

## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 324<sup>th</sup> Edition – December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

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

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



**Cedar Wax Wings**

Photo courtesy Doug Bell [chechako46@northwestel.net](mailto:chechako46@northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

### **Coffin Discovered at Dawson's Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction Site**

By Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

November 4, 2010

Operations ceased at the construction site for the new wastewater treatment plant in Dawson City on Thursday when excavations around the two installed treatment shafts uncovered a coffin containing human remains.

Doris Wurfbaum, the Highways and Public Works Communications Analyst, says that there was no hint that anything like this could have turned up during the drilling of the test holes earlier this year, nor during the installation of the twin shafts, which has just been nearing completion this week.

Site supervisor Stephen Johnson immediately shut down operations at the site, and secured the uncovered objects, including the bucket that was doing the digging and the truck that contained earth already removed from the hole.

Johnson contacted the RCMP, the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, in addition to the Dept. of Highways, which is in charge of the project. The government is sending archeologist Greg Hare to Dawson to assess the remains on Friday. Johnson said the work on the site was almost at the end of the season for this year.

The project is somewhat behind its timeline, which would have seen the beginning of exterior of the plant's building being constructed by this point. Painstaking work on the installation of the shafts, as well as some equipment problems, have slowed things down. It seems unlikely that this will prove a problem in the long run, as the court ordered deadline for completion is the end of December 2011.

Wurfbaum noted that the site was chosen for a number of reasons. The government already owned the land. As a former grader yard, it was already just about as environmentally disturbed as it could possibly be. The expert opinion at the time of the site designation was that there were not likely to be any heritage values of note there.

The discovery of the coffin was a total surprise to everyone, but Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Dept. members said Johnson handled it in a textbook manner.



Site manager Stephen Johnson (with hard hat) explains the situation to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Dept. employees (l-r) Alex Brooks, Jackie Olson and Sue Parsons. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The coffin was found while excavating around these twin shafts, the heart of the Corix Water Systems' VERTREAT (VERTical TREATment) system.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

### **Three Coffins Found in Dawson**

By Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

November 7, 2010

No one was expecting anything out of the ordinary on the afternoon of Thursday, November 4, when excavation work around the vertical sewage treatment (Vertreat) shafts on the site of the new Dawson wastewater treatment plant turned up some wood and some bones.

Corix Water Systems site manager, Stephen Johnson, halted work on the project as soon as he was aware of what had happened and contacted the RCMP, the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, as well as the Dept. of Highways, which is in charge of the project.

A couple of the Corix crew members, who wandered by on Friday afternoon, admitted that unearthing bodies where none had been expected was weird and unsettling, to say the least.

During the rest of Thursday, decisions were made about what to do next. Suspect piles of dirt were covered with tarpaulins and one truckload, which had already left the property, was examined at the dump site out of town, to see if there were any bones there. It turned out that there were.

Greg Hare, senior projects archeologist with the Yukon government, arrived on Friday and began the work of examining the coffins and bones that had been uncovered. On that day Hare explained the initial findings.

‘We have what appear to be two coffins with the remains of two individuals that have been exposed during an excavation ... just off Fifth Avenue in Dawson.’  
“This is a recovery operation rather than a controlled excavation,” he said. “The backhoe exposed the materials yesterday. Based on what I’ve seen, that has already been collected from the site, the majority of the skeletal material has been exposed so we’re going to be screening all of the sediments, recovering all of the bones, all the artifacts that may be associated with the burials, the wood from the coffins and basically trying to get everything cleared up here.”

The coffins were encountered about nine feet from the surface, or three to four feet from the bottom of the excavation. The former highway grader yard was once a slough area at the rear of Fort Herchmer, the NWMP post, and the compound has been significantly altered with landfill material, as well as compacted by many years of heavy equipment rolling over it.

As a result, the coffins are no longer full sized, nor are they probably at the original depth at which they were buried.

“They’ve been squashed flat through many years,” he said. “They were crushed before the backhoe ever got here. They were probably 14 to 16 inches high when they were buried and now they’re about four inches. The backhoe basically just exposed the material that was already crushed.

“This is fairly often the case. We’ve been involved in a number of historic grave excavations and, in almost every case, over time the coffin collapses and sediments and everything fall in, and everything becomes quite flattened.”

Hare said there had been some indications a few years ago that there might be graves in this area, left over from the time executions by hanging were carried out in Dawson. Walker Graham, a local nurse, had done some research for a paper he was working on, and had shared his ideas with Hare.

As a result Hare had intended to use ground-penetrating radar to see if any graves could be located two years ago.

“Walker and I walked the whole area, looking at ... the potential grave areas. I brought a

shovel and did some surface testing and could see that the whole surface of this compound had been topped with gravel ...”

Ground penetrating radar works by measuring changing sub-surface density in a given piece of land. It picks up the areas, like graves, or pits, or burrows, that have been disturbed. Once the soil has been capped with a denser material, that method no longer works.

This is not the first time that graves have been searched for adjacent to the old NWMP post. Former Parks Canada curator and current History Hunter Michael Gates recalls receiving information from a retired Mountie some years back. That information led to the discovery of a cache of discarded rifles which had been buried in the river.

The same individual spoke of gravesites closer to the former fort and Parks did attempt a search, but Gates says nothing was found.

“We expected that any graves would be closer to the RCMP compound,” said Hare. Work continued on the site through Friday and Saturday, with screening of the piles of dirt on site, and at the dumpsite and some further, more careful digging, in the pit around the Vertreat shafts. On the second day, another coffin and body, in much the same condition as the first two, was exposed and recovered.

Hare is of the opinion, based on the material found along with the bodies, that the three graves are from the Goldrush period. Somewhat to his surprise, the lime thrown in with the bodies seems to have acted to preserve clothing, though there is nothing to identify the individuals.

“I think it’s reasonable to assume that they are of Goldrush vintage related to executions that took place at Fort Herchmer.”

For more to be said about the remains, there will have to be careful examination back in Whitehorse.

As a recovery exercise, Hare says this one was very successful.

“The amount of community support and participation in the project exceeds anything I’ve ever worked on before. I think that the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, the developers (Corix), the workers who were involved, the City of Dawson, the Yukon government – I’ve seldom seen a project that has been so successful and gone so smoothly with people working together, rowing in the same direction.”

Hare is planning to remain on site for a couple of days as the Corix crew wound down its operations for the season. While he feels confident that there’s nothing more to be found that close to the others, he’s going to keep an eye on things anyway. After all, this whole adventure has been nothing but surprises so far.



These tarpaulins protected some of the excavated dirt in which the bones were discovered. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



More findings.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



This pit was excavated around the Vertreat (vertical treatment) shafts.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Shards of wood were embedded in the pit about 9 feet down from the surface.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Remains of a Fourth Body Turned Up in Dawson**

By Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

November 16, 2010

Excavations being carried out by Corix Water Systems uncovered remains from what is probably a fourth body at the site of the new Dawson wastewater treatment plant on Monday. The new discovery is far enough away from the earlier three that it seems unlikely they are connected in any way.

“We uncovered a fully intact bone that may be a femur and another bone fragment that may be part of a hip/pelvis,” said Pat Habiluk, with the Yukon Dept. of Highways, this morning.

“However, there were no coffin wood fragments visible at the find site. Also, noted was a heavy deposit of lime at two slightly different levels. The lime deposit was an indicator in the previous graves discovered.”

The new bones were uncovered by the same backhoe operator who found the previous bodies.

Habiluk says he immediately called the RCMP and the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in’s heritage department, as well as Yukon government archeologist Greg Hare.

Hare said to leave things as they were, cover them, and move on to another site for digging.

There was some delay in moving on this matter last week while it was determined whether the government or Corix would do further digging. Habiluk’s thinking is that, while it was effectively the end of the construction season here, it would be better to proceed with foundation digging now rather than to face further delays in the project if more remains were to be discovered in the spring.

Unfortunately for any researchers, temperatures have dropped from a balmy -4 to -14. Habiluk says they’ll have to rig some kind of an enclosure and probably some heating, but that it’s still worth doing the work because the ground hasn’t had time to freeze back yet and is probably as thawed as its going to be before next summer.

“We won’t know whether there is a coffin associated with this discovery until Greg Hare (YG archaeologist) arrives on site today and begins to exhume the find. Right now we have covered up the find with a large tarp and moved on to another work area in our excavation plan.”

Habiluk says the government has taken seriously the opinions which say there might be more bodies in the former grader yard. He has been doing some research in Parks Canada

documents and has learned that the former NWMP compound had quite a few buildings on the site, some of which came right up to the area where the digging is now taking place.

He's wondering if some of the burials didn't take place between the buildings at the far end of the original property. Amazingly enough, this same area was dug up when the area was tested for hydrocarbon contamination and nothing was found at that time.

"As luck would have it, they missed it," he said.



New find overview. This photo, taken by YTG's Pat Habiluk, shows the location of the newest find – foreground right – as compared to the original find.

Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Fourth Coffin Discovered**

By Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

November 17, 2010

The fourth coffin, which goes with the fourth set of bones to be unearthed at the site of Dawson's Wastewater Treatment Plant, has been discovered, laying to rest local rumours that the Northwest Mounted Police were simply burying bodies without them at one time in Dawson's history.

Yukon archeologist Greg Hare, who arrived here again on Tuesday, said the coffin had

collapsed at some point, but it turned up when further digging around the latest set of bones was carried out.

Corix Water Systems, which is constructing the plant, had been going to end its operations for the season before the first set of three coffins was discovered. According to the Yukon Dept. of Highway's Pat Habiluk, there was some negotiation to decide what to do next. In the end it was decided that carrying on with foundation excavation now, while the ground was still thawed, would be more efficient than waiting until the spring construction season when the ground would be frozen.

It will be easier to deal with additional surprises now, even though the temperature has dropped more than 18 degrees since the original discovery on November 4 when it was a balmy minus four and there was more afternoon light before the end of daylight savings time.

Excavations today were proceeding at the south end of the pit, where Hare, well bundled against the cold, was not expecting to find any additional bones. He expects them to be more in the other direction, but given what surprises there have been so far, he's not ruling anything out.



Corix Water Systems is continuing work on foundation excavation for Dawson's secondary sewage treatment plant, while keeping an eye out for coffins.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Preliminary identification established for recovered human remains**

By Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

November 18, 2010

In a press release issued on Thursday, the Yukon government indicated that two of the three individuals recently unearthed at Dawson City's new Wastewater Treatment Plant site have been identified as young First Nations males; the third is an older male of European ancestry.

"The findings were confirmed after an analysis of the human remains conducted by Susan Mooney, an osteologist and heritage manager for the Carcross / Tagish First Nation," says the press release.

Further excavation of the site of the new secondary sewage treatment plant and examination of the first three bodies, coffins and artifacts discovered last week continued on Thursday under conditions somewhat less extreme than those of the day before. It was -15 in the mid-afternoon as opposed to the -24 to -30 of Wednesday. In addition labourers on the project were provided with a heated tent in which to do some of their work in.

The Guidelines Respecting the Discovery of Human Remains and First Nation Burial Sites in the Yukon are being followed on this project. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon and City of Dawson governments are working to determine plans for re-interment. First Nations with a related interest in the individuals will also be consulted.

The three governments will continue to collaborate on identifying the fourth individual recovered on Monday, November 15 whose remains have yet to be analyzed. As Corix Water Systems continues to excavate the footprint for the wastewater plant's foundation, a close eye is being kept on each shovelful of dirt taken from the pit, though supervisors don't expect to find more remains on the south side where the digging is currently taking place.

It is anticipated that there will be more coffins to be found on the north and west sides of the pit and digging will be carried out there as well.

Another project planned for the former grader yard is a district heating plant to be powered by bio-fuel wood chips. An outline for the planned placement of this facility was staked on Thursday with the intention of investigating that area as well.

Mike Fraser, North Region Project Manager, Dawson Building Development, for Highways and Public Works confirms that they will excavate that foundation area, as well as the area between the two proposed structures, in order to find all the anticipated

burial sites and eliminate projects being slowed down when major construction resumes in the spring.



Screening and shelter: Workers can be seen at the left screening gravel from the dig, while their heated tent shelter is on the right.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Uffish Thoughts: Grinding Bones in the Rumour Mill**

By Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

November 22, 2010

The ever-popular rumour mill has run amuck since the discovery of the coffins and bodies in the former grader yard just off 5th Avenue. The site itself created some confusion, but people were quite willing to jump all over the scant facts with their own versions rather than wait a bit and see what else turned up. In the absence of CSI speed forensic reporting there was lots of time for the stories to grow.

For instance, the compaction of the ground and the additional landfill on top of the former slough's surface, combined with decades of heavy equipment rumbling over it, had resulted in the original standard sized coffins being squeezed to a thickness of about 4 inches (10 cm) and the bones had sort of exploded out of them.

In the case of the original three findings, this led to a rumour that two bodies had been buried in a single coffin. This wasn't true, but apparently the current public perception of

the RCMP is such that people were ready to believe the force's forerunner, the Northwest Mounted Police, to have been capable for such a thing. This story continued to circulate for a while even after it was made known there were three coffins.

This tendency was even more exaggerated when the fourth set of bones began to emerge before they found a coffin to go with them. You'd think that getting it wrong the first time might have caused people to be a bit more careful, but no, the story went round, and made it to print in some places, that the NWMP had buried body number 4 without a coffin.

Wrong again. It just hadn't been found yet and turned up the next day.

We're not entirely sure who it is that we've found at this writing, but the odds are strong now that two of the bodies belong to the Nantuck brothers (known in English as Jim, Joe, Dawson and Frank), all four of whom perished (two from disease) in 1899 after being imprisoned for the killing of William Meehan and the attempted killing of Christian Fox. There are lots of opinions – some reasonable, some silly and some just nasty - being aired about this story in the comments sections that follow the various newspaper and radio stories, and most of them jump to a lot of conclusions based on current perceptions of how things should be handled.

The Nantucks did kill someone. They went after Fox and Meehan to balance the loss of two members of their Wolf clan, who had died as a result of having eaten bread that was made with arsenic, which had been mistaken for baking powder by an old woman.

Whether the arsenic was stolen from a miner's camp or left behind and found by accident is in debate, but it doesn't seem likely that the deaths were the result of a deliberate act. Fox and Meehan were not involved in this incident, but were chosen by the brothers as representatives of their "clan". The Nantucks attempted to obtain financial compensation from them and when that failed, they fell back to taking a life for a life.

In her book *Law of the Yukon*, Helen Dobrowolsky devotes an oversized page in her coffee table sized history book to this case, concluding that it was unfortunate that Meehan should have been killed and also that the Nantuck brothers should have been executed.

"In both cases," she writes, "members of both cultures acted appropriately according to their own systems of justice but neither could understand the perspective of the other." A number of postings refer to the evil practice of just taking people out, shooting them in secret and burying them likewise. More detailed accounts of the Nantuck Case (which you can find quite easily with a Google search) show that they were hanged, that the event was witnessed by quite a number of people, and the burial was a sort of Potter's Field affair, pretty standard at the time. Convicted criminals, particularly those convicted of murder, were not interred in so-called hallowed ground in those days.

Corix Water Systems, which is building the secondary sewage treatment plant, has ceased its operations as of this writing (November 22) and has officially turned the yard over to

the Yukon Government, which is going to take the time now to excavate the footprint for its proposed district heating plant, as well as the space between that and the sewage plant, in the hope of finding the other bodies which may have been buried in this yard.



The Nantuck Brothers under guard.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Excavation concluded without finding more coffins**

By Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

November 26, 2010

Digging has finished in the old Highways Compound off Fifth Avenue without finding any additional coffins or bodies of executed criminals. The operation closed down on Friday, November 26, 22 days after the first coffin was uncovered while excavating a foundation for the new secondary sewage treatment plant. Two more coffins were discovered in short order and then a fourth on November 15.

As a result of these discoveries, none of which had been hinted at during drilling and soil remediation digging the year before, it was decided that Corix Water Systems would extend its fall construction season and excavate its entire foundation now.

In addition, there are plans for the Yukon government to put a bio-fuel (wood chips) district heating plant in behind the treatment plant. YTG decided to dig out that foundation area and the space in between the two pits just to make sure there was nothing else there.

As it turns out, there wasn't anything else. What did turn up were pieces of a fairly deeply buried wooden frame conduit which apparently was used as a drain into the slough that used to run diagonally through the compound, according to site plan drawings from the days of the Northwest Mounted Police, when Fort Herchmer was larger and had more buildings than it does now.

During examination of the uncovered gravesites it has been determined that the four of

them were within four inches of each other in elevation (depth in the ground), suggesting a standard burial procedure.

So far it has been determined that two of the bodies were of first nations men, suggesting they belong to two of the four Nantuck brothers, who were hanged in May of 1899.

There could be as many as seven more bodies somewhere in the former NWMP compound. Parks Canada has looked for them without success in the past, but now that some bodies have been discovered, there may be some incentive to look again.



The big hole – The entire area where construction is planned has now been excavated without discovering any more coffins. In the foreground are the shafts for the sewage treatment plant.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Progress towards a River Crossing**

Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

You'll remember that the ferry came out of the river on October 25, when it looked like the river was going to freeze earlier than last year in spite of the warmer fall weather.



Yukon River - Oct 31/10 River still moving a week after the ferry stopped.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



November 3/10 - The ferry's parked. The Rose would have been, but the sledge underneath it broke and now it's frozen in until spring. They'll get it moved on a new sledge before breakup. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Ice thickening, but still not beginning to stop at all.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



November 12/10 - The river stopped - we thought, - leaving open leads where the ice bridge usually goes. That's not good news. We had two years in the late 1990s when this happened, so it's not unheard of, but it complicates things.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



November 13/10 - And then the river clears out again, widening those leads. By this time in 2009 people were already walking and driving across from one ferry landing to the other. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



November 19/10 - That tongue of ice shows the leads beginning to fill in, but it's still not very cold in spite of this grey day.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The first crossings on foot are upstream and quickly flagged for safety. Didn't have my good camera with me this day, so the next image is a bit fuzzy. Also, there was a bit of haze.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Riverwalker.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



November 24/10 - Meanwhile the regular crossing remains open. On this case, the signage is almost ironic. Earlier in this week shortages in West Dawson prompted a helicopter beer lift. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Upstream walkers give way to snow machines. It is finally getting colder at this point. Prior to this week it had dipped into the -20s at night and popped up into the high teens or warmer during most of the days. Suddenly it's all -20s, with -30s in the forecast.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



November 29/10 - Quite a few people still walking.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



December 1/10 - No, the river's not on fire. It does this at -33. You can see that tongue of ice has grown, but the lead is still wide open and not fit for attempted crossings. This is a shot at 11:37 in the morning. Direct sunlight is mostly on the hillsides at this point. Odds are the permanent ice bridge will have to be built a few hundred metres upstream, where the people are already crossing.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Fort Selkirk**

Yukon Nugget courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](http://marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)

An exceptionally beautiful part of the Yukon River system is found at the mouth of the Pelly River. Here, in 1848, Robert Campbell built the first Fort Selkirk. It didn't take long for this Hudson Bay trading post to become embroiled in a trade war.

Robert Campbell, an explorer and trader for Hudson Bay, knew the Yukon interior pretty well by 1848. He'd explored the entire Pelly River system and decided the best place to control the fur trade in the central Yukon was on the east bank of the Yukon and Pelly rivers. In June of that year, he built the first post and called it Fort Selkirk, after Thomas Douglas, the fifth Earl of Selkirk, who was a major shareholder in the Bay. But the land on the east bank was frequently flooded and the Fort was moved to its present location.

Campbell was right in thinking this spot would be the place to control trade with the Wood Indians of the interior. However, the Chilkat people from the Alaskan coast considered the whole region as their trading area. For the next few years, the Fort was visited by parties of Chilkats determined to oust Campbell, the Bay, and their growing trade monopoly.

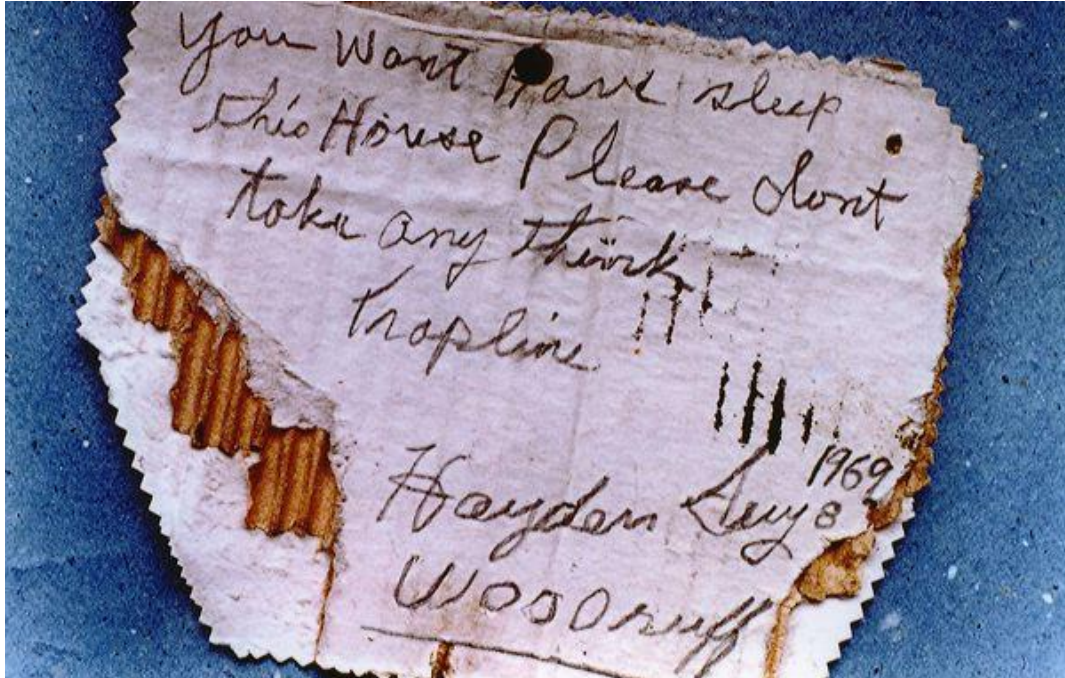
In August of 1852, a Chilkat raiding party, of perhaps 27 men, arrived at Fort Selkirk determined to shut it down. Following a pitched battle, the Bay traders and Wood Indians were routed and the Fort was burned down. Campbell described the battle in his diary as fierce, and marvelled that no-one was killed. Campbell left Fort Selkirk in the fall, bound for Fort Simpson, a 1200-mile journey. Here, he demanded permission to hunt down the Chilkats and get revenge. Permission refused, he made an incredible snow-shoe trip to Fort Garry, Manitoba, headquarters of the Hudson Bay Company. Here, he again demanded the Chilkats be hunted down. Again he was refused.



The Taylor & Drury Store. Photo by Rolf Hougen when he, Marg and family with the Tanners went down river to Dawson City – 14 in all, 1971.



Fort Selkirk 1958. Photo of the Anglican Church, Taylor and Drury Store on the left.  
Photo taken on a 1958 Hougen and Tanner trip from Whitehorse to Dawson City



A sign on one building, 1971.

Robert Campbell never returned to the Yukon, and the Hudson Bay Company didn't return to Fort Selkirk until 1938. In the intervening years, there were many posts built

here, including one by Arthur Harper in 1889. In 1898, Fort Selkirk was home to the Yukon Field Force sent by the federal government to guard the Klondike goldfields.

From the '20s to the late '40s, it was a thriving community with stores, churches, a post office, and a mounted police post. It was a major supply spot for riverboats operating between Whitehorse and Dawson. With the coming of the roads, however, riverboat traffic ceased, and Fort Selkirk was virtually abandoned by 1950.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin (In Ottawa)



A 1982 Painting of the confluence of the Yukon and Pelly Rivers.  
Fort Selkirk located to the left.

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

## Call for Aviation History Conference Proposals



The **Canadian Aviation Historical Society (CAHS)** is holding its 2011 conference in Edmonton, Alberta from June 22-26<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be “**Edmonton: Gateway to the North**” and sessions will explore the rich aviation history of Edmonton, the province of Alberta, and Canada’s North.

Our team is preparing its programme and we’d love to hear from you. The **conference is open to everyone** – university students, professionals in aviation or heritage industries, and historians of every kind. We’re especially interested in all the ways aviation history

is communicated and celebrated: non-fiction, fiction, film, theatre, art, photography, among others.

**International presenters** are welcome and Edmonton is a short hop away from the spectacular Canadian Rockies as well as the rugged north: Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and the Klondike are easily accessible by scheduled flight!

If you're interested in participating, please send a **short proposal** (200 words max) and 50-word **biographical note** to Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail at [info@daniellemc.com](mailto:info@daniellemc.com) (please note: presentations using Microsoft Powerpoint or other digital media that can be run on a Microsoft Windows or Apple-based laptop for digital projection are preferred)

Remember: Presenters receive **complimentary convention registration** and **one year's CAHS national membership!**

In the coming weeks we'll be posting more conference information at [www.cahs.ca](http://www.cahs.ca), in our e-newsletter (you can sign up for it on the website), and on our Twitter (*CanAvHistSoc*) and Facebook (*Canadian Aviation Historical Society - National*) pages.

Please feel free to forward and post this message widely!

Sincerely,

Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail [info@daniellemc.com](mailto:info@daniellemc.com)  
CAHS National President

### **MOCTEL 323**

Hi Sherron.... That was just great....Donna is a dear lady and really cares about the North.. Great pictures.. And good stories too.. Thanks so much. Always wanted to go to Old Crow....maybe one day...

Hugs Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate\\*shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate*shaw.ca) (In Burnaby)

### **MOCTEL 323**

Sherron, I'm SO sorry. Guess I was overly tired that day we had the conversation ( via e-mail. ) Anyway, I made a mistake in the date my Dad and family arrived in the Yukon.

Of course it was in 1925, just before I was born. Thanks for the lovely pictures of Percy's birthday party, they were great and we had such a nice time that day!

Love, Joyce Yardley [joyce\\*dataspan.ca](mailto:joyce*dataspan.ca) (In Nanaimo)

*I made the correction to the online documents about 8:05 am Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>.- Sherron*

## **OLD CROW**

Sherron: What a difference 45 years makes!!! The attached pictures were taken in the winter of 63/63 when I went in to Old Crow to install the new ( ? ? ? ) radio equipment in the RCMP Detachment. There were only two members of the Force stationed there at the time - A Cpl. who was "outside" to get married and hadn't returned yet, and a young Cst. There were no major buildings in the village at that time, the land claims had not been instituted, and the RCMP were still responsible for doling out the welfare and other Government " Gifts ". As you can see, the modes of transportation were also still in the Dog Team days. We had flown in from Inuvik with the RCMP single otter CF-MPW and were met on the river ice in front of the Detachment with the dog teams. Picture No.2 is the front of the RCMP Detachment building with the "New" prefab trailer building barely visible behind the Cst's. head behind the log building. The third and fourth pictures are of the Anglican and Catholic churches respectively - at the time, I was told that the congregation of the Catholic church was the Priest and one congregant!!! The next two pictures show the "Main Street" of Old Crow from in front of the Detachment. The one of the aircraft is CF-MPW and the last one is from the air just after take-off returning to Inuvik.

As you can see, there were none of the modern amenities that are available today!!! The oil explorations in the Eagle Plains area had just finished and the exploration in the Mackenzie Delta was just beginning!!!

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



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



Old Crow R.C.M.P Detachment 1963

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



Anglican Church in Old Crow 1963  
Photo courtesy Ira Saunders [sandisaunders\\*rogers.com](mailto:sandisaunders@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)



Catholic Church in Old Crow in 1963  
Photo courtesy Ira Saunders [sandisaunders\\*rogers.com](mailto:sandisaunders@rogers.com) (In Ottawa)



Main Street Old Crow 1963 from in front of the RCMP detachment  
Photo courtesy Ira Saunders [sandisaunders\\*rogers.com](http://sandisaunders*rogers.com) (In Ottawa)



Main Street Old Crow 1963 from in front of the RCMP detachment  
Photo courtesy Ira Saunders [sandisaunders\\*rogers.com](http://sandisaunders*rogers.com) (In Ottawa)



CF-MPW in 1963

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



Old Crow from the air. Yellow building is new prefab RCMP housing – 1963.

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

## Worth Pondering...

Thank God! there is always a Land of Beyond  
For us who are true to the trail;  
A vision to seek, a beckoning peak,  
A farness that never will fail;  
A pride in our soul that mocks at a goal,  
A manhood that irks at a bond,  
And try how we will, unattainable still,  
Behold it, our Land of Beyond!

— Robert Service, The Land of Beyond (Last Verse)

Submitted by George Bliss [jrsports\\*sasktel.net](mailto:jrsports@sasktel.net) (In Regina)

## YUKON WILDFLOWERS



Tally Ho Creek, near Whitehorse, July 1987

Photo courtesy Jim & June Austin [jraustin929\\*yahoo.ca](mailto:jraustin929@yahoo.ca) (In Vernon)

## OBIT

It's sad when you read any obituary, this one below is particularly sad as this is Stan Tooley's brother, Jean (Squirechuk's) Tooley's brother-in-law. He was diagnosed with cancer the same disease as Stan. Stan passed away about a year ago now.

Regards,  
Alistair McGregor [mmac1952@telus.net](mailto:mmac1952@telus.net) (In Vernon)

From [www.kelownadailycourier.ca](http://www.kelownadailycourier.ca)

**TOOLEY, Patrick**

Saturday, November 20, 2010

TOOLEY, Patrick Vernon (B.Sc., B.Ed, CMA) Passed away on November 17th, 2010 at the Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) at the age of 58. Patrick is survived by his loving wife of forty years, June, and sons Ryan and Steven (and his partner Laura). A heartfelt thanks to the emergency responders and to the staff of KGH's Emergency and Intensive Care Unit for the professionalism, dignity and grace given for his care. Many thanks also to the family and friends who came to help in this trying time. Patrick has gone to rest with his brother Stanley and parents Irvn and Mary. A service will be held on November 23rd, 2010 at First Memorial Funeral Services, 1211 Sutherland Ave at 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be given to the G.L.A.R.E. Society. Arrangements entrusted with First Memorial Funeral Services, Kelowna. 250-762-2299

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Did I tell you that my email address has changed? Here it is.

[rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com](mailto:rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com)

Bye for now

Rusty Reid

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*Even though you are on the right track - you will get run over if you just sit there. - Will Rogers*

**RECIPE OF THE WEEK**

**RICE CREPES**

Submitted by Teri McNaughton [mcnaughtont@yahoo.ca](mailto:mcnaughtont@yahoo.ca) (In Watson Lake BC)

1 ½ c water  
¼ c raw cashews

2 pitted dates  
1 c brown rice flour  
¼ c firm tofu  
1 tsp. salt

Process cashews and dates in a blender with about half of the water until very smooth. Add remaining water and other ingredients and process well. Allow mixture to stand while nonstick griddle heats. Blend again immediately before pouring crepes, and each time before you pour. Brown over medium heat (325 – 350), cooking first side well before turning. For a 5” crepe, use ¼ cup batter. May be made ahead and reheated, covered, in oven or microwave.

## DATES TO REMEMBER



### **The Vancouver Yukoners' Association invites**

Yukoners past and present to attend our 83rd Annual Banquet

Date: April 16, 2011

Place: River Rock Casino/Resort – Whistler Ballroom

Address: 8811 River Rd, Richmond BC – Free Parking

### **Hotel reservations:**

Telephone: 604-247-8900 *or* toll free 1-866-748-3718

Ask for *Vancouver Yukoners'* rate

If booking *before* Feb.1, 2011, ask for our *Early Bird* rate.

### **Banquet Tickets:**

\$55.00 per person with cheque payable in advance to

*Vancouver Yukoners' Association*

Banquet Reception/Registration: Ballroom Foyer 5pm – 6pm Dinner: 6:30 pm

Hospitality Suite: Open Friday evening and Saturday

Note: registration/pick up tickets at Hospitality Suite

Check [www.vancouver-yukoners.com](http://www.vancouver-yukoners.com) for updates

### **FOR TICKETS CONTACT VIVIAN STUART:**

email: [lornellis@shaw.ca](mailto:lornellis@shaw.ca) Address: #217 – 3255 Cook St, Victoria BC V8X 1A4

Phone: 250-383-1349

(Maiden names too please – Helps to find friends of years ago)

### **For further information contact:**

Jim Perry [4perry@telus.net](mailto:4perry@telus.net) Phone: 604-853-7340

Yukon residents call 867-668-2228 or 1-800-661-0407 for AIR NORTH discount, quote

Convention Code 5HUP12W8

## 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](mailto:sherronjones*shaw).

## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

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