

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 285th Edition – June 7th, 2009

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Red fox

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

REUNION IN WHITEHORSE

On May 21 a group of Whitehorse Highschool students got together at the Yukon Inn in Whitehorse after nearly 50 years. Diane King (Bidlake) was in town as was Mary Lang. We called up a few of the locals who still live in Whitehorse and had a great time reminiscing.

Joy Denton joydenton@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)



Beth King (James), Jim King, Pam Karr (Forsythe) with Mary Lang & Chuck Haines in the background. Photo courtesy Joy Denton joydenton@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)



Gordon Steele & Mary Lang
Photo courtesy Joy Denton joydenton@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)



Kathy Dugas, Mary Lang, Diane King (Bidlake)
Photo courtesy Joy Denton joydenton@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)



Diane and Pat King, Cathy Dugas and Mary Lang having a wonderful picnic lunch at
Dugas's cabin at Marsh Lake.

Photo courtesy Diane and Pat King DKing*summer.com (In Penticton)

Senior Tea at Marsh Lake

The Annual April Celebration of Swans, was held at Swan Haven, North McClintock Bay, April 29, 2009, under clear sunny skies.

This annual event is sponsored by YTG Environment, Girl Guides of Canada and Ducks Unlimited.

This Senior Tea was initiated by two popular women from Marsh Lake, Sue Greetham & Patricia Healy in 2004 and continued by them until 2007, upon retirement from all those "birds!!!" Marsh Lake Community Society offered to take on the job. Sue & Pat always had full support and planning from the volunteers of Marsh Lake. Both ladies are still very much involved and the rest of us are happy to have them on board to show us the way after their years of experience.

This year our count was down as Macaulay Lodge was in quarantine with the flu. Copper Ridge Place sent one bus, and of course many local and Whitehorse visitors came to enjoy a cup of tea, coffee and goodies, prepared by our ever faithful volunteers.

It was a fun afternoon, including a couple games of bingo out at the picnic tables, a movie on the habitat of the swans, and of course using all the scopes that are set up to see the swans up closer.

On behalf of the Marsh Lake Community Society and the volunteers of Marsh Lake, we look forward to hosting the next Swan Haven Senior Tea, April 2011. Please join us. Shirley Keobke mistyonmarsh@northwestel.net (Marsh Lake)



Swans made from cream puffs, by Simi Morrison
Photo courtesy Shirley Keobke mistyonmarsh@northwestel.net (Marsh Lake)



Swan Haven, more food – April 2010.
Photo courtesy Shirley Keobke mistyonmarsh@northwestel.net (Marsh Lake)



Swan Haven Senior Tea, in the beginning.
Photo courtesy Shirley Keobke mistyonmarsh@northwestel.net (Marsh Lake)

MOCTEL 284

Wow! Thanks Sherron. Never been to Eagle, but the Baptist Minister that used to be in Haines Junction had lived there before coming to Haines Junction. They really liked the place. It's hard to fathom Ice like that...

Busy gal here all by myself. Seems always something needs to be done.
Have lots of summer fun...

Cherio, Lois Tremblay granny9t@shaw.ca (In Cedar BC)

MOCTEL 283 & 284 - Correction

Just a note Sherron, on the Eagle Flood pictures, they were sent to me from my daughter, Robbie MacManus in Tok, Alaska. Such devastation for a small village.

Myrna Butterworth myrnab@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

FOX COMES TO VISIT

We had heard fox were a regular in the subdivision. Even we had seen the male quite regularly from inside the house these two came to greet us out in the yard.

The male came close to us looking for a handout. A short time later the smaller female approached, albeit very cautious compared to the male. I fed him a few pieces of raw stew meat then gave a few to the female. I have both of them on video as well. They were both very disappointed there wasn't anymore and when I came into the house the male followed me up the steps. We never realized there were two hanging around. We were told by the previous owner there was a fox hanging around and we did see him but from inside the house. The male wasn't deterred by Bryan making lots of noise working on the Bronco. Note the daylight at 10:30 p.m.

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



The male enjoying his beef cube.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Please give me more.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Okay, I'll just sit at the bottom step and wait
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



He spotted the female coming out of the trees.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



The female, still shedding.

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



Enjoying the meat.

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

FRANK SLIM BUILDING

We attended the dedication of the Frank Slim building. Mayor Bev Buckway was there as well. I have some photos, not very good ones. There were speeches and most of Frank's family was there.

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Virgina Lindsay, Bev Buckway, Jim Robb

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

Building name honours vessel's final pilot

The man who piloted the SS Keno on her final voyage from Whitehorse to Dawson City was remembered for his place in the Yukon's history and much more Thursday during the official naming ceremony of the Frank Slim Building in Shipyards Park.

By Stephanie Waddell on May 22, 2009 Whitehorse Star



Photo by Vince Fedoroff

ADMIRERS GATHER - Virginia Lindsay (left), daughter of Frank Slim, Mayor Bev Buckway and Jim Robb attended Thursday's naming of the Frank Slim Building in Shipyards Park. (top) FOND MEMORIES - Donna Lindsay-Dillman remembers the

many stories her grandfather, the late Frank Slim, would tell her of his days on the rivers in the North.

The man who piloted the SS Keno on her final voyage from Whitehorse to Dawson City was remembered for his place in the Yukon's history and much more Thursday during the official naming ceremony of the Frank Slim Building in Shipyards Park.

Family and friends, along with officials from the Ta'an Kwachan Council, Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the city, filled the main area of the building, with latecomers spilling out of the entrance during the noon hour event.

Many recalled the facts of Slim's life - he was born in 1898 near Marsh Lake - that made him a figure for the history books, including being the only Yukon first nations person to earn the title of riverboat captain. Those closest to him remembered a man whose legacy lives on today.

Those who have been assisted by Anne-Marie Miller in her career as a social worker also have Slim to thank for the direction he gave his grand-daughter in her career.

"It was his inspiration to get into social work and help people," she said following the ceremony as she recalled a grandfather who told her to always be kind to others.

Looking out from the building's window at the railway tracks on the waterfront, she remembered as a young child holding her grandfather's hand as they walked along the tracks and he told her stories.

"He was a very, very special man," Miller said, recalling a man with little formal education who learned to read off the backs of soup cans and, at the age of 45, went to Vancouver to get his ship's pilot licence.

Like Miller, another granddaughter Donna Lindsay-Dillman, remembered the many stories Slim would tell her of his days on the rivers in the North.

"The one story that he always told me was about when he left in 1960 - he took the Keno to Dawson City - and he said he looked down and he said he saw two of the prettiest girls in the audience, and it was me and my mom," she said.

Lindsay-Dillman, who was among the speakers during the formal ceremony, was also inspired by her grand-father as she followed her career path. Yesterday, she presented the city and the two first nations with copies of her book about Slim's life through the eyes of her mother.

"A friend of mine, (former Yukon anthropologist) Julie Cruikshank, had done a lot of work on native women elders and there was not a lot of work done about men, so I asked her why and she said to me that it really wasn't appropriate for an Outside anthropologist to be writing about native men.

"And I also had talked to a couple of other people - one of them was (the late Yukon journalist and author) Don Sawatzky - and Don had told me a book on Frank Slim was long overdue, so I wrote it."

She also used the work as her thesis at Simon Fraser University in B.C.

Told from her mother's point of view, it includes facts of Slim's life and explains why Lindsay-Dillman believes he contributed to the development of the Yukon.

As Slim's friend Jim Robb noted, Slim was one of the last original riverboat captains.

"He was a man destined to become one of the North's top river pilots," Robb said. He also wrote on a display detailing Slim's life that was unveiled at the ceremony and will continue to hang in the building.

It showcases a photo Robb took of Slim near the riverboats where children were playing. “In those days, I always packed a camera around with me,” Robb recalled.

“And we were B.S.ing there and I said, ‘Let’s hop into a cab and go down to the steamboats and take some pictures.’ And at that time, the boats hadn’t burned and they would make an excellent background for photographs of Frank because they were so much of a part of his life....

“There’s little kids climbing over the top of the wheel and Frank was in the centre. It was just the perfect opportunity to take a picture.”

That photo will continue to greet visitors to the building, which Mayor Bev Buckway described as having a very fitting name as she pointed to the efforts of having Shipyards Park honour the history of the area.

“He played a very important role in our history,” she said of Slim.

After the riverboats were docked, Slim continued his time on the rivers, working on the ferries which carried vehicles between communities.

As visitors to the building will learn: “Then, as bridges replaced the ferries, Frank Slim was forced into other trades such as heavy equipment operating, trapping and fur buying. He also worked on the MV Schwatka for a awhile.”

Slim died in 1973.

“Frank died many years ago, but he will be remembered forever,” Robb said.

Snow has melted

Sherron, we went for a walk in Cowley Creek Subdivision (where we live) on May 16. We’ve had nice warm weather (in my opinion). The leaves are now evident everywhere. As of today, May 22, all snow is gone.

Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



May 16, 2009

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

TRIP TO SKAGWAY

Sherron, we went to Skagway last Monday, May 18. There wasn't any snow in Whitehorse. On the way to Skagway it was still very much winter. Thirty minutes out of Skagway it was summer. Monday was the busiest day of the entire year for tourists. There were 4 cruise ships in port and the ferry, Columbia arrived when we were there.

Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Still snow on the lake but very warm

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

See Bove Island and other sites on the Klondike Highway at –
<http://www.yukonheritage.com/Sign/southern/south-klondike/bove-island.html>



Log Cabin Skagway Road May 18 2009 still snow.JPG
 Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Log Cabin. Lots of snow
 Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Skagway Road - May 18, 2009 - Still ice on lake.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



American Customs - a bit of snow
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Coming back from Skagway. Fraser, now winter begins
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Winter 30 minutes from Skagway AK
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



20 minutes from Skagway summer begins to appear.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Coming into Skagway - full summer heat.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Just outside Skagway.

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



Royal Caribbean Cruise ship - Skagway - May 18 2009

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



Princess Cruise Line and tour boat - Skagway May 18 2009
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Skagway, Princess Lines cruise ship and power boat.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Skagway May 18 2009

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



Skagway, May 18, 2009

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



Inside Passage Ferry May 18 2009

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

TRIBUTE TO HANK KARR

The Editor,
Whitehorse Star,
2149-2nd Avenue,
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 1C5

May 23, 2009

Dear Editor,

A while ago I heard that Hank Karr celebrated yet another birthday, and the news brought back a flood of memories relating to years gone by. Hank, like a great number of longtime Yukon entertainers, has truly become a legend in his time!

I was born and raised back east, in an era when Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and 'Cowboy' music captured the attention and imagination of most young boys. In fact, it inspired me to come west as a young man with a firm desire to become a cowboy. I eventually arrived in Whitehorse back in 1949 with a small pack of belongings, a black cowboy hat, eagerly anticipating the adventures that would surely follow. I was not to be disappointed! In

reflection, it occurs to me that folk and country music was a strong motivating cause of my eventual settlement here in Yukon.

I can recall artists in those earlier days, such as Ed Isaak, Ray Parks and a host of other Country music entertainers, who performed mostly in the several bars around town. Hank and his group spent many of those years entertaining at the old Whitehorse Inn Lounge. It has occurred to me that the contribution that Hank and a great many other country/folk singers, musicians and instrumentalists, professional and amateur, have had a very direct impact on our communities all across Yukon.

We all recognize that bar patrons are consumers of alcoholic beverages, so as the evening and the music unfolds, ones inhibitions tend to break down a bit, and it isn't long before customers are engaging in conversations with strangers, or perhaps looking for someone to dance with. As well, Hank would often invite members in the audience to come up and sing a song or play an instrument, in this forum of informality, very often new and lasting bonds of friendships were made, some even resulting in later marriage!

So I leave the rest to your imagination, suffice to say that each and every one of these country music performers have done much more than give us satisfaction and enjoyment. In fact they have played a very important roll directly or indirectly, in the overall development of Yukon to date. Accordingly, I am taking the liberty at this time to speak for a large number of Yukoners, while paying tribute to and saluting Hank Karr along with his great many fellow country music performers, past and present, for helping to keep so many of us together as a community of common interest, in good times and bad, for so many years.

In appreciation,

Donald E. Taylor dontaysl@hotmail.com (In Watson Lake/Stewart Lake)

Uffish Thoughts: The Shear Power of the River Leaves a Mess

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

May 20, 2009

While we were waiting for the Yukon River Quest paddlers to arrive last summer there were a number of people who complained that the rather lush growth of brush at the bottom of the lower dyke path made it difficult to see the canoes and kayaks coming.

Out on the river, paddlers who arrived said they had the same problem in reverse when it came to seeing the finish line banners on top of the dyke.

Well, they probably won't have that problem this year.

Right now, when you look down at the lower dyke trail it's still littered with half metre

thick dirty oblong blocks that are the slowly melting remains of the ice that washed ashore several days after the Yukon River in front of the town broke up.

The chunks that came down at that time caused the river to rise significantly. They tumbled over each other and up onto the lower part of the dyke, shearing off hundreds of metres of brush and flattening everything that didn't actually get torn away.

If we had actually built the Customs station the feds were planning a few years ago in the wake of American Homeland Security paranoia, it would be gone now.

The bergs, which looked pristine and white when they first came ashore, have either collected a lot of grit since then, or were full of it to begin with and simply show it more now that they've diminished. I tend to the latter explanation, based on the little piles of dirt all around the town where there were still ploughed up piles of fairly white snow just two weeks ago.

Seeing all this squashed vegetation makes a person very aware of the river. Seeing the images coming out of Eagle and working on a retrospective article about Dawson's last big flood, the one in 1979, has reinforced my sense of awe, and my knowledge of the shear power (pardon the pun) of moving water and jumbled ice.

It causes me to wonder if even multiple seasons of the Yukon Queen II's wake, motoring up and down the river once a day in the summer, could possibly be more than a teaspoon full's worth of impact when compared to the damage that the river did to its own banks in just a few days.

Dawson's just spent a week cleaning itself up a lot. While I could still see litter - beer and pop cans, junk food wrappers, etc, - on my walk to the post office today, it was still easy to see that a great deal had been done.

Walking along the dyke last night though, I had to wonder if something can't be done here too. For several hundred metres along the river bank trees are shredded and flattened along the ground.

There are advantages to this. Summer folk trying to camp for free will have to go elsewhere. Those who annually litter the riverbank with empty beer cans and liquor bottles while drinking in private won't be able to do their drinking down there. I mentioned the mess to the lady who heads up the Klondike Improvement Action Group and she said that when the group had talked about clearing the brush a bit last year they'd been told they'd have to get permission from the Dept. of Fisheries before they could cut a single bit of brush.

I thought that was silly, since none of that growth was there at all until several years after the dyke was put in in 1987, and it's only been the last four years or so that it's taken its most serious growth spurt.

Be that as it may, surely now that the stuff lies crumpled and limp along the lower dyke no federal government agency would protest if a work party were organized to remove it.



The Debris along the lower dyke path. The large flat slabs were the remains of ice bergs. They're gone now (June 2/09).

Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Front Street Paving Delayed While Supplies Arrive

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

May 20, 2009

The paving project that was supposed to have begun on Dawson's Front Street before the end of May, with a finishing date before the end of June, has now been delayed by about a month due to delays in obtaining the special clear binding material that will be used to make the asphalt.

Assistant Deputy Minister of Highways and Public Works, Mike Johnson, brought that news to the May 19 meeting of Dawson's town council.

It was councillor Rick Riemer who raised the scheduling question with Johnson. He replied, “We are less on schedule than we were before.”

MLA Steve Nordick picked up the story, starting with the drill test results from last summer which indicated that normal hot mix dark asphalt would not work well with the permafrost conditions under the road bed on that street.

“So we went with a clear bitumen binder. There has been a delay in getting that product. It has been ordered, but there’s about a 30 day delay in getting that product into this community.

“To counteract that I requested that Mike look into working during evenings for the prep work on the street, so most of that can be done later (in the day) as opposed to during the business hours.”

Dawson does have a nuisance bylaw that will prevent heavy construction going on past 11 p.m. due to the noise it would make.

The binder is coming from France where it is produced, **and will be shipped here via the Panama Canal** and up the west coast. Nordick said it is expected to be in the canal in early July “We’ll have a tracking number for it,” Johnson said, so we’ll be able to give you some assurances that it’s on the road.

“I know it’s being made. We signed the contract two weeks ago.”

There will be a crushing contractor in the area in June, Johnson said, making the aggregate for the pavement.

“It’s very specific. It needs a very clean sand, so we can’t use white channel (gravel). That’ll be handled in June and we’ll get right to it as soon as the bitumen arrives.”

The original scheduling estimates were made when Highways was still considering using a regular black asphalt for the street, a move that was contested by organizations concerned with preserving the historic look of the streetscape. The decision to move to a clear substance, which is widely used in Europe, came about largely due to the permafrost considerations.

The department took the drill data to a couple of universities for analysis after initial interpretation showed potential problems with black top.

“The issue was,” Johnson said, “that no one would say that we’d get more than half the life of the hot mix were we to put it down because of disintegration of the permafrost.”

In January they told Skookum Asphalt to find a source for clear binder. There were two possible sources, one of which was Colas, a French based company with offices throughout Europe and the United Kingdom. As it happens, Colas also owns Skookum Asphalt, so the connection was easily made.

Highways won’t be stocking this material against the need for future patching and repairs to the street, so when that need arises, Johnson indicated the department will simply have

to look at various ways of making the black top lighter. They had found mixtures that would do that for small sections of pavement, but not for the entire length of Front Street.



Front Street will be disrupted during July and August this summer.

The town is already planning where to redirect traffic and such summer fixtures as the Farmer's Market and transient sales, which operate from the log partitioned stalls in the foreground.

Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Dawson Stages Drama Revival

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

May 24, 2009

While it wasn't exactly a revival of the old Dawson Breakup Drama Festival from the 1980s, this year's Dawson Spring Theatre Night was a step in that direction.

The evening of May 16 began with an unscheduled paragliding demonstration off the Dome, during which gliders reached record heights and provided outside entertainment for those waiting at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre for the shows to begin.

First on stage was *Birds of a Feather*, a hilarious one act play by Jack Fraser in which a young and amorous raven ends up with more than he bargained for in the family way while a two-timer gets what's coming to him.

Then the whole crowd followed a stilt walked juggler over to the Front Street Gazebo where Julie Leclerc related the first nations story of how the loon got his necklace.

The evening continued with a walk to the Oddfellows' Hall, where Graham Peters tinkled the ivories while people got settled for the next set of performances.

Celia McBride has written a very funny one-act play called *Snore*, in which a husband's nocturnal noises drive his wife nearly to homicide. Guy Chan and Marnie Bramadat were just perfect in their roles, while their real spouses looked on from the audience.

Angela Van Nostrand and Jessica Hickman took center stage next to present an exhibition of poi twirling, with the difference being that it took place in the dark (or as dark as you can make the ballroom in mid-May) with led-lit balls on the ends of the chains. It was fabulous.

"The/Les Questions" was a five minute bilingual poetry reading by Marie-Eve Julien (en francais) and Mary Fraughton (en anglais). The original poem was by Marie-Eve. In the summer of 1927 a Russian emigre woman named Lillian Alling decided that life in New York City was not for her and made up her mind to walk home to Russia. Joanna Mazanti has been fascinated with this story and has written "The Mysterious Lillian Alling" a one act, one woman play, which was performed very effectively by Suzanne Hale.

The evening concluded with a narrated slide show by Nicole Bauberger entitled *Selections from 100 Dresses for Early February in Montreal, November in Grand Prairie and May in Yellowknife*.

There was an opportunity for an open microphone session at the end of the evening, but after three and half hours and without so me preparation, there were no takers. Maybe next time.

The evening was organized by Joanna Mazanti and Jessica Hickman, who deserve a lot of credit for motivating people to bring another kind of culture to Dawson's stages. The evening also demonstrated just how many good venues for this sort of thing there are, and that's without even thinking about the Palace Grand, which is where the old Breakup Festival used to be held.



A raven couple discuss their future.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The crowd heads to the next venue, led by a tall figure.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Julie Leclerc begins to spin her tale of life and loons.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Clean-ups Continue

by Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)
May 27, 2009

Efforts to dry out the Klondike Highway and prevent more damage continue this week. This ditch, just north of Stewart Crossing, has been filled to the brim for weeks and has not drained. The Highways Department has determined that the culvert, which goes beneath the road, is blocked with mud and debris from the flooding. This area has been subject to brush clearing and early this week it was decided to pump the water over the road and then tackle the obstruction once it was exposed. This meant a slight delay for traffic in either direction while the pumps were turned off to prevent damage to the hoses. The foaming water coming out the hoses on the other side of the road is the result of tree sap mixing with the water and being agitated by the pumps.



The ditch on May 24.

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



The draining operation on May 26.

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



The draining operation on May 26.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Chewed up land and brush piles.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Bob Sutherland Retires after Three Decades

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

May 28, 2009

The initials RSS usually stand for Robert Service School, but for the last Good News assembly of the year, something new was added. For this year Bob Sutherland is retiring from the profession after spending 30 years prowling the halls of the two different incarnations of the school, and some bright students noted that RSS could also stand for Robert Sutherland School.

Former and current students plotted to surprise Bob at this last assembly. These events are usually organized to celebrate student achievements, but this time it was clear that something else was up when Jim Leary (valedictorian for the class of 1979/80) and Ted Hunter (valedictorian for the class of 2008/09) stepped up to the microphone.

Leary, you see, was a graduate during Sutherland's first year in Dawson, the year after the 1979 flood that turned the page on the town's long decline.

"Bob was a dedicated teacher who spent many years giving to this school," Leary said. "He organized sporting events such as the Dawson Invitational Volleyball Tournament and for many years took students up the Dempster Highway to Engineer Creek on a camping/hiking trip."

For these accomplishments and others, Bob Sutherland was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Awards when they were first issued in 1990.

Leary recalled Sutherland as a teacher who ruled a classroom by his presence rather than by discipline.

"Students always knew when to shape up or pay attention. That never changed from what I've been told."

Ted Hunter spoke of Sutherland as a fair, honest teacher who showed respect to his students.

These introductory remarks were followed by a slide show covering many events and classes over the thirty years of Sutherland's tenure. It was clear that his beard grew longer and bushier as his hair retreated. The soundtrack for the slide show was, of course, provided by Bob's all time favorite band, the Beatles, interspersed with recorded memories and best wishes from former students.

Live accolades continued after the video, in a combination of praise and good natured kidding.

"From here on," said former student Nicolaas Jansen, "while the school will remain physically intact, it will nonetheless find a piece of itself missing. That piece leaves with you today."

“Don’t you think it’s kind of ironic,” said another former student, Brian Naef, “when a teacher becomes his subject. Well look who’s history now.”

At that point the new meaning of RSS was announced and current students Sonny Parker and Daniel Naef walked out with a new school sign, done up in the official style used on the front of the building.

In conclusion, the school’s rock band, Out of the Black, offered a tribute of three numbers, the Beatles’ “Let in Be” and Neil Young’s “Hey, Hey, My. My (into the Black)” and “Rockin’ in the Free World” while Sutherland’s well wishers gathered around him at the back of the gymnasium (no way would Bob ever walk to the front and address the crowd) for a group photograph.



RSS = Robert Sutherland School.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Bob and his fan club of former students.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Berton House Writer fulfilling a 30 Year Ambition

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

May 28, 2009

Robert D. Turner has been fascinated by river boats and railroads for most of his existence and has worked that into his professional life whenever he was able, writing over a hundred articles on those subjects and producing 15 books over the years. He is currently Curator Emeritus at the Royal British Columbia Museum, where he was Chief of Historical Collections for many years.

In addition, since 1988 he has been the Project Historian at the SS Moyie National Historic Site at Kaslo, BC. The Moyie is the world's oldest existing passenger sternwheeler and is a sister ship to one of the boats, the Tyrrell, currently rotting away in Dawson's sternwheeler graveyard, near the end of the Yukon River campground.

Turner has been to see these ships recently, but also a number of times earlier on. His current residency at Berton House with his wife, Nancy (also an academic and non-fiction author), is by no means his first visit to Dawson City.

Turner says that family history stories of how his ancestors arrived in central British Columbia by paddlewheeler whetted his youthful appetite for learning more about these boats.

One of his particular interests has been the history of riverboat travel in the Yukon. He's been nibbling away at this story for nearly 30 years, having first visited Dawson in the 1970s, and has clearly digested enough of the material now that he is ready to write that book.

The audience of 10 at the Dawson Community Library on May 21 got a pretty good outline - complete with a powerpoint slide show - of what that book will look like when it is finished.

Turner spoke briefly of how he and Nancy have pursued their side careers as writers during their lives, working around the realities of job pressures and raising a family.

"I think this is the longest focussed period without a lot of distraction we've really been able to have in a long time. It's surprising how you get into a relaxed routine of things. It's so nice."

Over the years Turner has collected pictures, postcards, letters and memoirs of people who travelled on the Yukon's riverboats.

"The Klondike Goldrush was about more than a few people getting rich and being a bit crazy. It really was a great adventure for a lot of people."

About 15 years ago he picked a copy of Mary Hitchcock's *Two Women in the Klondike*. On her arrival in Dawson she wrote: "The three long wharves are so packed with people that we expect to see them precipitated into the water by the addition of a feather's weight. 'Stores of all kinds line the main street and the river-front, some being less than ten feet wide, as rent for the ground is ten dollars a foot per month...'"

There is, of course, no sign of those wharves, stores or warehouses today. One small dock goes into the river each year for the larger boats, and the rest simply pull up on the banks below the dike.

Laura Berton's *I Married the Klondike* also recorded some of the facts of life in a town whose main route to the rest of the world was still by water.

"With the coming of the first boat we had fresh fruit again, but oranges still retailed at a dollar and a half per dozen. Prices were always high in Dawson, the result mainly of the heavy freight rates and seasonal shortages."

Turner tied the story of the Yukon's boats into the history of sternwheelers around the world, showing how the technology developed and the great variety of boats that plied the Yukon's waterways.

Many of the early boats were much smaller, under 100 feet, prefabricated in the south and carried in to be assembled at Lake Bennett, or freighted north to the end of the Yukon River and put together there. The larger ships like the remaining Keno and Klondike, came later in the story.

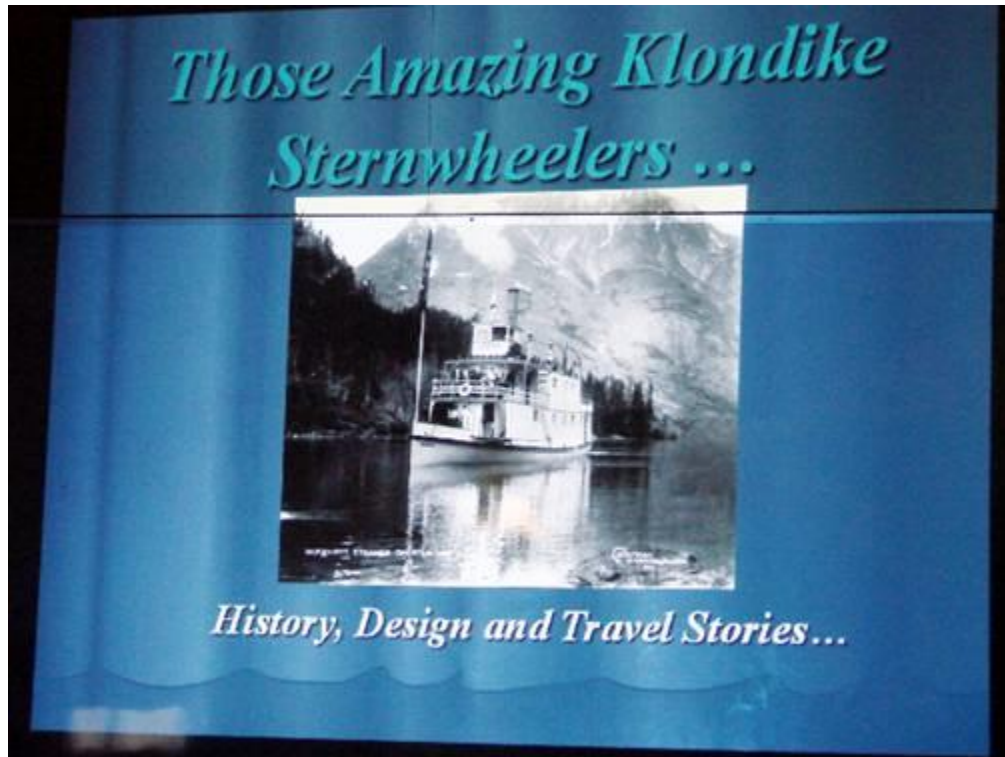
Another thing that happened a lot is that Yukon tradition of recycling. The hulls might wear out, but the boilers, engines and other metal parts would be used in a new vessel.

Among the members of the audience were Simon Mason-Wood, who travelled on the steamer Keno as a newborn baby, and Mark Johnson, who is rebuilding the Yukon Rose. They had their own stories to add to a pleasant evening.

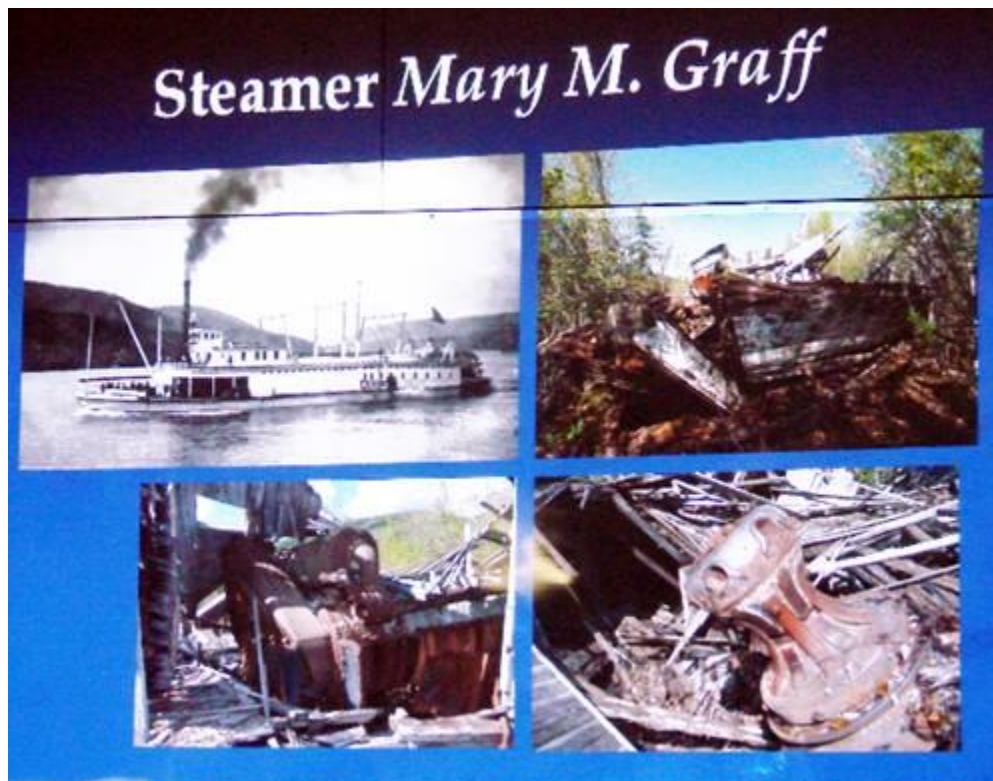


Robert Turner spoke at the Dawson Community Library last week and at the Whitehorse Public Library this week.

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



The title of his slide show may become the title of his book.
 Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Mary M. Graff as it was and as it is.
 Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

ARTISTIC TALENT



Cherish

Created by Madeleine (Millen) Wakefield

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

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.

Madeleine (Millen) Wakefield mwakefield@shaw.ca (In Calgary)

OBIT

Marjorie V. Stevenson, Bergstrand (nee Hoggan)

March 12, 1916 - May 22, 2009

Marjorie was predeceased by her husband Curly (John) Stevenson, her first grandchild Donald Robertson and her second husband John Bergstrand.

She leaves her and Curly's daughters Joann Robertson and Bobbie (Roberta) Cairns, granddaughters Susan, Cheryl, Roiann, Hillary and their partners; great-grandchildren, Daniel, Christina, Roberto, Ashleigh, Sharlae, Kirsty and Jaylene. She was much loved by all.

Born in Sunnydale, across the river from Dawson, Marge grew up on Stewart Island, the youngest of Captain Ned Hoggan and Kate's six Yukon born children. The Stevensons lived in Bear Creek, on the Alaska Highway and in Whitehorse. Marge was a writer; she loved to fish, camp and travel.

Curly is buried in Whitehorse, Ned in Mayo and [Marjorie's mother] Kate's body went into the Yukon when high water swept it away from Stewart.

As Marge wrote in her requiem, her ashes will go into the river...

"And there, perchance join
The Bones of my Mother,
Washed from her resting
By the rushing water
And surging ice cakes
Of a spring river break up."

Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Cartier House who cared for her for the past 5 1/2 years.
email: joannr6*shaw.ca

Marjorie was my aunt. – Submitted by Maribeth Mainer mainerml*shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

COLBOURNE - Ethel Elvira (nee Westgarde) June 25, 1913 - May 2, 2009 Born in Donalda, Alberta. Champion "29-Hand" Crib Player passes away at the age of 95 years in Kelowna, BC. With loving memories Ethel was predeceased by husband Jack, brother Ted and sister Marion. She is survived by her loving brother Eddy (Edna), son John, son Tom (Tamara), much loved grandchildren Krystal, Kelly, Val (Jay), Robert & Alex. Special great granddaughter Halley and many wonderful nieces, nephews & family members. Ethel & Jack were long time residents in Dawson City, Yukon; Houston, BC; and Kelowna, BC. No service by request. Internment will be in Dawson City, Yukon with her beloved husband Jack. On-line condolences may be offered & passed on to family at unplugged10@hotmail.com.

Friday , May 08, 2009, Kelowna Courier

NEW ADDITIONS

Hello Sherron, Two of our friends would like to receive MocTel; addresses are malchow*northwestel.net and lynetteandwayne*northwestel.net
Thank you, Hank Karr

Hello Sherron, I have two more couples for you, Ed and Donna Isaak theisaaks*klondiker.com and Red and Dodie Lewes redanddodie*hotmail.com they will be happy to receive MocTel and you may bill them accordingly.
Thank you Hank Karr

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

5.1.0 - Unknown address error 550-'<dmsalter@telus.net>: Recipient address rejected: User unknown'

SALTER, Donna (GARNEAU) dmsalter@telus.net (In Whitehorse 1956-58) Sidney BC

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

My mother taught me ENVY.

"There are millions of less fortunate children in the world that don't have wonderful parents like you do."

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Apple Bars

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

Oat mixture:

1 ¾ cups Robin Hood oats
1 ½ cups Robin Hood vitamin enriched flour
¾ cup butter
¼ tsp soda
1 cup brown sugar

Filling:

2 ½ cups sliced apples
2 tbsp butter

½ cup sugar
¾ tsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to moderate 375 degrees. Lightly grease a 9" square pan. Prepare oat mixture. Pat half the mixture into the pan. Arrange apples over crumb mixture. Dot with butter and sprinkle with sugar mixed with cinnamon. Cover with remaining crumb mixture. Bake 40-45 minutes. Cut in squares or bars. Yield 16.

Mrs. W.A. Carter
Edmonton, Alberta
From a Whitehorse RCAF Womens' Auxiliary cookbook

DATES TO REMEMBER

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.

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