

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 333rd Edition – April 17th, 2011

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



The swans arrived in Carcross last week, quite early it seems. Always great to see these beautiful birds and hear them honking, resting and eating. Seems spring wants to start early this year, unless we're in for a surprise in the following days. Wouldn't mind getting in a few more cross country skiing days.

Cheers, Norma (Yardley) Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)



Photos courtesy Norma (Yardley) Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)

Skagway Ski Club Loppett

These are photos from Log Cabin, along the White Pass and Yukon Railway, in BC. It's about halfway to Skagway from Carcross. In March, the Skagway Ski Club holds a cross-country loppett, called the Buckwheat Classic after Buckwheat Donahue, who lives in Skagway and started the race. This is the 25th anniversary of the loppett. Skagwegians pack and cut 25 kms of trails in the bush, called the Mouchet Trail. They build a huge snow structure in one of the open meadows where skiers have a pit stop. It was designed as a castle, a mosque, a sphinx, and even a giant fish in other years. This year it is a Buddhist temple.

I always try to get up to ski on the day after the loppett, Sunday, to take advantage of the trails, but I don't do the race. These are from this year, taken on March 27.

Eleanor Millard emillard*northwestel.net (In Carcross)

PS Included are someone else's photos, emailed to me. Please credit Karen MacRae, Whitehorse.



Buddhist snow temple with Tibetan prayer flags.
Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Photos courtesy Karen MacRae (In Whitehorse)





Photos courtesy Karen MacRae (In Whitehorse)





Photo courtesy Karen MacRae (In Whitehorse)

Alaska Highway South



Pesky Cariboo 50 km north of Watson Lake. On the Alaska Hwy. They, and other small herds, are always in that neck of the woods. Photos courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)



5000+ Watson Lake Sign Post Village (was Mile 635 now 613 due to straightening)
Photos courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)



7 New RCMP Housing Units



New Watson Lake School
Photos courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)



New Watson Lake Weigh Scale



Watson Lake RCMP Detachment
Photo courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)



Watson Lake Airport Terminal

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

Courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)

Lionel Stokes

Here at home, I have a beat-up old curling broom. A real broom. Not the kind of shot-enhancing devices that curlers use these days to control the speed and curl of the rocks. Nope, this one is a real corn broom. The kind that used to make such a racket in the hands of good sweepers that even Russ Howard had a hard time being heard over the smack of corn broom on ice.

The broom I have is well used. Well worn. Almost worn out, in fact. But you can still read the name written, by felt marker, on the cloth covering. One word. Stokes. He's the guy who gave me the broom, back in 1977, at the Macdonald's Brier in Montreal. Lionel was shooting second stones for skip Don Twa's Yukon foresome that year.

At the end of round-robin play, the Yukon finished with a respectable record of five wins and six loses, much better than northern teams usually fare in men's national competition these days. But not nearly as good as this team did the first time the north was directly entered in the Brier. That came two years earlier, in 1975, when skip Don Twa, third Chuck Haines, second Kip Boyd and lead Lionel Stokes nearly won the Brier.

Staged in Fredericton, New Brunswick, the north, for the first time, had a direct entry into the Brier and Don Twa's team from Whitehorse was it. How well did they do? you ask. Well, the winner, Northern Ontario, had to make an almost impossible last rock shot in their last game to finish with a record of 9 wins and 2 losses - there were no playoffs then - while the boys from the Yukon finished with 8 wins and 3 losses. Never again has the Territories team come that close, and maybe they never will.

Lionel Stokes had a lot to do with that fantastic result. Two years later, in 1977, the Twa rink was back in Brier final. Lionel was now throwing second stones and, even though the final placing was not like the 1975 showing, Lionel was named the All-Star Second. The best second in Canada. He was that good.

Through it all, he became a renowned team player and dedicated curling organizer. In 1973 and 1974, Lionel and his team toured Europe on a goodwill curling marathon that gained the Yukon and Canada recognition worldwide.

In addition to his athletic ability, Lionel spent many years serving on Yukon curling committees, organizing curling events, and initiated the Bert Boyd Memorial Trophy. So while you are in Whitehorse, take a moment and visit the Edgewater Hotel and dining room. The food is great, but more important - especially for curlers - is the chance to

meet Lionel Stokes, a member of the Yukon Sports hall of fame, and oh so close to being Brier champ. Oh yes, please tell him Les McLaughlin still has his 1977 Brier broom.

(Both these articles were written long before Les McLaughlin passed away.)

Terry Delaney and Les McLaughlin at the 1975 Fredericton Brier, to witness the Yukon Twa rink and the associated excitement.

By Les McLaughlin

This story was mailed to Lionel Stokes February 16, 2001 and it was later published in the Whitehorse Star March 2, 2001. Shared with us by Lionel Stokes March 26, 2011

He was quite a guy. The original “never a dull moment” fellow. “Keep on the sunny side.” That was certainly Terry Delaney’s motto when I worked with him in the 60’s and 70’s. Not surprisingly, all we CBC Yukon expatriates have a Terry Delaney story or two to tell.

One I’d like to share is especially meaningful to the Yukon sports fraternity. Terry loved sports though to my knowledge he played little and excelled less. Yet when he called a senior men’s in the 50’s and 60’s, you could hear the passion in his distinctive voice. Terry loved hockey though I never saw him lace a pair of skates. But then whoever saw Danny Gallivan on Forum ice?

Terry loved curling too. And I do recall seeing him curl, though he called a better game than he shot. We old-timers remember the days before 1975 when Yukon curling teams were forced to play down in British Columbia to gain a spot in the McDonald Brier, symbolic of men’s curling supremacy in Canada. Year after year, some very good Yukon teams would head off to BC only to be frustrated by the odds against when it came to winning the Brier spot. Year after year, the curlers would come home complaining about the unfairness of it all. And it was.

Then in 1975, for some long forgotten, but still magical reason, the men who run curling in Canada gave leave of their senses. They decided the North should have a direct entry into the Brier. I can imagine the elite curling masters from all over the country saying something about the lack of skill the northerners would bring. Why they couldn’t even win in BC. How the hell could they compete on the national scene?

Yet in 1975, the North was voted onto the island, not off as had happened for so long. Terry Delaney was there at the Northern play down when Don Twa, Chuck Haines, Lionel Stokes and Kip Boyd beat the best from NWT and won the right to represent the Territories at the McDonald Brier in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

No surprise that Terry was there. Terry was always there, wherever there was. The Alaska Earthquake, an air crash, an air crash survival, a forest fire! Terry was there. So

when the Twa rink from Whitehorse prepared to head for Fredericton Terry was there. So was I though by that time I was the CBC's Northern producer in Montreal.

We were the last of the media horde to arrive on the Brier scene. Terry wore his still rumpled ball jacket and pants that had past the point of needing the Maytag repairman. Long flight, Terry told anyone who thought his colourful garb was out of place at this elite national event.

At the press briefing, where they hand out the goodies, including a press kit containing the coveted Brier pin, we were late enough that only one kit remained. I told Terry he should have it because he had travelled farther than I had, he agreed. Inside the press kit was the collector item Brier pin, limited edition and definitely the last one. How Terry loved sport pins, so did I. Not to worry said Terry. You will have one by the final day. Terry was a man of his word.

As the evening media reception hosted by the flamboyant New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield, Terry made the rounds in grand style telling everyone who asked about his colourful garb about the long flight from the Yukon. He also told Hatfield how much he regretted travelling so far for so long only to be denied a collector's item Brier pin. Hatfield agreed and said he would use all his influence to insure that the Yukon Broadcast team would not go home empty handed on that score. Terry told Hatfield that the Yukon curlers would not go home empty handed either and that they would safely display the coveted brier Tankard in the home of the Klondike after the Twa rink won it. Hatfield told Terry that no one had enough influence to insure that.

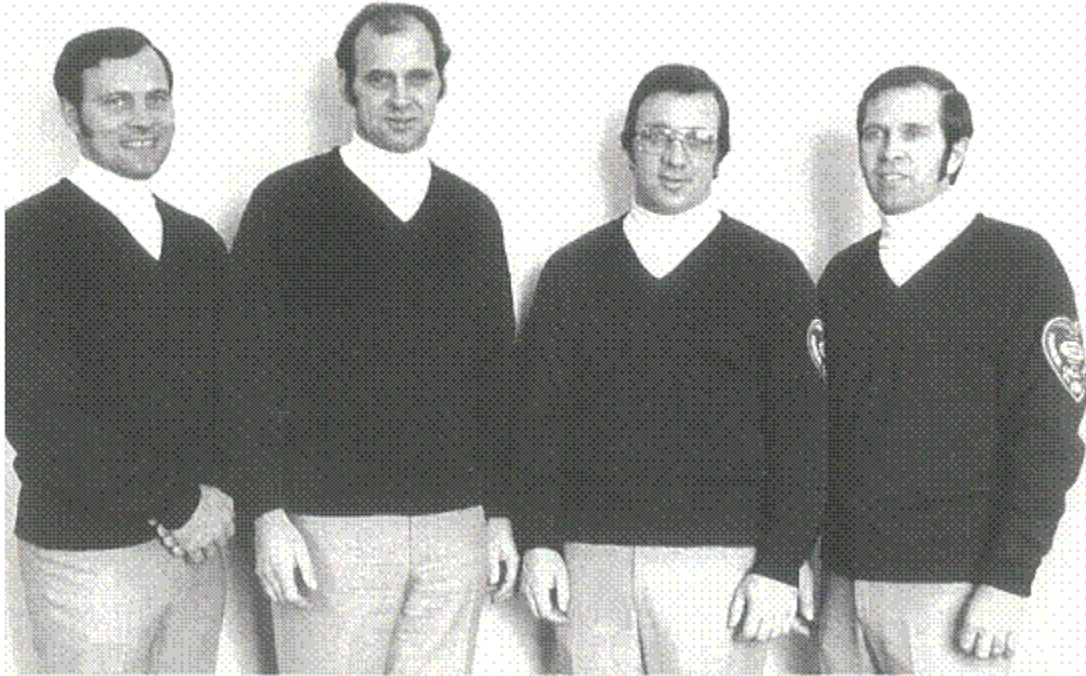
The 1975 McDonald Brier was one of those truly classic sports events, well organized in a large yet cozy arena that held about five thousand. Twa and his loveable gang of Yukon curlers drew immediate media attention because of their role as the North's first direct entrants. To add to the mystic, they were collectively the oldest team and Twa smoked a Cuban cigar that was almost as bit as Kip Boyd's broom. The usually unlit stoggy became his trademark. The team's grace with the media became their collective trademark.

It wasn't long before us media guys from the frozen north were being quoted in stories about the team, the land and the pride of Yukon curlers that rode with every Brier shot. Terry was in a no lose situation, confidently predicting victory while knowing the odds were less than the proverbial snowball in a Sam McGee furnace. As the week raced by, the exotic stories about the northern curlers gave way to more serious reflection. And so it should have.

With just two games left to play, the Twa foursome sported an impressive record of seven wins and two defeats, tied with Northern Ontario for first place. Their on ice skill that week even surprised them, though Terry insisted that the southern curlers were seeing the true north at its normal best. Strangely, Twa was beaten in his second last game by British Columbia, a team that year finished well back in the race.

That unfortunate loss left the Territories with seven wins and three loses while Northern Ontario went to eight and two. On the final day of play, the Twa foursome had to defeat a powerhouse Quebec team led by Brier stalwart Jimmy Ursel and then count on a win by Bob Cole and his Newfoundland rink over Northern Ontario to force a Brier tie.

It was bedlam in the arena that Saturday. The Yukoners were by now everyone's favourite team including the hometown New Brunswicker. Twa, Haines, Stokes and Boyd were on the top of their game trounced Ursel's Quebeckers 10 – 4.



Left to right – Lionel Stokes (lead), Kip Boyd (2nd), Chuck Haines (third/vice) and Don Twa (skip) at the 1975 Brier in Fredericton, New Brunswick
Photo courtesy Lionel Stokes deb.stokes2@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)

Then with more than five thousand fans, including Premier Hatfield, watching the scene shifted to the Northern Ontario – Newfoundland game. Could Bob Cole of Hockey Night in Canada fame, upset the Bill Tetley power house from Northern Ontario?

On his final shot of the 12th end (they were twelve end games then), Cole pulled a double hit take out and roll that is rarely seen in the world of competitive curling leaving Tetley with the almost impossible draw to a covered button. Bedlam rained. There was no one in the rink that day who wanted Tetley to make that improbable last shot. Everyone prayed for a miss that would force a playoff between the upstart Territories and the Northern Ontario champs.

Unlike Mighty Casey, Tetley did not miss his shot. He coldly drew through a port not big enough for a Brier pin and left his last stone alone covering the button. Poor Tetley. The let down in the arena was palpable. Twa, Haines. Stokes and Boyd were the first to

offer their hands and salute the Brier win. The Territories with a record of eight and three finished an honourable second and proved to all doubters, and there were still many, that the North belonged on the National stage.

Premier Hatfield proved that he too was a man of honour. Before the Brier Tankard was awarded to the victorious rink from Northern Ontario, he made his way across the ice and up to the broadcast booth where Terry Delaney and I had been filing reports back to CBC Yukon.

He asked Terry if he had secured a collector's item Brier pin. Terry paused for what seemed like an eternity and then said that he had. But he quickly added that his friend Les McLaughlin was still without such a pin. Hatfield removed the pin from his lapel and presented it to Terry, who graciously handed it to me. The premier then made his way back onto the ice and presented the McDonald Brier Tankard to Bill Tetley.

But the Yukoners weren't finished. Don Twa was named the all star skip by the journalists covering the event. It meant that they, like Terry Delaney and myself, thought for that magical week, Don Twa was the best curler in Canada.



Left to right – Don Twa (skip), John Trout (third/vice), Lionel Stokes (second) and Kip Boyd (lead) at the 1977 Brier in Montreal, Quebec
Photo courtesy Lionel Stokes deb.stokes2@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)



Left to right – Lionel Stokes, Kip Boyd and Don Twa – taken at the CBC Curling Classic in Winnipeg. The CBC Curling Classic was by invitation only.
Photo courtesy Lionel Stokes deb.stokes2@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)



Photo above:

Lionel & Kip in form sweeping Don's rock at the CBC Curling Classic in the fall of 1975. They were playing Otto Danielli from the Zurich Crystal Clurling Club, Switzerland. The Otto Danielli rink won the Air Canada Silver Broom in Perth Scotland in March 1975. Rolf Gautschi and Ueli Mulli are the two opposition members in this photo. In those days of twelve end games a broom would only last Kip & I about 4-5 games. Photo courtesy Lionel Stokes deb.stokes2@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)

Present day update:

Don Twa left the Yukon the 1980's and now resides in Lethbridge.

Kip Boyd was a great friend whom I had known and curled with at different times over the years. Sadly he passed away April 4, 1997.

John Trout and I first met back in 1958 traveling to the Dominion Inter-Provincial playoffs (Albert high school championship) held in Calgary. Bernie Sparkes won the event and went on to win the Candian championship that year. In 1959 John won Alberta and also the Canadian championship.

John passed away September 15, 2004.

Chuck Haines and I [Lionel Stokes] still reside in Whitehorse but the curling broom is long since retired.

Lionel Stokes deb.stokes2@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)

Yukoners get together in Victoria

A Yukon friend gave me your name, I understand that you do a newsletter and have a list of names of Yukoners.

My husband and I lived in Whitehorse from 73 -78 and have kept in touch with a few people. I recently relocated to Victoria part time and we have planned a Yukon get together. I was hoping that this could be included in your newsletter.

I would also like to join your newsletter if you could give me details.

Thanks

Sandie Wood sandie*brannigans.ca (In Victoria)

CALLING ALL YUKONERS to VICTORIA

Let's get together to greet old Yukon friends and meet new ones. If you know of any ex-Yukoners now living on the southern tip of Vancouver Island-or anywhere else – who might enjoy linking up with others who have shared the Yukon adventure, please pass this on.

Saturday

May 14, 2011

7:00 pm

Brannigans Restaurant

1551 Cedar Hill X Rd (Victoria)

250-472-1083

Beverages and appys (plus HST)

\$15.00

Cash bar available

Please call or email to reserve by May 1

sandie@brannigans.ca

www.brannigans.ca

Ample free parking



Caribou Hotel

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

My mother sent me this old picture of the Caribou Hotel, a while ago. Unfortunately, it was very small and a bit blurry, and we don't know when it was taken, or by whom. However, I believe it was taken quite a few years ago. It looks as though a wedding was taking place in front of the White Pass Depot. Two things I noticed were that the Caribou Hotel was painted darker on the top floor and also, that there appears to be poplar trees in the front, something I don't remember seeing when I was young.

Wondering if anyone has any info on it. The new owners, Ann Morgan and Jamie Toole are looking for some older pictures, especially of the inside, that might be suitable for enlarging and hanging on the walls in the hotel.

Thought maybe someone out there has an old photo album that might have pictures that would be suitable.

Cheers, Norma (Yardley) Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)

ROBERT SERVICE CAMP



My Dad [Eric Richards] is the one on the left, and my Mom [Grace Richards] is standing with a friend who used to be the Telegraph Operator for Whitehorse, Bruce Watson.

This photo was taken about 80 years ago. My Mother and Dad (Eric and Grace Richards) used to walk down the old railway beside the Yukon River to this campsite "Robert Service Camp" (a few miles away) for picnics. I think the building was built by the

government for that purpose. Babe Richards and Gudrun Erickson would remember it well.

Joyce Yardley joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo)

The grounds in this area became known as Robert Service Campground and was located on the South Access Road to Whitehorse. – Sherron Jones

The Percy DeWolfe Race is Ready to Go

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

March 21, 2011

The numbers aren't all in for this year's running of the Percy De Wolfe memorial Mail race, which will leave Dawson this Thursday at 10 a.m. That's not unusual at all. Mushers don't have to declare themselves until the mushers meeting the night before the race, and there's always a buzz on the race committee as they wonder who will show up.

"There's about six teams now," said committee president Anna Claxton on Monday night, "and about five more that I'd be surprised if they didn't show up. Then there are a few more that I don't know about all yet. So my guess is that there will be probably about 15."

There are three races leaving here on Thursday. The main race, which everyone generally calls the Percy, will leave from beside the Old Post Office on King Street at three-minute intervals, starting at 10 o'clock. Depending on how many teams there are, this can take from half an hour to forty-five minutes.

Sled number 2 carries the symbolic mail, already stamped and "franked" (cancelled) to Eagle, where it gets put into the US mail system and sent anywhere in the world. It's a 210 mile run over to Eagle and back, with a mandatory six hour layover in Eagle. The race is generally won in about 22 hours, with the fastest times being about two hours quicker. The worst time ever was in 1988, when blizzard conditions on the trail caused it to take 72 hours.

The Percy Junior and the Percy Junior Skijor race begin at noon and 12:30 respectively and are about half the length of the main race. Both are mass start races, which generally begin at the ice bridge in Dawson, run to FortyMile, spend the night there and then come back to Dawson. Alternatively the racers may choose to start in Eagle, run to FortyMile and then carry on to Dawson after spending the night.

At the committee meeting on Monday night it was reported that the trail is in excellent shape.

“It looks like we won’t have the spot tracking this year,” Claxton said, so people won’t be able to follow the teams’ progress on the Internet, as they were able to do last year, and could do on the Yukon Quest.

The race website - <http://www.thepercy.com/index.html> - will be kept up to date as much as possible, as will the race’s Facebook profile: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100002134782331>.

Fundraising for the Percy went well this year, so the purse for the Percy itself is \$10,000, shared out down to seventh place on a declining percentage: 1st 30%, 2nd 20%, 3rd 15%, 4th 12%, 5th 10%, 6th 7.5%, 7th 5.5%.

The purses for the other two races depend on the number of entries and are divided down to fifth place: 1st 30%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 20%, 4th 15%, 5th 10%.

Percy DeWolfe grew up near Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where the family name can still be seen fading on an old warehouse near the town’s railway station. Local historian John Gould has him arriving here in 1898, having following farm and ranch work west, as did many young men from that era. Where most took their pay home, Percy went North, settling in Dawson, marrying, and raising a family.

In 1910 Percy got the contract to haul the mail to and from Eagle a task he carried out until 1949. Known as the Iron Man of the North, he received a silver medal from King George in 1935 in recognition of his service.

The race was started as a memorial run 35 years ago, but soon became a recognized mid-distance race and a qualifying event for the Yukon Quest.

A lot of long distance mushers like to make this race their last run of the year, one of the reasons why it is hard to say just how many teams will turn up. It depends on how tired they are after the Iditarod. In 2010 there were 12 teams in the Percy (with two scratches), 11 in the Junior and one skier.



The Percy starting line from 2010.

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

35th Percy Unseasonably Warm at the Start

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

March 24, 2011

It's not often that Dawsonites hope for a cloudy day in late March, but with temperatures hovering around -10°C , organizers of the Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race were rather hoping that the sun wouldn't peek through the overcast. If the sun had been shining at 10 a.m. Thursday morning, it might have been too warm for the 14 dog teams about to head out on the 210 mile (340 km) round trip to Eagle.

As it was, things were comfortable for mushers, dogs and spectators alike as Gabrielle Sgaga announced the invisible departure of the first musher, Percy DeWolfe himself, for whom the #1 bib is always reserved.

There weren't as many people as usual present to see the race start. Normally this is a school field trip for classes at Robert Service School, but RSS has chosen to follow other Yukon schools in taking a two week March Break this year, and it hasn't ended yet. Still, attendance firmed up considerably as the 40 minute timed start continued.

Whitehorse's Yuka Honda was wearing bib #2 this year, and received the memorial mail sack from Postmaster Robert LePage and Const. Karina Watson before leaving.

The postage for this year's batch of letters was covered by LePage and his Canada Post co-worker, Monna Sprokkreeff.

While Dawson has been clearing its other streets during the last several weeks, city crews spread fresh, fluffy snow along King Street, down to Front Street and up onto the dyke to where this year's trail began. There was a slight alteration in the trail due to the location of this year's ice bridge, and one team, which apparently knew the old route, had to be stopped from charging down the graveled bridge access.

At two minute intervals the rest of the teams headed on their way. The other mushers were Gerry Willomitzer, Crispin Studer, Maren Bradley, Mathias Bech , Deb Knight, Marcelle Fressineau, Jonathan Lucas of Whitehorse; Richard Todd and Karen Ramstead of Perryvale, AB; Lucy Tyrell of Healy, Alaska; Ryan Kinna of Haines Junction; Brian Wilmshurst of Dawson; and Colin Morrison of Carcross.

All of them except Tyrell were running with nine dogs. She had seven. One additional change to this year's race is the length of the mandatory layover in Eagle, Alaska, which has been increased from six hours to eight in order to give the dogs (and the mushers) a better rest.

About an hour and a half later, at noon, a smaller group gathered at the west end of the ice bridge to see the next two races begin.

Running on skis with four dogs each and a pulka were Darryl Sheepway and Stefan Wackerhagen, both of Whitehorse. They were bound for FortyMile and an overnight stay before coming back for a 105 mile (170 km) round trip. This event is called the Percy Skijor Race.

The Percy Junior sled dog race was ready to go at 12:30. This was a mass start, with one inexperienced team leaving about five minutes after the others to avoid the canine confusion caused by six teams eager to run. The mushers were Matt McHugh and Kyla Boivin of Dawson; Simi Morrison and Pierre Duc of Carcross; Luc Tweddell and Alexandra Rochat of Whitehorse.

The route for the Percy Junior is the same as the skijor race. Mushers generally average about 6 hours for each quarter of the race, with a running time of under 22 hours for the top teams, which should arrive in Dawson on Friday afternoon.



Postmaster Robert LePage and Const. Karina Watson hand over the mail to Yuka Honda.
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Yuka Honda begins the race.



Jonathan Luca's team runs up onto the dyke.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Percy Junior's mass start on the river.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



They're off in a flurry of snow.

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



The two skijorers, Stefan Wackerhagen and Darryl Sheepway

Studer Takes the Percy

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

March 27, 2011

Crispin Studer moved up from second place to first and improved on his 2010 running time by about two minutes to capture the trophy in this year's 36th running of the Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race. His winning time was 20 hours and 23 minutes. This is a couple of minutes shy of the course record of 18 hours and 46 minutes, set by Brian MacDougall in 2003.

Gerry Willomitzer pulled in an hour and a quarter later, followed about two hours after that by Mathias Bech, mushing with Willomitzer 's other team.

Studer thanked his wife for prodding him to run the race this year.

“I truly wouldn't have made it here without her because I was pretty sick back home. She loaded my stuff into the truck and loaded the dogs. I was sitting in the passenger's seat all the way up here.

“She kicked my ass to make sure that I would go to the (mushers') meeting and sign up. She woke me up in the morning to be sure I would put my parka on. I really didn't feel like it, but I'm really happy that I did.”

He was feeling fine and beaming as he hefted the moose antler trophy.

Before any of the main race teams got back, however, the Percy Junior racers, led by Luc Tweddell and Pierre Duc pulled in shortly after 2:30 on Friday afternoon, with Kyla Boivin arriving not long after Studer.

The main race concluded in the following order: Brian Wilmshurst, Maren Bradley, Yuka Honda, Deb Knight, Marcelle Fressineau, Colin Morrison, Jonathan Lucas, Ryan Kinna, Richard Todd, Karon Ramstead (Red Lantern).

One musher, Lucy Tyrell, decided to scratch at Eagle when she realized that her older dogs were not recovering well from the first half of the race. She didn't even want to run the risk of bringing them back at a slow pace, so she arranged for a plane and flew herself and her dogs back to Dawson.

The remaining places in the Junior Percy were Alexandra Rochat, Matt McHugh and Simi Morrison (Red Lantern).

The two-man skijor race was won by Stefan Wackerhagen, whose total time of ten hours and ten minutes beat Darryl Sheepway by nine minutes. Both agreed that the overnight trip to Forty Mile and back was a lot more fun than running distances in and out of Dawson for two days as in the past.

Other awards at the banquet included the junior and main race Vet Awards, presented to Alexandra Rochat and Maren Bradley; the Rookie of the Year, which went to Mathias Bech; Sportsman of the Year, which went to Gerry Willomitzer.

The DeWolfe Committee presented a special recognition award to race marshal John Borg, who has served in all 36 races and has managed to make it to the closing banquet all but twice in all those years.

“John is the only person who has been involved in every single running of the memorial mail race,” said committee president Anna Claxton. “We thought we’d recognize him with a picture from this year’s race. It’s a picture from the start, which you never get to see, ‘cause you’re always helping out in Eagle.”

“I certainly appreciate this,” Borg said. “I thought it was my retirement cheque. I’ve been here 34 out of the 36, One year I made it part way and got caught in the bad weather, and the other year I was flying out of Eagle the next day, so I’ve got legitimate excuses.” The closing awards dinner was held at the Oddfellows Hall on Saturday night.



Crispin Studer arrives in Dawson on Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Crispin Studer, John Borg and Anna Claxton
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



John Borg receives a photo from Anna Claxton honouring his 36 years of service with the race. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Studer has worked his way to the top of the Race

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

March 30, 2011

Swiss born Crispin Studer has been working his way up the pack in the Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race since 2003, when his first run saw him place eleventh. That was an exceedingly fast year during which the top three mushers all arrived back in Dawson in under 20 hours. The website does not, however, have running times for that particular race, so Studer's time that year isn't recorded.

Five years later he returned to run in the Percy Junior, with a respectable running time of 26:24. The next year, 2009, showed dramatic improvement, as he ran the main race – twice the distance – in just about an hour and a half longer, placing seventh.

In 2010 Studer placed second, with a time of 22:35, and this year his first place running time of 20:23 was over an hour ahead of the second place team.

That's good progress for the 30 year old, who started mushing in 2002 as a handler for Frank Turner on the Yukon Quest. Since that time he has run in many of the races in the Yukon and Alaska, winning the Carbon Hill Race three times in a row, as well as running in the Quest.

“There's a small dog mushing scene in Switzerland, but I never stood behind a dog sled there,” he said, thinking back to his homeland.

Studer came to the Yukon when he completed his first year of engineering studies and had determined to take a year off before he decided if he would continue.

“I wanted to learn English,” he said, “and I always wanted to see a real adventure. It was Russia, Alaska or Canada, and I liked Canada better. The mentality fitted me better. I decided to come here and I liked it so much that I moved here a few years later.”

His day job, so to speak, is in mineral exploration, a summer occupation that leaves him free to run dogs in the winter.

“I was super happy with my team this year. They were going at 10 miles an hour, average, the whole race, which is pretty fast. My leaders really impressed me. I knew they were very good, but I didn't know they were **that** good.

“I had four pretty young dogs in there that were doing very well too, so I was very happy about that.”

Warm temperatures were a factor in this year's race.

“I thought I would struggle more with the heat. The sun was out on the first day for a few hours. I liked last year’s bitter cold better. This year I tried a few things to see how the dogs responded to the heat. I stopped a lot more, every few miles, gave them a short pet and kept running. They did really well on that. It was nice to see.”

Studer had planned for what looked like a warm race, leaving all his darker coated dogs at home.

Personally, Studer was suffering from a lingering stomach flu “My kid had it about 10 days ago, just in time for me to get it. In Eagle I ran to the vet and she gave me some anti-diarrhea stuff. I was afraid I would have to run back with my pants down the whole way. That wasn’t my plan.”

Coming back, Studer had to carry one dog in the basket.

“He had a kind of a sore wrist and he was a young dog.”

He wasn’t happy with being pulled from the harness.

“He was screaming to get out, so I let him run a tiny bit and put him back in the sled. He was screaming like hell again. For him there was no way he would sit in the sled while the other dogs were running. Why would he sit if somebody else is allowed to run?”

“At one point I put my iPod in my ears because I was tired of hearing him screaming that loud.”

After a day’s rest the dog was fine and running around with the others when Studer let them loose for a while.



Crispin Studer begins his race last week.

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

Branding issue: ‘We’re back to the drawing board’ The horse or the boat ... the choice is yours.

By Stephanie Waddell April 12, 2011

The horse or the boat ... the choice is yours.

A decision by city council to put off adopting a new brand for Whitehorse means residents will get another chance to comment on what’s become a controversial topic, with the city now slated to do another survey on the matter.

It’s estimated the decision will cost the city \$2,500 to \$3,000 in advertising as it gets the word out.

Council was unanimous in its decision Monday night to put off the branding in favour of going to the public once again.

“We’re back to the drawing board a bit,” Mayor Bev Buckway told reporters following last night’s meeting.

The move comes after council was presented with an 845-signature petition last week calling for the city to keep the sternwheeler logo, one of a number it currently uses. The city had been considering rebranding to a white horse that featured a stylized letter W – symbolizing the Whitehorse rapids – for the horse’s mane with a tagline of “Above All Expectations”.

It had been designed by eSolutions of Waterloo, Ont., which was contracted for the project. While the petition came after a survey, public and stakeholder meetings earlier this year, the number of signatures was enough to convince council to take a second look at it.

A Facebook group – Whitehorse Save Our Ship – also sprang up from the controversy, with 102 people listed as “liking” the page that aims to keep the sternwheeler logo.

Along with the signatures collected, council was told a number of seniors in the city weren’t informed about the rebranding project.

The challenge, Buckway said, is ensuring everyone is informed at the outset of such projects.

In the most recent survey that will go out Friday, residents will be asked to choose between the white horse or the sternwheeler design; and between the taglines of “Above All Expectations” or the two existing taglines of the “Wilderness City” or “Striving for Excellence”.

They will also be asked to rate how much they agree with a lengthy statement about the city values and will be given additional space to leave any other comments.

Unlike the original survey done on the project, those completing it will be asked to provide their name and a phone number in order to ensure that everyone fills out just one survey, city spokesman Matthew Grant explained at a press conference this morning.

“This is just another stage in the process,” he said.

After it’s made available on-line (<http://www.whitehorse.ca>) and through hard copies at the Canada Games Centre and city hall on Friday, residents will have until April 29 to fill it out.

“Please spread the word,” Buckway said after announcing the survey at last night’s meeting.

The city will be using its website, print and broadcast advertising, on-line discussion forums, its own Facebook page, posters, mini-flyers and e-mail lists to get word out about it.

The delay in adopting a new brand also means the launch of the city's updated website will be put on hold until the city has selected the brand that will be featured on the site, said Grant and Buckway.

Funding for the branding project is coming from the Yukon government, which contributed \$50,000, with another \$10,000 from the city along with its management of the project.

Vote online at <http://www.whitehorse.ca>



Survey Starts
April 15th and
Ends April 29th



Corporation of the City of Whitehorse.
City photo by Cathie Archbould

City of Whitehorse
brand sponsored by:



When the City of Whitehorse Sternwheeler Image was developed in-house, at no cost to the City, in the 1970's and was called a LOGO. In those days companies PRODUCTS had BRANDING, not Municipalities.

The logo was developed to provide the City's employee's with an authorized design that it could use for crests on such things as employee purchased Jackets. It was deemed inappropriate to use official design used on the City Seal and Klondike Dollar for unofficial business.

– Sherron Jones (an employee of the City at that time who collected money from the employees and ordered the Logo design crests included on City approved blue Melton wool jackets.)

For those of us who didn't realize – the City also has a **Coat of Arms** – see below.

According to Wikipedia –

Purpose of use: The image is used to identify the organization Whitehorse, Yukon, a subject of public interest. The significance of the logo is to help the reader identify the organization, assure the readers that they have reached the right article containing critical commentary about the organization, and illustrate the organization's intended branding message in a way that words alone could not convey.

City of Whitehorse – Coat of Arms



CITY OF WHITEHORSE PRESS RELEASE

Release: 2011-40

CITY TO EXPAND CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED LOGO

WHITEHORSE – The City's branding consultation is being extended to provide citizens with more opportunities to help the City select a logo and tagline, Mayor Bev Buckway said.

“As a result of increased public interest in the City's branding project, we will be asking citizens to provide input on visual identity options being considered by the City,” said Buckway. “Citizens will be asked if they would like to move in a new direction or remain with one of the logos and taglines currently being used by the City.

“With this expanded public input the City will have the information it needs to make a more informed decision on how it will proceed with its branding initiative,” Buckway added.

As part of the expanded consultation effort, the City will be conducting a City-wide logo and tagline survey, which will run from April 15 to April 29.

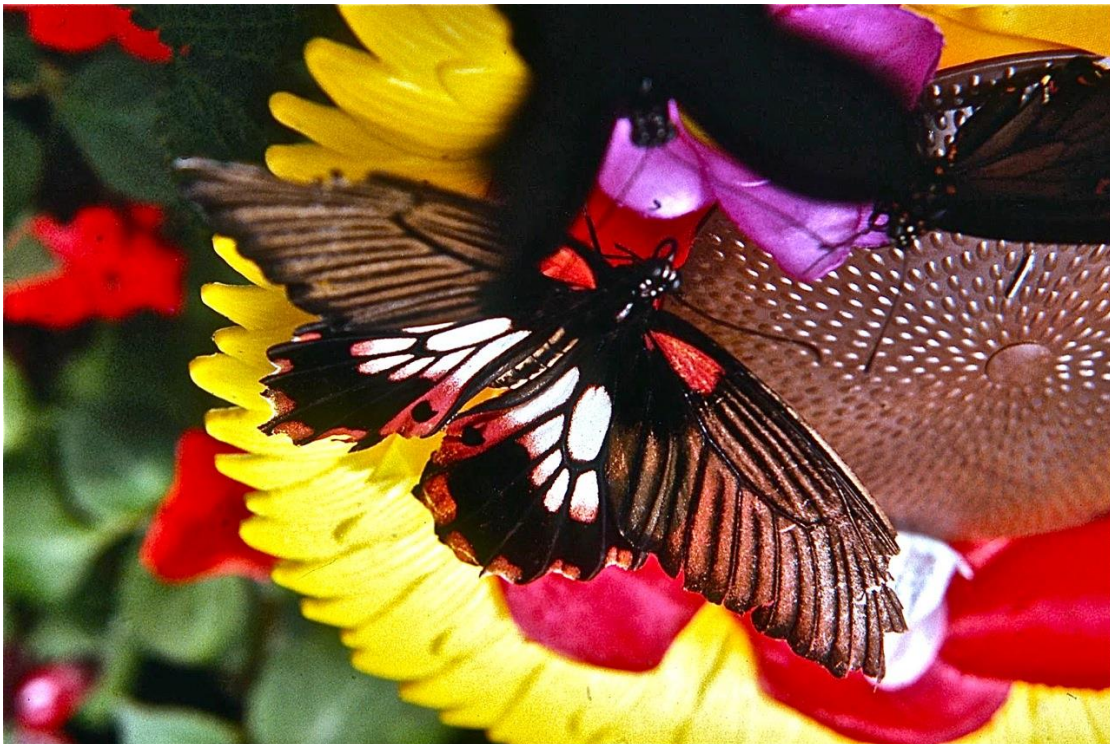
The City's branding project is a result of a 2009 Economic Development Charrette where housing, transit and branding were highlighted as priority items the City should address.

The City is currently addressing all three priority items with approximately \$1.1 million in the 2011 Capital Budget dedicated to planning and development initiatives and \$275,000 allocated towards the implementation of the City's new loop-based transit system. In 2010, a total of \$10,000 of City funds and \$50,000 in Yukon Government funds was dedicated to branding.

“This new survey will add another element to the extensive consultation the City has undertaken in its rebranding effort, which has included surveys, public meetings and the use of a stakeholder group,” said Public Relations Manager Matthew Grant. “Once this phase of the branding project is complete the City can move toward the final phase of the project, which includes the creation of branding materials that can be used by local businesses and non-profit agencies.”

The City's survey will be available online beginning Friday, April 15 at www.whitehorse.ca or in hard copy at City Hall and the Canada Games Centre.

ARTISTIC TALENT



Butterfly

Photo courtesy Doug Bell cheechako46*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

OBIT



Shirley Ann Hughes

Of Summerland BC, passed away with her family by her side on March 17, 2011 at the age of 75 years, will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 55 years Al, children Mary Ann (Christopher) Nixon of Victoria BC, James (Nancy Osborne) Hughes of Whitehorse YT, Trish (Garth) Bradley of Sherwood Park AB, grandchildren: Chistopher, Timothy, Robyn Sagert, and Robyn Podelec, great grandson Liam Podelec, brothers and sisters: Margaret, Jack, Mary and Brian. She was sadly predeceased by her parents John & Mary Lunggren, sister Doreen, brothers Clarence and Neil.

Shirley's first priority was her family. She touched the lives of everyone she met. She loved painting pictures, gardening and travel, especially enjoying the cruises and travelling in the RV with Al. Shirley worked in sales at Taylor and Drury's, Hougens and the Bay and later owned Hughes Shoes in Whitehorse.

Memorial Services were held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 1:00 PM at Summerland Funeral Homes, 13205 Rosedale Avenue, Summerland, BC with Reverend Kent Israel officiating. Memorial Tributes may be made by Moog and Friends Hospice House or the Canadian Cancer Society.

Condolences may be directed to the family through www.providencefuneralhomes.com Funeral arrangements entrusted to Providence Funeral Homes, Summerland's Rosedale Chapel.



MARCOUX, Guy

RCMP Deputy Commissioner (Retired) It is with great sadness that the family of RCMP Deputy Commissioner (ret'd) Guy Marcoux announces his passing on March 29, 2011. Predeceased by his first wife Shirley (Rennie) of Abbey, Saskatchewan. Survived by his children Stewart (Claudette Levesque), Rennie (Guy Gallant), Maureen, Michel (Julia Burns), and his cherished grandchildren who adored him Shaun Andre, Johanie, Nathalie, Nicolas, Brittany, Liam and Maria; adopted daughter Juana Laura Garcia (Ayhan Karaceper); step-daughters Cathy Gordon (Luke), Susanne Mackillop (Malcolm), and their children Rebecca, Jason, Rory and Laura. Son of the late Roland Marcoux and Jeannette Lalancette, Guy grew up in Roberval (Lac St-Jean). He joined the RCMP on July 5, 1950 and served for 35 years in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Quebec, Yukon and Ottawa. After his retirement, he worked with External Affairs (Trade Negotiations Office), and Health Canada (Canadian Panel on Violence against Women). He was a Governor of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires for 21 years and served as chairman of the Board of Directors for the Ottawa Division. Following the death of his first wife, Guy married Wendy Bradshaw of Duncan, B.C. He adopted her family and embraced a new life on Vancouver Island filled with travel, golfing, children and grandchildren from both families. Guy is also survived by several brothers, sisters and family from Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, B.C. and Oregon. He will be deeply missed by the many friends whose lives he enriched. A celebration of Guy's life will take place at the Cowichan Golf and Country Club, 4955 Trans-Canada Highway in Duncan, on Sunday April 3, 2011 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. A funeral service will take place in the RCMP Chapel in Regina on April 9 at 12:30 p.m., followed by his burial in the RCMP Cemetery alongside his late wife Shirley. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the RCMP Museum in Regina at the following address: Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Center, 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Sask S4T 0P4.

Online condolences may be offered at www.hwwallacecbc.com 621985

JEANNE HARBOTTLE

Good morning, Sherron. Just a quick note here this morning [April 7th] to let you know that a long time friend, Jeanne Harbottle passed away last Saturday, April 2nd. Not sure if you had heard this or not as yet. She was a dear friend and will be missed greatly.

Linnea Castagner linneacastagner@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)



HARBOTTLE, Jean

passed into the arms of Jesus on April 2, 2011 in Vernon at the age of 88 years. Predeceased by her first husband Tom Connolly, second husband Francis (Bud) Harbottle. Survived by her sister Dorothy as well as several nieces and nephews. No services by request. In lieu of flowers donations to the Salvation Army or Citteraid. Jeanne grew up in San Francisco and met her first husband Tom and travelled with him to Ross River, Yukon where they operated a trap line and ran big game guided hunting. She then moved on to Whitehorse where she met and married Bud. Jeanne was active in the Yukon Archives where you can find stories written by both Jeanne and Bud. She was also the author of "*Women in the Bush*" which related some of her own experiences. Jeanne was an extensive traveller and finally settled in the Okanagan. She was a force to be reckoned with and will be deeply missed by all. *Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.mem.com*

Arrangements entrusted to
FIRST MEMORIAL
FUNERAL SERVICES,
Kelowna, B.C.
250-762-2299.

Richard Basil Rotondo

July 16, 1941 - April 9, 2011



Richard Rotondo passed away peacefully at Vernon Hospice House with beloved wife Dorrie and his two daughters, Terry and Cheryl by his side on April 9, 2011 at 69 years of age.

Richard was born in Timmins, Ontario. He grew up in Porcupine, Ont. and Cobden Ont. finally residing in Whitehorse, Yukon. Here he met the love of his life Dorrie in 1962 and they married February 22, 1964. Richard earned his living as an electrician and was part owner of K.R. Electric in Whitehorse. In 1981, he moved his family to the Okanagan area. Richard's hobby and love of flying small aircrafts led them to reside in Vernon with the operations and ownership of Vernon's Tri Lake Flight Centre for almost 13 years. After selling in 1995 you could find Richard either golfing or driving behind the wheel of a tour bus.

Richard will be sadly missed by his family. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend Dorrie; his two daughters Terry (Colin) Shpak of Quesnel and Cheryl (Chris) Kopp of Vernon; grandchildren Megan, Jamie, Tag and Gage; one sister Linda Adams; one half brother Peter Kelly; one step sister Debbie Kelly; one step brother Brian Kelly; as well as several extended family members and many friends.

The family would like to sincerely thank Dr. S. Friesen and Dr. Hardy. They also extend heartfelt gratitude to the nurses, care aids, support staff and the many volunteers from the Vernon Hospice House.

There will be no service by request. Friends and family wishing to make memorial contributions in memory of Richard may do so to the North Okanagan Hospice Society 3506 - 27th Avenue, Vernon, BC V1T 1S4.

NEW ADDITIONS

Hope that you had a good trip back. One of my physiotherapy classmates has lived in Vernon for a long time she is Trudy Hodge, husband Bill – now retired but I believe that

he had a dermatology practice there. We have seen each other at our class reunions that we held in the past few years.

My husband Bill and I lived in Whitehorse from 1973 -1978. I worked at Whitehorse General Hospital as a physiotherapist and Bill was with the Yukon Territorial Government as the Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services. We moved to Oahu Hawaii in 1978 where Bill attended graduate school, following that we moved to London Ontario for 2 years, Bill was with the UWO Research Unit and I worked with the Canadian Arthritis Society. In 1985 we returned to Hawaii – Bill teaches at University of Hawaii at Manoa and I worked for the Department of Health. I retired in October last year and now spend most of my time in Victoria assisting my son with our restaurant, Brannigans - which we bought 3 years ago from some former Yukoners.

The email that I use is sandiew*hawaii.rr.com (in spite of having Shaw when I am here at Brannigans – everything comes to the rr account)

I have met some Yukoners in the restaurant and know a number of others who live in Victoria – we still keep in touch with quite a few people who still live up there – as you know unique friendships are formed there. Everyone seems to think that it would be fun to have a Victoria get together and we have the place so that is pretty much it.

Thanks for your follow up and time with this newsletter.

Sandie Wood sandie*brannigans.ca (In Victoria)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It's hard to beat a person who never gives up. - Babe Ruth

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Shared by Doris Gates and Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate*shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

SUGAR FREE ORANGE BANANA BREAD

2 c. flour
1 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice or your favourite mix of spices
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. baking powder
1 c. mashed ripe bananas
1 (6 oz.) can frozen unsweetened orange juice, thawed
2 eggs, beaten
1 c. raisins or 1 c. nut meats or 1 c. candied fruit mix (opt.)

1/2 tsp. lemon extract
1/2 tsp. Salt

Mix dry ingredients. Blend well the bananas, orange juice, eggs and extract. Stir in any optional ingredients used.

Add dry ingredients. Stir just until moistened. Pour into greased loaf pan or pans.

Bake in 350 degree oven for 40 minutes or until well done.

Cool in pan 10 minutes.

Remove from pan and let cool on rack. Slice thinly.

DATES TO REMEMBER

83rd Annual Banquet 2011

**The Vancouver Yukoners' Association thanks
Yukoners past and present**

who have made our 83rd Annual Banquet

A SOLD OUT EVENT!

Date: April 16, 2011

Place: River Rock Casino/Resort – Whistler Ballroom

Address: 8811 River Rd, Richmond BC – Free Parking

River Rock Casino Hotel reservations:

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

Banquet Tickets: SOLD OUT

Banquet Reception: Ballroom Foyer 5pm – 6pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Hospitality Room: Open Friday evening and Saturday from noon

Note: Pick up tickets in Hospitality Room

For further information contact:

4perry@telus.net

Phone: 604-853-7340

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.ca.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Sherron Jones 9205 Orchard Ridge Drive Vernon, BC, Canada V1B 1V8