

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 275th Edition – January 18th, 2009

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DC-3 at Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport

Photo courtesy Rusty Reid rustyreid@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Yukon Government – News Release - December 15, 2008

Whitehorse Airport Renamed to the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport

WHITEHORSE - In dedication to the Honourable Erik Nielsen, the Whitehorse International Airport has been renamed the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

Mr. Nielsen was Yukon's longest standing Member of Parliament. He served as the Minister of Public Works (1979-1980); the leader of the Opposition (1983); Deputy Prime Minister (1984-1986) and President of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada (1984-1985). He reached the highest ranking federal political position ever attained by a Yukoner.

"His positive impact and many contributions to the North will not be forgotten and today we honour Mr. Nielsen and his family with this dedication," Premier Dennis Fentie said.

"The renaming of the Whitehorse International Airport is a recognition that will symbolize Mr. Nielsen's contribution to the North and to Canada," Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang added.

In addition to his many contributions to the North, Mr. Nielsen was responsible for the initial construction of a new airport facility in Whitehorse, which at the time was a World War II hangar.

He was also instrumental in implementing the northern living tax exemption, and fought for First Nations' right to vote federally, which became a reality in 1960.

For additional information see a story in the Whitehorse Daily Star at – <http://whitehorsestar.com/archive/story/nielsen-family-gathers-in-gallery-for-tribute/>

BEAVER CREEK CUSTOMS

Another time at Beaver Creek (I often did temporary duty to the one man detachments like Carcross, Ross River and Beaver Creek when the member stationed there was away on leave) I had just gone to bed around 1 AM. It was winter time and a member from the Haines Junction Detachment phoned me and asked about a border runner (some one who didn't report to Customs upon entering Canada) that Beaver Creek Customs just phoned them about. I said I hadn't heard anything but would check with Customs and if they didn't hear anything from me to disregard it. I called Customs and spoke to the one customs agent that was on duty. He told me a green Ford pickup truck with a white canopy had headed down the highway toward Whitehorse and had failed to report. I asked if any other vehicles had gone through since then and he said no. I got dressed and headed down the highway. The road between Beaver Creek and White River was quite curvy in places and knowing the road I was able to make much better time than the pickup. After about 20 miles I saw the truck's tail lights in the distance. As we didn't have good radio communications at the time, I called our Whitehorse Telecommunications Centre on the mobile phone frequency. I advised the member there what was going on and said if he didn't hear from me within twenty minutes to set up a plan of action. That might seem like a long time but if I required back up it either had to come from Haines Junction, which was about 165 miles to the east, or the Alaska State Troopers who were about 150 miles to the west, so twenty, thirty or forty minutes isn't really going to make all that much difference. Getting on with the story, as I got closer to the pickup I turned on my red roof lights. The truck immediately slowed and pulled over to the shoulder. Using the speaker on the roof of my car I instructed the driver to get out of the car. He immediately did so and then put both hands up on the side of his canopy, shuffled his feet back and spread his legs. I thought to myself "He's watched the same Yankee movies I've seen". I approached him cautiously and checked for weapons he might be carrying and asked who else was in the vehicle. He said just his wife and baby. He was obviously quite shaken by what was happening. His driver's door was still open

and I could clearly see there were only these two persons in the truck. I had him put his hands down and told him to turn around. I asked him about not stopping at Customs. He told me he did stop, he spoke to the Customs Agent and then went back to Ida's Cafe.

For those who aren't familiar with Beaver Creek in the 1970's an explanation is in order. It was really a goofy set up. When you crossed from Alaska into the Yukon, right at the border was the U.S. Customs office and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service office. However, you had to drive 20 miles into Canada before you got to Beaver Creek. Once at Beaver Creek there were several residences and business before you got to the Canada Customs House. Even then, you had to pull off the highway to stop at Customs. Ida's Cafe and gas station was one of the businesses that was about 200 feet prior to getting to Customs. Back to the story.

These nice people got something to eat at Ida's and gassed up their vehicle. They then continued on down the highway towards Whitehorse believing they needn't stop at Customs as they had already reported. They were quite correct. The driver properly described the Customs Agent that was there when he reported and I bid them adieu and wished them a safe trip. I called Whitehorse Telecomms and reported all was well. I returned to Beaver Creek, spoke to the Customs Agent, mentioning something about having one vehicle come through since his shift started at midnight and he couldn't even keep track of that one. I best not say verbatim how my side of the conversation went but I was not a happy camper having gone on a wild goose chase. Finally, close to 3 AM I got back to bed.

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



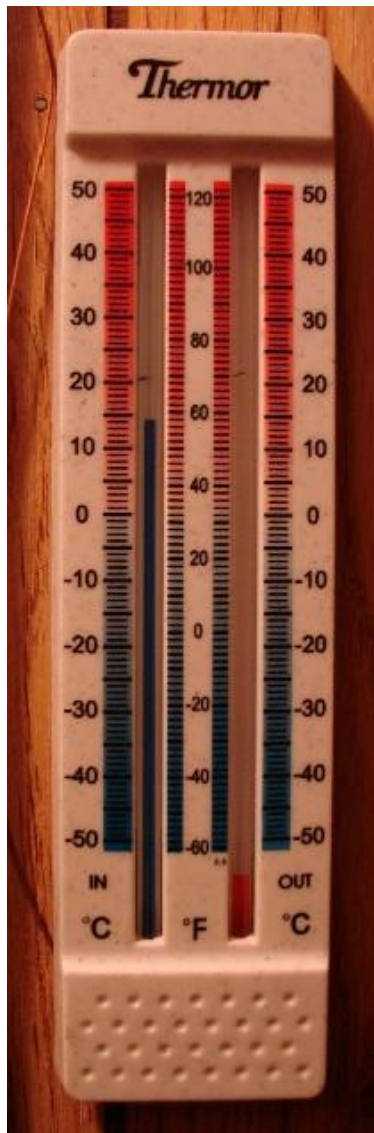
Looking like -53.75

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The Cold Continues and Deepens in Dawson

by Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson) January 8, 2009

This thermometer is clearly in shock. Note that it is calibrated to go to -50° Celsius. It has passed that mark and is trying to creep up the other side of the dial, where there aren't actually any numbers to register a result. At the back door this indoor/outdoor device has also exceeded its scale and is showing well below -50° C., below -60° F. As this was being written an email arrived cancelling a meeting scheduled for this evening (Jan. 8). At that person's home the temperature was reading -52° . The official temperature at the airport at 9:47 a.m. is -49° . The small weather station on the side lawn at the Robert Service School is not reporting a temperature. The equipment is frozen.



Confirmation of extreme temperature Jan 8 2009.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event January 8, 2009

Submitted by Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

I attended the Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours event January 8, 2009. The Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous 2009 Queen Candidates and Mr. and Mrs. Yukon 2009 were introduced. The event was held at Earls Restaurant where we enjoyed delicious finger food. Approximately 80 persons were in attendance. Everyone with a business card deposited them into a bowl where door prizes were drawn. The prizes consisted of \$20.00 Earl certificates and t-shirts wrapped around posters. The event was a great amount of fun and really got the crowd ready for Sourdough Rendezvous 2009.

I took some photos and if it were not for Vince Federoff from the Whitehorse Star helping me out they would not have turned out at all. Thanks Vince.

Mrs. & Mrs. Yukon 2009 were introduced. Below is their bio generously passed along by Rosemary of the Sourdough Rendezvous Office:



Sourdough Rendezvous Queen Candidates

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

L-R

Reba Parris	Miss Yukon Inn
Tamara Spinks	Miss Kathleen Cabins
Anna Annaradzimirska	Miss TD Canada Trust
Jessica Dyck	Miss M&M Meat Shops
Jessica Lee	Miss Marlin Travel
Megan Ennis	Miss Main Street Flowers
Natasha Dougherty	Miss Westmark Hotel



Mr & Mrs Yukon 2008 - Bucky & Shirley Keobke
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Outgoing 2008 Queen – Lindsay Agar.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson [bdclayson*northwestel.net](mailto:bdclayson@northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

I chatted with the 2008 Queen, Lindsay Agar. She is a delightful young woman and, as I understand, represented the Yukon very well throughout her reign. - Donna



Mr & Mrs Yukon 2009 - Kenneth and Aldene Snider

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson [bdclayson*northwestel.net](mailto:bdclayson@northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

Life is a Celebration!

Kenneth and Aldene Snider's Story

“Life is a Celebration” is the motto of Ken and Aldene Snider of Dawson City, Yukon. Theirs is a story of a partnership of over fifty years, of an unfaltering friendship. They have journeyed together along Life's path, passing through its joys and sorrows, receiving strength by their love for one another, their shared faith. They have made the North their home since 1955 and more specifically the Yukon their home since 1967, contributing to all aspects of community life.

Over the years, many of you have listened while Ken has spun his yarns. It is now our turn to tell their story, and it is Ken's task to sit quietly with Aldene, and listen....

Kenneth Cober Snider was born on July 26, 1933 on a farm near Toronto. As a boy he was full of curiosity, wonder and mischief. He has always had a natural enthusiasm and passion for life. In high school he took courses in Motor Mechanics, then apprenticed at a garage and got his Ontario Motor Vehicle Mechanics License. These mechanical skills served him well because traveling as a minister on “lonesome” roads became a prominent theme in his life.

In September 1954, Ken joined the Church Army in Toronto and was commissioned as a Church Army Captain. He went north to Cambridge Bay. His experiences in the North were varied: 1) he helped to build the mission house, 2) he traveled back and forth across the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line sites, which were under construction at that time, and 3) he was ministering to people who were living in igloos. Ken was witness to a change of era—from First Peoples subsisting off the land to the creation of high-tech DEW line sites. He appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity of learning some of the “Eskimo” language.

On a farm near Oil Springs, Ontario, Aldene Gertrude Gadsby was born on October 23, 1930. Aldene was a shy, serious-by-nature farm girl. In the 1940s Aldene's parents ensured that each of their three girls not only completed high school but went on to further their educations. Aldene began her nurse's training in 1950 at Sarnia General Hospital. She took courses at the Church Army position in Hay River, NWT. Upon her departure for the North, she had no idea that she and Ken would meet again. She took up her duties as the sole nurse at the Nursing Station, with her only medical assistance involving a person traveling across the Hay River by motorboat, sending a message via telegraph to the closest doctor in Fort Smith, and awaiting the doctor's response via the reverse communication method.

Ken was transferred to Hay River where Aldene was in charge of the Nursing Station in the “Indian village”. Ken and Aldene were reacquainted and formed their life-long relationship. And while they were courting, Ken learned a thing or two about walking on water, mostly to spend time with Aldene. In the winter, when the Hay River was frozen,

he walked across it for evening prayer meetings, Bible study sessions, Sunday afternoon church services, and to sample Aldene's home-made bread. Not one to be taken for granted; Aldene saw a bartering opportunity and obtained outboard motor repair services for her boat from her mechanically-inclined suitor. In June, Ken was transferred to "East 3", the construction town north of the 60th parallel which was to become the town of Inuvik.

In Aklavik, on July 5, 1958 after living in different communities for a year, Ken and Aldene were united in Holy Matrimony in Aklavik, NWT. No family members were able to attend their marriage ceremony. Aldene tells of only knowing one person at her wedding—Ken—her groom. However, not lacking in creativity, Aldene concocted some Cinderella magic for their wedding. While still nursing in Hay River, she mailed a special dress, which she had worn as Maid of Honour at her sister's wedding, to the hospital in Aklavik. Whoever fit the dress would, she reasoned, become her Maid of Honour. (Fortunately, there was a resident nurse who fit the dress.)

Ken and Aldene continued to minister in Inuvik for three more years. Their first son, John, was born in Aklavik in 1959, where the doctor was located, and, in 1960, Peter was born in Inuvik. The Sniders (now a family of four) left the north in 1961 to stay with family in Ontario and to await a new posting and their third child, Hope, who was born in Petrolia, Ontario. Ken was posted to a parish in the Diocese of Saskatoon and the family moved to Colonsay, Saskatchewan. In 1963, in nearby Watrous, Grace was added to the Snider clan. Ken entered Emmanuel & St. Chad's School of Theology in Saskatoon. While Ken was undertaking his theological training, Paul was born in 1964.

In May 1967, the Sniders drove from Saskatoon to Toronto – starting a long-standing and continuing tradition of driving across 90% of this country in both directions and driving across 90% of the Yukon. (We figure that Ken has spent more money on good quality tires than any person we have ever encountered...and for good reason.) In Toronto, Ken was ordained Deacon in his family's church, St. Andrew's, by Bishop Henry Marsh of the Diocese of Yukon and given new responsibilities in Dawson City.

The Snider family's arrival in Dawson City in the summer of 1967 was the beginning of their long-standing love affair and connection with Dawson City—they had found their home! Dawson provided the perfect forum for their passionate enthusiasm for tourism and heritage. Ken started his eleven-year ministry being responsible for both St. Paul's and Clinton Creek, a mining community west of Dawson City. In 1968 Ken was ordained Priest by Bishop John Frame in Dawson City. Their sixth and last child – Richard Cober – was born in 1972. Richard was named after a blind Gwitchin Deacon, Richard Martin, and was baptized by him. Richard Martin was a dear friend and mentor for Ken.

During their time in Dawson, Ken founded the "St. Paul's Restoration Fund", as a means to restore the deteriorating church structure which was originally built in 1902. He was also able to secure funding to purchase and restore Bishop Stringer's Residence which became the Church Rectory. He was made a Canon of the Diocese in May 1975. Ken

was a member of the Klondike Visitors' Association and was actively involved in the process to open Diamond Tooth Gerties in the early 1970s.

The Sniders were transferred from their hometown of Dawson City to Whitehorse's Christ Church Cathedral in 1978. Ken was later made Dean of this Cathedral by Bishop Ron Ferris. Four years later, Ken and Aldene found themselves headed back to the Diocese of the Arctic in Inuvik where they had the privilege to be ministering to long-time friends. Ken was given the name, "Okalisuk" — talkative one — by some First Nations friends.

After six wonderful years in Inuvik, Ken and Aldene were transferred to Elsa, Yukon under Bishop Ron Ferris. Here, Ken received the title "Archdeacon of the Klondike" and the opportunity to spend even more hours driving as he was ministering in Elsa, Mayo, and Pelly Crossing. To everyone's shock and disappointment, Elsa's lead-zinc-silver mine closed abruptly right after Christmas. Ken and Aldene moved to Mayo. Richard chose to live with his brothers and sisters in Whitehorse to complete his high school academic (and social) education. One Thanksgiving weekend in Mayo, the entire Snider family combined labour forces to build a garage-workshop-office building for the rectory. At this time Ken and Aldene's parishes included Mayo and Pelly Crossing; Carmacks was soon added. By now, only the drivers of the "big grey dog" had spent more time on the Canadian roads than Ken.

In July 1998, after ten years ministering in Mayo, Keno, Elsa, Pelly Crossing, Stewart Crossing, Carmacks (and all parts in between) Ken and Aldene "retired" and moved back to Dawson City to their heritage home, previously known as "The Ferry Saloon" which they had patiently and lovingly restored.

Retired life has been as full as their "working" lives. Whenever and wherever the need arises, Ken and Aldene willingly accept the call to ministerial and community duties. Ken is an Honorary Assistant at St. Paul's Anglican Church, providing maintenance services such as lighting the church's wood furnace, shoveling snow in the winter and cutting grass in the summer. Together, they offer a weekly church service to the residents of MacDonald Lodge and a monthly church service to the residents of Pelly Crossing. Ken has been a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers for more than twenty years. He represents Dawson City's senior citizens on the Yukon Council of Aging Board. He is one of the two Coroners for Dawson City.

Ken is a very creative man with an exuberance and enthusiasm for life. He enjoys woodworking and is known for his creative wooden puzzles. He loves music and singing. He is a constant source of innovative ideas. His passion for supporting and sharing the Yukon's rich history continues.

As in the forefront as Ken has been, Aldene has quietly and willingly supported him from the background, through all of his work and play endeavors. Aldene was an active member of the Anglican Church Women organization for over 40 years. She is the coordinator, and spends numerous hours working at, the St. Paul's Thrift Shop which,

under her guidance, turns a profit for the church. Aldene enjoys quiet times with family and friends, reading and embroidering.

In July 2008, Ken and Aldene celebrated their 50th “Golden” Wedding Anniversary. They were surrounded by their children, grandchildren, and other family and friends at a gathering in Dawson City.

Ken and Aldene – this is your story, shared with pride, love, gratitude and heartfelt congratulations as you are both honoured with the title of “Mr. and Mrs. Yukon”. We thank you for the life-long contributions you have made to the northern communities in which you have made your homes, to your friends, to strangers and to your children and grandchildren. Your journey continues as you live by your motto, “Life is a Celebration”.

Lastly, thank you for letting us tell your story while you sat quietly and listened.
Submitted by Grace Snider of Whitehorse, Yukon

INNOCENCE !!!



Bill & Sherron Jones great grandchildren Kira (3), Hailey (1) & Jaden (5) – on Christmas Eve – on a journey to find Santa – (their dad) – who was making an appearance at another house. Great grandparents David & Joyce Buchanan live in Whitehorse.

WHITEHORSE ELEMENTARY (& HIGH SCHOOL)

I took one of these pictures exactly 50 years ago and I took the other one today [Dec 12, 2008] - They are both taken in the exact same place - the downstairs girls washroom at Whitehorse Elementary (& High School).

In the older picture left to right are Diane Bidlake, Mardi?, Carol Bowers, Kerry McLaughlin and Sybil Bleiler.

In today's picture is my granddaughter (front row 2nd from left) & a few of her grade 5 classmates. The girls were so excited to be standing in the same place as my classmates only 50 years later. The bathroom is exactly the same except that the sink on the left has been moved over out of view but otherwise it is the exact same spot.



Left to right are Diane Bidlake, Mardi?, Carol Bowers, Kerry McLaughlin and Sybil Bleiler.

Photo courtesy Joy (Fraser) Denton joydenton@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)



The girls are Lily Patterson, Myeisha Albisser, Laura DePetro, Heather Thomson, Gabrielle Rogers, Brooke Fusick, Shannon Small and Shae Peterson.
Photo courtesy Joy (Fraser) Denton joydenton@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)

Happy New Year

Hi Sherron...Colleen and I would like to wish yourself and everyone a very Happy New Year.

All is going well out here on our acreage; it is cold but reminds us of our Yukon days. All the kids and grandkids and great grandkids are doing fine our eldest grandson is taking his first year of university on a tall sailing ship. He spent Christmas day at sea crossing the Atlantic.

We very much look foreword to the latest MT thank you so much for that.
All the best to everyone.

Bill and Colleen Chapman cwchapman*tbwifi.ca (In Devon AB)

PLAN A REUNION AT THE NEXT VANCOUVER YUKONERS' BANQUET

Vancouver Yukoners' Association Banquet April 4 is a grand opportunity to put together a reunion, whether of family, classmates, or old workmates. Details in MocTel issue 274.

Great issue, Sherron, by the way.

Maribeth Mainer [mainerm1@shaw.ca](mailto:mainerml@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby)

There have been a couple of requests for this info from MocTel 253.

Those wishing to pay their 2009 MocTel subscription fee electronically may find this helpful.

There is an electronic way to transfer funds so I just went online to my own bank to see what the instructions are.

I entered my code to my account – clicked on PAYMENTS & TRANSFERS

Under a header Interac Email Money Transfer

I clicked on SEND MONEY

This information came from TD Canada Trust.

With our convenient Email Money Transfer service and EasyWeb Internet banking, you can send money directly from your personal bank account to anyone with an email address and a personal bank account at a Canadian financial institution.

Email Money Transfers are:

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| <i>Easy</i> | All you need to know is the email address of the person you're sending money to. And because this service is available through EasyWeb, there's no need for stamps or envelopes. |
| <i>Fast</i> | An email message tells the recipient that the money is ready. If the recipient collects the money through online banking with a participating financial institution ¹ , the transfer takes place instantly. |
| <i>Secure</i> | The transfer takes place with the same level of security and confidentiality as every EasyWeb banking transaction. |

Imagine what you can do!

- Send money to friends and family
- Help out your cash-strapped kids at school
- Chip in for a group event or gift
- Transfer money between your accounts held at other financial institutions

- Pay an individual for items purchased at an online auction

Send money today!

To *send* an Email Money Transfer, the fee² is \$1.50. To *receive* and deposit an Email Money Transfer using TD Canada Trust EasyWeb, it's free³.

¹ Participating financial institutions include TD Canada Trust, BMO Bank of Montreal, CIBC and Scotiabank.

Then you would have to enter my name and e-mail address sherronjones@shaw.ca and continue to fill out the information required.

I have received a couple of payments from MocTel readers this way and I received an e-mail with a link and a separate e-mail from them with the code word they have given for me to retrieve the payment from the bank. Then I click on the link and choose the option for my bank and then account information and fill in the code word they have sent. This seems to be a much easier way for those who are already doing online banking.

– Sherron

Officers mete out more compassion than bullets

ANDRE PICARD

From Friday's Globe and Mail

January 1, 2009

A few days before Christmas, a 47-year-old homeless woman burned to death in downtown Vancouver when a candle she was using to heat a makeshift shelter set her meagre possessions ablaze.

As reporters probed for details of the story, they inadvertently shed light on something that rarely gets attention: The crucial but largely invisible role police play in public health.

The woman, who was known on the streets as Tracey, had been visited by police three times that evening. Each time, they offered to bring her in from the cold to a shelter and, when she refused their pleadings, stayed around to chat and to offer food and cigarettes. Because officers were worried about Tracey's safety - but legally unable to forcibly remove her from the streets - they made a point of returning regularly to check up on her. When her body was discovered, veteran police officers wept.

They returned later to the site with flowers; a silent tribute to a woman who died horribly and horribly alone.

When police get media coverage it is usually when they appear to have screwed up: When a man is tasered to death, when a suspect dies in custody, when a riot gets out of hand or when someone wrongfully convicted is exonerated. Rarely does the banal reality and everyday importance of policing get recognized.

Police have the often thankless task of dealing with every imaginable challenge thrown their way, from helping children cross the street to ensuring that homeless people do not freeze to death on any given night, not to mention dealing with emergency evacuations during natural disasters, picking up the pieces (sometimes literally) after motor vehicle collisions and getting drunken teenagers home safely after breaking up a party. In other words, police officers are warriors on the front lines of public health; they're continually involved in prevention, health promotion and education. They do this work 24/7, every day of the year. Even less appreciated is how public order and safety play an elemental role in our health - individually and collectively.

It is no coincidence that in societies where people feel the most secure - able to walk the streets at night, drive on relatively safe roads, feel secure in their homes - they are the healthiest.

Police, as much as health professionals, deal with the sickest of citizens on a routine basis. Police officers (and firefighters) are often the first to arrive when someone suffers a health crisis such as a heart attack. But first aid is the least of their challenges.

The most difficult and thankless work that police do is with those on the margins of society, those whose only crime is being sick - usually with a severe mental illness or addiction. When a 25-year-old man with untreated bipolar disorder trashes his parents' home and threatens them with death, the police are the only ones available to help. When the temperature plunges and the homeless 47-year-old woman refuses to leave her shopping cart to warm up in a shelter, the watchful eye of police is the last line of defence. When a 32-year-old man who has lost custody of his children stands on the side of a bridge and threatens to jump into the river below, it is the police officer who is there to talk him down. Occasionally these interactions go sideways, with much media coverage and second-guessing of decisions made in a split second. Yet these highly publicized "police failures" are the exception. For the most part, police do a remarkable job of dealing with mental, physical and emotional traumas and the social woes they cause. For all our criticism, officers mete out far more compassion and caring than they do bullets and baton blows. They deploy it every day as they deal with the tempest-tossed that the rest of society is so quick to turn a blind eye to. And yet we never seem to find a way to say, "Thank you."

Jack Styan and Registered Disability Savings Plan

At the podium on December 23/08 is Jack Styan, a former resident of Beaver Creek and Haines Junction in the 60's and 70's. Jack is the Executive Director of an organization called **Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN)** which is a non-profit social enterprise established in 1989 by and for families committed to future planning and securing a good life for their relative with a disability. Jack and PLAN have led the advocacy work and has been promoting the creation of a Disability Savings Plan for five years.



Photo Courtesy Bev Buckway

At the event celebrating the national availability of **Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs)**, the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announced that the deadline for opening an RDSP, making contributions and applying for the matching Grant and the income-tested Bond for the 2008 contribution year has been extended to March 2, 2009 from December 31, 2008. The 2009 RDSP contribution year will begin March 3, 2009.

RDSPs are now available at financial institutions and will assist families in planning for the long-term financial security of our relatives with disabilities. Over time, the RDSP will provide billions of dollars to supplement income, enable home ownership, and enhance quality of life for as many as 700,000 Canadians with disabilities.

Visit www.rdsp.com or www.plan.ca to learn more about the new Registered Disability Savings Plan.

I'm very proud of the work my former next door neighbour has done on behalf of person with disabilities. Another of Jack's accomplishments is the stone cairn that still resides in front of the Beaver Creek Curling Rink. A shining example of the product of our small Yukon towns.

Regards

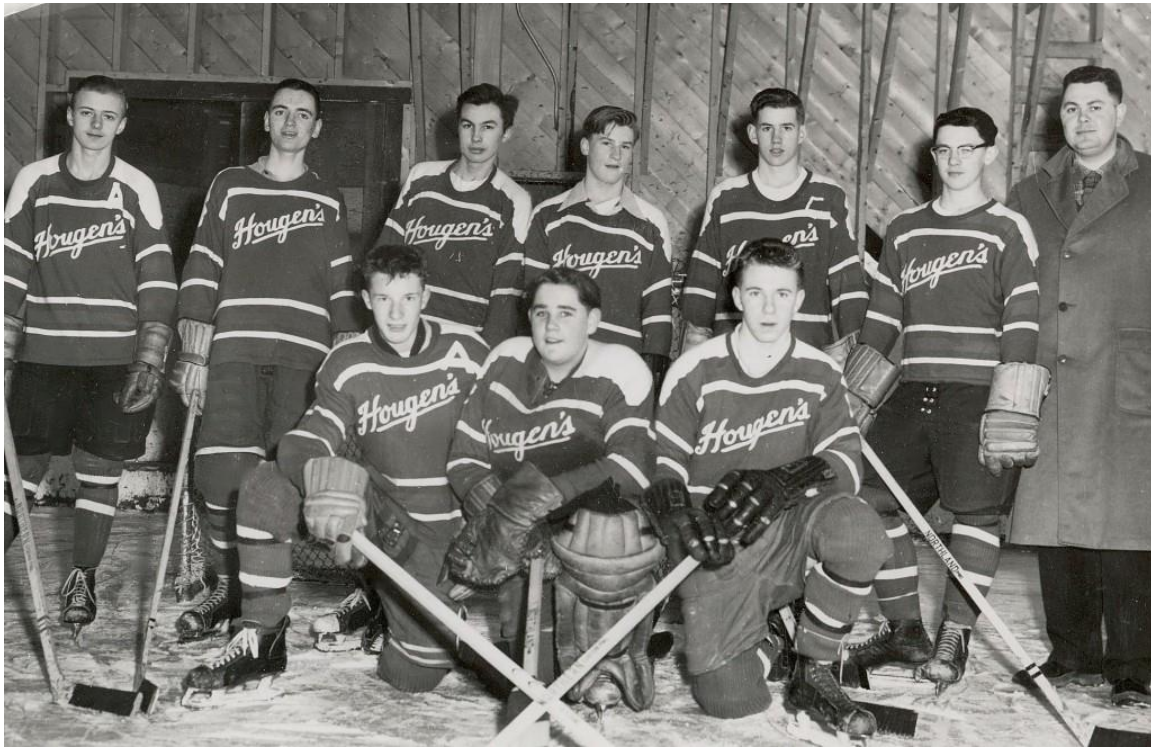
Bev Buckway balc*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse (formerly Beaver Creek))

HOUGEN'S TEAM

Les

Proof of your Hockey back ground - who are they all?

Rolf



Good photo. Must have been 1957-58 season cause 58-59 - my final year of high school - I played for the Merchants. - Les McLaughlin

They are back row L to R

Doug Solonick, Bobby Campbell, Alan Fromme, (? don't know), Mike Scott, Les McLaughlin, Joe (?) a Mountie. Might have been Nolan. Not sure.

Front row L to R

Vin Taylor, Donnie Murray, Ian (Sketter) Parsons. (His Dad was the RCMP Inspector.)

Mike Scott (believe it or not) was our best player. Murray was pretty good in goal.

Vin, Solonick and me were the first line. Fromme, Scott, Campbell were defensemen (kids).

Les McLaughlin [leslorn*rogers.com](mailto:leslorn@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)

Yukoners mourn ‘a wonderful principal’

By Star Reporter Stephanie Waddell

By permission from Jackie Pierce

January 9, 2009



Brian Shanahan

He was a larger-than-life character who was passionate about everything he did.

Photo submitted to Whitehorse Star.

DEATH SHOCKS COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS –

Brian Shanahan, the principal of Ghuch Tia Community School in Carcross, died of a heart attack this week while vacationing in the Philippines.

He was a larger-than-life character who was passionate about everything he did. That’s how many around the territory are remembering Ghuch Tia Community School principal Brian Shanahan, who died of a heart attack at the age of 60 early this week while vacationing in the Philippines.

“Brian lived large,” Dave Sloan, a superintendent of schools with the Department of Education’s public schools branch, said in an interview Thursday.

Among school principals and education officials in the territory, Shanahan had earned the nickname “Shenanigans”, and was known for doing things first and asking permission later.

His nickname is one that probably could have applied throughout his life. As his long-time friend Doug Rody recalled, Shanahan was very much the same person in childhood he was as an adult.

“There’s lots of stories about Brian and some might even be true,” Rody said. Rody and Shanahan both moved to the Stanrock mine area near Elliott Lake, Ont. around the same time as children.

As Shanahan’s profile on the Carcross school’s website notes, he and his family immigrated from Tipperary, Ireland to the mine in 1957. There, Rody and Shanahan met and became friends, riding the bus into school at Elliott Lake each day.

“Brian was definitely the leader of the group,” Rody said, recalling a friend who had a natural curiosity, which, as a child, often translated into trouble.

“He was one of the most energetic, gregarious people I’ve met. To know Brian was to love him.”

It was in about Grade 6 or 7 that the Shanahans, a large family including Shanahan’s brother and seven sisters, left Elliott Lake and Rody lost touch with his friend. Moves to the Yukon years later would see Rody and Shanahan reconnect.

It was in the 1960s that Shanahan attended F.H. Collins Secondary School, dropping out in Grade 10 to work at the United Keno Hill mine.

“Many years later, I returned to school and worked like a mule and managed to obtain a Bachelor of Education degree,” Shanahan wrote in his profile on the school’s website. His years in the territory saw him live in Elsa, Mayo, Watson Lake, Whitehorse and Carcross.

He also had a varied career doing everything from driving truck, working as a millwright at the CanTung mine in the Northwest Territories and serving in the air force before heading back to school to become a teacher.

It was perhaps that natural curiosity that led Shanahan through the wide variety of jobs he worked at as well as a move to Ireland for a couple of years, Rody said.

While Shanahan wasn’t big on authority, Rody recalled his friend being involved with the air cadets as a child, which may have spurred his interest in flying and being part of the air force. At one point, Shanahan also had his private flying licence.

Not one to do anything half-measure, Rody and Sloan both recalled a man who was enthusiastic about everything he did.

Celebrating the end of his leg at the Kluane Chilkat International Bike Relay a few years ago during hot weather, Shanahan stripped down and made his way into a nearby lake only to come running out quickly when he was met by extremely cold temperatures in the water.

“He was in and out of that lake,” Sloan said.

While everyone will recall his “crazy antics,” friend Carmen Komish remembered a community-minded man living in Watson Lake in the 1970s, playing hockey, softball, curling and even showing up as a mascot to a number of community events.

His two daughters, who now live in Calgary, were around the same age as Komish's when they lived in Watson Lake.

As Shanahan noted in his profile on the web site: "I have two grown daughters named Jodie and Tanya whom I love very much indeed and miss a great deal."

Both Komish and Shanahan left for school in Alberta at the same time - Komish to become an animal health technologist and Shanahan pursuing his Bachelor of Education. As Sloan recalled, it came as a shock to many in Watson Lake who knew Shanahan as a hard-partying type of guy when he decided to go to university to become a teacher. It ended up being the right career move, that was made later in life, probably around the age of 40, Sloan said.

"He took to it like a duck to water," Sloan said.

Shanahan would return to the territory to teach, taking his first job at JV Clark School in Mayo.

"I taught there for six wonderful, rewarding years. I have a very fond place in my heart for Mayo and the wonderful people there," Shanahan wrote on the web site.

In some ways, he was like a kid himself and could connect well with his students, Komish said.

"He was such a fun person," she said.

His career would later take him to Carcross, where he had been principal for nearly a decade.

Having just been picked as an Outstanding Principal in Canada, he would have attended an awards ceremony in Toronto later this month. Sloan said the department is hopeful a representative will be able to accept the award for Shanahan.

"He was so right for the place," Sloan said of the school in Carcross, recalling the enthusiasm Shanahan had for every project that came up there.

Having the school painted was not enough for Shanahan. He had to have the walls appear like Bennett Lake with waves and water fowl underneath clouds in the sky.

So too it was for curtains the school ordered at one time. Rather than looking at what regulations there would be for the new curtains for the school's stage, Shanahan contracted a Carcross resident to do a black and red Tlingit design.

The project would have been a minor expense for the Department of Education, except that it didn't meet the criteria required, which meant that new curtains had to be ordered that met the proper requirements, Sloan recalled with a laugh.

The curtains that met the criteria were placed behind the Tlingit-designed curtains on the stage, Sloan recalled.

There was also a real desire from Shanahan to "do right" by his students in Carcross and incorporate first nation culture into the school.

That led to his involvement with the Carcross-Tagish First Nation's curriculum project (Star, Jan. 7), designed to give students a better understanding of traditional culture.

It was Shanahan who was instrumental in bringing teachers at the school on-board the project, curriculum developer Norma Shorty said Thursday.

"He was a wonderful man, a wonderful principal," she said.

Proud of the work that went into the curriculum project, Shanahan celebrated its start by sharing his own culture when he brought all the teachers and students into the school gym for a “fantastic” Irish stew. As they feasted on stew, learning centers dealing with the new curriculum were set up around the gym as a demonstration.

And when the idea of the Tlingit Alphabet project for the school was proposed, “Brian again opened his door,” Shorty said.

It was easy to tell by the way he had set up the gym and any time they talked on the phone that Shanahan had a great respect for relationship between the school and first nation.

There’s no doubt he’ll be greatly missed, Shorty said, noting she had been looking forward to ongoing work he would be doing on the curriculum project. “I’m immensely sad and sorry, but glad to have known him,” she said.

Shanahan’s enthusiasm also helped his school become the only elementary school in North America to have a CRTC licence for a radio station that broadcasts to the wider community. The programming is done by the students.

And while Shanahan told Sloan the call letters CIKO, pronounced “psycho”, were assigned by the CRTC, Sloan noted he had his doubts, knowing Shanahan.

The halls of the school are a “mini-museum” thanks to Shanahan’s display of artifacts from around Carcross, Sloan added.

An enthusiastic cheerleader for the school for many years, Shanahan had started looking toward retirement, was doing more travelling and was in the Philippines exploring the possibility of retirement there, Sloan said.

Shanahan had started travelling more in recent years and had loved the Philippines during his first trip there, Sloan said.

As staff and students mourn the loss of their principal, the department has sent a crisis response team from Whitehorse to Carcross to assist teachers and students this week. And while the school has lost a leader, many more in the territory are feeling the loss of a good friend.

As both Sloan and Rody summed up, the lives of a lot of people are richer for having known Shanahan.

A memorial is planned for Saturday in Calgary with the possibility of a later one in Carcross, Sloan said.

VANCOUVER YUKONER’S BANQUET BOOKING NUMBER

The Secretary of Vancouver Yukoners' Association apologizes for her error in the ad for VYA's Banquet. The long distance number for your room reservations at the River Rock Casino Resort is 1-[866-748-3718](tel:866-748-3718). The error was a typo that got by all the proof readers.

A further caution: if you are calling before March 4 and get the response, "We are all booked up for April 4", don't panic. Please remind them that there is a block of rooms set aside for *Vancouver Yukoners*. As long as we have not used up our block, you should get your suite at the special rate. Reserve as early as you can!

Thank you

Maribeth Mainer vanyukoners@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

ARTISTIC TALENT



Wildflower

Photo courtesy Heinrich Lohmann heinrich@lohmann.ca (In Airdrie AB)

OBIT

In Loving Memory



Anna Maria (Anne) Domes
May 25, 1923 – Dec. 26, 2008

Long-time Yukoner Anne Domes passed away in Whitehorse on December 26th, 2008.

Anne was born in 1923 near Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. As a young woman, she worked as a Red Cross nurse during the war. In 1946, she met Konrad, who would become her husband and the love of her life. Konrad and Anne were married in 1947. They came to Canada in 1951, first to Vancouver, then to the Yukon in 1953.

Many will remember Anne for her friendly smile and the delicious soups, pies and Black Forest cakes that she created at the Takhini Hotsprings.

Anne touched everyone she met with her warmth and kindness. She had the ability to really listen to and care about people, and her gift of gathering to her people old and young was remarkable. Anne loved a celebration, and she cherished friends, food, and festivities. Any or no reason was good enough for a get-together over tea and home-made goodies. She was always ready to go out and see or do something new.

After Konrad died in 1994, Anne spent a few years alternating between the Yukon in summer and Arizona in winter. In 2001, she bought a house in Faro and moved there at the age of 78. Anne loved Faro and made it her home, and the people of Faro in turn embraced her.

Chuck and Bonnie Barber babarber*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Each of the following recipients was rejected by a remote mail server. The reasons given by the server are included to help you determine why each recipient was rejected.

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Recipient: <rack_it@primus.ca>

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Andrea Ross

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Happiness depends upon ourselves. - Aristotle

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Cherry Fluffs

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

Oven 300 degrees

2 egg whites

1/8 tsp. salt

1 tsp. cherry juice

½ cup white FINE sugar

Small bottle maraschino cherries

Cover cookie pan with tin foil bright side up. Beat egg whites, sprinkle with salt and continue beating. Add sugar gradually. Add cherry juice. Take about ½ tsp. of this mixture on spoon, drop cherry in it and cover. Slice onto pan. Bake until pale tan in colour. Allow to cool on paper.

May Hawke

Toronto, Ontario

Whitehorse RCAF Women's Auxiliary

DATES TO REMEMBER

VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION

81st ANNUAL BANQUET

April 4, 2009

(details in MocTel 274)

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.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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