toys and gifts were unloaded and sorted at the post office, then checked against the master list of children's names.

Gifts were assigned based on each child's age and sex and every child got something – perhaps it wasn't exactly what he or she had asked Santa for, but it was a real gift. And not something boring, like socks, either.

Dad made several trips to the post office that long night. He helped assign the gifts and turned our living room into something of a postal sub-station: parents living nearby picked up gifts for their children from our place.

We had Spam and tinned apricots for Christmas dinner that year. The rest of the Christmas mail orders – including turkeys – didn't reach us until February. But that was okay. Because Santa had arrived on Christmas Eve, right on schedule.

LEE'S CATTLE DRIVE TO YUKON

Lee wrote a book about his epic journey with a near daily diary from start to finish. I have a copy somewhere and could give you the title if you like.

Lee's Great Granddaughter (maybe great-great) married a man by the name of Gene Gritner and for several years they ran the White Pass service station called the Gas Shack in Dawson. Many people in Dawson would remember Audrey Gritner. Today they live at Alexis Creek which is just a stone's throw from a place called Lee's Corner, named after the man that did the cattle run. If you have never driven the highway west of Williams Lake to Bella Coola you have missed some of the most spectacular scenery in B.C. Lots of history in that country too.

Bryan Cawley took over Willow Printers on Jan 16 and I will stick around until Feb 5 just to help him out. I am real happy that it is going back to the family. Brian's mom and dad owned it for 30 some years before we bought it. We fly out on the 12th of Feb so see you then.

Don & Muriel Frizzell frizzell*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Just checked online and here it is - 12.95 at Yukonbooks.com

Klondike Cattle Drive: Classics West Collection Series
by Lee, Norman

Or from BC Books.com

To order by phone call 1-800-665-3302 Available weekdays from 9:00am to 5:00pm PST

Klondike Cattle Drive Can\$12.95 *Norman Lee*

The latest addition to TouchWood Editions' Classics West Collection, this is the colourful tale of a formidable trek undertaken by legendary Cariboo rancher Norman Lee.

In 1898, Lee set out to drive 200 head of cattle from his home in the Chilcotin area of B.C. to the Klondike goldfields—a distance of 1,500 miles. He was gambling both his cattle and his life. This is his story, derived from the journal he kept, his letters and the loyal men who accompanied him.

Throughout the daunting weeks of coping with mud, cold and sheer bad luck, Lee kept his sense of humour. When he returned from his Yukon trek, he rewrote the notes from his journal, illustrating his story with his own cartoons and sketches. He completed his manuscript around the turn of the century, but it sat untouched until 1960, when it was published by Howard Mitchell of Mitchell Press, Vancouver.

Well-known pioneer **NORMAN LEE** was born in England and arrived in British Columbia via San Francisco. He worked at a variety of jobs before fulfilling his dream of having a ranch of his own. He made his home in Hanceville on the Chilcotin Plateau, where the Lee name remains legendary.

YUKONERS IN YUMA AZ

I was very surprised to find MocTel readers had moved into the unit behind us here in Yuma Arizona yesterday. Said hello and when the lady told me her name I was wondering if it was possible there could be two people with the name 'Glenis Allen'. Then when I said my name we were all asking questions at once. "Are you from Whitehorse?" "Are you the Moccasin Telegraph Sherron Jones?" It turned out to be Martin & Glenis Allen and Mike & Heather McGeachy. Both couples receive the Moccasin Telegraph. It's a small world!

Then the next morning they ran into Giles Lansfield, then his wife Sandy while they were walking up to the main complex. (All are from Tagish, Yukon)

Have just loaned them our laptop computer so maybe you will hear from them from here. Sherron Jones sherronjones@roadrunner.com (In Yuma AZ)



Mike & Heather (Berg) McGeachy and Martin & Glenis Allen
Photo courtesy Bill Jones ve7yi*roadrunner.com (In Yuma AZ)

I just got this website from a friend who as far as I know has no Yukon connection. You might find it interesting and even a source of articles?

Dorothy Graham (WILSON) dorothyg*dccnet.com Delta, BC

Subject: Klondike Mystery

University of Waterloo

<http://alumni.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/e-newsletter/2007/july/klondike.html>

The following extracted from this site. – Sherron

“Klondike Mystery unveiled at Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History website
The Klondike Mystery, co-authored by University of Waterloo historian Ken Coates, will be the latest historical addition to the popular Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History website.



Ken Coates, UW Dean of Arts

The [Klondike Mystery website](#) was launched in Dawson City, Yukon, in May.

"The Klondike Gold Rush is perhaps the only event in Canadian history that is known around the world," says Coates, a professor of history and UW's dean of arts. "There is a great debate about who discovered the gold that touched off the most famous gold stampede in history."

"The website allows people to look at the primary documents and to explore the debates, questions and issues related to the discovery," Coates says. "Our project is based on the premise that students can be drawn into Canadian history and archival research through the enticement of solving historical mysteries."

Coates, who specializes in the history of the Yukon and the Canadian North, co-authored the **Klondike Mystery** project with long-time collaborator **William Morrison**, a professor of history at the University of Northern British Columbia.

The Klondike website is part of a national project providing high-quality, free materials to schools and universities in order to enhance the understanding of historical methods and the appreciation of Canadian history.

The project, based at the University of Victoria, the Universite de Sherbrooke and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, has created a series of instructional websites aimed at enhancing research strategy and critical-thinking skills among students.

About the Klondike Mystery:

At first they didn't believe George Carmack, when in August 1896, he burst into a saloon in Fortymile, loudly proclaiming that he had found gold lying "thick as cheese" further up the Yukon River. Then he tipped a spent shotgun shell and out poured the gold dust. But did George make the discovery that started the Klondike Gold Rush?

George, an American, had been prospecting with three First Nations people: his wife Kate, her brother Skookum Jim, and their nephew Dawson Charlie, suggests Canadian Robert Henderson. For a century, controversy has swirled around the question of who deserves the credit for the discovery that set off the greatest gold rush in the history of the world and a turning point in Canadian history.

More information about the [Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History](#) can be found online.

Written by John Morris, jmorris@uwaterloo.ca
UW media relations”

Looks to me like the same Ken Coates co-author of the “Sinking of the Princess Sophia”.
– Sherron

Quake shakes northern border area

By SARAH NIMAN

Courtesy Whitehorse Star, January 18, 2008

Submitted by Donna Clayson yukonlady@albertacom.com (In Ardrossan AB)

An earthquake just above magnitude five was reported Thursday morning on the northern border of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Both the Pacific office of the Geological Survey of Canada and the Alaska Earthquake Information Centre confirmed reports of a magnitude 5.2 earthquake at 11:46 a.m. Pacific Standard Time.

The temblor occurred on the Northwest Territories side of the border, southwest of Inuvik and northwest of Fort McPherson, N.W.T.

Alaska’s state seismologist, Roger Hansen, said Thursday afternoon the quake came from 12 kilometres below the Earth’s surface.

Canadian seismologist Stéphane Mazzotti said one report from an Inuvik resident describes the earthquake creating “mild shaking.”

The area is known for its seismic activity, he said, and earthquakes of this magnitude are typical.

“It’s fairly well-known as an earthquake area,” he said. “Quite often, there are magnitude sixes in the area, so this is not surprising.”

This is interesting. Courtesy Whitehorse Star, January 18, 2008

Donna Clayson yukonlady@albertacom.com (In Ardrossan AB)

Climate change: ‘All hell is breaking loose’

By SARAH NIMAN

Climate change is very real, and is changing the Yukon landscape.

Yukoners can see it in the forecast, with lower than average temperatures.

They can see it in their gardens, when longer warm seasons yield more crops. They can see it in their backyards, when they become flooded with record-level rainfall.

Researchers involved in the international Polar Year project are looking for answers, more than ever, in the Yukon.

The fourth International Polar Year (IPY), following those in 1882-3, 1932-3, and 1957-8, has more Yukon involvement than ever. Indeed, 45 projects involve, or are led by Yukoners.

The 2007-2008 IPY covers two full annual cycles from March 2007 to March 2009. Thousands of scientists from more than 60 nations are studying a wide range of physical, biological and social research topics having to do with the Arctic and Antarctic. Ian Church is the chair of the Canadian IPY National Committee, in addition to his usual day job of being the senior science advisor for the Executive Council Office of the Yukon government.

He sat down with the Star this month to explain what indicators of climate change exist in Yukoners' backyards, and how the IPY fits into the larger understanding of what climate change really means.

"It's easy for people to say, 'Oh, it's cold out today. There's no climate change,' or to say 'there's flooding, it must be climate change,'" said Church. People identify indicators, but often misinterpret them.

"You have to compare what is happening globally to put what's happening in the Yukon into context."

Scientists understand climate change by looking at patterns, not individual events, he said.

It is impossible to determine if individual events, such as last summer's flooding in the Southern Lakes region, is a result of climate change or natural weather changes.

That's why, he said, climate change clues are called indicators, and there are a number occurring in the territory.

Church said a local retired meteorologist, Michael Purves, compiled a report in 2006 chronicling Yukon weather patterns. The results are dramatic.

Purves' research shows decreasing snowfalls, warmer overall temperatures, slackening wind speeds, more storms, earlier river breakups in the spring, and more sunlight in winter months. Church said these indicators are consistent with models of climate change.

"There is strong evidence of climate change in the Yukon," writes Purves in his report. Aside from quantitative research methods, Church said, the value of first nations' accounts in understanding weather changes is "invaluable."

"Usually, the people who best understand are those who are very close to the land, and have been here a long time.

"Up here, that's the first nations for sure," he said. First nations leaders have always been quick to notice weather pattern changes, noting the effects they have on those who still live off the land.

Weather pattern changes have meant that traditionally predictable animal behaviours and plant growth are shifting, negatively impacting first nation lifestyles, said Church.

One does not have to live off the land to see the most visually apparent of climate change indicators – the glacial melts.

"Once you've made the shift from ice to liquid, it takes a lot of energy to go back to ice," said Church. The lower and upper layers of glacial melt will take a very long time to reform into ice, if they ever do.

"A lot more of the Yukon was glaciated 150 years ago," he said.

Melting glaciers, like St. Elias and Wheaton, have meant water drainage systems have become blocked in some places, cutting off water streams, and flooding other places.

"They (researchers) are concerned the salmon run could become blocked, and they're looking very closely at that," said Church.

More heat in the atmosphere has also caused layers of permafrost to shift and melt, resulting in dangerous surface movements and mass amounts of carbon releases.

“A big issue for this pipeline that’s proposed is permafrost, and the instability of it shifting earth around it,” said Church.

A bigger issue, he said, is one scientists do not fully understand yet.

Carbon is stored inside gas hydrates inside the soil that is now frozen in permafrost.

When that permafrost melts, Church explained, carbon starts releasing, and that could have dramatic effects, such as over-heating the Earth.

He said there is more carbon stored in the Arctic permafrost than there is oil and coal everywhere else in the world.

If scientists and researchers unlock the keys to this stored carbon, he said, there exists the potential to turn this carbon into fuel before it escapes and overheats the Earth’s surface.

That is a clue Yukoners cannot see, he said, which may make it harder to understand.

Another visible indicator of climate change, he said, is the North Slope.

“Rising sea levels, enhanced storm activity as a result of loss of sea ice, and coastal currents coupled with the loss of ground ice has meant the overall retreat of the coastal shoreline,” said Church.

The climate change impact on the Yukon’s land is one thing, but the effects it is having on its inhabitants is quite another.

Forestry, wildlife and human systems are all experiencing marked differences from the way things used to be.

The tree line is rising and moving north, said Church.

“There are dramatic changes in the vegetation on the tundra,” he said. Previously barren and tree-lined places are now seeing an invasion of shrubs, indicative of a warming climate.

Wildlife have been feeling the effects as well. Most notably, said Church, are the Collared Pika, small, rabbit-like creatures that have been migrating further north each year to follow the cold temperatures of their habitat.

“But you can only go up so far, and then what?” asks Church.

Fishermen may notice fewer lake trout each year as well, as higher temperatures cause stress, and the fish die out.

Insect-eating birds have been confused in recent years, when they land at migratory checkpoints to find their favourite insects have moved habitats.

Similarly, the caribou have had to chase food sources that are also on the move due to the changing climate.

“There are all sorts of climate impacts there,” said Church.

In spite of all these signs that climate change is affecting the Yukon, and the planet, Church said, sometimes the most pressing arguments are those that identify the impact on humans.

“In planning infrastructure, it is becoming a challenge to avoid catastrophic events, nature-driven events, such as storms and ground shifts,” said Church.

It is a difficult decision to pay big bucks upfront for infrastructure that will stand solid through storms and environmental changes. But will moneymakers mitigate future losses due to the effect of climate change?

“There are often economic benefits to environmentally-sound projects,” said Church.

Not everyone runs a business or manages money, however. That said, every resident who

holds insurance is also going to feel the pinch when premiums go up to accommodate mounting weather-related claims.

The indicators of climate change may read like a daunting list of complaints, but Church said people need not be overwhelmed. The increase in research performed by IPY scientists will help answer more questions.

Individually, Church said, much can be done.

“People will say, ‘Oh, what I do doesn’t matter,’ but what we’re seeing now is all hell breaking loose. Yes, we all have an effect.”

Making environmentally-sound decisions on a daily basis, whatever that may be, is enough to make a difference in reducing climate change, he said.

ARTISTIC TALENT



Yukon Hotel

Image copyright Barb Forsyth blackbarb7@hotmail.com (In Victoria)

OBIT

Dr. **John L. Jambor** 1936 - 2008 John died after living with cancer for 10 months. He knew he lived his life well and was content in his acceptance of the inevitable. After receiving his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in geology from the University of British Columbia, John Jambor joined the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa in 1960, initially in the Petrological Sciences Division and later in the Economic Geology Division. During this period, he received his Ph.D from Carleton University in 1966. John's life-long affair with innocuous-appearing supergene minerals dates back to his bachelor's thesis and his **work at Galena Hill in the Yukon**.(continued)
Published in the Vancouver Sun and/or The Province on 1/23/2008.

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Just a note to let you know that I will be resigning my position with the Yukon Gov't and heading to Alberta effective Jan 31st, 2008. I would ask that my gov't email address be taken off of the mailing list at that time.

I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the wonderful folks on MocTel and may reconnect once I get settled in Alberta.

All the best to you and Bill....keep up the great work!!

Terry Vold

VOLD, Terry terry.vold@gov.yk.ca (In Whitehorse)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Don't judge life by one difficult season.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Submitted by Florence Roberts yapper@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

SAUCE POT MEATBALLS

1 pkg dry onion soup
1 ¼ cups water
2 – 8 oz cans tomato sauce
1 lb ground beef
½ tsp garlic salt

½ tsp thyme
¼ tsp pepper
1 tsp chopped parsley

In deep saucepan bring soup, water and 1 ½ cans tomato sauce to a boil – simmer covered for 10 minutes. Mix ground beef, seasoning and parsley and remaining tomato sauce. Shape into meat balls and place in sauce. Simmer gently uncovered for 25 minutes, turning occasionally. Serve over hot noodles, spaghetti or rice.

Mrs. Tom Mickey

DATES TO REMEMBER

Vancouver Yukoners' Annual Banquet April 5th, 2008

Tickets can be purchased from:

Vivian Stuart 217 - 3255 Cook St., Victoria, B.C., V8X 1A4.

email: lornellis*shaw.ca phone: 250.383.1349

Cheques payable to: Vancouver Yukoners' Association

Reception/Visiting: 5:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Plated dinner \$55.00 per person.

Special Yukoners' rates at River Rock

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To make a reservation at the River Rock:

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Location: 8811 River Road, Richmond, B.C., V6X 3P8.

www.riverrock.com

FREE PARKING

For more information contact:

Carol Clarke cclarke*shaw.ca phone: 604.325.4774 or

Helen Munro hmunro*shaw.ca

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If you have received this copy of the Moccasin Telegraph from a friend and wish to sign up to receive future editions yourself, the criteria is that you **are or were a Yukoner**.

The goal of this project is to provide an opportunity for folks to reconnect.

– Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Winter Address –

483 – 5707 East 32nd St.

Yuma, Arizona 85365

Phone 928-341-0690