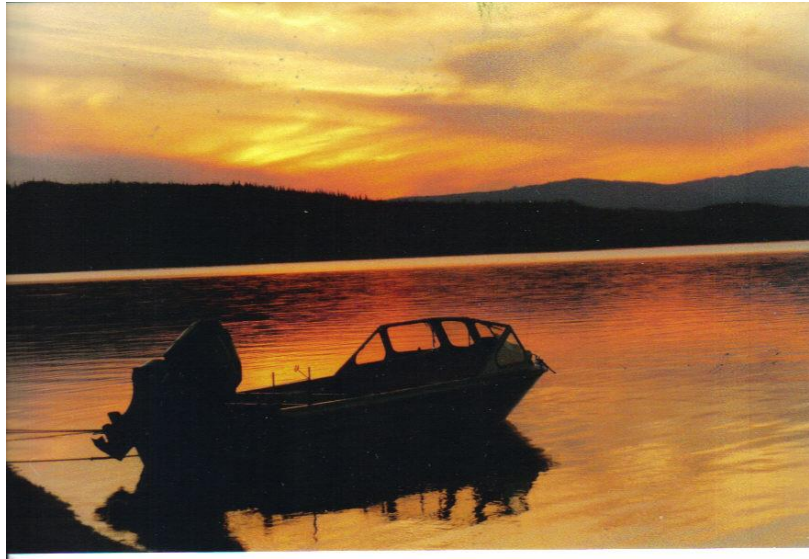


## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 268<sup>th</sup> Edition – October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Created by Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)

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



Frances Lake - our favourite camping spot.

Photo courtesy Lloyd Kostiuck [elkost@northwestel.net](mailto:elkost@northwestel.net) (In Watson Lake)

### **SAFE DRIVER AWARD / ACCIDENT**

Remembering the accident has never been an issue with me. That was in 1975 and I stayed on highway patrol until 1978 when I was transferred to Watson Lake. Being from Saskatchewan, winter driving didn't bother me anymore after the accident than it did before. My accident occurred during white-out conditions and when called out to an accident I didn't have the luxury of saying "Gee, can I wait until the weather clears before I go?" In retrospect, if I slammed on the brakes every time I got into a snow swirl I stood just as big a chance of being rear-ended as I did in rear-ending someone which is what happened. It might have been nice to hit something smaller than the back end of a semi trailer but at least I was the only one injured.

You should ask Ellen Davignon about the driver of the truck I hit. He was at the lodge for a few days and I heard she rode him pretty hard. Ellen told me later, that she told the truck driver that he now gets to put a notch in his door for taking out a Mountie. She also said the company in Texas that he worked for (he was headed home after hauling pipe for the Alaska pipeline) had to fly him home and send in a replacement driver since he was mentally incapable of driving his truck. I think the term Ellen used was a "basket case". I've always loved Ellen's sense of humour.

A side story to this was my very first day back on the road. I was in Vancouver recovering November, December and January. I got back to Whitehorse for February but I was restricted to office duties to make sure my neck had healed properly as I had broken

it in three places. Yes, I was very lucky to be alive. My first day back on full duty I had travelled down the Carcross Road. There was a lot of snow that year and as I hadn't driven on the highways for four months I forgot about the overplow. The overplow is where the grader blades the snow off the roadway and where the ditch starts to drop-away it appears that the road is wider than it really is. I was about three miles down the Carcross Road and I got my right front wheel into the overplow. Thankfully the ditch was nice and wide and I slid into three feet of snow. Stuck. Really stuck. Preferring not to radio the office to have them send out a tow truck, I tried calling the tow truck on my mobile phone. Wayne King, who was driving for Arctic Towing, was in the truck and received my call. I told him there was a car stuck at three mile on the Carcross Road and asked if he would attend there. He asked if I would be there when he arrived. I said I would stick around if nothing came up. Of course, I was going nowhere. Wayne came around a corner about a half-mile from where I was and I could see he was laughing already. Terry Aschacher was with Wayne too and one of them can't keep a secret. I took a bit of ribbing over that one for a while.

Another instance of snowy driving took place by Braeburn. I was headed north and just topped the summit south of Braeburn Lodge. After the summit the road took a drop, levelled out, dropped again, levelled out, etc. It did this about three times until you got to the flats where the lodge is located. I had dropped down and levelled out once and I saw a hill in front of me. It was dusk and I'm thinking I should step on the gas a bit because of the hill, yet my instincts were telling me there wasn't suppose to be a hill there. I backed off and when I got to the Braeburn Lodge a White Pass ore carrier turned into the lodge in front of me. I had been close enough to the back end of the truck that through the snow all I saw was the sillouette of the ore container which looked like a hill. At the angle I was looking up, I must have been within 30 or 40 feet of the truck.

The truck drivers with White Pass, Cassiar Asbestos and other local firms were all really good drivers. It was the ones from the south you had to watch out for. You would only meet them on the Alaska Highway as they didn't go onto the side highways and you could always tell them by their huge eyeballs and white knuckle grip on the steering wheel. They also kind of liked to take their half of the road right out of the middle. One such incident was a motorhome that was forced over too far just south of Jakes Corner. While almost stopped, the motorhome ended up flopping onto its right side. Tom Mickey came out with the wrecker, righted the motorhome and towed it to Whitehorse. There was an older couple and her father, who was something like 93 years old, and they had a Doberman. I took the wife and her father with me to town and had the office find them a motel room. Tom dragged the motorhome in with the driver in his cab with the Doberman who laid his head on Tom's lap all the way in. When we got to town I dropped off the two I had and Tom arrived shortly thereafter. He was kind enough to help carry some of their effects into their room and on the way out the Doberman decided to take a bite out of Tom. Let's just say I'm glad Tom wasn't expecting to have any more children. I think the price of the tow bill went up significantly at that moment.

George Bliss [jrsports@sasktel.net](mailto:jrsports@sasktel.net) (In Regina)  
Whitehorse Highway Patrol 1973-1978

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH CELEBRATED CENTENNIAL YEAR IN 2002

St. Paul's was celebrating a centennial year. And, at the same time it was made a national historic site. I'm a little confused as I thought the whole, old, part of Dawson was already a historic site. The former Commissioner's Residence, where I lived, was already an Historic site. I had a quick private tour through it before I left Dawson. Rose ? was my tour guide. I had had a tour four years before. My guide was a lady from tourism. She took down many notes. After she dropped me off, I could see she was sitting in her car and writing. I should know her name and it has come up in the MocTel but I can't think of it, now. I think it is Peggy something.

I was served communion by Percy Henry and Mary Battaja. I believe there were two others serving on the opposite side. I don't remember the sermon or for sure who gave it. Ginny (formerly Redmond) and I met up in the communion line and started visiting then and there. We were a little noisy and drew attention. Also, when waiting for the service to start, I met Mrs. Buckle, and, I informed the Venerable Ken and Mrs. Aldine Snider that I had attended their wedding. I had taken a picture of them leaving the church at Aklavik. I later, sent them a copy of the photo which they had reproduced for their six children. Aldine told me that it was the only picture from their wedding that they had in colour.

The tea at the Commissioner's Residence followed the dedication ceremony which followed the church service.

Emily Stillwell [eistillwell@hotmail.com](mailto:eistillwell@hotmail.com) (In Moose Jaw SK)

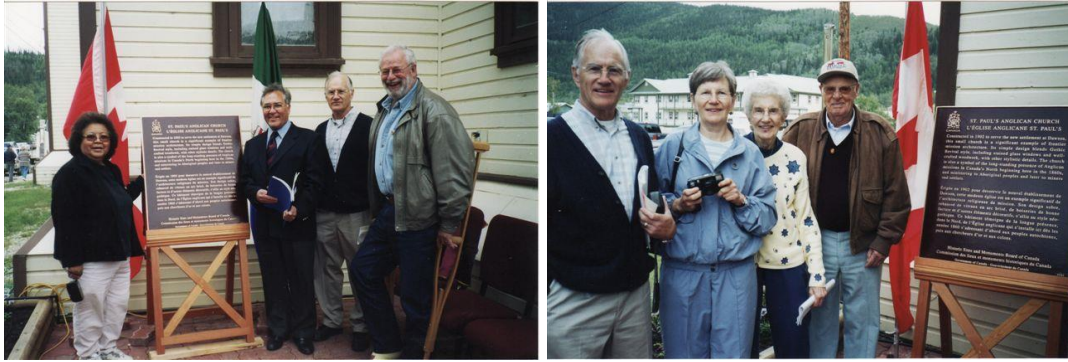


Gerald Issac is speaking at the lecturn. In the red robe is Bishop Buckle. Next to him is Larry Bagnell (MP) in the white shirt and tie. Then Archdeacon John Tyrell to Larry Bagnell's left and on his left is an RCMP officer.

In behind Larry Bagnell is the dedication plaque on a stand.

Photos courtesy Emily Stillwell [eistillwell@hotmail.com](mailto:eistillwell@hotmail.com) (In Moose Jaw SK)





Left: Standing by the plaque in this photo is Betty Flynn, Gerald Isaac (Yukon Member of Historic Sites, etc.), Joe Redmond, and, Bob Hadley.

Right: In this photo are Joe Redmond (Sylvan Lake, AB), and his sister Sharon Redmond (Victoria, BC), Ginny and Merle Fornier (from Tri Cities, Washington.)

Photos courtesy Emily Stillwell [eistillwell@hotmail.com](mailto:eistillwell@hotmail.com) (In Moose Jaw SK)



Left: The folks in this photo are Lino and Mary Battaja who are beside the plaque and on the other side is Gerald Isaac.

I have written that Mary is from Mayo-the Hager family. She was ordained Deaconess and then priest a few years ago. She at this time is employed in Whitehorse.

Right: The ladies from Fort McPherson who were flown down for the special ceremony. In the picture in the turquoise jacket is Annie Francis. I knew Annie from Aklavik. With the red purse is Rachel Stewart.

Photos courtesy Emily Stillwell [eistillwell@hotmail.com](mailto:eistillwell@hotmail.com) (In Moose Jaw SK)



Left: This photo is of Emily Stillwell, Ven. Kenneth Snider, and, Mrs. Aldine Snider, at the tea celebrating the St. Paul's Anglican Church centennial celebration and the dedication of St. Paul's as a national heritage site.

Right: A tea (at the Historic site – the Commissioners Residence) followed the ceremonies at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

In the photo are Aldine Snider, Chris Christianson (wife of Willie, the son of Lena Christianson,) and, Blanche Buckle. They are seated in front of the front doors to the Commissioner's Residence.

Photos courtesy Emily Stillwell [eistillwell@hotmail.com](mailto:eistillwell@hotmail.com) (In Moose Jaw SK)



Left: This photo is of Joyce Caley. Joyce plays the organ at St. Paul's Anglican Church on a regular basis and she played for the special service.

Right: This photo was taken in a tent set up as a reception tent. It is of Ginny and Merle Fornier with some new friends, a couple, from California. I had visited with them at Gertie's and they said "there is the lady from Saskatchewan."

As well, as it being a celebration for St. Paul's Anglican, it was also the centennial of Dawson City being incorporated. I was sitting at a table in the tent when these folks came along and I thought some would be interested to see the photo.

All in all I took 66 photos on the trip including a few in Whitehorse. I've left out a few that were taken at the Commissioners' Res. I think photos I have taken of buildings, etc. are very good but would perhaps be repetitious.

Photos courtesy Emily Stillwell [eistillwell@hotmail.com](mailto:eistillwell@hotmail.com) (In Moose Jaw SK)



Left: This photo is of Bishop Terence O. Buckle and Mrs. Blanche Buckle.

Center: Rosie Stewart who is from Ft. McPherson. (I knew Rosie from Aklavik.) She is standing by a pillar on the veranda of the Commissioners' Residence. She flew with the other ladies on the special flight from Ft. McPherson.

Right: This is the photo I took of Myrna Butterworth at the McDonald Lodge where she was until recently employed as a Chef. I asked her to pose for me on the front porch.

Photos courtesy Emily Stillwell [eistillwell@hotmail.com](mailto:eistillwell@hotmail.com) (In Moose Jaw SK)



Percy Henry and his mother, Annie Henry. (Joe Henry, May 24, 1898 - Mar. 20, 2002.)

Photo courtesy Emily Stillwell [eistillwell@hotmail.com](mailto:eistillwell@hotmail.com) (In Moose Jaw SK)





Rolf Hougen and Elder Sam Johnston of Teslin  
Photos courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



On the left is Clarence Timmins, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Rolf Hougen Chancellor of Yukon College, Sam Johnstone of Teslin, the retiring Chancellor and on the right is Dr. Terry Weninger, President of Yukon College

# Rolf Hougen prepares to serve as Yukon College chancellor

By Tristin Hopper  
News reporter

**B**usinessman Rolf Hougen tacked another credit onto his resume with his recent appointment as chancellor of Yukon College.

"It is clear from business activity, your commitment to the community service and to the fact that every one of your six children are still in the Yukon that you are a proud Yukoner," said chairman of the board Clarence Timmins.

Hougen serves as president or director of a number of Yukon companies, is an officer of the Order of Canada, an honorary consul to France and founder of the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous.

With a long history of community work, Hougen said he has become well-accustomed to saying 'no.'

"I had served for 60 years in community activities in the Yukon, nationally, internationally — and I thought it was time to slow down and just take it a little differently," said Hougen.

When Weninger first offered him the chancellorship, he rejected it.

"So I went and I told Marg (his wife), and she got on Terry's side, twisted my arm, and after a weekend I decided I would say 'yes,'" said Hougen.

"When I reached that point to say, 'yes,' it was with great enthusiasm, because I was really

excited about the prospects of the college," he said.

Twenty-seven years ago, long before the establishment of Yukon College, Hougen was part of a scheme to establish a full-fledged university North of 60.

The proposed university was part of the "northern corridor" scheme put forward by RCAF Major-General Richard Rohmer.

"He maintained that there was a greenbelt across Northern Canada and the 90 per cent of Canadians who live a few miles from the border should move north," said Hougen.

"In the end we could get no enthusiasm and no interest from the governments of the day, so unfortunately we abandoned it," he said.

"Now, a long time later ... there's no doubt in my mind that this will indeed become the university of the North," said Hougen.

The role of the chancellor is purely ceremonial. In the position, Hougen will represent the college board of governors at public and private events and "provide community perspective to the board."

At graduation, he will be entrusted with conferring all diplomas and certificates.

The previous five days Hougen was boning up on college programs, history and activities.

"(The board of governors) has a visionary program for the college, which will lead eventually to a university designation,

not immediately, but it will lead in that direction," he said.

Hougen's appointment marks the end of the four-year chancellorship of Elder Sam Johnston, former chief of the Teslin Tlingit and former speaker of the house.

"My thing is I always try to encourage people, especially to come back to education again, to further their education," said Johnston.

"I know and feel from being around, how important education is — in all walks of life," he said.

At times during his tenure, Johnston lived onsite at the college residence, where he could "communicate with the students and give them encouragement where needed."

At the end of the induction ceremony, Johnston presented Hougen with the chancellor's chain of office — fashioned in the late 1980s by Fred Edzerza.

Carved eagle feathers represent strength and wisdom. A large pendant hangs from the base of the necklace. Under West Coast native tradition, the bigger the pendant, the more important the person.

The two men represent very different backgrounds, but they both share a long-standing relationship with the Yukon.

"Each chancellor has something different to offer," said Johnston.

Contact Tristin Hopper at [tristinh@yukon-news.com](mailto:tristinh@yukon-news.com)



## “DIEF THE CHIEF” VISIT TO WHITEHORSE 1958

Just read through the latest edition and thought I would send you a couple of photos of the arrival of "Dief, the chief" at Whitehorse in 1958. As the article said, the Mounties were there in their Red Serge - the two members in the picture are Cst. Ross Hogg and Cst. Neil Melsness. They provided a worthy escort for the Prime Minister !!!

I also noted in one of the pictures that Dr. Nori Nishio accompanied the Prime Minister on the fishing trip. This became a habit as he also accompanied Prince Phillip on his fishing trip to McLean lake during the visit of Her Majesty and the Prince in 1959. Prince Phillip was a surprisingly adept fly fisherman !!!

Ira Saunders [sandisaunders@rogers.com](mailto:sandisaunders@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)

*Thank you Ira. Having colour really does make a difference. Interesting to see the colours on the aircraft as well. Note how the crowd is out on the tarmac -- unlike the rules of today. - Sherron*

Rolf Hougen may be able to identify the people in the crowd. A sidelight to the fishing trip of Prince Phillip, McLean lake was a breeding lake for the trout hatchery and, as such, had many "fingerling" size trout. The Prince caught one about 4 inches long and jokingly asked Nori if maybe they should leave it on the hook as bait. The Prince was the only person in his entourage who walked around after the boats were back on shore and introduced himself to all the participants - and he was the one that everyone knew !!!  
Ira



Cst. Ross Hogg and Cst. Neil Melsness provided a worthy escort for the Prime Minister !  
Photo courtesy Ira Saunders [sandisaunders@rogers.com](mailto:sandisaunders@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)



Prime Minister greeted on the tarmac.  
Photo courtesy Ira Saunders [sandisaunders\\*rogers.com](mailto:sandisaunders@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)



Photo courtesy Ira Saunders [sandisaunders\\*rogers.com](mailto:sandisaunders@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)

## **Jean Gordon and Rascal**

Thank you for your kind words regarding moms passing. Mom had been in hospital for three weeks when I arrived Jul 2. I was able to take her home and care for her and her beloved little pet Rascal (pom).

I have only just arrived home so am a little exhausted as basically Howard and I closed moms place up for the winter and I will return in May to attend to the other things that will need to be done. As I had told Lowell in the reply to e-mail I really can't say anymore than the star said in the issue of Sept. 15 and Joyce Hayden in Yukon Women of Power or the Yukoner edition #15.

It's hard to know where to start and to end as my folks both had very full lives and I cherish the fact that they were my parents and what a great upbringing and life I had. Thank goodness mom did not suffer with pain til the last and had her faculties' right to the end. The fact that I was able to be with her is comforting for me.

Rascal passed away on Aug 20 (he was 16 yrs in May) and mom on Sept 5th.

Betty Lone

LONE, Betty (GORDON) [lonehbk\\*xplornet.com](mailto:lonehbk*xplornet.com) (Born in Dawson, lived Granville, Mayo & Keno until 1959) Morden MB

## **Erik Nielsen**

From June of 1957 until April of 1958, he ran in three federal elections. In less than a year, this Yukoner lost and won more elections than most politicians do in a lifetime.

Erik Nielsen's life as a politician is the stuff legends are made of, except most of it is true. The young lawyer came to the Yukon in 1952, and he brought with him a distinguished war record. As a pilot in the RCAF during World War II, he flew 23 missions with a Lancaster bomber squadron. Then, as a commissioned pilot/officer, he flew 33 bombing missions over Europe, including the epic D-Day invasion in 1944. Nielsen was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, but that was just the beginning.

In 1957, he won the Progressive Conservative nomination and headed into the June federal election against long time Liberal incumbent, Aubrey Simmons. When the vote was counted in the Yukon, Erik had a 52-vote lead. At the time, however, members of the Armed Forces overseas could designate their voting riding. One hundred and 77 voted in the Yukon riding. When that vote was counted, Simmons won the election, by 70 votes. Nationally, under John Diefenbaker, the Conservatives formed a minority government.



But it wasn't over in the Yukon. The local conservatives filed a petition claiming numerous voting irregularities, including that of seven people having voted twice. Even the winning Liberals agreed that the election was flawed. In December of 1957, a by-election was held in the Yukon. This time, Nielsen won by a slim 128-vote margin. He was now a member of the minority federal government.

Having toured the Yukon in his private plane during the previous two elections, Nielsen kept his engines running. Good thing. In April of 1958, Diefenbaker called yet another federal election. Erik Nielsen and Aubrey Simmons were again on the hustings, for the third time in 10 months.

This time, Nielsen won the Yukon seat by a margin of nearly 700 votes. The Progressive Conservatives won a huge majority nationally, and Erik Nielsen began a thirty-year career which took him further, politically, than any Yukoner had gone before.

As a member of the largest majority government in Canadian history, he became known in Ottawa as Yukon Erik. Slowly but surely, he was making a name for both himself and the Territory he represented.

In May of 1958, after the Conservative landslide victory in the federal election, Erik Nielsen was selected by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker to address the reply to the Speech from the Throne. It was a small, but important gesture. Nielsen would become a confidant of the Prime Minister, a supporter and friend for the rest of Dief's days.

It would stand the Yukon in good stead, as federal eyes turned northward for the first time since the gold rush. A 'roads to resources' program was established, which eventually included the building of the Dempster Highway, the Skagway road, and upgrades to the Alaska and Haines highways. Dawson City became a national historic site. Nielsen also made the first federal proposal to allow the Yukon and NWT a seat each in the senate. It was a heady time for the young lawyer-turned-politician from the Yukon.

In 1962, after four years with the largest majority in Canadian history, the conservatives were hammered in the federal election. They were barely able to form a minority government. Nielsen easily won the Yukon seat, but he knew yet another federal election was not far off. A year later, in 1963, Nielsen fought his fifth election in six years, certainly some sort of parliamentary record. Again, Yukon Erik won handily, but the Diefenbaker government was defeated. As the Liberals under Lester Pearson assumed power, Nielsen became a member of the opposition. It's a role the feisty lawyer seemed to enjoy and would earn him yet another nickname...Hawk of the House.

The mid-60s heralded a tumultuous time in Canadian politics, and the member of parliament for the Yukon would be at the centre of it all.

By 1964, Erik Nielsen was considered a veteran on Parliament Hill. He'd been there for seven years. The Liberals were in power. As a member of the official opposition, Nielsen

thought it his duty to challenge the government at every turn. And to embarrass it if he could.

But never in his wildest dreams did the Yukon MP think he'd be the spark that kindled a wild-fire of scandal in the Liberal party. Nielsen had developed a select group of sources. This paid off when he learned that Liberal political aides in Quebec were receiving kickbacks in exchange for political favours.

His revelations rocked Ottawa. Then, when he discovered that a notorious Montreal drug dealer, Lucien Rivard, had been allowed to water a skating rink outside the confines of his prison cell and escaped to the US, the scandal resulted in a judicial inquiry. The Liberal justice minister Guy Favreau was forced to resign. The Liberals were in disarray. Nielsen was dubbed by the media...Hawk of the House.

The result was yet another federal election, in November of 1965. Nielsen fought and won his sixth election in eight years. But, the Conservatives, under Diefenbaker, lost and Nielsen was again a member of the official opposition. Not until 1979 would he be a member of the governing party. That year, under leader Joe Clarke, the Tories held power for a mere nine months. Nielsen joined the cabinet as Minister of Public Works. In 1980, the Liberals were returned to office. It would be four more years before Yukon Erik would again taste the fruits of power.

It seems a distant memory now, but it was only fourteen years ago [1984] that the Conservatives, under Brian Mulroney, were swept into office with the largest majority government in history. Along with it, the political fortunes of the member for the Yukon rose and fell in three short years.

Pierre Trudeau had taken a long walk in the snow. John Turner took a short stroll to lead the Liberal party into the federal election of 1984. Both were political veterans with political baggage. On the other hand, Brian Mulroney was a fresh face on the national scene, and he led the Progressive Conservatives to a stunning landslide victory.

When it came to politics, Mulroney's closest advisor was Erik Nielsen. In September of that year, the Member of Parliament for the Yukon achieved his highest office. Yukon Erik was appointed Deputy Prime Minister. He was also given the job of re-organizing all aspects of the way federal departments operated. For a time, he also held the post of Defence Minister when Bob Coates was forced to resign. He was also Fisheries Minister for a short time when John Fraser was forced to resign.

Nielsen, backed by Mulroney, was arguably the most powerful politician in the country. But the hodge-podge collection of conservatives, including separatists from Quebec, long time political hacks from Ontario, and alienated liberals from the west, proved an unwieldy bunch. As Nielsen had revealed Liberal scandals in the 60s and 70s, now the Liberals were doing the same to the Conservatives. Cabinet ministers were forced to resign. Back-benchers were caught using their political power to personal advantage.

As Deputy Prime Minister, Nielsen was forced to defend Sinclair Stevens in the House of Commons as the opposition accused the cabinet minister of using his ministerial office for personal benefit. It's likely Nielsen knew he was defending the indefensible. What became known as the 'Stevens affair' in 1986, got Nielsen to thinking about his political future.

Then the press revealed excerpts from a private interview Nielsen gave in 1973. They charged that Nielsen received much of his information about Liberal scandals back in the '60s by installing listening devices in the Liberal caucus rooms. Nielsen vehemently denied the charge, but the resulting furor in the House of Commons prompted Brian Mulroney to force Nielsen to offer an apology. Reluctantly, Yukon Erik stood in the House of Commons and, looking at the Prime Minister, he apologized.

Shortly thereafter, Nielsen announced that he would be leaving federal politics before the next federal election. His friendship with Mulroney was shattered. His love of the House of Commons turned to disgust. After he resigned on January 19th, 1987, he wrote a book whose title reveals the thoughts of this 30-year veteran of the political wars in Ottawa. It was called "The House is Not a Home".

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin



Erik & PJ Nielsen 1954

Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)





A Yukon Delegation in Ottawa 1958



The Nielsen family – Roxanne, Rick, Lee, 1961  
 Photos courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Erik addressing the Northern Development Conference Whitehorse 1963.  
Photos courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Leader of the Opposition Robert Stanfield in Whitehorse 1968



[Actor] Leslie Nielsen & [brother] Erik Nielsen at the Hougens Sept 1971  
 Photos courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Chief Charlie Abel, Erik Nielsen and Joe Netro, Old Crow – June 1974





March 1975 - Erik flew to Quiet Lake others Ski Doo'd in.  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Barbecuing at Quiet Lake - Aub Tanner and Hazel Nixon look on – July 1976  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Roxanne after a swearing in by Chief Supt Harry Nixon with Proud Erik looking on July 1979. Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



The Dempster opening at Junction near Dawson City August 17, 1979  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)

*Dear Rolf and Marg,*

*I am signing this letter to you  
on Thursday, August 30, 1979 - the first  
day upon which a Yukoner has had the  
responsibility of Acting Prime Minister  
of our Country. I thought you might  
appreciate this record of yet another  
"first" to which you have made such a  
significant contribution .*

*Sincerely,*

*Erik.*

Letter when Erik became Deputy Prime Minister – Aug 30 1979  
Image courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Erik & Constable Roxanne Nielsen Regina - February 1980  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)





Roxanne and Marg Hougen – February 1980  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg@hougens.com](mailto:marg@hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Erik cooking pheasant at Marg & Rolf's home  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg@hougens.com](mailto:marg@hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Flo Whyard and Erik sharing a joke  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Erik surveying the surrounding with Shelley looking on Aug 6 1983  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)





Mulroney addressing a crowd in Whitehorse in celebration of Erik's 25 years as M.P. for the Yukon – November 1983

Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg@hougens.com](mailto:marg@hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Minister of National Defense with Shelley at Quiet Lake August 8 1985

Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg@hougens.com](mailto:marg@hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)





Erik & Rolf exchanging greetings, Marg looking on at Greta and Bob Grays wedding August 9, 1986

Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)

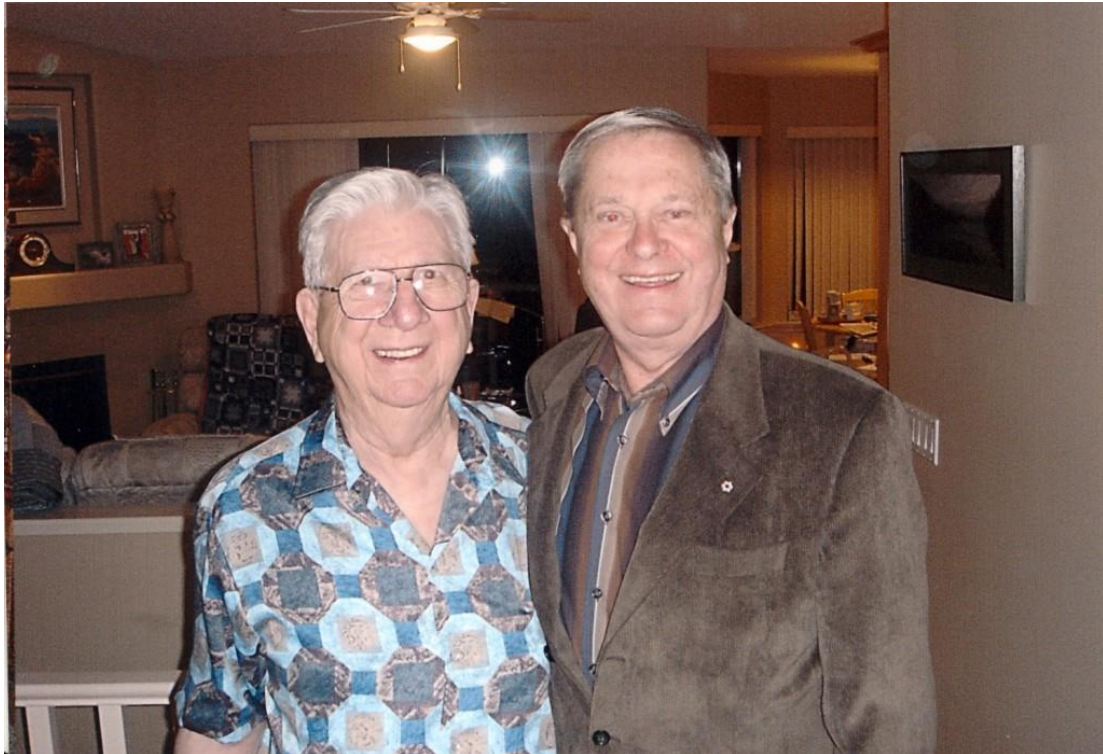


Leslie Neilsen and Erik Neilsen talking with Maureen and Shelley looking on - Roxanne and Scott Temple's wedding Sept 13 1986

Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Erik congratulating son Rick and Maureen Hougen at their wedding June 20, 1987  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](mailto:marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)



Rolf & Erik at the Nielsen home in Kelowna - September 2006  
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](mailto:marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)

## **MOCTEL IS A HIT WITH SENIORS IN LLOYDMINSTER**

Sherron, I have printed out the last three MocTels and left them on the coffee table in the library. They disappear almost instantly but I get feedback over breakfast in the morning on how good the pictures are and "We went up there in \_ \_." One lady was a switchboard operator while the army was there and she is now wishing she had never left.

Have a good trip to Yuma. Have a date shake for me.

Bill Maylor [billmaylor@gmail.com](mailto:billmaylor@gmail.com)

Maylor, William #111-4200-54 Ave Lloydminster, AB T9V 2Y9 780-875-2219  
780 808-0435 cell

## **CELEBRATION OF LIFE – Larry Tremblay**

The family is having a Celebration of Larry's life in Haines Junction, YT on Oct.18 at 2 p.m. in the Conference Hall. Hope to have a slide show and lots of pictures that we have come up with. Don't expect people to travel a long ways this time of year. But it will be closure for the family and the folks in the Junction that were so good and caring to Larry through his long illness when he spent the summers up there. I do want to thank everyone that had part in this as it was much appreciated by both Larry and myself. He loved it up there, especially the good coffee and apple pies. He was still planning on making another trip up there this summer. To bad he never got to do it.

God Bless, Lois

Lois Tremblay [granny9t@shaw.ca](mailto:granny9t@shaw.ca) (In Cedar BC)

## **SOLAR CAR**

Good news, latest MocTel safely arrived with both emails provided. Don't know why the earlier email hiccup notice.

On the interesting front, while in Fort St John yesterday [Sept 27<sup>th</sup>] - saw the support vehicle for the Solar car that has been touring around the north. Spent about two hours with Marcelo da Luz as he was recharging his batteries, and then "leap frogged" his Xof1 solar car for about 20 miles taking digital and video pictures with his and my cameras. Fascinating!



Marcelo was headed for Dawson Creek, and then down highway 97 towards Prince George, and further south. When we met, he was 2500 km from establishing the world record for distance on a trip covered on a solar car. Check out his website, [www.xof1.com](http://www.xof1.com) and email [mdaluz\\*xof1.com](mailto:mdaluz*xof1.com).

I'll forward email photos by separate attachment. (You may notice a "I drove the Alaska Highway with the Milepost" on his solarcar)

Marcelo was not aware of the MocTel coverage, so I'm forwarding to him the edition where his travels are included.

Cheers!

Earl L Brown  
[earl\\*autumnimages.com](http://earl*autumnimages.com)

## **STAN BRIDCUT REMEMBERED**

Hi, Sherron, If you haven't received this Watson Lake Obit, Here it is, copied from the Yukon north of ordinary Magazine. He was one of our most respected Yukoners of this area. Missed by all who knew him. Regards, Lloyd Kostiuck

*When asked for permission to place the North of Ordinary magazine coverage in the MocTel, Lily did one better and sent electronic copy. It is heart warming to get such co-operation. – Sherron*

I'd love for the article about Stan to be republished in Moccasin Telegraph.

I've asked my designer to give me electronic versions of the pages for MT.

Would you send a copy of the newsletter to Paul Tubb? He took the photos of Yvonne Bridcut and the memorial for Stan. He lives in Watson Lake. [paul.tubb@yahoo.ca](mailto:paul.tubb@yahoo.ca)

This article was published in Yukon, North of Ordinary magazine Fall 2008 Volume 2 Issue 3 [www.NorthofOrdinary.ca](http://www.NorthofOrdinary.ca)

Lily Gontard [editor\\*northofordinary.ca](mailto:editor*northofordinary.ca) (In Carcross, Yukon)

Editor

Yukon, North of Ordinary magazine  
Air North's inflight magazine



Photo: Courtesy of Yvonne Bridcut

The way it was:

# Remembering Stanley Bridcut

This is the first of four profiles of Yukoners who witnessed and participated in the growth of the territory since the 1940s. Stanley Bridcut was interviewed before he passed away in February 2008. || By Claire Festel ||

**A**t 3:45 p.m. on May 24, 2008, a de Havilland Beaver, the North's signature bush plane, tilted from side to side in the bush-pilot's salute as it was flown over the Watson Lake Airport. A few minutes later, Frank Close addressed the 200-plus people gathered to celebrate the life of Stanley Bridcut, a Yukon aviation pioneer and legendary bush pilot.

"Earlier this afternoon, Stan made his final flight to the resting place of his choice in his most favourite aircraft," said Close. "He had thousands and thousands of hours on the de Havilland Beaver. Stan was a lot like a Beaver—he was dependable and he was always reliable."

**S**tanley Bridcut was born near Valleyfield, Québec, on August 3, 1925. He left home at 16 years old to find work and made his way to the West Coast of Canada. "When you're young, you have no idea what you're gonna do. You just go straight ahead," he said, during the last interview he gave.

He tried to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1943, but was turned down because he "was too skinny". So, he went logging to "bulk up" and was accepted on his second try, in April 1944.

"My first plane ride was in Portage la Prairie, just out of Winnipeg." That would be his only flight while in the RCAF because the Second World War ended before he finished his training as a tail gunner. That one flight sparked a passion for aviation, which turned into a lifetime of bush flying in the North.

When he was young, Bridcut wanted to see the Yukon. "When I got out of the services, in 1945, they'd [RCAF] pay for wherever you wanted go ... so I was able to get right up to Dawson Creek, the end of the roads [at the time] in B.C. I knew one of the fellows who worked in the grocery store, and he got me a ride with Schmitt Trucking up the Alaska Highway. I went right up to Whitehorse and then back to Lower Post [B.C.]."

Over the next couple of years, Bridcut spent summers in the Yukon and winters in B.C. as he followed seasonal work: trapping, prospecting, placer mining and logging. He moved permanently to Watson Lake in the mid-'50s. "I didn't blow everything. You could look around and see what was happening with the rest of the people. I made up my mind I was never going to be broke."





Stan Bridcut met his wife Yvonne in Watson Lake in the 1960s; they shared their lives for over 45 years.



Bridcut's favourite plane was the Beaver. Here he's shown loading one up for yet another trip into the bush.



A jade memorial was erected at Watson Lake Airport in honour of Stan Bridcut's place in the aviation history of the region.

In 1947, he took flying lessons. "I just wanted to try it. I figured, 'Oh, what the heck.' And sure enough, I got my private licence in Langley, B.C., and then went straight over to Sea Island Airport [now Vancouver International Airport] and bought my first airplane right there." He purchased a 65-horsepower, two-seater, Aeronca 7AC Champion with floats.

In order to fly a plane with floats, Bridcut needed an endorsement from a certified flight instructor. Before getting that, he spent an hour and a half learning water landings and takeoffs on the Fraser River. He headed north on the same day he received his endorsement.

"The beauty of the Champ was that it could fly on any type of fuel, even automotive, but it had a small tank: only 12 gallons [45 litres]." Bridcut packed the passenger compartment and floats with extra fuel containers for the 2,000-kilometre journey. He landed often to replenish his tank. "I made it, but I had no extra fuel left when I got to Watson."

Bridcut obtained his commercial licence in 1953, and two years later he replaced the Champion with a 180 horsepower Piper Super Cub. "It was a good performer and had a good range, too," said Bridcut.

Until 1961, Bridcut worked on retainers for mining companies and flew geologists all over the territory. He even took

along a drill to do some prospecting of his own. "Not too much money in it, but it was interesting—always something new." He also helped stake claims for the Cassiar Mining Corporation.

The access created by the completion of the Alaska Highway opened the Yukon to the world economy. The Watson Lake area was booming. A growing townsite straddled the highway, and the airport was almost a town in its own right, with both a community hall and a curling club.

Gordon Toole, Bridcut's lifelong friend, recalled it was during this time a number of partners founded Watson Lake Flying Service (WLFS). The core of the company was pilot Bridcut and aeronautical engineer Jimmy Close (Frank Close's father).

Bridcut said, "It was busy all the time in Watson Lake in the '60s and early '70s. Canadian Pacific flew two flights a day with a 737, five days a week. We had six planes at our peak: a Cessna, two Beavers, an Apache, a Beech 18 and a Super Cub."

Toole said mining activity fueled the economy, "and also there was lot of demand from forestry for fire control and from big-game outfitters."

The boom lasted until the mining recession of the '80s. After 36 years in business, Bridcut and Close shut down WLFS in 1997. **Y**

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## Percy DeWolfe and Don Machan

Just a quick update on a couple of old sourdoughs - Blanche and I went up to the "Gardens" yesterday, picked up Percy DeWolfe, and took him over to the "Eagle Park"



Facility to visit for an hour or so with Don Machan. Both are still plugging along, enjoying life as best they can. Percy can still manage to get up town with his walker and spends a fair amount of time touring around and visiting with his two daughters and families. He is enjoying his home at the Gardens where he knows everyone and can entertain them with his Yukon tales. Don of course is confined to his wheelchair but maintains his cheerful and positive attitude. He is happy with his new digs at Eagle Park, where he has a first floor room which is easily accessible to beautiful garden areas on those nice sunny days. He raves about the food and service there and of course keeps in good contact with his boys. He welcomes visitors and I gather, has quite a number.

Both send a big HELLO to all their old Yukon Friends.

Gus Barrett [sourdoughs2@shaw.ca](mailto:sourdoughs2@shaw.ca) (In Qualicum Beach)

## ARTISTIC TALENT

(Looking for new material here – if you have a photo of your art work, please share it with the MocTel readers.) – Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)

## NEW ADDITIONS

Hello Sherron.

After reading the following article,

<http://www.mocotel.org:80/2008/CF-CPY.html>

I am interested in knowing more about the above publication and how I can become a subscriber.

Thanks, Susan Tulloch [stulloch@northwestel.net](mailto:stulloch@northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

Yes, I am currently living in Whitehorse and have been working with NorthwesTel for the past 3 years. My husband is an ex-CP Air employee, formerly based in Whitehorse from 1967 to 1969, and has come full circle to retire in "YXY".

I am very involved in the community and would be pleased to help with developing or chasing content for the newsletter. One item that you might be interested in is the 30th anniversary of NorthwesTel being established by CN Tel, which will be marked in January 2009.

Susan

## REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Please delete our name and e-mail address from your subscription list. Other than being in Whitehorse on the 45th. anniversary of our wedding we have not been back since we were transferred to Coppermine in the N.W.T. in 1965. So simply have lost pretty well all touch. Our e-mail address is [kelly-roen\\*rogers.com](mailto:kelly-roen*rogers.com)  
Thanks. You put out a very good product. The very Best -- Joe and Terry Roenspies

(Paid July 2008)

ROENSPIES, Joe & Terry [kelly-roen\\*rogers.com](mailto:kelly-roen*rogers.com) (In Whitehorse, Mayo & Dawson 1960-65)  
Ottawa

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.*

## RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Submitted by Florence Roberts [yapper\\*klondiker.com](mailto:yapper*klondiker.com) (In Whitehorse)

### Coq Au Vin

Fried Chicken

3 slices bacon (chopped fine)

12 small whole onions

20 button mushrooms

2 cloves garlic (chopped fine)

2 cups red wine

Fry onions, mushrooms and bacon lightly in butter. Set aside. In same fat lightly brown chicken. Return everything to pan; add wine slowly keeping at a boil. Turn burner to simmer for 2 hours in covered pan (can also be cooked in oven at 275 degrees). Salt to taste. Thicken gravy. Serve with rice.

Linda Coleman

Yukon Nurses Society Cook Book

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Vancouver Yukon Association – October Luncheon**

Vancouver Yukoners' Association  
Luncheon meeting           \$10  
Thursday October 16       11:30 am -3 pm  
Croatian Cultural Centre  
3250 Commercial Drive   Vancouver

Correction: Vancouver Yukoners' Association regular meeting is Thursday, October **16**, at the Croatian Cultural Centre.

Maribeth Mainer [mainerml@shaw.ca](mailto:mainerml@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby)

## **SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

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.

There is an annual subscription fee for the Moccasin Telegraph.

– Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca).

### **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

c/o Sherron Jones  
9205 Orchard Ridge Drive  
Vernon BC V1B 1V8  
250-549-2736