

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 284th Edition – May 24th, 2009

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



George Black Ferry and speedboat.

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

The Ferry's in and the Queen will be Late

By Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

May 18, 2009

After some engine problems that took the boat out of service just hours after it launched on May 15, the George Black is back in service, linking Dawson with the satellite settlements in West Dawson and Sunnydale. Other boats are plying the river as well. The Klondike Spirit will be in the river as soon as the dock can be installed. Holland-America's operations centre in Eagle, Alaska, has sustained some damage.

Gary Parker, with the Klondike Visitors Association, reported to last week's Chamber of Commerce meeting that the damage to the Yukon Queen II itself was minimal.

"The greater damage in Eagle was to their vehicles and buildings, which was a bigger deal for them in terms of their infrastructure."

Parker had been told that Holland-America planned to operate the boat by the middle of June, about a month later than usual.

"In the meantime they are trying to look at options for replacing what the boat represents for their visitors to Dawson."

Klondike Spirit owner Brad Whitelaw indicated that some discussions had taken place between himself and the company.

Massive Destruction in Eagle Alaska

Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The following photos appeared on a gallery link from the Fairbanks News Miner. We have borrowed only those images which did not have copyright notices attached to them. There are many others to be seen on that website.



Eagle - Summer - 2008

The Yukon River flows past the Eagle, Alaska, waterfront during summer 2008 in this photo taken by Kevan Cooper. When an ice jam formed on the Yukon earlier this week, it pushed water and house-sized ice chunks over the steel retaining wall and into the streets of Eagle. Several buildings were demolished, damaged or swept away.



Eagle - Front St - 2009

Ice and water from the Yukon River rise to the eaves of buildings along Front Street in Eagle, Alaska, on May 5, 2009. - Photo: National Parks Service



Eagle - Customs House - 2009

The Old Custom House was badly damaged by the ice from the Yukon River, which surged into Eagle on Monday night. Front Street is in the background.- Photo: NPS



Eagle - Front St. Flooded - 2009.

Water and ice from the Yukon River is up to the roofline of buildings on Front Street in Eagle, Alaska, on May 5, 2009. Eagle Bluff is in the background. Photo: NP Service



Eagle - Yukon Queen - 2009

The riverboat Yukon Queen II is surrounded by ice floes as the Yukon River jumps its banks near Eagle, Alaska, on May 5, 2009. Photo: Alaska State Troopers



Eagle - Village Destruction - 2009

The remains of homes along the Yukon River near Eagle are shown in a jumble of river ice on May 5, 2009. - Photo: Alaska State Troopers



Eagle - Aerial Front St. - 2009

An aerial view of the damage the Yukon River ice has done to downtown Eagle, Alaska, on May 5, 2009. - Photo: Alaska State Troopers

EAGLE Alaska UPDATE – From a MocTel reader who lives in Eagle

Hi Jean

Tried to get a message through to you when the flood was on and the e-mail was returned.

Let me know if you get this one. I am wondering how you faired.

Sherron

Aww, Sherron, how sweet.

Yeah, they turned off our power and phone and discontinued our internet. When it was all over I had to tell them that I still wanted that internet account! Good grief, surely they would have realized we could access that from anywhere

But we're back in business again. Don't have too many possessions now, but we have ourselves, our dogs and our health. The rest is only stuff.

Here's something I was asked to write - you're welcome to use it if you want, in any form:

<http://www.themudflats.net/2009/05/17/rural-update-report-on-flooding-in-eagle/>

(inserted below)

Anything near Eagle's waterfront is just total devastation. It's unimaginable.

Best,

Jean Turner njturner*aptalaska.net (In Eagle Alaska)

(The following is written by Jean Turner, her husband Nick is in the photos.)

Rural Update - Report on Flooding in Eagle

17 05 2009

As many of you know, Mudflatter yukonbushgrma has an unfortunate ringside seat to this year's unprecedented flooding of the Yukon, which devastated the community of Eagle. Here is her report from the scene and some unbelievable photos of how everything looks today. Fortunately all the people managed to get out of their homes and there was no loss of life, but there is a huge cleanup and rebuilding effort that lies ahead. For those who have asked "What can I do to help?" there is information after the report.

This week we will be moving for the third time in two weeks. We have had exceptionally lovely temporary accommodations, but we didn't feel comfortable there with the dogs (the places were way too nice!). The dogs are our family — I'm sure all you critter lovers

can appreciate that. So now we've found a small cabin - no amenities yet, but power and phone are coming this week. It's a summer cabin, but sturdy and very liveable — and with a million-dollar view of the Yukon! Oh, and the best part: it has a sauna! (outhouse too!) The plan is to purchase logs and build a cabin on our existing property (yes, right down there on the Yukon, also, too, again!), but up as high as possible. We will be working hard this summer to get it done by winter, but we'll do it - hubby is pretty amazing. Our well is intact, and will just need cleansing and testing.

We don't feel we can wait to see if there will be any assistance from state or federal governments. There isn't enough time before winter. We have to start immediately. Not sure yet how it will be financed, but we're gonna go for it. There's got to be way.

It's been two weeks since the devastation hit Eagle. The ice has started to melt somewhat, but the temps have been cool and it's going down very slowly. Locals are joking that it will still be here in July, and that may very well be true. (If so, the tourists, if any, will certainly have something to write home about.)

This ice is not like normal breakup ice. (Well, duh, I guess you can probably see that!) Most years, by the time the river breaks it has rotted or candled, so it doesn't take that long to melt. This stuff is like huge chunks of H₂O steel, just as solid as the ice you get from your freezer trays. If one had an ice house, insulated with sawdust like they did in the old days, this is the ice you'd want, because it would last all summer. The reason it's so solid is that we had a freaky week of 70-degree weather preceding breakup. Then the extremely high snow load started to melt, running down the feeder streams. It all went at once, massive ice chunks and all that water rushing with a vengeance.



This is our house tonight. Hubby (or at least half of him) is over at the left, to give you some perspective on the size of the ice - two weeks after the flood.

See that one lone spruce tree standing? I can't for the life of me figure out how it survived - maybe it's just propped up with ice. It was one of the smaller ones. We had probably 200-year-old spruces out there near the river, and they were landmark trees that surveyors had used. All gone.

Hubby realized tonight that after the ice took the house off the foundation, the house FLOATED UP at least two feet! He knew that, because our well (which had been under the house) remains intact and now it sits outside the house. If the house hadn't floated at least two feet, the well would have been damaged.



Heavy equipment operators have been working to move ice and get roads open. If you look closely, up next to the river, slightly left of center, there's a wee chunk of 'road' showing.

Hubby went out tonight to cut the downed power lines, in hopes equipment operators might be able to clear a rough trail to our house so we can haul out big things. We hope we can salvage some furniture from the second floor, and maybe the washing machine (well, maybe it will dry out OK).



That chunk of red metal rubble used to be my dear 6×12 covered trailer that hauled in all of our winter supplies from Fairbanks. We had even customized it with a fold-down bed and a screened window so we could camp in it.

The little ant-sized person under the yellow line is hubby. He's 6 feet tall.

For anyone wanting to help with needed items for residents who have lost so much in this flood, here are some items you can send, plus contact information. Thanks to the many people who have asked what they can do.

COMMUNITY NEEDS:

The following gently used and clean clothing items may be donated:

Bush appropriate clothing ~

jeans, work shirts, t- shirts, underwear, socks

hiking boots/work boots, rubber boots especially mens sizes 9-12

tennis shoes

work gloves

heavy duty rubber gloves (for clean - up) - those used during fishing season are great!

Rain gear

We need tools!

Pry bars

hammers

axes

saws
chainsaws & accessories
tape measures
squares
levels
screw guns
hack saws
sawzalls

We also cannot keep enough of the following on hand:

Paper towels, bleach (not the scented kind - can't cleanse a well with that), hand sanitizer, toilet paper

In addition these items will be needed LATER in the season:

gift cards to Cabela's & Big Rays (we are currently working on getting donations and discounts from these companies)

long johns, heavy winter socks, arctic gear

furniture & household goods

Dog Food (With all of the fish wheel destroyed, there will be a need.)

For those of you who would like to mail items...please send to:

Cindy Gowins c/o Eagle Distribution Center, Eagle Alaska, 99738

You can also call the Distribution Center (Eagle School, 907.547.2210) and ask for Cassy or Cindy if you have any questions.

Here is a link to a thread on the Mudflats forum where you can discuss relief efforts, ask questions, and participate in further discussion.

<http://www.themudflats.net/forum/index.php/topic,7285.new.html#new>

My reply to Jean regarding the above information. – Sherron

Wow, thank you for the reply. Really happy to hear you are safe; sad to hear of the effect on you and Nick. Will do what I can at this end to bring to the attention of the MocTel readers - what it is your community needs. Just wish to confirm the list of needs is part of what YOU wrote. If so will place everything in the MocTel. Not all are computer savvy enough to link to the web. Further more it will stay in Yukon Archives if I include it.

Did have some photos of the flood in Eagle, in the previous MocTel. They had been sent to Myrna Butterworth's daughter in Dawson, will paste them here. The one of the boat may be a clue to how to save your next dwelling -- make it friendly to floating. (don't see your red rooftop in any of the flood photos - so happy you have them now.) Have you been able to establish the level to which the water reached indoors ?

Lots of love - Sherron





(Photos from MocTel 283, likely taken May 6, 2009, first e-mailed May 7, 2009, 8:11am)

Hi again, Sherron -

Yes, that list of requested items is current -- EXCEPT there is one addition. Sadly, all residents who had fishwheels lost them, as they were sitting down by the river. That means, of course, that they will not be fishing for salmon this year to feed their dog teams. So please add **DOG FOOD** to the list.

The list came from our disaster distribution center, and they're the folks who know what is needed at present. I totally endorse it.

The boat in your last photo is the Yukon Queen II (Holland America/Princess). I understand that it did sustain some damage when the ice boulders slammed in that last evening.

Our house is near the Yukon Queen II landing. At the high water mark, our two-story house had water in it up to the roof level. Unfortunately we didn't get photos of it at that point - didn't have my camera with me. Upstairs, the water came within 3 inches of our computers and TV, so we were lucky there.

Your first photo is of our Customs House, one of the museum buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. We're working right now to get an assessment made and possibly find emergency funding to save it. Folks at many levels are interested and involved. (By the way, most of the artifacts were saved from the Customs House - an amazing story. We formed a bucket line and hauled things out through a broken window.)

Thanks for your concern, Sherron!

Jean

Jean & Nick Turner njturner@aptalaska.net (In Eagle Alaska)

BIRTHDAY SURPRISE FOR – Donna (Holbrook) Rivest

My surprise trip to Whitehorse for my sister Donna's 75th birthday, on April 20, was fabulous. Gerry and Cheryl Rivest, Donna's son and daughter in law hosted a great dinner party in their home. There was quite a crowd of old and young family members and friends. Yukoners do know how to throw a party, and everyone had a fun time.

I was there for four days. I saw many old friends and was fortunate enough to be able to go on a bus trip with the seniors group to Teslin for a get together - bowling, cards, food etc. They have a wonderful hall and facilities there. The Teslin group put on a spread that many larger groups would have trouble putting on. Saw many old friends from Teslin, Atlin, Faro, Carcross etc. I left Whitehorse 42 years ago so my friends are now all, fun loving seniors.

It was a wonderful weekend, cloudless blue skies and bright sunny days. It keeps drawing us back and each time it is a wrench to leave.

I have to put in a little plug for Air North. My first trip on this airline and I can honestly say it is one of the best I have ever flown with and - they know how to make great sandwiches.

I am a little slow in sharing my Yukon trip with you but our life has been traumatized recently. Our eldest daughter, Janice is just starting her journey with Chemo and radiation for breast cancer. She has had surgery plus multi scans and tests. We are thankful for our health care system, the prayers and support of our many friends. She is a trooper and is facing this challenge courageously.

Blanche Barrett sourdoughs2*shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)





Donna and Paul with grandkids



Marian Bakica, Blanche Barrett, Dorothy Sorenson, NESTA LeDuc



Donna and Paul Rivest. April 20, Note the snow piles.

Photos courtesy Blanche Barrett sourdoughs2@shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)

RADIO AMATEURS

No. 283 is another great issue - really enjoyed it, particularly the story about ham radio friend and all around great guy Ron McFayden VY1RM, one the Assistant Directors for Radio Amateurs of Canada.

Don Taylor's Part II story reminded me of our meeting in the winter of 54-55 when he operated his ham radio station from downtown while I was operating from the RCAF Station up on the hill.

Both Ron and Don have had great careers in the Yukon.

73

Earle - VE6NM [t16ru672*telusplanet.net](mailto:t16ru672@telusplanet.net) (VE8AT 1954-61) (In Grande Prairie)

TED HARRISON

Hi Sherron - here is an update for the launch of Ted Harrison's book in Whitehorse this summer sent by Katherine Gibson. Note particularly the new date of August 26th.

Thanks

Annie Graham annie.graham@telus.net (In Victoria)

To celebrate Ted Harrison's 40th anniversary since his first Yukon exhibition, The Yukon Arts Centre is presenting an exhibition of Harrison paintings from private collections. Also on show will be the first public viewing of the illustrations from The Cremation of Sam McGee and The Shooting of Dan McGrew, which Ted has given to the people of the Yukon. On August 26th, Ted and his biographer, Katherine Gibson will attend a public celebration at the Arts Centre to sign copies of Ted Harrison: Painting Paradise, the story of his life in words and pictures.

Ted, and author Katherine Gibson will be signing his first-ever biography, (available in a Standard and a Limited Collectors Edition) and should be pre-ordered now by calling Crown publishing at 1-800-663-6105. Please join us to celebrate an upcoming season of performing and visual art and have a slice of birthday cake with Ted! Free - all welcome.

More information at www.tedharrisonbiography.com

Katherine Gibson ~ Author
"Ted Harrison: Painting Paradise"
A Biography in Words & Pictures

www.tedharrisonbiography.com

www.katherinegibson.com

A YUKON CONNECTION

Achille “Archie” Fournier

Born 1881 in St. Lazare, County Belle Chaise, Quebec

Worked in Olympia Washington as a teamster and camp cook.

Went to the Yukon in 1902, from Olympia.

Bought Arlington Road House – built bedrooms onto it and a barn across the road. The barn held 22 horses.

Married in 1914 and had 3 children. Later sold the road house and moved to the “Klondyke Ranch” where they homesteaded, had a 4th child and built up the ranch with horses and cows.

Had the farm till 1951 when he moved to Vancouver.

Archie died in 1957.

Children:

Murrell now lives in Kennewick, Washington

Martha now lives in Kennewick, Washington

Isabelle (Townsend) lives in Victoria, BC

Betty (St. Jean) lives in Nanaimo, BC

*Blanche Barrett gathered the above material from Betty (Fournier) St. Jean to explain the connection to the following story which ran in the Times Colonist on Vancouver Island. Betty St Jean is Gerard’s mother. Gerard St. Jean is quoted in the story below.
– Sherron*

Can-do attitude pays off

The Victoria Times Colonist - By Eric Akis, March 8, 2009



Gerard St. Jean of St. Jean Cannery holds a plate of some of his prized smoked and prepared fish with canned products in the background in the retail part of the store in Nanaimo. - Photograph by: Debra Brash, Times Colonist

"C" is for Cannery

Who: Gerard St. Jean

Lives: Nanaimo

Why he's here: President of St. Jean's Cannery; desire to keep a family business alive and flourishing; producer of local seafood and other products.

Quote: "We moved to Nanaimo (in 1957) and my dad starting smoking oysters. I'd help him pack them in little bags in our basement, staple them shut and put a little tag on them and he would sell them at bars and door-to-door."

Canneries were once so prevalent along B.C.'s coast it seemed every community along the shore, no matter the size, had one. In the early 1900s, more than 100 were operating, busily quenching world demand for canned salmon. Increased efficiencies in canning techniques led to consolidation. Today only a few large-scale, mass-production canneries remain.

One exception is St. Jean's Cannery and Smokehouse in Nanaimo, where the spirit of the community-based cannery lives on. At this business, local seafood is processed locally by locals, local businesses benefit, and residents and visitors are treated to some of the finest tastes around.

"We're the fifth largest (cannery in B.C.), but there are only five," says a chuckling Gerard St. Jean, company president.

Through hard work and creative product development and marketing, the company has grown to now employ 40 full-time staff and 100 seasonal workers. That success is something St. Jean's late father and company founder, Armand, would be proud of, considering how humbly it all began for the former Québecer, professional wrestler and carpenter.

"We moved to Nanaimo (in 1957) and my dad starting smoking oysters. I'd help him pack them in little bags in our basement, staple them shut and put a little tag on them, and he would sell them at bars and door-to-door," says St. Jean.

They were popular, but highly perishable, so his father bought a small canning machine. Along with oysters, he also started canning chowder, got a business up and running and had financial ups and downs along the way.

Things steadied when the American Canning Company, which sold him his canner, suggested he get into canning sport fish, where there was a growing demand. He started a successful, but very small, cannery on Nanaimo's waterfront with a handful of employees.

In the 1970s, Gerard St. Jean, a trained welder with engineering experience, travelled and worked around B.C. and overseas. When he returned home he learned his father wanted to sell the cannery. After some soul-searching, St. Jean told his father he wanted to keep the business going. "I didn't want to lose those recipes, that family history," St. Jean says. He decided to try to expand the company, constructing a new building whose completion coincided with the financial crash of early 1980s.

"I lost a lot of money, rented out the building, moved to (nearby) Hub City Fisheries and set up shop in part of their building," says St. Jean, still grateful for the support owner Roger Paquette gave him.

"At the end of 1985, I thought, what am I going to do, and then Expo hit," St. Jean says. He landed a contract to provide seafood products for that event, got the St. Jean name out there, and business rapidly grew. In 1989, the company built a 1,500-square-metre facility at its current location, 242 Southside Dr., Nanaimo, which in subsequent years has been expanded to 9,144 square metres.

"One of the reasons we've lasted is because we still hand-pack; it's a real niche," St. Jean says.

For example, his company fillets fresh, B.C. albacore tuna and cuts, hand-packs and cooks it in the can with little or no salt; the process preserves the tuna's natural, heart-healthy oil.

St. Jean says this process varies greatly from the way cans of imported tuna are prepared, where mass amounts of tuna are precooked to make it easier to get as much meat off the bone as possible. The tuna, with much of its natural oil cooked away, is then packed into cans. To replace the moisture lost during pre-cooking, a liquid such as water or broth is added, and the can is sealed and heat-processed, cooking the fish again.

"We are the only one packing tuna in Canada," St. Jean says.

He says another key to his company's success has been diversification. Along with tuna, they can and sell oysters, clams, chowder, salmon, paté and wild mushrooms under the St. Jean's brand; can seafood for other companies; custom-process sport fish; co-pack other companies' gourmet food products; have a huge mail order and Internet business; and operate a retail store at their facility in Nanaimo.

"We do a lot of things to make ends meet," St. Jean says.

No kidding!

For more information about St. Jean's Cannery and Smokehouse, visit stjeans.com.

Eric Akis is the author of the best-selling Everyone Can Cook book series. His columns appear in the Life section Wednesday and Sunday.

Claim 33 Owner Found Dead on Bonanza Creek

compiled from Whitehorse Star stories between May 7 and May 12, 2009

Submitted by Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The body of Gerry Bryde, owner of Claim 33 on the Bonanza Creek Road, was discovered at around 12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 10, by a resident of the area, who found the body after the spring runoff began subsiding.

Bryde had been the subject of a land and air search which began on May 6, after he had been missing since the previous weekend. He was not reported as missing until May 6. On that same day his battered ATV was found on a gravel bar on the far side of the creek at Kilometre 5 on the road.

Gerry Bryde, age 57, had last been seen on Friday, May 1, riding his red Honda ATV near his home on the Bonanza Creek Road. He was wearing a black helmet, orange toque, gloves and a brown jacket at the time.

“He’s one of the colourful five per cent,” Dawson resident Nancy Schmidt said of Bryde in a Whitehorse Star article.

Bryde, who came from Ontario to the Yukon in the mid 1980s, took over Claim 33 on Bonanza Creek about three years ago. He turned it into a mining museum - complete with a restored blacksmith’s shop.

“He even went down to the Carolinas and Dakotas to get parts for his machinery,”

Schmidt said. “He’s a master with small machinery - a very intelligent man.

“He probably knows Bonanza better than anyone.”

Bonanza Creek overflowed that weekend, washing out lower parts of the Bonanza Creek Road, where Bryde was last seen.

Sgt. Mark Groves spoke on behalf of the Mounties on the morning the search began.

“The creeks and rivers in the area are very swollen - bridges are washed out and so on - I think they’re dealing with some Mother Nature issues.”

On that weekend, the creek was swollen and was definitely across the road. (See photos in last issue of the Sun.)

During the summer, you could probably walk across the creek, but when Bryde went missing it was forceful - it could have swept a person away.

“A combined effort involving the Dawson City RCMP, Klondike Search and Rescue and Dawson City Fire Rescue resulted in the successful recovery of a body from the treacherous waters,” says a May 11 RCMP press release .

On May 12 it was confirmed that the body was that of Gerry Bryde.

The RCMP noted that locals, including one helicopter pilot who flew his own search, were helpful in this case.

“Dawson City RCMP would again like to thank the community of Dawson City for their support and assistance.”



Battered ATV

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



Battered ATV – Close up

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

Doctor John Returns to Dawson

by Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

May 12, 2009

Dawson's veterinarian, John Overell, has been revelling in his return to the Klondike over the last two weeks. He says one of the greatest things has been waking up to nothing noisier than some robins squabbling outside his home.

While not up to doing surgery just yet Overell is able to carry out basic vet duties and has been holding a long awaited clinic for check ups and vaccinations at the Dog House on Front Street over the last two weeks, with the able assistance of Jessica Joinson. The little pet store has been busy with the comings and goings of pet owners and well-wishers.

Overell suffered a very serious fall from his motorcycle almost a year ago now and has been battling back from some near-crippling injuries ever since he woke up after days in a coma.

He was months in hospital in Vancouver and has been more months getting daily rehab in Whitehorse. He returned to Dawson first during the Yukon Quest, using a walker and stout canes. When he returned again for the Percy DeWolfe race he had graduated to a pair of walking sticks that looked a lot like ski poles.

He is now a freestanding pedestrian once more, though he moves stiffly and has the sticks in his car, just in case.

Overell is able to drive himself around and actually drove himself home from Whitehorse this time. He says his hands hurt a lot at the end of the drive, but that it was probably also good exercise for them.

He has not lost his touch with animals both large and small.

One difference people will notice, however, is that his billing, which was often months after the event, is now on the spot. Jessica was making sure of that.

Overell has to return to Whitehorse for more rehab therapy and is then planning a trip to Ottawa to visit his mother, but as far as he's concerned, he's come home, and these are just trips.

Surgeries will be handled by a visiting vet who will probably be operating out of the recreation buildings at Minto Park during the summer. Town council determined some weeks ago that it would be able to offer this space for rental at a reasonable rate.



Jessica Joinson has been assisting veterinarian Dr. John Overell at the Dog House for the last two weeks.

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

A Musical Afternoon at St. Paul's

By Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Saint Paul's Anglican Church was alive with music on the afternoon of April 25 as Dwayne Kelly and his piano students entertained an audience of some thirty people.

Dwayne is a talented pianist and composer who can be heard playing at various venues around Dawson. He has a great love of music and can barely be restrained from sharing his enthusiasm any time that a group of people and a keyboard can be found in the same place.

The Gerberding boys, Sam and Eddie, have been Dwayne's students for a number of months now, and impressed the audience with the progress they have made. They received standing ovations for their performances.

Dwayne is working on the production of a CD of original material, and performed live versions of some of that material. His recent acquisition of a versatile keyboard with some synthesizer capabilities has allowed him to produce multi-tracked instrumental versions of some of his own songs and other material that he loves to perform, and so the remainder of the concert became a sort of self-accompanied karaoke performance.

The one exception to this was when Dwayne was joined on stage by Simon Crelli for piano – fiddle duo.



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



Sam Gerberding

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



Eddie Gerberding

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



Dwayne Kelly

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

Dawson Welcomes Summer Workers with a Hot Meal

by Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

May 13, 2009

About 45 summer job seekers from most of the provinces in Canada as well as New Zealand, Australia the USA and Germany turned out for the first of four weeks of Tuesday suppers at the Dawson Community Gospel Chapel.

This tradition was started some years back by the congregation of St. Mary's Catholic Church when members observed that a lot of the newcomers, so necessary to the summer economy here, were short on cash and food until after their first pay cheques were handed out.

Based on the Gospel injunction to feed the hungry and do good unto others, the church began the practice of a month's worth of weekly hot meals. The other churches joined in the effort, helping to feed anywhere from 35 to 100 transients per week.

These have always been held at St. Mary's, with the congregations of St. Paul's Anglican Church, the Dawson Community Gospel Chapel and the Dawson Christian Fellowship assisting, along with donations from many of the businesses in town.

This year, with water damage and broken pipes at St. Mary's not yet repaired when the planning began, the committee looked for another hall large enough to hold the numbers, and the Gospel Chapel volunteered its space.

The visitors waited respectfully while Pastor Ian Nyland welcomed them to the meal, which was hosted by St. Paul's this week. Then they dug into an assortment of mac & cheese, lasagna, salads and other dishes, washed down with juice and coffee and accompanied by a variety of desserts.

After the meal, the guests turned to and cleaned up the hall, vacuuming the rug, washing down and putting away the tables, washing dishes and stacking wood outside for the church's wood furnace.

In weeks to come they will also hear several presentations on life in Dawson, including one from the Nursing Station staff and another on Bear Awareness.

Dawson encourages its summerdoughs to get involved with the community's events. It puts on a lot of them between the first of May and Labour Day weekend, and these need volunteers as much as the local economy needs summer workers.

Numbers at last summer's dinners were as high as 100, but organizers says it's early yet and the evenings are off to a good start.

Dinners this year have been planned to the end of the first week of June.



The Dawson Community Gospel Chapel played host to the first of this year's transient suppers on May 12.

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

BUFFALO AIRWAYS YK

Hi Sherron,

With all the people who get the Moc Tel and have been flying in the north, I thought this would be a great way for them to get their stories out where people can see and enjoy them. And for those who do not know it, Buffalo Air, is a real airlines that operates out of Yellowknife and Hay River. They fly DC-3's DC-4's, C-46's, Canso's – pretty well anything old. Their maintenance depot is here in Red Deer so I see them around all the time.

I flew into Hay River a few years back and I was in the traffic pattern with DC3's and DC-4's, and when I landed, I was picked up by one of our people driving a 66 T Bird convertible. I thought I had gone through a time warp.

Thanks [see links below for story]

Jim Thoreson jimthoreson@shaw.ca (In Red Deer AB)

<http://www.iflewthenorth.com/>

WE WANT YOUR STORY!

Whether you're a pilot, prospector, minister, nurse, or flight attendant, or if you've ever flown in Canada's North, we want your story!

Buffalo Air (title to be determined) is a new television series about a real-life unorthodox little airline based in Yellowknife, NWT. Coming this Fall to History Television, the series will feature fully operational WWII-era propeller planes, and the Buffalo Airways pilots who defy bone-chilling temperatures, navigate through blinding snowstorms, and test their mettle on near-impossible landings in one of the harshest landscapes on Earth.

As part of the series, we're looking to build Canada's first-ever interactive story map of the North for our series' website. That's where you come in.

Tell us your own personal story, or one from your father, grandmother, neighbour, or friend - as long as it's about some aspect of flying in the North.

It's easy to send your story via Email, Video or Photo uploads, Phone, or Mail. Just select the appropriate button below for complete instructions. Your story could be chosen as part of the living history of the North!

See also:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/i_flew_the_north/

OKANAGAN YUKONERS PICNIC – AND DUES

The Picnic is set up for Sunday June 21 at the Summerland Gardens. We have the Spot from 11am till 3pm. It will be Pot Luck as usual, with lunch scheduled for noon. It would be nice if people would pay their dues either before they come to the Picnic or after they get back home, as it puts a lot of pressure on Shirley [Turton saturton@shaw.ca] when a whole bunch of people are trying to pay their dues at the Picnic. She doesn't get much of a chance to visit. There are quite a few members out there who are still sending their dues to me when they should be sending them to Shirley. It complicates things quite a bit, as it takes me sometimes a month or so to get the cheques to Shirley, and people wonder if they have paid their dues and start enquiring. Anyone who is getting their Newsletter by e-mail, and are not sure of their "status" can send me an e-mail at aksala49@telus.net and I will let them know when they are paid up to.

You can reach Shirley Turton at saturton@shaw.ca or by mail at 2430 Grantham Rd. Kelowna, BC V1W 4B7. Anyone in the Kelowna area can call her at 250-861-4106. All this info can also be found in the sidebar on the front page of the Newsletter.

The annual membership rates are \$5.00 for singles or \$8.00 for couples and families.

Shirley has been a real asset since she came back from her surgery and we don't want to overdo a good thing. She has been to the last two ISR get - to - gathers and is thinking of making the one this October in San Diego. She has also attended the last two Van Yukoners parties at the River Rock.

Larry Chalmers aksala49@telus.net (In Oliver)

A REQUEST FROM FRED MANDL

Hi Sherron; Solange, my “significant other” whom you met at the Yukoners’ Picnic last May, needs to rally support to win a jewellery design contest in the USA. I was wondering if it would be possible to flag this request in a Moctel, if one is due out before the end of May 2009. I am hoping to rally the Yukoners behind this to “level the playing field” since this is a USA contest, by having them (and perhaps their friends) cast a vote on Solange’s behalf. FYI, Solange is within 20 of 2,000 entries of winning a North America wide competition. I would be most grateful for any/all assistance rendered.

All that’s needed is to access the link provided below, and vote, as per the instructions provided in the email below. RSVP.

PS I saw the two pieces before Solange sent them off to the USA, and absolutely loved them. Would look good on any woman

Fred Mandl fmandl@shaw.ca (In Peachland)

From: Solange Farah [<mailto:sbfarah@shaw.ca>]
Sent: May 15, 2009 12:38 PM
To: Fred Mandl
Subject: VERY IMPORTANT

Dear Friends:

As some of you may be aware, I entered several pieces of jewelry which I designed and made in the Beading Daily Magazine (a U.S.A. magazine) contest recently. Two of my jewelry items were chosen from among more than 2000 pieces to be included in the list of finalists, with the winner being selected via a public (online) vote. I would very much like to win this contest, as the winning piece will be profiled in a special issue of the magazine, along with the designer’s profile and website. Needless to say, this would be a wonderful promotion for my new business, Chic Anytime (www.chicanytime.com). I

would be most grateful if you would take a few minutes to cast a vote, and forward this email to your friends, and invite them to also vote on my behalf. The closing date for this contest is May 30, 2009. The instructions are as follows:

1. Go to link <http://www.beadindaily.com/beadstar/> (If you cannot enter directly copy and paste the address).
2. Click on VOTE NOW
3. Enter your e-mail in the indicated place and click on NEXT
4. There are 9 categories. (You need to make one selection for category).
5. Make sure you click DONE after you have made your selections, otherwise your vote will be included.

My submissions were as follows:

PEARL category, number 4, picture below



UNDER \$25.00 category, number 18, picture below.



Thank you very much and cheers from me.
Solange Farah sbfarah*shaw.ca (In Peachland)

I did find I needed to cast a vote on each page of 20 items, before I could proceed to see the next page; about a dozen pages. – Sherron

MESSAGE FROM RUSTY REID

Hi Sherron:

Mike Biden is my son-in-law who is married to my daughter, Shelley. They both live in Penticton, B.C. I have just come back from visiting them down there for five weeks. The weather was warmer in Whitehorse than it was down there.

I just spoke to Mike on the phone to see if he would give his permission for you to use any or all of the information, including pictures on his website. I am pretty proud of him and he has accomplished a lot of things. Flying just seems to be one of things that many of our family members are involved.

Mike has produced two photography books and is working on a third one. His web site will explain it all. <http://www.iflyphoto.ca/about.htm>

I hope this all helps you with finding material for the Moccasin Telegraph.

Bye for now,

Rusty Reid rustyreid*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

I Fly Photo

Because there are so many photos which you may enjoy viewing- please use the link above and visit the website. Below is the write up from the home page. – Sherron

The Company –

I Fly Photo is owned and operated by Mike Biden, and located in Penticton, British Columbia.

Mike has experience shooting high-quality aerial images of commercial, residential, landscape, and air-to-air images. Please view [his portfolio](#) for examples of his work.

Mike Biden

As an enthusiastic photographer, Mike likes to push the creative edge. In addition to photography, Mike is an experienced pilot and a retired member of Air Search and Rescue.

Mike is an accomplished speaker and presenter in addition to being an experienced survival instructor, scuba diver, and rock-climber.

Mike has travelled extensively and recorded his adventures on film from Alaska to South America. He has been a frequent contributor to magazines and newspapers including;

- Canadian Geographic
- Waterloo Music Corporation
- Comox Search and Rescue
- Westjet Magazine
- Triathlete Magazine

His first book entitled "The Penticton Fire of 1994" has been followed by "Ironman Canadian Triathlon - the Pain and the Glory" coffee table book.

Mike Biden currently resides in Penticton, British Columbia, with his wife Shelley and daughter Crystal.

ARTISTIC TALENT



Believe

Created by Madeleine (Millen) Wakefield

Image courtesy Madeleine Wakefield mwakefield@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

Hi Sherron,

Along with painting, I've started to make dolls and have attached the first ones for you. Their skeletal structure is made with pipe cleaners and sometimes floral wire added to the pipe cleaners for strength. Only Cherish doesn't have this wire. The faces are made of rocks found along the river and covered with a sheer fabric.

I've also begun to teach pronunciation to new immigrants and they are a joy to be with.

Hope all is well with you. The MocTel is always a pleasure to open and read.

Thanks for your thoughtful production of this great newsletter. I'll send this year's subscription soon.

Take care,

Madeleine Wakefield mwakefield@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

OBIT

Hi Sherron: I would like you to publish the following obituary in the Moccasin Telegraph. We lived in the Yukon for 31 years and have many friends and acquaintances from there.

Christena Mitchell passed away May 3rd at Shuswap Lake General Hospital in Salmon Arm, B.C.

Chris was born in Aberdeen, Inverness County, Nova Scotia March 21st, 1925. She left Nova Scotia at the age of 18 to join the Royal Canadian Air force, where she served for 3 1/2 years. After leaving the Air Force she travelled across Canada working in various cities and provinces.

In 1949 she met her future husband, Alan, at Port Radium, N.W.T. They lived in a variety of places before moving to the Yukon in 1956. She lived in Calumet, Elsa and Whitehorse where she worked in the Liquor store for 20 years and knew most of the residents of Whitehorse at that time. She left the Yukon in 1987 and moved to Blind Bay, B.C.

Thanks very much.

Al Mitchell terry987@telus.net (Blind Bay BC)

Hi Sherron

Attached is an obituary for my brother Ron Whitehouse - it is self explanatory and I would appreciate it if it could be included in the next edition of the Moc Tel.

Many thanks

Beverley Whitehouse pebnorth@yahoo.ca (In Whitehorse)
(867) 334-2741

Ron Whitehouse

Ronald Deane Whitehouse died in Oliver, BC hospital on May 12, 2009. He leaves to mourn his wife of 28 years Judi, his daughters Julie Harmer (Brad) of Vernon, BC, Laurie Mitchell (Scott) of Terrace, BC and his sister Beverley Whitehouse of Whitehorse, YT, along with 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Ron was pre-deceased by his Grandson Michael Mitchell and his parents May and Wilf Whitehouse. Funeral services were held from St. Anne's Catholic Church in Osoyoos, BC on May 16, 2009 - interment was at Osoyoos Lakeview Cemetery and the reception was at his and Judi's home in Osoyoos.

Ron was born in Toronto Ontario September 9, 1938, but because of the war lived his early years in Nova Scotia - Halifax and Shelburne. (He and Judi travelled the Maritimes a few years ago and he was happy to have found the house in Shelburne where he and his parents lived) After the war the Whitehouse family returned to Toronto and continued to live there until Ron was 15. During those years Ron was an avid track and fielder and moved up in the Scouting world. In 1954 the Whitehouse's then moved to Whitehorse, Yukon and Ron became active again in Track and Field and the YPA as well as having fun in a band (Ron played the trumpet). In the mid 50's Ron chose to go to University School in Victoria, BC to complete his High School. After graduating High School he lived and worked in the Lower Mainland of BC for a number of years, marrying, and having a daughter. In the early 60's the family moved back to Whitehorse, where his other daughter was born. Ron opened the branch of Auto Marine Electric in Whitehorse and he was branch manager for a number of years then chose to become the salesman. He traveled the highways and roads of the Yukon and Northern BC for a number of years then thought it would be a good idea to get his pilots licence and fly the sky's instead. This is when he found the passion of his life, Ron loved to fly! In his mid 30s it was discovered he had a congenital heart defect and he could no longer fly but he still spoke about those years flying the skies of the Yukon.

Ron was also an avid photographer. He and his Dad set up Whitehouse Photo as a sideline, and Ron became a wedding photographer. He and his Dad were also the official photographers for Sourdough Rendezvous for one year in the 60s. They alternated taking pictures and developing them over the weekend of the Rendezvous - they chose not to do it another year because it was a 72 hour, non-stop job !!

In the late 70's work took him to the Lower Mainland once again and he became active in music, playing in his church and at home on his organ. He continued his love of flying with remote controlled airplanes, building and flying them. Ron enjoyed visiting, or

having family visit them, he took joy in the visits of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In the early 90's circumstances again changed for Ron and Judi. Ron changed his employment from Auto Marine to Holiday Trails and continued there until they moved to Osoyoos in 2001. Ron and Judi traveled as 'Snowbirds' for a few years until health issues intervened for Ron and they settled into the community. Both of them participated in the St. Anne's Catholic Church activities and Ron re-discovered flying. He got a Dream Flyer flight simulator and took joy in flying the skies and stratosphere (the simulator had the Space Shuttle on it).

It has been requested that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Desert Valley Hospice, PO Box 1261, Oliver, BC V0H 1T0.

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Delivery has failed to these recipients or distribution lists:

duncan.netzel@gov.yk.ca

The recipient's mailbox is full and can't accept messages now. Microsoft Exchange will not try to redeliver this message for you. Please try resending this message later, or contact the recipient directly.

NETZEL, Duncan duncan.netzel@gov.yk.ca (In Whitehorse)

A message was sent to people who joined the MocTel group in 2006 & 2007 and have not yet paid their subscription.

Never knew there was a charge. I asked and was told not. As most of the news is about the olden days I am not interested in further receiving the telegraph. I often just delete it anyway.

CROOKSHANKS, Della (Lawrence) delrobrd@telus.net (In Destruction Bay, Burwash, Beaver Crk 1953 -67) Red Deer AB

Please remove me from your mailing list.

Gwynn Kroeker

KROEKER, Bob & Gwynn (PEIRSON) Gwynn_Kroeker@telus.net (In Haines Junctn & Whitehorse, Grad 1969) Prince George

A message was sent to people in the MocTel group who last paid their subscription in 2007.

Please remove me from the mailing list.

John

WRIGHT, John & Esther (WALIN) johnlwright@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.

Robert Collier

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Scones

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

2 cups sifted flour
½ tsp baking soda
1 tsp cream of tartar
½ tsp salt
3 tbsp butter
3 tbsp shortening
¼ cup white sugar
1/3 cup currants
1/3 cup sultanas
1 egg yolk, beaten
½ cup milk

Sift flour, soda, cr. of tartar & salt. Work in butter and shortening. Add sugar and floured fruit. Combine egg yolk and milk. Mix into dry ingredients. Knead lightly on a floured board. Roll ½ inch thick, cut 2 inch rounds. Place on greased baking sheet and bake at 450 degrees for 12-15 minutes. The scones may be brushed with a little egg yolk or milk before baking, or melted butter as soon as cooked.

Anne Snow

Newfoundland

From a Whitehorse RCAF Womens' Auxiliary cookbook

DATES TO REMEMBER

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Larry Chalmers aksala49@telus.net (In Oliver)

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.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

c/o Sherron Jones
9205 Orchard Ridge Drive
Vernon, B C
V1B 1V8

Phone: 205-549-2736