

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 305th Edition – March 14th, 2010

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Dredge in Pond

Photo courtesy Anna Claxton Anna.Claxton@pc.gc.ca (National Historic Sites Canada)

DID YOU LIVE AT BEAR CREEK YUKON ?

Did you live in Bear Creek, Yukon? Did you work for the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation? Parks Canada will be hosting a Bear Creek/YCGC reunion gathering this fall and we want as many ex-Bear Creekers and YCGC employees as possible to come, get reacquainted, have some fun and share their memories with each other and with us! If you're interested in coming, or know anyone who might be, please contact us! Just call Anna at 867-993-7231, or email anna.claxton@pc.gc.ca

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*Your memories are important ! Please contact Anna by phone or e-mail **if you lived in Bear Creek, Yukon. Or worked for the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation. Or if you have information that may help record history as it was.** – Sherron*



Bear Creek

Photo courtesy Anna Claxton Anna.Claxton@pc.gc.ca (National Historic Sites Canada)



Small Dredge Working

Photo courtesy Anna Claxton Anna.Claxton@pc.gc.ca (National Historic Sites Canada)

Anna wrote earlier ---

Hello Sherron,

I am working with Parks Canada in Dawson City, and we are just beginning the planning for a reunion type gathering of people who worked for the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation dredging company and/or lived & worked in the YCGC company town of Bear Creek near Dawson City.

I wanted to get in contact with you because I understand that your publication The Moccasin Telegraph is widely read by Yukoners and ex-Yukoners and I thought that perhaps it might be a good way to let people know about the upcoming event and invite them to get in contact with us.

I'm not too familiar with your newsletter so I don't know what the most appropriate format would be....maybe you could send me a link where I can look at a couple of issues and we can discuss how best to do this?

Thanks very much,

Anna Claxton
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WHAT A RIDE

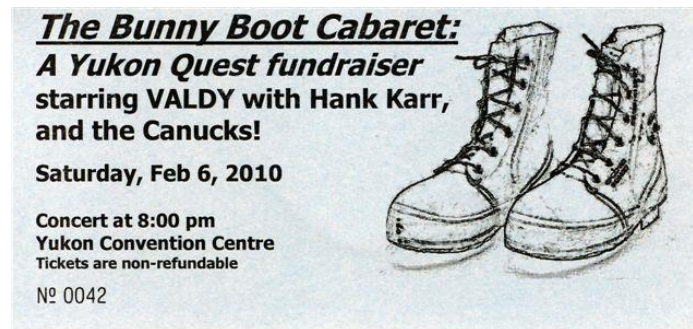
Prepared by Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

February is Yukon Quest month, an exciting time for mushers, dogs, spectators and fans. As a fundraiser for the Yukon Quest Mike Kenny, a fellow Board of Director, suggested inviting Valdemar Horsdal, better known as Valdy from Saltspring Island, British Columbia to entertain Yukoners with his special blend of folk songs.

Now for those that are too young to remember who Valdy is, here is a bit of a history lesson:

Back in the 1970's Faro, Yukon, held their own festival called Farrago Fest. Valdy was a mainstay, arriving to capture the hearts of those from 10 to 100 years of age. Driving to Faro was fun as we anticipated what was at the end of the road. A weekend of camaraderie, sitting around listening to the music with the many musicians attending. I found sitting in on the workshops the best. Valdy (and the other musicians) would sit on whatever they could find while we sat around them in a circle enjoying the strumming and lyrics. Valdy seemed to not mind fielding the questions bombarded at him. What fun, rubbing elbows with a VIP.

As a teen and young adult I completely fell head over heels for Valdy's music. It certainly was the topic weeks before the fest and definitely the weeks following. My children grew up listening to Valdy's tunes. THEN, decades later he has accepted the invitation to play in Whitehorse and I'm on the planning committee along with Mike! A quick e-mail to Valdy offering him the use of our guest house during his stay and his quick acceptance. We were in business! Contract signed and the flight itinerary shows up in my inbox. The planning for the event begins in earnest.



Yukon Quest Fundraiser Concert Ticket

The following is courtesy of the Whitehorse Star:

**Yukon Quest to present special cabaret
If you can't make it to the start line in Fairbanks next month for the 2010 Yukon Quest, there's another way to celebrate.**

By [Whitehorse Star](#) on January 15, 2010 at 4:23 pm

If you can't make it to the start line in Fairbanks next month for the 2010 Yukon Quest, there's another way to celebrate.

Kick off the event with a concert of folk and country classics at the Bunny Boots Cabaret on Feb. 6 in Whitehorse.

Concert crowd pleasers Valdy, Hank Karr and the Canucks are set to take over the Yukon Convention Centre stage for a night of stellar entertainment.

Based on Salt Spring Island, B.C., Valdy is a Juno Award-winning folk singer with an impressive career under his belt.

As one of Canada's most influential song writers, he's shared his style across the globe. "Few performers are capable of achieving the kind of energy he generates on stage," the Globe and Mail once said.

Karr is a Yukon favourite and country staple in the territorial music scene.

Often dubbed "the Yukon's best loved balladeer," Karr has explored the terrain, lifestyle and enchantment of the territory in a host of songs.

Some fans call the Canucks the "grandfathers" or "godfathers" of live music in Yukon.

The trio of hardworking musicians has been at it for more than 50 years, offering the audience a taste of 1950s and more.

There will be a cash bar, plenty of room for dancing and rush seating, so people are urged to arrive early.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 and the show will start at 8 p.m. at the Yukon Convention Centre.

Tickets are on sale at the Yukon Arts Centre box office at 667-8574, on-line at <http://www.yukontickets.com>, or at the Yukon Quest office by calling 668-4711.

We needed another band to fill in for the second set. Again, a no brainer; Hank Karr and the ever-popular Canucks – Ed Isaac, Red Lewis, Tom Barnaby, and Merv Bales.

Mike handled the contracts, booking the Yukon Convention Centre and ensured that the \$40 tickets were printed. My job was to keep Valdy busy during his visit. I debated whether this was easier than what Mike had to handle.

On February 5 Bryan and I, along with Mike met Valdy at the Erik Nielsen Airport. My initial reaction to Valdy while shaking his hand was, “My goodness, he’s tall.” I hadn’t remembered that from the ‘70s. The kindness in his eyes stood out as well.

Valdy collected his suitcase and waited for his special cargo to be delivered from the bowels of the aircraft – his colourful foam-enclosed guitar case. He was expected to be at CKRW upon arrival for an interview so we had no time to waste.



Photo of Valdy with guitar case

While Bryan waited in the vehicle Valdy and I announced our arrival to a great crew at the radio station. Jenna Paton conducted only her second interview and did a wonderful job. Before leaving the studio Jenna asked Valdy to autograph one of his first albums. I couldn’t believe that the 19 year old on the cover was the big man himself. Waiting in the foyer was Keith Ellert, waiting to ask Valdy to do some takes for commercials. It

was impressive watching someone such as Valdy so at ease in front of a mike. Once Valdy wrote down the names of the morning and afternoon DJ's he immediately started with, 'Take One', "You're listening to CKRW, The Rush

Following the CKRW interview there was another one scheduled at CBC for 4:30 along with Hank Karr. There was a bit of time to spare and since none of us had eaten for several hours we headed for the Gold Pan Saloon in the Gold Rush Inn on Main Street for a bowl of soup. The Gold Pan is the 'meeting' place for many of the local residents and sure enough that is where we found Jim Robb, local icon artist. Jim joined us at a table and while he and Valdy got acquainted I was on the cell phone arranging for Valdy's return flight to Vancouver for Sunday instead of Monday. Valdy had to return a day early due to prior commitments.

Lunch out of the way; we were on our way to CBC to meet Hank Karr.



Hank & Valdy meet for the first time
Interview at the CBC studio

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



Hank & Valdy during interview

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



I sat in on the interview – fun!

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



Bryan in the background

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

While waiting for Dave Wright to conduct the interview Valdy tuned his guitar. I wondered if he was going to play it. Soon Bryan, myself, Hank and Valdy were sitting in the studio. I had never experienced sitting in a studio and listening to an interview first hand and found it quite the experience. Valdy did indeed sing a few bars of “Cinnamon Bun Strip.

*Cinnamon Bun strip up among the pines
It's a haven for the ravens that fly for the mine
Cinnamon Bun strip up among the pines
It's a haven for the ravens that fly for the mine*

With the interviews completed we were invited for cocktails at the home of Mike and his wife, Darryll before heading for dinner at Earls. It had been a long day for Valdy and he was ready for a rest.



Mike & Darryl Kenny

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

Saturday afternoon we took Valdy to Copper Moon Gallery. A trip to Whitehorse isn't complete without visiting the wonderful display of local art and carvings. Valdy thoroughly enjoyed the displays and even made a purchase to take home along with a Jim Robb print, autographed by the artist himself, a gift from Bryan and me.



Valdy & Nerissa Rosati - Coppermoon Gallery

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

With little time to visit we did manage to squeeze in some time for Valdy to meet some local residents.



Old friends of Valdy's - The Hamiltons

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



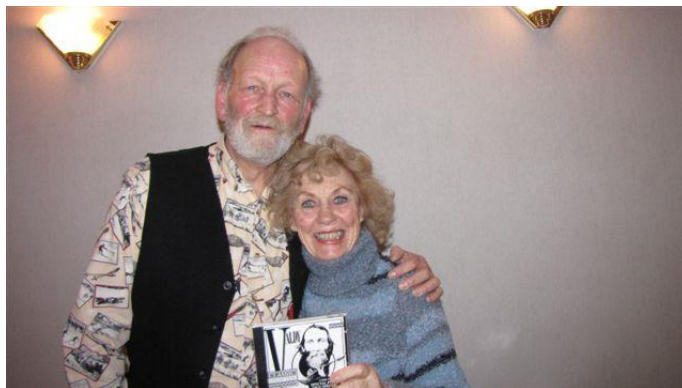
Ken & Donna Jones

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



Darcy Holmes & Valdy

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



Valdy & Rusty Reid

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

A sound check was scheduled for 3:00 at the venue. Hank and the Canucks were already into their check when we arrived. Omni Productions were in charge of the sound and, according to Valdy, they knew what they were doing.

With the sound check complete we had several hours before the 8:00 concert. Time for a nap.

Finally, it was time to head for the concert. It was a bit disappointing the venue wasn't packed but the couple hundred fans that were there to hear a legend and enjoy the sounds of Hank and the Canucks sure enjoyed the evening. The dance floor was always full and Valdy put on a show along with the rest of the musicians. The concert shut down just after midnight and would have gone on longer but one of the band members was not well. The music event was the talk of the town for days afterward. I'm sure Valdy gained new fans from his fantastic performance.



Valdy in fine form

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



The Canucks & Hank

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



Aurora, daughter, Larry Bagnell, Liberal Member of Parliament Dancing to Valdy

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

Wouldn't you know it, a string broke. Now this is a testament as to how a professional changes a guitar string, happens to have a spare one in his back pocket – with no glasses – continuing to sing – tunes the instrument and carries on as if it's nothing!



Replacing a broken guitar string

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

After a short night the three of us had to arise early as it was dog mushing time. I had arranged with Frank Turner from Muktuk Kennels to meet Valdy. We were invited for breakfast – pancakes, sausage and bacon. I truly don't think I've tasted better pancakes that Frank himself cooked. Of course we talked dogs.

It wasn't very cold but both Bryan and Valdy donned the parkas and bib pants provided by Muktuk. I would highly recommend anyone wishing to go on a dog sled ride to contact Frank.

The sun shone brightly and the dogs were excited to run. I climbed on the back of the skidoo (backward to take photos) while Frank drove. As we followed part of the Yukon Quest trail on the Takhini River the two teams followed. With the warmth the trail was a bit soft, a concern for the Quest mushers that would be on the trail the following week if it didn't cool off.



Getting ready for dog mushing

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



Frank Turner & Valdy

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



Praying I hang on?

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

Photos from the skidoo.



Valdy & Bryan

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



Looks like a pro

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

On the way back to the kennel I climbed into the basket on Bryan's sled. My photos took on a different perspective – slower than what the skidoo travelled and smoother.

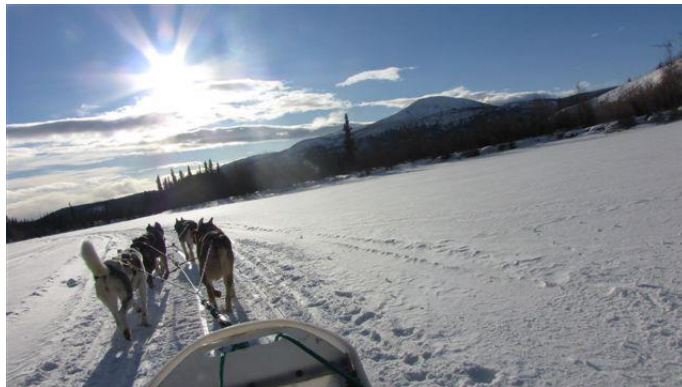


Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



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

I watched Valdy as he manoeuvred the sled and rested the dogs and truly believed he had either done this before or ran dogs in a past life. He says it was his first time – hard to

believe – he handled that sled and ran those dogs like a pro. When we got back to the kennel I asked Valdy if he wanted to do this again. His response was immediate – he couldn't wait to go out again.



Valdy on the trail

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



In full run mode

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

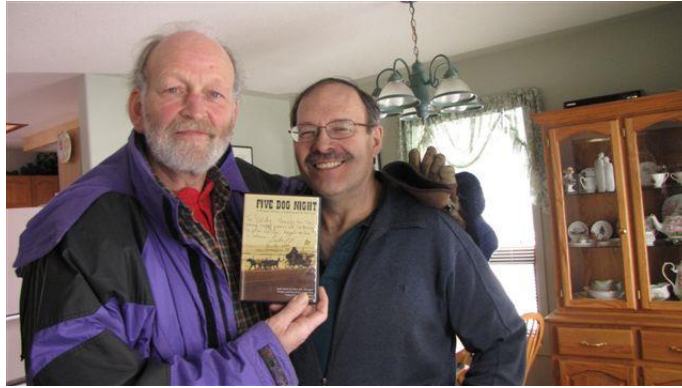


With Joe and 139 others in the kennel

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

It had been an exciting day, heck it had been an exciting weekend. We had to have Valdy at the airport for 2:00 on Sunday. We dropped him off at the door and bid our farewells. I'd heard later that Mike Kenny and Rusty Reid were there to see Valdy off.

Until next time Valdy, thanks for the wonderful weekend and even more so, thank you for the lyrics you wrote in our guest book. You are truly a gentleman with the kindest eyes I've ever seen.



Valdy & Bryan

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



Valdy & Donna

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

Check out the following URL's

www.valdy.com

www.muktuk.com

TOM BROKAW EXPLAINS CANADA TO THE AMERICANS

Tom Brokaw explains Canada and to the Americans, in a pre-recorded short film that aired on NBC prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver. February 17, 2010.

Well worth watching ! – Sherron

American former News anchorman explains Canada to the Americans:
at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrA4V6YF6SA>

FOR THE RECORD – PEOPLE FROM GERMANY ARE GERMANS

Greetings,

Thanks for the Moccasin Telegraph 303. I always read the stories with interest, even though I lived only 4 years in the Yukon. My son is a real Yukoner, born in Whitehorse. This time I have a complaint, even though it is not your fault because you have not written the story. It is about the "Fulda Follies in Dawson" story. In this story it refers a few times to the "Europeans". They were Germans. If they would be Spanish, French or English the story would have mention it as such. But they were Germans therefore their nationality supposed to be Europeans. Fulda is a city at about the centre of Germany where the Fulda tire factory is. The license plate on one of the SUV's has the letters WOB on it. This is a license plate from the city of Wolfsburg. This city is where the headquarters of the second or third largest car manufactory in the world is located, the Volkswagen. I lived there for many years. The city is about 60 km east of Hannover in the centre of Germany.

I live now 41 years in Canada but I find it time and again that everyone else in Europe has a nationality except the Germans. They are referred as "Europeans". Canadians as well would be offended if in Germany they always would refer to them as "Amerikaner". I myself would be offended too as I am a Canadian since 1982 and not a German citizen anymore. It would be nice if the Germans could get a real citizenship again. "Europeans" is not a citizenship.

Name withheld

NOT ALL DEEMED TO BE FROM GERMANY

Pass on that I am well aware of what Fulda is and where it is but, in absolute fact, the people in the competition were NOT all Germans. While the organizers were not so kind as to provide decent information about the event, either by fax, email or by mail, the contestants were from many European nations, including Germany, and also included a pair of Yukoners. I looked on the company website where, in the past they have listed the teams and, while I don't read German, I could at least glean a sense of how many national teams there were. This year there was no decent information.

In the past I have often had lists of national contestants and could have said there were Italians, Swiss, French, etc. This year's pre-event information was the sloppiest I have had to deal with in a decade and I simply do not know where they all came from - but I do know they weren't all from Germany. As a marketing tool, the company wants to get as much of Europe involved as possible, so they reach beyond their own borders. Thus the contestants all became Europeans in the story, except for the two that I knew to be from the Yukon and that I had names for.

Mere absence of a particular detail does not make it safe to assume the existence of another absent detail. There are simply times when we don't know and can't find out. It's also not safe, or nice, to assume a prejudice where none exists.

The license plates are an interesting detail. All their vehicles were obtained in Canada from the sponsoring car companies to the best of my knowledge. This is what they have done in the past. I wonder if they use the German plates because the bulk of their media coverage (they bring an enormous press and video crew with them) is aimed at their European market. This is perhaps why they pay so little attention to the local press. I gave this event more coverage than any other reporter in the Yukon, I believe, though some of the photos from Whitehorse were more exciting.

We used to host an exciting ice wall climb here, but had to stop it because it was damaging the cliffs. Fulda was miffed and cut back on their events here for a time, but have returned because this is just such a hot button spot with their contestants and their target audience.

Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Hi Sherron,

Thanks for forwarding the reply. I am amazed how fast you are.

Unfortunately the information he got from Fulda was not very clear. However it should have said that there were people from different European nations just as we would say that there are people from different Asian countries in a similar situation or people from different American states, meaning everyone from Mexico to Canada.

Fulda is a medieval city in the centre-west of Germany. In this city is a large tire factory called " Fulda Reifen" (Fulda Tires).

As far as the license plates are concerned, Dan could not know this, these cars are probably being brought over from Wolfsburg by ship or plane. Usually these are newly designed vehicles the Volkswagen factory, headquartered in Wolfsburg, wants to try them out in the cold northern climate. They do this in Norway or Sweden in Texas or somewhere in California or the deserts in Africa. This is normally not being published because it is a kind of factory secret until they are presented at an Automobile exhibition In Detroit or Frankfurt or Paris or Tokyo.

At the time I was in Whitehorse I saw a few of these and left a message with my mothers address on the windshield of one of them. She lived in Wolfsburg. Sure enough, about a month later she got a visit from one of the drivers. In Germany the license plates are issued by the city or county. Wolfsburg has WOB, Hannover has H etc. In this way one knows where the car comes from. Good idea. The draw back however is that if you move away you have to go to the other city hall to get new license plates, for a fee.

Dan is right; the PR is aimed at audiences in Germany and countries around.

For people in Europe the Yukon is a very exotic place. There is no such an area anywhere in Europe except possibly somewhere in northern Russia on a smaller scale in northern Finland, Norway or Sweden.

Name withheld.

The Spell of the Yukon

Sherron have you heard this clip done by Les Mclaughlin and Tracey Brown.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbPThA1ggMA>

Alistair McGregor mmac1952@telus.net (In Vernon)

How “Clouds” came about...

When I was a little girl growing up in the Yukon, I used to enjoy long car rides. Sometimes, though, I became bored and restless - travelling over a road that seemed all too familiar over the years.

Conversation would run out, and my parents immersed in their own thoughts. I recall what my Mother used to tell me at times like that.

"Look up at the sky," she'd say, "and watch the clouds play."
Much later I wrote this poem, and it was eventually published in an anthology.

CLOUDS

Summer skies in the Yukon can be a feast for the eyes. When the cumulous clouds mushroom up from the horizon, they look like great round pillows of sunshine, piling up - one on top of the other, dominating the skyline. Usually a wind will materialize, breaking up the formations and whipping them across the sky. Shaped and molded by the wind's fancy, the clouds now turn into enticing shapes and forms, becoming a moving picture extravaganza, to watch, spellbound.

Every bend in the road presents a new vista; a skyscape for your viewing pleasure. Cloud watching can be a thrilling game when you are a child, firing your adventurous spirit and lifting you to great heights... You can let your imagination run wild.

Monsters of all shapes and sizes plunge through the sky. Horses with flowing manes rear up in the air; there are dragons with tendrils of white flame, flicking from open mouths. Continuously changed by the wind, these massive creatures create a metamorphose of form before your very eyes. A parade of whales, flying fish, seals and dolphins suddenly become ducks, teddy bears, kittens, or frolicking puppies.

Sometimes, though, in the evening, when the fury of the wind dies down...tranquility reigns in the heavens.

This is when I loved to lay back and contemplate the soft languid puffy clouds. Little feathery wisps hanging lightly in the air. Fluffy white swans, lambs and mermaids, slowly drifting by - merging lazily together, to form ever-new shapes ... finally just dissolving into the atmosphere.

And the sunsets! Breathtaking hues of fuschia and silvery gray hanging just above the horizon, as daytime gives way to twilight.

Suddenly all this peace is shattered by the swift straight shaft of a jet stream ... streaking through the sky, leaving a white trail which pierces the blue like the blade of a knife. But even as I watch, nature takes over, and begins softening the edges of this intrusion, gently blending it into the universe, and restoring order once again.

©Joyce Yardley

Joyce Yardley Joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo BC)

It's Hurry Up and Wait at the Dawson Checkpoint

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

February 11, 2010

There's an atmosphere of lazy expectancy in the Visitors' Information Centre just after 2 p.m. on Thursday. Normand Casavant is expected to arrive sometime within the hour, but no one seems to have a clear idea when that might be.

The Grade 5 class arrives from the Robert Service School, hoping that something will happen before they have to go back to class. Leaning out over the railing at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, they have a good view of the river on this crisp, clear afternoon as the temperature creeps towards the predicted high of -14, but there's nothing to see. The trail is empty.

Inside the VIC, which is the Dawson Checkpoint for the Yukon Quest, there's a buzz of English, French and German around the long tables as people chat and check their laptops.

There's a Japanese film crew as well, but they're not in evidence at the moment. One flat screen monitor has a display of the race route with the mushers marked out by

their GPS signals. Click on a particular musher's name in the menu and little doggy icons will show you all the places along the route where his or her GPS device pinged.

Other settings show you where the teams are relative to each other.

In the back room the Percy DeWolfe Race Committee is having its most successful fund raiser of the year, selling hot and cold snacks, coffee, soft drinks, shortbread cookies cut to a dog racing theme and other stuff.

There's a rustle from the main room and people begin to suit up for a move to the door. There's been no announcement, but someone who is supposed to know what it going on has started a rush to the river bank.

Sure enough, just past Moosehide and coming this way along the east bank of the river we can see the long black worm that signals the approach of a team. As they close the distance the image resolves into a sled and dogs. Red parka clad Europeans rush the trail over the dyke and one hopes they won't get in the way.

Locals driving by see the evident excitement and stop to watch the team top the rise and cruise in leisurely style down the embankment, past the Cultural Centre to the finish line beside the NWT Tourist Information Centre. Happily the Grade 5s are still on site and get to see Normand Casavant, for that is who it is, arrive, accept the cheers of the crowd, feed his dogs, and head them off to the campground across the river where they will stay with his handlers for the next 36 hours. At 2:42, Casavant is the 11th musher to arrive.

The checkpoint settles back into waiting mode and the students head back to the school.



Mushing treats at the concession.

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



Grade 5 waits to see some action.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Casavant team comes over the dike.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Normand Casavant's scarf is totally iced up after the afternoon's ride.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The new arrivals are mobbed at the checkpoint.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Posing for pictures and chatting with fans and crew.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The team appears happy and jumps to attention when it's time to move to the dog yard across the river. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

What Goes Down Must Come Up Again

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

February 18, 2010

Cross country skiing can be a tricky business, especially if you have fallen down. Here, primary students at the Robert Service School are being taught what to do when you've lost your balance.



Skiing.

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

Fun on the Front Street Sliding Hill

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

February 18, 2010

It was only there for a couple of days while the town crews cleaned the hard packed snow off Front Street, but the hill that was created beside the Old CIBC building attracted interest right away. On its first day there was suddenly a fort at the top of the mound.

On the second, there were kids sliding, with anxious supervisors making sure they slid onto the Dike Common rather than onto Front Street.

On the third day it was all chewed away and hauled off over the ice bridge to wherever they dump snow in West Dawson.



The Fort.

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



Slide and Fort.

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



Now it's gone.

A day later the whole hill was gone.

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

The Gate of Evolution Welcomes Our Choices

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

February 18, 2010

Holly Houstein believes that civilization as we know it is at a crossroads, a decision point where we must, in the words of his manifesto, adapt in order to survive.

He believes that if we, as a species, continue as we are we will "live with the possibility that our arrogance can harm our offspring."

There, are, he says, two choices facing humanity, one is to do nothing but continue as we are, "a very boring repetition with a predictable outcome."

The other is to reinvent ourselves - adapt - "fine tune us with the necessary natural cycles we depend on and buy us the time to reach our goal, the survival of mankind."

To symbolize all of this and more, Holly who has previously decorated the town with driftwood benches and the frozen river with a large inukshuk, has spent several weeks creating his Gate of Evolution out on the ice. He didn't quite manage to finish it in time

for the Yukon Quest, though he had lots of visitors come to watch him struggling with his icy arch while that was on, but the project is now complete.

The Gate stands clear and crystalline against the off-white of the snow, surrounded by a scattering of tiny inukshuks.

Holly says he decided the gate would be built out of ice, "a fast disappearing item these days, marking that the gate will fade by natural cause."

Over the next few weeks there will be a number of events, including a wedding, a dance, and a theatre event, which will use the Gate as a focal point, providing this winter's strange warm weather doesn't melt it first.



Gate Building - Holly Haustein hard at work on his art sculpture.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Gate of Evolution - The completed project now sits on the Yukon River.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

MR & MRS YUKON

Courtesy of Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous website

<http://www.yukonrendezvous.com/mr%2526mrsyukon>

The Yukon Order of Pioneers selection for Mr. & Mrs. Yukon for 2010, and approved by the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Board of Directors, are Jack and Myrna Kingscote of Whitehorse Yukon.



Jack was born on September 27, 1935 in Victoria B.C. and attended school, both in Victoria and Vancouver, as the family moved to Vancouver at the end of WWII in 1945. He graduated from Kitsilano High School in 1954 and started his working career by apprenticing as a diesel mechanic for International Harvester but later decided to return to University to become an Industrial Education Teacher. He graduated from U.B.C. in 1966 and started his teaching career at Eric Hamber High School in Vancouver.

Jack met Myrna Marks in 1958 and married her in 1963. They were blessed with three children, Andrew - born in June 1965, Sean – born November 1966, and Cameron – born in June 1969. They now have four grandchildren: two girls and two boys.



After 11 years, Jack got one of his brightest ideas, and decided to move the family to a little community in the Yukon called Mayo. He was later to have said that, “he had left a High School of 2,000 students and went to a town of 300 people”. Upon his arrival in Whitehorse via CP Air, he was immediately arrested and thrown into a cage by the Keystone Kops, as their first exposure to the Yukon was at the height of the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous in February 1977. Jack taught in Mayo, at J.V. Clark School, until the family move to Whitehorse in 1981. Jack continued teaching at F.H. Collins in the Industrial Education Dept. until his retirement in June 1996. His main contribution while teaching at F.H. Collins High School was that he was responsible for the introduction of Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) into the Yukon Education system long before it was introduced into most Canadian High Schools. Again he has said, “when I started teaching drafting at F.H. I had 30 drafting tables and no computers, but when I left F.H. the Industrial Education Dept. had 30 computers and no drafting tables”. After retirement, Jack began working for Holland America as a tour guide in the summer months and became an ardent volunteer for the rest of the year.

Myrna was born in Vancouver B.C. in 1941 and attended Prince of Wales



School, where she graduated in 1959. She became one of the youngest High School Secretaries in the Vancouver School district, when she started at Vancouver Technical High School and worked there until she and the family moved “North” in 1977. While in Mayo, Myrna worked as the secretary for the R.C.M.P. Detachment until her departure for Whitehorse in 1981. During her “spare time”, the time not working at the RCMP and raising 3 young boys, she spent many hours volunteering for the Mayo Community Club where she became one of the “main stays” by working her way up from Volunteer to

President of the Club. During her reign as president she was responsible for creating a twice weekly “Movie Night”, of up-to-date, current releases, for the town, as well as, she was responsible for the creation of the Mayo swimming pool (a permanent, in ground pool, built by an all volunteer work crew for under \$35,000, much to the amazement of the YTG MLA’s). She also ramroded the Mayo winter carnival to the point that the folks from Mayo said that Mayo’s winter carnival rivaled that of Whitehorse’s Rendezvous.



After moving to Whitehorse in 1981, Jack and Myrna had a chance meeting with a couple of that years airshow pilots and invited them to dinner. 12 of the airshow performers showed up along with some of Canada’s Snowbird Team. This was the start of the infamous “Let your hair down wind up soiree” held for all Rendezvous Airshow performers and held at the Kingscote’s home each year until 2006, when the venue was moved to the Royal Canadian Legion because the numbers had grown to over 300 military personnel each year and the Kingscote’s were afraid of a structural failure of their home.

After that first encounter with the Air Show, Myrna made the fatal mistake of complaining to the Rendezvous Board of Directors that there was not enough “done” for the military personnel attending Rendezvous. The Board’s classic response was, “don’t complain – get involved” which she did. She joined the Board in 1982 and recruited Jack to coordinate the Airshow which he did from 1982 until 2007, growing the display from 8 aircraft to a high of 32 aircraft in 2000.

Myrna, as she had done in Mayo, coordinated almost every event of Rendezvous, at one time or another. She has held every position of Rendezvous from that of Board Member, to that of President. Her favorite events were coordinating the Queen contest (10 years) and as acting as the Can-Can Dancer’s Manager (6 years).

For the last 26 years Myrna has also operated a 1898 costume rental business: making and renting both men’s and women’s costumes for Rendezvous, the Commissioners Ball, and fancy period dress, for numerous conventions and weddings.

* In 1990, Myrna was nominated as Volunteer of the year for the city of Whitehorse.

* In 1992, Both Myrna and Jack received the “Commissioners Award” from then Commissioner Ken McKinnon.

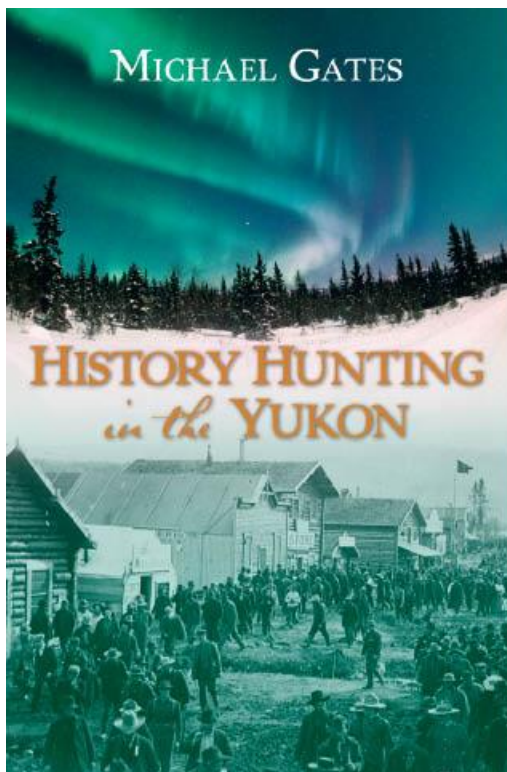
* In 1994, Myrna received the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous “Honorary Lifetime Membership Award”.

* In 1995, Jack and Myrna were invited to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and were inducted into the 50 member Honorary Canadian Forces Snowbirds Society.

* Also in 1995, Jack and Myrna were honored by receiving a “Commanders Commendation” from Canadian Forces Air Command, for their work with the Airshow.

* In 1997, Jack received the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous “Honorary Lifetime Membership Award”.

The Yukon Order of Pioneers is proud to sponsor Jack and Myrna Kingscote as Mr. and Mrs. Yukon for 2010. They will be present throughout Rendezvous and will be attending most of the Rendezvous events. They also will represent the Yukon Order of Pioneers at the Yukoner’s Ball in Vancouver this March and also be attending the Commissioner’s Ball in Dawson this coming June.



Mac’s Fireweed Books &
Harbour Publishing

invite you to the launch of

HISTORY HUNTING *in the* **YUKON**

by MICHAEL GATES

Join Michael Gates to celebrate the launch of his new book.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

7:00 PM

The event will take place at

The Old Fire Hall

(First Avenue at Main Street, beside the White Pass Station).

www.harbourpublishing.com

BOOK RELEASE – HISTORY HUNTING IN YUKON

After receiving the image above I asked Michael if he had a message for us. – Sherron

I first came to the Yukon 40 years ago (quite unintentionally) as a young student, and fell in love with the history. Over the years since then, I have wandered the territory by car, by boat, by plane and helicopter, horse, and on foot, carrying a backpack.

I also worked as Curator of Collections for Klondike National Historic Sites in Dawson city for a quarter of a century, during which time I also had numerous exciting encounters with history.

Hello Sherron;

You asked me for a little more information about my new book. Here it is.

For me, history hunting isn't about reading dry academic papers on obscure abstractions, though it is certainly about getting the story straight. It's about searching out the people, places and events that have made the Yukon such an interesting place to live. If I continue the hunt for the rest of my life, I will only touch on a small portion of that history. There are too many interesting lives lived in the Yukon!

The search for history has been a good excuse for me to get out into the backwoods. I have strapped on a backpack and hiked off in search of a photo, or finding an old place that has been abandoned for a hundred years. I have travelled by packhorse in search of an ancient village. I have traveled by canoe, motorboat and raft on various lakes and rivers to get to interesting places. I have seen them from the air too. Yet I have only covered a small percentage of the land mass of the Yukon.

History hunting hasn't been strictly about history, though. My quest for history has also been a good excuse to go fishing. Wherever I go in search of the past, there is usually a good stream or lake nearby filled with grayling or lake trout. While undertaking a project at Lake Bennett the end point of the Chilkoot Trail, I sat on the shore of the lake on a cool summer morning as the sun has touched the tips of the mountains, and I listened to a wolf call echo across the lake.

There are plenty of interesting people to meet or learn about - hunters and trappers, miners and travelers. All these encounters have combined to make history hunting not just the facts of the past, but the faces and the places too.

My new book is a selection my writing for the Yukon News, though new and improved. In it, I describe archaeological digs I have visited, interesting projects I undertook as a curator for Parks Canada. I included new stories like the less well-known second expedition that Schwatka took into the Yukon (I'll bet you didn't know he came back for a second visit), or Robert Service's love affair with Constance McLean (He didn't even mention her in his autobiography).

You can read about the longest cattle drives the west has ever seen, or the bizarre relief expedition that the United States government sent out to save the starving miners of Dawson. There is also an account of perhaps the earliest example of forensic science

being applied to a murder case.

There are stories about heroes (Joe Boyle), cads (Swiftwater Bill) fools (James McCook), and imposters (JFA Strong). I have described the most magnificent home in the Yukon (the Commissioner's Residence in Dawson), and the most humble (a little cabin on Gold Run Creek). Occasionally, I challenge the reader to look at well-known history from a different angle or in a new way.

I hope a few Moc Tel readers will take the time to buy a copy and enjoy the stories. The book launch will be at the old Firehall on First Avenue in Whitehorse on March 30th at 7:00 PM. Award-winning Lana Rae will also be there to entertain my guests. You are all invited to join me. There will be plenty of my books available, and I'll stay until they have all been signed.

For those who can't attend the launch, History Hunting in the Yukon will be available in most retail outlets this summer, or you can order them from Amazon.com, or directly from Harbour Publishing at <http://www.harbourpublishing.com/ordering.html>.

Cheers,

Michael Gates msgates@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Marilyn & Tom Law from Whitehorse spent about 7 weeks in Yuma this winter. This photo taken the day before the end of their stay in Country Roads Resort where we found them a unit to rent. Marilyn and I had worked together for the City of Whitehorse in the early 1970's. At that time we snowmobiled together in the winter and motor biked to the top of mountains in the summer. They happened to stop by when Jim and June Austin (in photo below) were visiting and Jim recalled selling Marilyn a dining room suite many

years ago. Marilyn recalled being anxious she would miss out on the purchase while she checked with Tom who was out of town working. That led to me recalling we sold them a washer and dryer in the early 70's before they started their family. Yukoners sure have a lot of connections. – Sherron

Photo courtesy Bill Jones ve7yi*shaw.ca (In Yuma AZ)



Jim (center) & June Austin (right) visited us in Yuma recently and brought along their friend Heather who they had met while traveling in Alaska and whose home is in Arizona. She was visiting Jim & June who winter at Senator Wash in SE California, not far from Bard, California. Bard is the home of Imperial Date Gardens. They grow Medjool dates and sell delicious date milkshakes as well as dates and other treats. Jim & June lived in Whitehorse and worked for CP Air, later Canadian Airlines. June was a stewardess when they met and later went on to work at Ordish & Williams in Whitehorse. Bard California is just across the Colorado River from Yuma Arizona and a little north.

Photo courtesy Bill Jones ve7yi*shaw.ca (In Yuma AZ)

LONG GONE TO THE YUKON

Karmac Music is pleased to announce the release of a new DVD by the Yukon's famed singer Hank Karr. This captivating 55 minute collection called ***Long Gone to the Yukon*** features fourteen songs including upbeat numbers like the title tune, pleasing ballads such as **Beauty of the North** and timeless country classics like **Whispering Pines**.

In the title tune **Long Gone to the Yukon**, Hank takes viewers on a rollicking journey around Dawson City and the Klondike creeks. The DVD also includes two never before

heard songs sung by Hank. **918 Miles** tells the story of the world famous Alaska Highway while **White Pass Yukon Rail** presents the visual history of the great railway.

Phantom of the Arctic is the fantastic story of the Hudson Bay ship, the SS Baychimo which sailed the Beaufort Sea without a captain or crew for many years. The celebrated song **North to Alaska** is sung by Hank to a background of motion pictures of the Klondike Gold Rush actually filmed in 1897.

The song **Northland** takes viewers on a visual voyage of discovery through the great northwest. Hank has a lot of fun looking for the elusive golden motherlode while singing his own composition called **Gold Fever**.

The band **Hank Karr and Company** is featured in three songs performed live at the Pioneer Village in Whitehorse. They are **Partners**, **The Blizzard** and **Sam McGee**.

The DVD concludes with a remarkable spoken word duet between famed Yukon poet, Robert Service and Hank Karr as together they perform **The Spell of the Yukon** accompanied by beautiful video scenes of this great big broad land way up yonder.

Karmac Music sincerely hopes you will enjoy this treasure of the Northland

For more information contact

Hank Karr,

Karmac Music,
33 Pelly Road,
Whitehorse, Yukon,
Y1A 4L9
Phone: 867-667-7389
email: hkarr*northwestel.net

One cut, 918 Miles, can be viewed on Youtube at
<http://www.youtube.com/user/tagish1?feature=mhw4#p/u/0/sH3UhwLTwAs>

Best regards
Les McLaughlin leslorn*rogers.com (In Ottawa)

The DVD sells for \$25. which includes S/H and G.S.T. I will autograph the copies that are mailed out.

Hank Karr hkarr@northwestel.net

HOCKEY – CANADA WINS GOLD

For those Hockey enthusiasts who may have missed some of the highlights of Team Canada playing for the Gold. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8PfX4VS_Lo

EARLY HOCKEY IN WHITEHORSE

Hi Sherron , thought it might be “timely” (with the Winter Olympics going on) to re-publish this Whitehorse hockey team’s picture again in MocTel. You can probably find the original with their names faster than I can ... so I’m sending this one on to you. Hoping you can find their names so I can take a copy of the picture to the annual Yukoner’s banquet at the River Rock hotel. (17th of April.)

Joyce Yardley Joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo BC)



Photo courtesy Joyce Yardley Joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo BC)

I am just guessing, but I thinkfrom left to right ... ?...Owen Williams... Lloyd Ryder... one of the Cyr boys, probably “Tuffie”... Jimmie Paterson. I’m going to try and get hold of Jimmie, who apparently lives in Victoria with his wife as I found out to my surprise some time ago, and try to arrange a get-together.

Love, Joyce

Got a reply from Marjorie Paterson and she says:

“Joyce you're right we haven't kept up corresponding since our initial emails that began after we read your books with great interest. You must have sent us that photo before

because we have it in our album--at that time you listed the boys from left to right as:- Arthur Yeulett (or Colin), John MacBride, (Ian) Zimmerlee, (?)Cederberg, and Jimmie Paterson. Jim recognizes John because they were best friends but can't help you with the others.”

Maybe someone at the banquet will have the answers.

Joyce Yardley

From Weldon Pinchin

These are unbelievable pictures of the opening!

Opening Ceremonies for Vancouver 2010 - The Big Picture -Boston.com

http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/02/opening_ceremonies_for_vancouv.html

SEE YOU AT THE - Vancouver Yukoners' Annual Banquet April 17

Bill & I are planning to attending the banquet this year and have paid for our tickets. Hope to see many of you there. – Sherron Jones

OBIT

Very sad news. Just learned that **Pete Jensen** passed away early this morning [Feb 23, 2010] in hospital at Las Vegas. Cause of death not certain yet - checked in at hosp. the other day with back pain. Too early to know what plan is. One of the boys is going to join Sharron at Vegas today.

Bill Pringle

Pete was stationed with us at Watson Lake in 1961 ish Boyd you would know him from big game outfitters as he left the Force to start a new career in about 1965.

All the ex Yukoners will remember Pete.

He was pretty young!

Glenn Warner

Info shared by Pat King

Kenneth William Aylwin, aged 71 years, passed away peacefully at Vernon Jubilee Hospital on Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

Ken was born and raised in the Yukon. He worked for the Yukon Government until retiring.

Ken was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, he enjoyed horses, hunting and the outdoors.

Predeceased by his parents George & Emelia Aylwin. Ken will be lovingly remembered by wife Katherine of Armstrong; brother Fred (Barb) of Vernon; extended family and friends.

A private remembrance was held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the BC Lung Association.

The last couple of months have been pretty difficult for Ron and we live across the street from them here. There will be a gathering this Saturday. I thought perhaps you might want to put the top part of this obit with picture in the Moc Tel.
Many thanks, Sheila Becker snbecker@shaw.ca (In Penticton)

Alice Laursen

On March 8, 2010, Alice Laursen passed away in Penticton, B.C. after a two year battle with cancer at the age of 67 years. She is survived by her loving husband of 38 years, Ronald, four sons: Cliff, Derek, Greg, and Corey, her daughter Pam, eight grandchildren: Chase, Kyle, Patrick, Connor, Katie, Alexis, Carter and Sidney, three great grandchildren: Zach, Ethan and Natalie, Brother: Bill Barrett and many relatives and friends.



Alice lived in Yukon from 1942-1968, Fort St. John from 1968-1980, Prince George from 1980-2001 and Penticton From 2001-2010. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Alice may be made to the Moog & Friends Hospice, 1701 Government St. Penticton, V2A 8J7.

LAURSEN, Alice (MARTIN) ronal*shaw.ca (Born in Dawson, schooled in Whitehorse) Penticton

Alice (Martin) was also a Rendevous Queen in Whitehorse.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“You win some, you lose some, and some get rained out, but you gotta suit up for them all.” - J. Askenberg

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Crackerjack Cookies

Submitted by Fred Aylwin fbaylwin*shaw.ca (In Vernon BC)

1 cup butter or margarine	1 1/2 cup flour
1 cup white sugar	1 tsp baking powder
1 cup brown sugar	1 tsp baking soda
2 eggs	1 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp vanilla	1/2 tsp cloves
2 cup oatmeal	
2 cup rice krispies	
1 cup coconut	

Cream butter well, and blend in sugars. Beat in eggs & add vanilla.
Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda and spices together and mix in.
Stir in oatmeal, rice krispies and coconut by hand.
Drop by teaspoons onto greased baking sheet.
Bake at 350 for 10-12 min. until nearly browned.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Vancouver Yukoners' Association Annual Banquet April 17

Are you planning to attend this year?

Is your cheque, payable to Vancouver Yukoners' Association, in the mail?

Vivian Stuart
#217-3255 Cook Street
Victoria BC V8X 1A4
Ph: 250 383-1349 email: lornellis@shaw.ca

No ticket sales at the door.

Were you hoping to stay at the River Rock Casino Hotel for all or part of the weekend? Our block of rooms is going fast - as of March 4 there were only 5 left for the 16th, 11 for the 17th. Any rooms left will be released to regular pricing on March 16.

River Rock Casino Hotel
8811 River Road
Richmond BC V6X 3P8

To reserve by phone:

604 247-8900 or toll free at 1-866-748-3718

To reserve on-line: www.riverrock.com or info@riverrock.com

If you miss out on a suite at the River Rock (and we hope you won't), do ask Vivian Stuart for information on nearby hotels when you book your banquet ticket.

Check with Ticketmaster if you are interested in the **Lea Salonga** show in the River Rock Theatre April 16.

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 of (\$20 - \$25. your call) for the Moccasin Telegraph.

– Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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