

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 338th Edition – July 10th, 2011

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



This is a bald eagle's nest that has been constructed by the City of Whitehorse near the Robert Service Campground overlooking the Yukon River, (when the original nest fell apart).

There is one baby in the nest. When we watched one day, the mother was sitting on the edge, and 3 Arctic terns were attacking it. They left to come back with reinforcements, and then there were 6 terns swooping down on the eagle, making a lot of noise and getting very close to her. She must have tried to eat their babies.

Eleanor Millard emillard@northwestel.net (In Carcross)

OKANAGAN YUKONERS PICNIC IN SUMMERLAND



?, Val (Sheck) Chouinard, June Austin, ?
Photo courtesy Marbeth Mainer mainerml@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)



Sheila & Norm Becker, Fred Mandl, Lynn Lambert, Diane (Harbottle) Pilloud, Chuck Caddy, Martha Kerr, Ingrid Dick, ?, ?
Photo courtesy Marbeth Mainer mainerml@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)



Ted Woolger, Larry & Joan Chalmers, Al Sowden, ?
Photo courtesy Marbeth Mainer mainerm1@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)



Ray Pilloud, ?, Claire Festel, Ruby Woolger
Photo courtesy Marbeth Mainer mainerm1@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)



Sharon Sowden, Shirley Turton, ?
Photo courtesy Maribeth Mainer mainerml@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

Low turn out at this year's Okanagan Yukoners Picnic. One estimate was about 40. Bill & I (Sherron) were not able to make it this year. From the photos that Maribeth shared, it doesn't look like they even had name tags for the attendees.

Bill and I met for lunch with Claire Festel in Kelowna last week. I obtained a copy of "Remarkable Yukon Women" a book which includes the profiles of 50 women by Claire Festel and portraits of the same women by Valerie Hodgson. We have enjoyed reading it and learning a little about those ladies. The portraits are currently being shown at the Yukon Art Centre from June 2 to August 27. If you can, make a point of visiting the Art Gallery and seeing this one of a kind exhibition. Well done Claire and Valerie, we hope you will be inspired to do more of this type of work together. It is interesting that those chosen for the project were not selected by either Claire or Valerie. Valerie started by painting her sister in law and she was asked to find the next person and so it continued each finding the next. Also found it interesting that Claire and Valerie were both attending a dinner party when it was brought to their attention that each was doing work that could be connected and a book was suggested. This has resulted in another gem preserving Yukon history.

Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca (In Vernon)

Patullo – MocTel 336

I note in Moc Tel 336, there is a Les McLaughlin article about the annexation of the Yukon by British Columbia.

Attached is an article and a photograph that relate to that story. If you choose to include this item in a future edition of the Moc Tel, you might want to mention that a variation of this account is included in my book, "History Hunting in the Yukon."

The caption for the photo should read: "St. Mary's Church in Dawson City. In 1937, the small class of students who received their education in this school prevented the Yukon from being swallowed up by the province of British Columbia."

Cheers,
Michael Gates msgates@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

History Hunter

The little school that saved the Yukon

08 10 31

Michael Gates ©

Never underestimate the influence that a few school children can have upon the course of major political and social affairs. As a result of fifteen Catholic students back in 1937, the Yukon Territory was spared from annexation into the province of British Columbia.

To understand the origin of this episode in Yukon history, we must rewind the reel to July of 1899, when William Ogilvie, then Commissioner of the Yukon, having disposed of numerous pressing matters in the running of a newly formed territory, got around to the issue of education.

He met with representatives of the Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. While the three Protestant clergymen agreed that a non-sectarian public school be established, the Catholic representative, Father Pierre Gendreau disagreed. There was some history behind his exception, and goes back to education and minority rights in Manitoba.

Father Gendreau requested that a separate school be established, funded both by taxes from separate school supporters, and from a government grant. It was to be staffed by the Sisters of St. Ann in a building that was already constructed. The territory was desperate to have a school, and when the ship containing the supplies for the establishment of a public school sank, the territorial council was willing to support anyone who could start one.

On September 3, 1899, St. Mary's Catholic School was opened for thirty seven students; the school was inspected and financial support was approved, making it Dawson City's

first publicly supported institution of learning. While this was intended to be a temporary measure, by 1901, Council had approved an ordinance that ensured the support of both public and separate schools.

This was further reinforced a year later when Council approved a more substantial ordinance governing schools; at the time, seven of the ten councillors were Protestant. Approval was given with little controversy.

The Sisters of St. Ann ran a good school at low cost to the government, and provided education to a significant minority of students in Dawson City. Over the years, the minority fluctuated from 7% to 42% of the entire school population.

On two separate occasions, once in 1905, and again in 1912, the question of annexation by British Columbia arose. The first time, Liberal and Conservative politicians in B.C. raised the objection that recognition of separate schools in their province would lead to sectarian conflict.

The second time, the issue emerged when Manitoba, then much smaller in size than it is today, was attempting to enlarge its jurisdiction all the way north to Hudson Bay. Territorial Council members raised the issue of supporting separate schools in the Yukon. The question was referred to Ottawa, and bolstered by Prime Minister Borden's adamant desire to avoid "another Manitoba schools question," the Commissioner was able to fend off opponents to the concept.

The most serious threat of annexation came many years later, and it sprang from the dreams of a former Klondiker, who had risen to become the premier of British Columbia: Dufferin "Duff" Pattullo.

Duff Pattullo was politically connected, through his family, to the Liberal government in Ottawa. When the Klondike fever swept the continent, he was able to obtain the position of principle secretary to Yukon's first Commissioner, James Walsh. He accompanied Walsh's entourage of civil servants across the country and up the coast to the Yukon.

Pattullo was able to witness first-hand the corruption of the Walsh administration, and when appointed as acting Gold Commissioner, he worked long and hard to clean up the tarnished image of the Mining Recorder's office, even receiving praise from the hostile press for his accomplishments.

Pattullo left his job with the government in 1901, and was quickly immersed in politics in the Liberal Party in Dawson. He quickly became appalled by and fought the corrupt political machine operated by Frederick T. Congdon. Because of this, Pattullo and many others in a divided Yukon Liberal camp supported Conservative candidate Alfred Thompson in the federal election of 1904.

Pattullo moved to Prince Rupert, where he again became involved in politics, eventually becoming Premier of British Columbia in November of 1933. Duff never forgot his

connection to the Yukon. He saw the natural resources of the north, including the Yukon, as a way out of the depression that gripped the country through most of the 1930s.

Annexation, he thought, would ensure the construction of an Alaska Highway, and provide access to minerals and forests that would lead the way out of the stagnant economy. Gold had nearly doubled in price and gold mining held promise for greater prosperity.

The constitutional fate of the Yukon and its tiny population lay in the hands of the federal government, which, during the 1930s, viewed the territory as a financial liability. If British Columbia were to take this liability off their hands, it would reduce the federal deficit; Prime Minister Mackenzie King was receptive to the possibility.

Late in 1936, the two governments began negotiating the terms for a transfer and agreed by April of 1937 to a number of conditions for such a transfer to proceed. Pattullo made it part of his campaign for re-election in 1937. Winning the election would be seen as an endorsement to proceed with annexation. Pattullo was glowing with the possibilities and potential of the Yukon.

The Yukon Council voiced its objections, but, it and the tiny population of the territory were viewed to be inconsequential by Ottawa. Pattullo boldly announced the pending signing of a tentative transfer agreement for October 2, 1937.

Pattullo's enthusiasm and optimism blinded him to the one factor that would bring his plan to a halt. If the Yukon was to be annexed, it would mean extinguishing certain minority rights that had existed in the territory for four decades, or introducing separate schools to the rest of British Columbia.

The spectre of annexation finally stirred British Columbian objection, both by the Orange Order, and the Vancouver Ministerial Association. The Catholic minority, on the other hand, responded positively to the educational implications of separate schools for the entire province. Once the latter factor was exposed publicly, any interest in annexation by either the federal or the provincial governments vanished.

Where the budgetary interests of the federal government would be advanced, the objections of the tiny population could be ignored and the objections of the provincial opposition could be dismissed. Issues of rewriting the boundaries could be overcome and the provincial election seemed to supply Pattullo with his mandate.



St Mary's School and church - Dawson City
Photo courtesy Michael Gates

But the presence of a small Catholic school consisting of fifteen students in the isolated town of Dawson City brought Pattullo's dream to an end. No one wanted the ship of state to founder on the rocky reef of minority rights, which was a federal issue that conflicted with the rights of the provinces to determine their own educational policy.

I, for one, am glad that's how it worked out.

More power to the children!

Michael Gates is a local historian and sometimes adventurer based in Whitehorse. His book, "History Hunting in the Yukon," is now available in bookstores everywhere.

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

Dr. Maurice Haycock

Dr. Maurice Haycock wasn't a Yukoner, but he could have been. I first met him in 1964 when he accompanied his friend A.Y. Jackson to Whitehorse on one of their many northern painting expeditions together.

At the time, Mr. Jackson, the most famous Group of Seven painter, was approaching his 80th year. He needed the help of his friend and fellow artist, Maurice Haycock, who was 18 years younger. I met Jackson and Haycock in the Stratford Motel as they were preparing for a trip to Lake Lebarge to do, as Haycock always said, "some sketching."

I was interviewing Jackson for local radio, and recall that I didn't ask many questions. The famous artist was well prepared to discuss his life-long painting association with the north. He talked for about an hour.

Maurice Haycock, I learned when I accompanied him to Lake Laberge with A.Y. Jackson, was a trained geologist who fell in love with the north when he spent a year in Pangnirtung on Baffin Island in 1926.

He had gone there to assist in mapping the interior of the arctic island for the Geological Survey of Canada.

He lived with the Inuit, learned the language, journeyed by dog team and, when he returned south, he earned a Ph.D. in Economic Geology at Princeton University.

The inspiration for Haycock's painting career came from the Arctic landscapes, and through a chance meeting with A.Y. Jackson, who was painting the north in 1927 while travelling on the government ship, the Beothic.

Following a visit to Great Bear Lake in 1949 with Jackson, he travelled and painted extensively across the north, virtually every year until his death in 1988.

To many in the art world, he became the eighth member of the Group of Seven. His paintings tell a story of geological vastness and beauty, of peace, challenge and exploration.

Dr. Maurice Haycock was more than a painter. He was a trained mineralogist, geologist, photographer, musician, and historian. He was, when I knew him in Ottawa in the 1980s, a virtual encyclopedia of both northern science and folklore.



Maurice Haycock, former head of the Geological Survey of Canada, painter, musician, 1981.

I had many occasions to talk with him and glean his knowledge about the north that he so willingly gave for radio programs. One day at his home, he showed me sketches that he had recently made in the Yukon.

At the time, he was turning the sketches into full-blown oil paintings. Though the sketches were crude and quickly done, I could identify many of the Yukon scenes.

A few years previous, Rolf and Margaret Hougen had invited him to come to the Yukon to paint whatever he wanted. Haycock's work had come to the attention of Marg Hougen, who had bought one of his paintings during the trip with A.Y. Jackson in 1964.

This time, Rolf wanted Dr. Haycock to paint the rest of the Yukon and provided a motor home in Inuvik so that he could drive down the Dempster Highway, painting and sketching. The Haycocks spent several days in Dawson City, Carmacks and Fort Selkirk.

They drove the Canol Road painting all the way. Rolf Hougen remembers that Dr. Haycock did about one hundred paintings, one of which appeared on the cover of the NorthwesTel phone book in 1986.

It is called "The Peel River Valley and the Ogilvie Range from the Dempster Highway."

Maurice Haycock died on December 23, 1988, at the age of 88 years, in Ottawa, where he is remembered as the Artist of the Arctic.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

Note: the Haycock name will come up in the upcoming Special Edition on the Stewart River.

Darrell Pasloski Becomes the Yukon's New Premier

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

June 12, 2011

History was made in Dawson City over the weekend when a territorial premier was sworn into office here for the first time. This may seem odd, but in the days when Dawson was the territory's capital, the Commissioner was the person in charge of the government, only some of his executive committee members were elected, and there was no such thing as a government leader or a premier.

So the installation of Darrell Pasloski, the newly elected leader of the governing Yukon Party, was indeed a piece of history in the making.

The ceremony was brief, taking hardly eight minutes in total from the time that cabinet secretary Janet Moody introduced Commissioner Doug Phillips to the fifty or so people gathered in the former legislative chamber on the second floor of the Old Territorial Administration Building (now mostly devoted to the Dawson City Museum).

"It's certainly a great pleasure to welcome you all here this morning for this special event in this historic chamber," Phillips said.

"This ceremony will see Mr. Darrell Pasloski formally installed as the Premier of the Yukon. As Premier, Mr. Pasloski will also become president of cabinet."

Pasloski was elected leader of the Yukon Party on May 28, succeeding Dennis Fentie, who served two consecutive terms as Yukon's premier. The newly appointed premier will carry the Finance, Executive Council Office, Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation portfolios.

"Mr Pasloski today takes on the obligation to Yukoners that, as Premier, he will do his best to serve the Yukon and its citizens," Phillips concluded before going on to administer the oaths.

Holding the large, white ceremonial *Bible*, Pasloski swore the following:

The Oath of Allegiance:

“I, Darrell Thomas Pasloski, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors according to law. So help me God.”

The Oath of Office:

“I, Darrell Thomas Pasloski, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a member of the Executive Council of Yukon. So help me God.”

The Oath of Secrecy:

“I, Darrell Thomas Pasloski, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will faithfully and honestly fulfill the duties that devolve upon me by reason of my appointment as a member of the Executive Council of Yukon and that I will not, without due authority in that behalf, disclose or make known any matter that comes to my knowledge by reason of such an appointment.”



Darrell Thomas Pasloski takes his oaths before Commissioner Doug Phillips.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Following this, the pair moved to a side table where they signed the documents that made it all official.



The official documents are signed.

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

Moody explained that there were three documents involved. The first appointed Mr. Pasloski to his new office; the second assigned him his portfolios in the government; and the third revoked the appointment of the former Yukon party leader, Dennis Fentie, to those same positions.

Premier Pasloski addressed the crowd briefly after the signing.

“This is a very special day for me. I’m honoured today to be sworn in as Premier of Yukon. It’s truly humbling and I’m very proud to be elected as leader of the Yukon Party and also the government of Yukon.

“In the coming months. I’m going to work very, very hard to insure that I can earn the trust and respect and support of Yukoners. There’s a lot of things going on in the Yukon. There’s always challenges, but there’s been a lot of great accomplishments as well. We’ve got a growing population. Our economy is strong. We have excellent relations with our First Nations governing partners.

“In conclusion I would like to thank and recognize outgoing Premier Dennis Fentie and his team for the excellent job they’ve done to this point. We are on a path of prosperity and we need to continue to build on our successes and maintain that movement with integrity and with respect and a team approach, to continue to make Yukon a place that we all want.”

Events concluded with much picture taking, hand shaking and a special family shot of the Pasloski family, including both sets of parents, who travelled here from Yorkton, Saskatchewan, for this occasion, on the front steps of the building.

Greetings arrived from Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the form of a press release. “On behalf of our Government, I offer my most sincere congratulations to Mr. Pasloski on winning the leadership of his party and becoming the next Premier of Yukon. “Our Government has made Canada’s North a cornerstone of its agenda, and I look forward to working closely with him to take action on the priorities of Yukoners and all Canadians, including the implementation of our Northern Strategy.” Harper also commended Dennis Fentie for his years of service and wished him well in his future endeavors.



Some of the Gallery. Some members of the audience, including former commissioners Geraldine Van Bibber and Ken McKinnon (and wife, Judy) in the front row.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Darrell and Tammie Pasloski pose with their parents.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Yukon Celebrates its birthday at the Commissioner's Tea

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

June 14, 2011

The lineup to get into the Commissioner's Tea stretched down Front Street a bit on June 11, but the front lawn and verandah of the Residence are spacious and there is room for a great number of people. The lucky first comers get the tables and chairs on the north side of the lawn and on the verandah, but there are benches to the north.

This 38th annual Tea marked a first for the Yukon's new Commissioner, Doug Phillips, though he has attended many others in his previous political life as a cabinet minister and as recently as last year while he was the Yukon's Administrator.

While the guests were settling in, and the first tea, coffee and lemonade was being served, the guests were treated to a serenade by the Dawson Orchestra, conducted by Joe Cooke. Parks Canada is one of the sponsors of the Tea, along with the ladies of the IODE, and Parks' Superintendent David Rohatensky was the first speaker of the afternoon. Parks operates five National Historic Sites in the Klondike region, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Parks service.

“We’re celebrating the centennial of the creation of Canada’s Dominion Parks Branch in 1911. We’re only six years away from the centennial of the National Historic Sites program. Since 1917 the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board has designated almost 1000 National Historic Sites. Here in Dawson, Parks Canada manages five of these sites. A sixth site, known as Tr’ochëk, is owned and managed by the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation.

“The real challenge for historic places is to not only protect the memory, but to bring the memory to life, to create programs and events that excite and involve all Canadians, as well as our international guests. I hope that today’s event invites a curiosity to learn more about the contributions of Martha and George Black, and the next time that you pass a Historic Sites and Monuments Board plaque, please take a moment to learn about the history that that plaque conveys.”

Rohatensky outlined some of the changes being made to Parks programming this summer and invited people, both locals and visitors, to try them out.

Next to speak was Myrna Butterworth, the president of Dawson’s IODE, the only surviving chapter in the North.

“Originally we were the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. Now we are just IODE, women dedicated to a better Canada, a national women’s charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service and citizenship programs.”

In Dawson the IODE’s main source of funds is the annual Break-up Ice Pool. They use the money to assist people in trouble and to provide a scholarship for a student at the Robert Service School.

Butterworth is a life member who has been with the organization for 52 years, nearly half the length of the IODE’s history, which is now in its 111th year.

Commissioner Phillips took the podium to welcome everyone to the 113th birthday of the Yukon.

“This is my first Tea as your Yukon Commissioner, in my role as Lieutenant Governor of the Yukon, and I can only imagine how magical it must have been way back in the early 1900s when his Honour, George Black and his wife, Martha, hosted events such as this. “Although it’s the Commissioner’s Tea, I can’t take credit for the tea. I’m just told to show up.”

He thanked the participating partners, and his own staff, for making it all happen.

“This is an exceptional event and it’s a real honour to be here in this place.

“Dawson City is buzzing today like it was in the Gold Rush Days. There’s new gold discoveries, and many more visitors are coming from all around the world. They’re

walking the streets and checking out the historic buildings. It's interesting sometimes how history seems to repeat itself."

As part of putting his own personal stamp on the operations of his office, Phillips has decided to encourage the development of the arts and music in young people.

"I'm going to be inviting some of these incredibly talented young Yukoners from all Yukon communities to perform at events such as this that I host or attend throughout the year."

Emily Ross was invited to the podium to play the keyboard and sing two songs for this event. Her choices were Sarah McLachlan's "Ordinary Miracle" and her own composition, "Life".

The next item of business was the presentation of Youth Recognition Awards to the entire Grade 6 class of the Robert Service School. The "Class of '99", as they call themselves, have been raising money for a variety of charitable concerns since their Grade 1 year and the community felt they had earned the recognition, as did the Commissioner (see separate article on this presentation).

No Tea would be complete without a little Service, Robert, that is, and Parks' interpreter Fred Osson offered the crowd a strong reading of "The Spell of the Yukon."

Sometimes, as emcee Gabriela Sgaga noted, the past returns to Dawson City. It turned out that this year's Mr. Yukon, Lorne Raymond, had something he wanted to bring home to Dawson, a legacy of his days working for the British Navigation Company.

"Back in the days of the sternwheelers, Mr. Raymond worked on the SS Klondike," she explained, "... and occasionally the Keno, along with his good friend, Sid White. Sid worked as third engineer and spent many years on the SS Keno. When Sid White passed away his son went to the Yukoners' Ball in Vancouver to give his father's logbook to Lorne, to take back to the boat.

"The logbook is a glimpse into the river trips of the steamer Keno from 1936 to 1953, listing everything from stopping places, to fuel used, tons of ore hauled, and the amount of time lost. Lorne is generously donating Sid White's engineer logbook to Parks Canada. We're honoured to accept this unique treasure to help us tell the story of the SS Keno National Historic Site. Thank you, Lorne."

Both Raymond and David Rohatensky donned protective cotton gloves to handle the transfer of the thin logbook, which was already protected by a Ziploc plastic bag.

The orchestra was pressed into service for a few numbers, after which Commissioner Phillips and the IODE's Myrna Butterworth carved up the official birthday cake to bring the afternoon to a close.



There was a healthy attendance for the tea on this fine afternoon.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Commissioner Philips and his wife, Dale Stokes, greet people in the receiving line.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Local chamber music by the Dawson Orchestra, with Joe Cooke conducting.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The lawn was filled with guests this year.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Commissioner Phillips addresses the crowd.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Premier Darrell Pasloski, his wife Tammie, and their parents.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Lorne Raymond (right) presents Sid White's logbook to Parks Superintendent David Rohatensky (left). Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Commissioner Phillips and the IODE's Myrna Butterworth cut the Yukon's 113th birthday cake. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Commissioner Plans to Take the Lead on the Ball

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

June 16, 2011

The spectators gathered early to see the arrival of the guests at the Commissioner's Klondike Ball, eager to see the magnificent period gowns and other formal wear that are *de rigueur* for this event. They were rewarded by a well-organized group pose at 8 p.m. during which the attendees at the Ball actually outnumbered the people across the street at the Old Post Office.

It had not been planned in advance that Midnight Sun Piper's Pat Ross would pipe in the Commissioner's party, but something about having the man walking around in full piper's regalia (with pipes nearby, just in case) seemed a strong enough hint and so that's what happened.

Emcee Gabriella Sgaga introduced the head tables and Commissioner Phillips, who took the microphone for a brief speech.

"Welcome to the 113th anniversary of the Yukon becoming a territory," he said. He went on to acknowledge the presence of a number of former commissioners: Geraldine Van Bibber, Judy Gingell, Ken McKinnon, Doug Bell, Art Pearson. Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Yukon, Lorne and June Raymond, and Miss Sourdough Rendezvous 2011, Carolyn Carter.

Phillips thanked his red coated Aides de Camp, RCMP Staff Sgt. Major Al Hubley, and Canadian Forces Captain Mark Patterson, who volunteer their time for this office during the year.

"We also have with us ... someone whom I had the pleasure of swearing in today as the new Premier of the Yukon, Mr. Darrell Pasloski and his wife, Tammie."

Speaker of the House, Ted Staffen was also present, along with Klondike MLA Steve Nordick. Surprisingly, no other elected Yukon Party members were present, though there were several Liberal MLAs in attendance.

"It certainly is a real pleasure to be back here in Dawson City for Dale (Stokes, his wife) and I as Commissioner. A certain renowned Dawsonite reminds me that I've come back to the center of the universe every time I come to Dawson City. Every time I return here he reminds me that this is what Dawson is and, y'know, when you get here on a day like this, with the events we've had today, it really is, today, the center of the universe.

"An awful lot has changed in Dawson City and yet a lot of it has stayed the same. I always kid this person from time to time, when she invites me to Dawson City to take part in the festivities ... I tell her 'I don't know if I want to go to Dawson City much more, because every time I come there you tell me there's new buildings, and every time I come here all the buildings look the same.' She says, 'Well, that's the deal here. All the buildings are supposed to look the same.'

“A hundred years ago gold seekers flocked to the Dawson area, and hundreds and thousands of claims were staked in this area. Entrepreneurs set up new businesses, the hotels were full and the tent city came to life. They were arriving by all means possible: fixed wing, helicopter and rental truck.

“Wait a minute! That wasn’t then; that’s now.

“Dawson is in the middle of a new gold rush and that’s very exciting for Dawson City and the Yukon, that things are happening in Dawson. Probably, in the end, they’ll be bigger than they ever were in the 1898 Gold Rush. Who could have imagined that 113 years later we would be starting all over again?

‘There are some interesting comparisons between the gold rush then and the gold rush today. From 1896 to 1903, \$96 million of gold was taken out of the Klondike. Last year alone 46,000 ounces of gold were recovered worth \$69 million in today’s prices. It’s estimated that there’s going to be, in exploration alone this year, in the Dawson area, \$47 million in exploration. That’s astronomical, compared with what it was years ago. Over 32,000 claims were staked just last year and I understand there’s about 63,000 active in the Dawson area this year.

“Ladies and gentlemen, Dawson City is alive and well and Dawsonites are seizing the opportunities created by the demand (for) Yukon’s mineral wealth.”

Having thanked both Parks Canada and the Klondike Visitors Association for the work they do in making this Ball happen, Phillips went on to announce that he intends his office to take a more active part in planning and promoting the ball.

“In the future the Commissioner’s office will be taking the lead role in organizing this event and will endeavor to keep this event up to the standard set by the KVA. My hope is that this event will continue as a major event in Dawson City and, in fact, will grow, as I hope, over the next five years, to put more effort into recognizing Yukon’s birthday.”

The territory has other kinds of wealth as well, and Phillips has decided that one of his goals as Commissioner will be to encourage the arts and culture sector, beginning with musical talent. To that end, sisters Sophie and Emily Ross were each invited to the stage to serenade the ball, following which Phillips announced in advance that he’s inviting them back in five years to sing for his last Ball.

The other big announcement was from the Honourable Ted Staffen, who took the microphone to reveal that a project begun by Geraldine Van Bibber during her term of office was now well under way. Linda Johnson has been commissioned to research, interview and write a book covering the history of the Yukon’s commissioners. This will make a companion volume for her last book, *With the People Who Live Here: The History of the Yukon Legislature, 1909 – 1961*.

Staffen presented a copy of the completed first chapter to Phillips.

“This is long overdue,” said the Commissioner. “Geraldine, it’s a wonderful project and from every single Yukoner out there, thank you very much.”

In addition, Staffen gave Phillips a print of a photograph taken at the time that the Commissioner’s Residence was recommissioned in 1996.

“In this photograph you’ll see many of the people that are here this evening, former commissioners and a Minister of Tourism that has dark hair.”

Phillips was Minister of Tourism at that time and that line got a laugh from the audience. The evening continued with hors d’oeuvres prepared by the Triple J Hotel and dancing to tunes provided by the Canucks.



The arrival of the guests at the Commissioner’s Ball is always a popular attraction for both locals and tourists. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Liberal Leader Arthur Mitchell and his wife, Nancy, arrive at the Ball.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Former commissioner Ken McKinnon chats with current Commissioner Doug Phillips.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Pat Ross piped the Commissioner into the banquet room.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



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



Dancing to the music of the Canucks.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



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



Ellie Ross

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



Sophie Ross

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



Commissioners Ball 2011 group photo.
Courtesy Glenda Bolt (In Dawson)

Commissioner of Yukon presents Youth Recognition Award to Dawson class

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

June 13, 2011

Commissioner Doug Phillips presented Robert Service School's Grade 6 class with the Commissioner's Youth Recognition Award during the Commissioner's Tea on Saturday. "We are proud of our youth. Recognizing them for their contribution to their community and to society is important," Commissioner Phillips said. "It ensures that they feel valued and encourages further service."

The class will actually graduate in 2017, but they call themselves "the Class of '99" because that's the year they were all born.

They have been fundraising in ever increasing amounts, volunteering for various projects and initiatives, and inspiring others to do the same, since the first grade.

They were introduced to the guests at the Tea by retired postmaster Lambert Curzon, who outlined the history of their activities beginning with the \$26 they raised as a Grade 1

class project and used to purchase a backpack full of supplies for a needy student somewhere in Canada.

The next year it was \$60, which was matched by a local business, and went to sponsor fruit trees in a developing nation through World Vision.

In Grade 3 they made and raffled off a piñata and raised \$300, which they sent to a school for autistic children in Guatemala.

In Grade 4 a bottle drive raised \$440, which was used to buy farm animals and clothing for 24 families through World Vision.

For the last two years they have bagged groceries at the Bonanza Market and the Dawson City General Store. The first year \$3,000 was split between a former student from this town who was injured and needed assistance, and the Dawson City Humane Society.

This year they raised \$2,000, to which other local groups added \$800, as a contribution to an education fund for the children of the late Tim Bierlmeier, a former RSS student who died in a tragic accident last year.

“We are a small community with a big heart,” Curzon said, “and this is evident in the various causes that these children have undertaken since Grade 1.”

The Commissioner’s Youth Recognition Award is presented to youth 18-years-old and under who have performed an outstanding or extraordinary service for their community or who have made positive contributions and demonstrated leadership in their activities by volunteering their time, energy and talent for the betterment of their community.

“When I heard about this award,” the Commissioner said, “and I heard of the good deeds that these children did, the first thought that came to my mind is that Canada’s future is in wonderful hands with children like these.”

Since school had been out for a week in Dawson by the date of the Tea, many of the children were camping, away on holidays, or out at mining camps with their families, but six were available to pick up their framed awards that day.

The Commissioner’s Tea is an annual public event hosted by Parks Canada and the IODE, Dawson Chapter.



Retired Postmast Lambert Curzon
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Student fund raiser Devon Dubois.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Student fund raiser Olivia Holmes.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Student fund raiser Brianna Lancaster.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Berton House gets support from [Amazon.ca](#)

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

June 19, 2011

Berton House is about to receive financial assistance from [Amazon.ca](#), in the form of a grant the online bookstore and retailer has provided to the Writers' Trust of Canada.

[Amazon.ca](#) has awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Writers' Trust to support two initiatives that advance and celebrate Canadian writers and the creation of new works: the Berton House Writers' Retreat and the Writers' Trust Engel/Findley Award.

"The priority of the Writers' Trust is to nurture great Canadian writers in their efforts to entertain and inform Canadian readers," said Peter Kahnert, Writers' Trust Chair and Senior Vice President, Raymond James Ltd.

"We are delighted that Amazon is partnering with us to achieve these goals and we are grateful for their ongoing support."

The Berton House Writers' Retreat is a unique literary sanctuary situated in Dawson City, Yukon. Each year it provides four professional writers the opportunity to live and work in the Klondike for a three-month period. They live in the house in which Pierre Berton spent the greater portion of his childhood.

Writers receive a monthly honorarium, perform public readings in both Dawson and Whitehorse, and become involved in the community. More than 50 writers have participated since the program began in the summer of 1996 when Berton and his sister, Lucy Berton-Woodward, opened the house to welcome Russell Smith.

The house is currently occupied, until the end of June, by Jeanne Randolph, a cultural critic based in Winnipeg.

Poet Jacob McArthur Mooney, a Nova Scotian now living in Toronto, will be at Berton House from July to September 2010.

The Writers' Trust Engel/Findley Award is an annual literary prize given, unlike most book honours, for a writer's oeuvre rather than one single book. The award celebrates and encourages a Canadian fiction writer at the top of their game and comes with a cash gift of \$25,000. Established in 2008, the prize is the product of merging the Marian Engel Award for a female writer in mid-career and the Timothy Findley Award for a male writer in mid-career. Novelist Miriam Toews was the latest recipient of the prize. This year's award will be presented on November 1 at the Writers' Trust Awards event in Toronto.

“The Writers’ Trust of Canada has been a bulwark of support for the Canadian author and publishing community for many years,” said John Nemeth, Director of Amazon.ca. “We are proud to be able to help the organization support the creation of great new works.” Amazon.ca has been a supporter of the Writers’ Trust since 2003 through its sponsorship at the annual Politics and the Pen gala in Ottawa, the organization’s largest fundraising event.

The largest single fundraising event for Berton House is the annual gala, the Berton House Klondike Banquet, which takes place in Toronto each November.



Berton House is not open to the public, but there is an interpretive platform with signs at the bottom of the lawn.

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

CANADA GAMES CENTER DAMAGED BY FIRE

**Teens charged in Canada Games Centre fire
Whitehorse recreation complex remains closed for time being**



Canada Games Centre staff show reporters fire damage to the arena's southwest wall on Monday. Two teenagers have been charged with arson in connection with Friday evening's blaze. (Dave Croft/CBC)

With repairs estimated perhaps in the Millions . . .

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2011/06/27/whse-canada-games-centre-fire.html>

PRESS RELEASE – CITY OF WHITEHORSE

REPAIRS AT CGC COULD COST AS MUCH AS \$5 MILLION

WHITEHORSE – The cost to repair Canada Games Centre (CGC) as a result of last month's fire could be as much as \$5 million, said Mayor Bev Buckway

(the rest of the story online at this link-)

http://www.whitehorse.ca/vertical/Sites/%7B77FF5155-2407-453B-BAE8-67D8813B88C6%7D/uploads/2011-84_CGC_could_cost_as_much_as_5_million_to_repair_-_July_5_2011.pdf

MESSAGE FROM JOANN ROBERTSON

Good morning Sherron. It is a beautiful day in Vancouver - finally- and I hope it is there too! My [yukonbook.robertson@gmail](mailto:yukonbook.robertson@gmail.com) email was not working for some reason (I think because Google is "improving" their system). Would you please note this in the next MocTel and give my personal email as well joannr6@shaw.ca . Thanks Sherron.

Joann Robertson

OLD BUSINESS CARDS – do they bring back memories to you ?

Submitted by Sandy Campbell northernlyght@shaw.ca (In Langley BC)

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E-mail: geraldine.vanbibber@gov.yk.ca
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YUKON WILDLIFE



Pesky Caribou - Alaska Highway just north of Watson Lake - December 2010
Photo courtesy Grant Lundy waterquality*klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)

YUKON WILDFLOWERS



Miniture Lupin

Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard*northwestel.net (In Carcross)

OBIT



GORDON ALEXANDER MCINTYRE

July 6, 1910 – June 11, 2011

Gordon passed away peacefully at Whitehorse General Hospital on June 11, 2011 one month before celebrating his 101st birthday.

Gordon was born to Angus and Ida McIntyre in Dawson City, YT on July 6, 1910 and lived there until 1920 when he moved with his family to Vancouver. He received most of his education in Vancouver, where he attended Britannia High School and Provincial Normal School. He moved to Mayo, YT in 1932 where he taught school from 1932 to 1941 when he joined the Canadian Army serving in England, Italy and Northwest Europe. He was in Holland when VE day was celebrated and was discharged in 1946 and returned to Mayo. Instead of returning to teaching he worked for the Yukon Territorial Government for a year, and then transferred to the Federal Government, as Mining Recorder and Crown Timber and Land Agent.

During his time in Mayo he was Secretary of the Hospital Board, Juvenile Court Judge for the Mayo District, a Justice of the Peace, Marriage Commissioner, Notary Public, Coroner, and Lieutenant in the Mayo Company of the Canadian Rangers. Gordon was transferred to Whitehorse in 1965 as Supervisor of Lands and Chief Mining Recorder eventually becoming the first Regional Director of Resources for the Yukon and while in that position also served as Registrar of Land Titles and Administrator of Yukon (Assistant Commissioner). In 1974 he was elected to the Territorial Council as M.L.A. for the Mayo district and served in that capacity until 1978. He retired at that time, but continued to serve on the Yukon Geographical Names Board for many years.

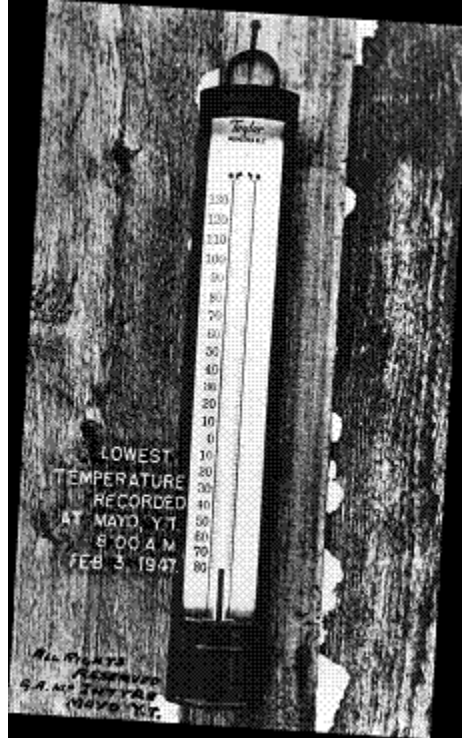
Gordon in his younger years enjoyed playing various sports and was an avid photographer, managing to brave the elements to capture a picture of a thermometer registering -80F in Mayo on February 3, 1947.

Gordon loved to cook, play the piano, sing and dance. In his later years he helped to raise many grandchildren.

Gordon is survived by his wife Ruth, sons Angus (Christine) and Norman (Rhonda), son-in-law Leslie, his grandchildren; Alia (Leif), Brendan, Krystal (Clayton), Erin (Chris), Michael, Kynan and Kaiden; his great grandchildren Anders, Gregor and Kendra and many nieces and nephews. Gordon was predeceased by his daughter Mary.

By request there will be no funeral service. Gordon's ashes will be buried in the Veterans' plot at the Mayo Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Yukon Foundation, Ruth and Gordon McIntyre Scholarship Fund for a post secondary student pursuing studies in education, PO Box 31622, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 6L2, or Yukon Hospital Foundation, #5 Hospital Rd., Whitehorse, YT Y1A 3H7.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note my new email address effective immediately: [popoff47*columbiawireless.ca](mailto:popoff47@columbiawireless.ca)

Elena Popoff

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

I have enjoyed the past copies and want to thank you for the time you put in on this project, however I will not be renewing my membership.

Continued success with Moctel.

Hal Tetz

TETZ, Hal [mznipg*shaw.ca](mailto:mznipg@shaw.ca) (In Whitehorse 1947 and later) Calgary

EMAIL RETURNED

Bonnie Dalziel

The following message to [<bonniedalziel@klondiker.com>](mailto:bonniedalziel@klondiker.com) was undeliverable.

The reason for the problem:

5.1.0 - Unknown address error 550-'cuda_nsu 5.2.1 user disabled; cannot receive new mail:

[bonniedalziel@klondiker.com'](mailto:bonniedalziel@klondiker.com)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Most people never run far enough on their first wind to find out they've got a second.

- William James

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Applebee's Oriental Chicken Salad

Salad:

1 egg

1/2 cup milk

1/2 cup flour

1/2 cup corn flake crumbs

1 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

1 boneless, skinless chicken breast half

oil for frying

3 cups chopped romaine lettuce

1 cup red cabbage

1 cup Napa cabbage

1/2 carrot, julienned or shredded

1 green onion, chopped

1 tablespoon sliced almonds

1/3 cup chow mien noodles

Dressing:

3 tablespoons honey

1 1/2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1 teaspoon Grey Poupon Dijon mustard

1/8 teaspoon sesame oil

Prepare dressing ingredients by mixing in a small bowl. Refrigerate while preparing salad.

Cut each chicken breast into 5 strips. In one bowl, beat egg with milk.

In another bowl, combine flour with corn flake crumbs, salt and pepper.

Preheat oil over medium heat.

Dip individual chicken pieces in egg mixture and then roll in the flour mixture. Fry chicken until browned, drain and set aside.

Prepare salad by tossing the chopped romaine with the chopped red cabbage, Napa cabbage, and carrots. Sprinkle sliced green onion on top of the lettuce. Sprinkle almonds over the salad, then the chow mien noodles.

Cut the chicken into small chunks. Place the chicken onto the salad forming a pile in the middle.

Serve with salad dressing on the side.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Vancouver Island Yukoner's Picnic

Sat. Aug 13, 2011 – 11AM-3PM

Bring your own lunch, coffee & tea provided

St. Mary's Anglican Church

2600 Powder Pt. Rd.

Nanoose, B.C.

Turn to Nanoose at the Petro Can Station – signs on
Highway and Powder Pt Rd.

Contacts:

Sharon Redmond: 250-729-9773

Harriett Butterworth: 250-751-1194 harriett3@shaw.ca

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

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