

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 341st Edition – September 4th, 2011

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



Time to eat, but keep an eye on the cameraman.

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

THE DRUNKEN CAMP ROBBER

(Or never bring food to the wife when you've been drinking)

By Gus Barrett sourdoughs2@shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)

Two mighty hunters had stopped for a snack,
The brother in law and me.
When a camp robber shot from his hiding spot,
High up in a jack pine tree.
We could easily tell by his pitiful yell
He's a hungry son of a gun,
So just as a gift, and to give him a lift.
We offered a hot dog bun.

Now, that piece of dough, it was hardened, so,
To soften and sweeten it some,
We broke it in chunks which we quickly dunked,
In a flagon of over proof rum,
Well, the camp robber's brave and a bit of a knave,
Not at all afraid to land,
And grab each rum soaked morsel from
A trembling outstretched hand.

Then home and back, he would make the trek,
With scarcely a moment of rest,

Snapping it up from the table top,
Then ferry it back to his nest.
On a branch up above, where his lady love,
Would quickly store it away,
And bury the stash in their hidden cache,
For a future "rainy day"

But that Canada Jay was beginning to sway,
And the alcohol fumes he'd consumed,
Brought home to him, a vision dim,
And a strange foreboding of doom.
His flying, so daring, grew aimless and erring,
And he was inclined to roam.
Each jack pine limb looked the same to him,
With naught to distinguish home.

Then a fatal slip, on that final trip,
As he flew with that last big chunk,
He missed the limb that was home to him,
And he flew right into the trunk
Then for hours I guess, from that cozy nest,
A fierce harangue occurred.
Though I couldn't translate, the what she'd orate,
I could tell she's a nasty bird.

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YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

Carnegie Library

In 1898, Dawson was fast becoming the largest city west of Winnipeg. It was an upstart place with hotels and fancy bars featuring gambling rooms, dancing ladies and boxing matches for money.

A boomtown if there ever was one. But as the prospectors left for golder pastures, the town settled down and a sense of permanency developed.

By 1902, Dawson was a modern city. It had running water, three hospitals, three churches, daily newspapers, electric lights, and a telegraph system. The town with a colourful past now looked to a secure future. Schools and libraries would be part of that.

Dawson had what was called a "Free Library", supported by public funds and by the Standard Library Restaurant and Hotel. Books could be taken out for 3¢ a day. However, residents wanted a more formal library.

Enter Andrew Carnegie. He was born in Scotland in 1835. His parents emigrated to America when he was a boy. Young Andrew developed a good business sense and built the Carnegie Steel Corporation.

When he sold out in 1901, he was worth half a billion dollars. Carnegie then became a philanthropist with libraries as the basis of his good work, contributing money for the construction of library buildings around the world.



A front view of the Masonic Lodge/ Carnegie Library on the south side of Queen Street in Dawson.
Date: ca. 1920s-1930s. Yukon Archives. Claude & Mary Tidd fonds, #8363.

One hundred and twenty-five libraries were built in Canada alone with donations from the Carnegie fund. His endowment was well known in Dawson and the Free Library was Not about to miss out on the money. In 1902, they made a funding request to the Carnegie Foundation.

Carnegie replied with an offer of \$25,000., provided the town would spend \$2,500. dollars a year on upkeep. The town council sent a letter of acceptance on January 1, 1903.

In March, Council agreed to buy a lot at Fourth and Queen Street from Joe Ladue, Dawson's founder, for \$2600 and accepted a design from architect, Robert Montcrieff, who had designed the Bank of

Commerce building. Work began at breakup, but the finishing materials didn't arrive in Whitehorse from the "outside" until the fall of that year, so the building was not finished until June of 1904.

The Carnegie Library was officially opened on August 16th, 1904, with gleaming gold letters on the front, making no mistake as to who financed the project. It was yet another architectural wonder in an isolated town that was becoming famous for fine buildings such as the post office, the Commissioner's residence and the Bank of Commerce building.

Dawsonites could choose from almost seven thousand books and magazines and relax on ornate chairs and sofas inside the beautiful building. But, alas, it did not last.



A 1980 Photo of the Carnegie Library

As the population dwindled, it became impossible for taxpayers to continue funding the upkeep on such an elaborate building. By 1920, with a population of less than a thousand people, the Carnegie library was sold to the Masonic Lodge.

Today, the Carnegie Library and the Bank of Commerce designed by architect Robert Montcrieff stand as a fitting reminder of the days of Dawson's glorious past.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin



Dawson Cheechakos Hockey Team – 1959

Back row-l to r Tommy Clare, Len Millar, Warren Rongve, Wilfred Anderson, Ed Roberts
Front row Chuck Barber, Archie Roberts, Serge Sawrenko.

Hi Sherron You asked for a copy of the attached picture. I send it to you but want everyone to know that I have it, and therefore you have it, thanks to Chuck Barber of Dawson City.

If memory serves me correctly there were more of us that tried to play hockey on the team but I do not know who they would be!

I had lived in Dawson for a year in the fall of 1959 and during that time had wondered why there was no sheet of ice for the community children to skate on (and to play hockey on) Dr. Paul Cavanaugh, who

was the C.E O. of Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation at the time (and living in Dawson) started to talk about the possibility of creating such a sheet of ice for the community and talked a number of fellows onto helping. At the time the old community recreation building (I do not remember the real name of the building) was in a state of disrepair and was an awful mess inside but it was decided that with work the building could serve as a skating rink.

The work was accomplished under the direction of Dr. Cavanaugh (and with help and support from the city) and the ice was ready in the new year (1960) The building was not state of the art and did not even have a heated waiting room but the residents started to use it.

Almost at the same time some of the boys wanted to play hockey. Dr. Cavanaugh again took the lead and talked some of us who had played hockey to practice and coach anyone interested in playing hockey. Dr Cavanaugh again was the leader and soon there was a hockey team with sweaters and all. Dr. Cavanaugh played with the team until his bosses told him he could no longer play. Our understanding was that Y.C.G.C. did not feel that they were paying him his salary to play hockey.

The team played inter-squad games much to the amusement of the spectators. There were a number of our players that were good hockey players; some (like me) who had played hockey but had never been good at it, and there were others that had just started skating and playing hockey.

We were enthusiastic as a team. Eventually we even drove to Whitehorse to represent Dawson in two games played there. (We did not win)

I do not know what happened to the rink (?) or to the team since I left Dawson for Whitehorse the following Fall.

Can anyone add anything to this account of the Dawson City Cheechakos hockey team. I would be interested to hear what they remember.

Warren Rongve jwrongve@shaw.ca (In Nanaimo)

Newest metal Sculpture in Whitehorse

Hi Sherron, Not sure if you heard about the Whitehorse sculpture that was installed at the new Public Service Building on the top of the 'Two Mile Hill' in Whitehorse recently. It was constructed mostly from metal scrap and some antique pieces donated from many Yukoners across the territory, one piece coming from as far away as Snag (near Beaver Creek). In the end there were a few interesting pieces such as a silver wine glass encased inside a hoof, and various aluminum pieces hanging in interesting spots. The very solid rearing horse statue was the work of artist Daphne Mennell and her neighbour, master welder Roger Poole. She won the competition and received a commission from the City of Whitehorse to create the 10 foot high horse.

The actual moving day from Roger's home at the north end of Lewis Lake was cloudy with the threat of rain, but the operation went without a hitch and was installed in its permanent location overlooking the north entry, into the city. Note: There was an article done in the 'Star' and a feature in 'What's Up Yukon'. Cheers, Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)



Daphne Mennell & Roger Poole with Horse
Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)



Close-up showing some of the donated pieces.
Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)



Close-up showing more of the donated pieces.
Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)



Sculpture enroute to Whitehorse.
Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)



Sculpture being placed in Whitehorse.
Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)



White Horse sculpture in place with landscaping complete.
Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)



White Horse sculpture rearing with the clouds as a backdrop.
Photo courtesy Norma Waddington norma@southklondike.ca (In Carcross)

City of Whitehorse Commissioned Art Work

As a 59-year resident of Whitehorse, I am very pleased and excited to have this magnificent statue standing guard over our city. It brings back thoughts of the old log triangular "Welcome to Whitehorse" sign that was the center attraction in the circle that used to be at the top of the Two Mile Hill many, many years ago. It is unfortunate that there was no appropriate place to mount this statue in a similar spot but the horse rears and reigns majestically over the city from the brow of the Two Mile Hill in front of the City's new Public Safety Building.

It is a beautiful piece of art and I am amazed that the cost was only just over \$27,000 for two year of work by two people. The artist's, Daphne Mennell, talent is obvious as is her vision and the welder, Rodger Poole, should be commended for his excellence. Because the statue is composed of metal, it should weather into some beautiful colours over the years.

I would love to have it in the MocTel for all to see. I also have a picture and an article from the Whitehorse Star's August 16th edition which I will have to send to you.

Thanks, Laverne Rasmuson rasmuson@klondiker.com (In Whitehorse)



CANTERING IN THE CAPITAL – As artist Daphne Mennell (far left) looks on, her horse is carefully installed outside the Public Service Building last Saturday morning. The horse is made out of donated items. **Photo by Vince Fedoroff**

Yukon artist Daphne Mennell's Whitehorse sculpture was installed at the new Public Service Building last Saturday. The horse, which greets motorists and passersby at the top of Two Mile Hill, is made exclusively from donated items.

Artwork has even reined in a piece of Snag.

Whitehorse now has a new commemorative statue, an approximately 10-foot-high metal horse, constructed to symbolize our past and our future as a community.

By Max Leighton on August 16, 2011

Whitehorse now has a new commemorative statue, an approximately 10-foot-high metal horse, constructed to symbolize our past and our future as a community.

The statue, unveiled at 9 a.m. last Saturday at the new Public Safety Building on Two Mile Hill, weighs almost two tons and depicts a giant rearing horse.

“Whitehorse didn’t have a rearing horse, though it is commonly thought that the name comes from the White Horse rapids,” longtime Carcross artist Daphne Mennell, the statue’s creator, said today.

“I thought when the contest was announced I would make a metal sculpture to commemorate that.”

The statue was commissioned by the City of Whitehorse, which held a contest for a local artist to create a piece of public art for the building. The city also provided the project’s final budget of \$27,260.

Mennell wanted to create a piece of artwork that would represent Yukoners. She built the statue using metal donated from the homes of people living across the territory.

“I received donated materials from as many Yukoners as I could summon up,” she said.

“Even though it’s for Whitehorse, all Yukoners pass through the city, and it should be a tribute to all of them.

“I wanted to create a piece of public art to represent the public, incorporate them into the horse; their history, their future, their stories created the statue,” she said.

The statue was constructed of 100 per cent donated metals, mostly from Whitehorse but also from communities like Beaver Creek and Watson Lake, dug up in backyards, found in sheds and stored away in basements.

One contribution held particular significance for Yukoners.

“One piece is from an old airport stove in Snag (near Beaver Creek),” said Mennell. “It was there when we reached our coldest temperature on record.”

Mennell’s only requirement was that the materials donated be ferrous metal, or metals containing iron, but in the end, some donations included other metals such as silver and aluminum.

To create a solid structure out of these materials, Mennell enlisted the services of welder Roger Poole to help her physically construct the giant horse.

“He’s the fellow who knows the structure and strength of the material and helps put it together so the whole thing won’t fall over,” she said.

“It was a perfect example of when people combine their skills. We created something that is more than I could do and more than he could do. It’s a wonderful example of teamwork.”

The whole project, including planning and design, collection of materials and construction, took about two years.

Today, the statue rears proudly over Two Mile Hill, the latest commemorative art project in a city proud of both its public artwork and local history.

Mennell is pleased with the project. She credits her achievement to a combination of teamwork, vision and most importantly, her subjects, the people of her home territory.

“I think the project was a success, she said. “But it was a success because of the participation of people from across the Yukon, and I thank them all for that,” she said.

OLD BUSINESS CARDS – do they bring back memories to you? Submitted by Sandy Campbell northernlyght*shaw.ca (In Langley BC)





Luscious green growth on the Dempster Highway – July 2011
Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard*northwestel.net (In Carcross)

High bullion price spurs new Yukon gold rush

BERNARD SIMON

Toronto— Financial Times

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High bullion price spurs new Yukon gold rush

More than a century after the Klondike gold rush, Canada's Yukon territory has again become a magnet for miners seeking the next bonanza.

Drawn by the soaring gold price, (GC-FT1,765.30-96.00-5.16%) exploration companies have staked more than 85,000 claims in the territory since January, compared with 83,000 for the whole of 2010 and 10,000-15,000 in a normal year, according to the Yukon Mining Recorder's office in Whitehorse.

Gold briefly touched an all-time nominal high of **\$1,911 an ounce on Monday**. It slipped back to **\$1,876 on Tuesday**.

"Another gold rush is in the works," said Marc Sontrop, a portfolio manager at Toronto-based Interward Asset Management. "The area will benefit from modern exploration techniques."

The tools of gold exploration have changed since fishing boats and paddle-wheelers were pressed into service in the late 19th century to ferry prospectors from Seattle and other west coast ports to Skagway, Alaska, the main staging point for the Klondike.

Nowadays, geologists and surveyors are more likely to fly into bush camps in the Yukon, which covers an area bigger than California.

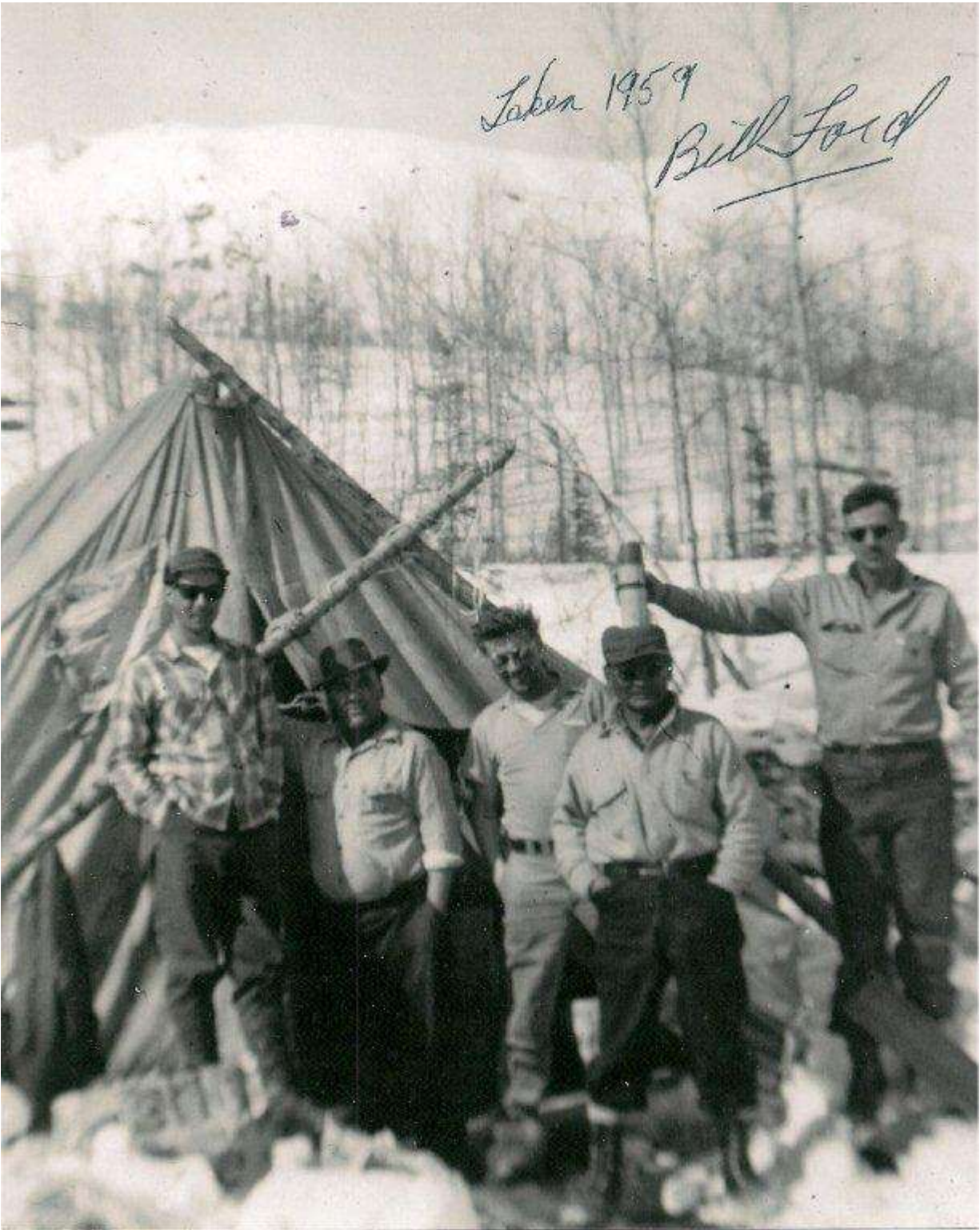
Interward began investing three years ago in exploration companies active in the Yukon. These investments now make up 28 per cent of the precious-metals portion of its resources fund. Its biggest holding is Vancouver-based Atac Resources Ltd., (ATC-X7.50-0.20-2.60%) which claims to have discovered geological formations in Yukon similar to those in Nevada, North America's biggest gold producing area.

Since Atac announced a gold discovery last September, its shares, listed on the Toronto Venture exchange, have more than quadrupled. Confidence was also boosted last year when Kinross Gold Corp., (K-T16.27-0.66-3.90%) a sizeable producer, paid \$139-million for Underworld Resources, whose main asset was the White Gold exploration project near Dawson City.

Trans North Helicopters, based in Whitehorse, has doubled its fleet to 18 over the past two years to cope with demand in the Yukon. "The spin-off effects are pretty substantial," says Arden Meyer, Trans North's general manager. "Suppliers are busy shipping groceries and fuel up to camps."

Drilling normally takes place between June and October. Survey results from this summer's exploration drive will be disclosed in the next few months. The latest gold rush centres on hard-rock deposits rather than riverbed sedimentary gravel, known as placer, that spawned the 19th-century Klondike boom.

About 100 placer mining operations are still active in the Yukon, however, mostly around Dawson City. Scott Kent, director of the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, describes them as the mining equivalent of the family farm, often run by the same clan for generations.



Can anyone help identify these men ??

Hi Sherron Here is a photo for you to put in Moc-Tel to see if anyone can ID the people. We believe that the one second from the right is Joe Henry as I got the photo from his grandson.

Pat Webster pwebster*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Golf Club's Future Prospects Not a Hole in One

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

July 14, 2011

The future of the Top of the World Golf Club is in a confused state following Mayor Peter Jenkins' announcement at the July 13 Dawson Chamber of Commerce meeting that the City of Dawson now owns the land and the club.

"Bill Hakonson is in the hospital in Whitehorse," said Jenkins, who was once married to Hakonson's daughter, Lenore Calnan, "and I suspect he will not be returning to Dawson City. He has transferred the title of the golf course to the City of Dawson.

"It's up to the council whether it's accepted or not. That said, we're looking for a home for its operation if the city does accept the transfer, and we're hoping the KVA would consider it.

"We're hoping that the golf course could be maintained as a golf course and could be another tool to develop our visitor industry. It's a wonderful, wonderful attraction and for a number of years Bill subsidized it quite heavily. It's at better than a break even as I currently speak ... but it still needs more capital and more upgrading."

The golf course was established by Hakonson, with government assistance in the form of a \$300,000 loan, which was not paid back. With interest, it mounted to \$518,000 by the time that YTG turned the file over to Dana Naye Ventures to collect on the loan in 2007. This was part of an overall effort to clean up outstanding loans, which the government began in 2004.

Since that time various suggestions have been made regarding the future of the facility, including an abortive attempt to have the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in take it over in 2008.

At the city council meeting the same night Jenkins indicated that Bill Hakonson "had paid of the debt as far as his personal obligations to the government of Yukon. He had a personal guarantee for only a certain amount, and the golf course itself is unencumbered.

"All he's looking at," Jenkins said, "is that the golf course remain an asset for the people of this community. He doesn't want a dollar of it or anything. I believe the transfer document specified it was transferred for a dollar."

As for the outstanding loan and interest, Jenkins contends it is not owed by the golf course, but by Hakonson himself.

At YTG, Bill Curtis, the government's Director of Finance and Administration, confirmed that Hakonson had paid off \$55,000 as his personal guarantee, but that \$450,000 still owed by the Top of the World Gold Course, Ltd.

That, he explained, is not the same as the golf course property itself. It is the property that has been handed over to the City of Dawson, not the business.

"Our position," said Curtis, "is that the debt is still owing. But it's going to be difficult to collect from a limited company that just gave away its only asset."

Government lawyers are examining all aspects of the transaction that has taken place before anyone will make a definitive statement.

In spite of the suddenness of this announcement, Curtis said that something similar had been put forward by Bill's son, Greg Hakonson, some months back.

"This whole idea (was one) of wanting to give the golf course to Dawson in return for us forgiving the loan. Our position was that we didn't give anybody else any special deals, including Mr. Jenkins. It's our responsibility, as the purseholders for the taxpayer, to be sure we do the right thing. Giving somebody a special deal and forgiving their debt just didn't seem to be the right thing to do."

Dana Naye Ventures, which has had the lead on collecting this file, would not comment when contacted on July 14.

What has actually happened is a bit of a surprise and the government is waiting for Dana Naye Ventures to propose what steps may be taken.

At the Klondike Visitors Association, executive director Gary Parker indicated that he had no mandate to take on a golf course without a lot more information.

“In the sense of the uncertain future of the golf course, that’s not a surprise to anyone. We are aware of (this). In terms of KVA’s mandate, which includes both tourism and quality of life in this community, the organization wants to see the golf course have a future. In that context, we would welcome the opportunity to sit down with the parties and discuss possible involvement by KVA in the future, but we’re not in a position to make any commitments.

“We need to know what Yukon government’s position is on the transfer of ownership vis-à-vis the unresolved matter of the disputed monies between the golf course and the government.

‘There are more questions than answers, but we’d be happy to ... help find a solution that meets the community’s needs.’”



Mayor Peter Jenkins announced that Dawson now owns a golf course at the monthly chamber of commerce meeting.

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



The Sixth hole tees off across the roadway below it and on to the remainder of the nine holes.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Father and son golfing.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Top of the World Golf Club clubhouse.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Tombstone Park Gets a New Sign

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

July 18, 2011

Tombstone Park has been in existence since 1999, but until July 18, 2011, drivers on the Dempster Highway might have had a little trouble determining just when they had actually entered the park. The highway bisects the park, which protects 2100 square kilometres on territory, including sections of the Blackstone Uplands and the Ogilvie Mountains.

While several first nations groups have overlapping interests in the park area, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have been most involved with the development of the park since the settlement of their Land Claim.

An impressive interpretation centre is now in its second full year of operation from its location in a former gravel pit, an area which is rapidly being landscaped into a pleasant spot to spend some time.

Prior to this, interpretation of the area was done out of an unimpressive building located in the territorial campground just north of the new centre.

Many visitors were probably not aware that they were in the park until they reached either the new centre or, in the old days, the campground, but this is far from the case. The centre and the campground are about one and half hours from Dawson City, or about 45 minutes from the Dempster Corner. Vehicles enter the park about 20 minutes up the highway, and that will now be obvious.



Tombstone park sign

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

It's Not Just About the Beavers

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

July 21, 2011

The latest addition to the Tombstone Interpretive Centre opened on Monday, July 18, with a low-key ceremony involving Yukon Parks' staff, members of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Dept., some TH elders, and a few visitors who happened to be lucky enough to be there for the event.

The group assembled at the beginning of the trail during a light drizzle that threatened to become a downpour, but never did.

The Beaver Pond Trail is not, as Kathy Findlay-Brook said in her introduction, entirely about beavers. It is, as one of the many attractive signs on the self-guided walk put it, an invitation to "Find out how this valley has been carved by glaciers and rivers, then shaped and reshaped by weather, humans and animals, particularly the mighty beaver."



The beavers' pond

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

Parks interpreter Georgette MacLeod introduced the trail by citing the legacy of the late Joe and Annie Henry.

"They made major contributions to this landscape and to this area ... in terms of culture, history and lifestyle."

Joe Henry, of course, played a huge role in determining the route taken by the Dempster Highway, and he and Annie lived on the highway for many years of their long lives, trapping and hunting here and making a home at Wolf Creek.

‘They made many contributions, not only to researchers who came into their area, but also to oral historians and to our Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Heritage Department.’

Julie Frisch, who has a lifelong history on the highway, was present with her granddaughter, Selwyn, who is named for a local mountain range.

“One of the things that’s so nice about this trail is that it’s so accessible for everybody. I would like to acknowledge all the people that worked with us on the trail, from TH and the researchers in Whitehorse, to Yukon government staff, who put in a lot of hours, Helene Dobrowolsky and her husband Rob Ingram, as well as host of other people.”

Gord MacRae, with Yukon Parks, was the last to speak.

“I just want to thank everyone who’s worked really hard to make this happen. That’s everyone from the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in people, whose official territory we are on... and everyone who worked so hard.”
An arch made of willow trees had been braided together over the entrance to the trail, with a “ribbon” of other braided willows spanning the middle. Frisch and Dobrowolsky took turns chewing thought the slender branches to “cut the ribbon” and open the trail.

The trail follows the path of a former bush road which is just a dozen metres from the current route of the Dempster Highway. Not far into the trail walkers will encounter a bear – not a real bruin but one woven from willow branches. Maureen Abbot, who worked on this with a number of others, explained that it is the offshoot of a willow-weaving workshop that was held in Dawson City.

“It had its own evolution and it was a lot of fun to do,” she said.

The pathway, engineered by trail maker Alex Brook, is one kilometre long and takes 30 to 45 minutes to walk. There are ten trail signs along the easy route, highlighting how the landscape was shaped, the sounds of the valley, the role of the river, the plants which grow there, the birds of the region, and the work of the beavers themselves, whose pond is the terminus of the trail, which is signalled by another willow branch carving, this one representing a beaver lodge.

To see the actual lodge you have to walk down the highway a few hundred metres, but the beavers’ accomplishments can be seen from the viewing platform at the end of end of the walk.

After the tour of the trail, visitors were treated to a performance by a group of he Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Singers.

Later the sun came out and blessed the potluck dinner of hotdogs, corn, salads and watermelon, which was provided back at the interpretive centre, and the evening ended with a coffee house.



Tombstone Interpretive Centre is now in its second full year of operation.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This arch marked the beginning of the trail.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Julie Frisch (chewing) and Helene Dobrowolsky “cut” the ribbon.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Walking the Beaver Pond Trail for the first time.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



This willow bear guards the trail.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The largest of several bridges over difficult places in the trail.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



A woven beaver lodge.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Mabel Henry plays “Gramma” while the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in singers perform the “Gramma Song”.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The Sun Mostly Shines on Dawson City Music Festival 2011

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

July 18, 2011

For the third year in a row the Dawson City Music Festival expanded its reach with an opening act concert at the Palace Grand Theatre on the Thursday night. This year’s guest artist was Owen Pallett, who has performed here before as Final Fantasy, but has taken his performance a step further with the addition of two other musicians, Jeremy Strachan and Jean Martin.

Reports on this concert indicate that it was unusual and invigorating.

Earlier that same night, for something completely different, the festival opened a three-day photography retrospective of the DCMF’s 33 years, including literally hundreds of photographs of DCMF volunteers curated and mounted by Evan Rensch. DCMF fans and friends could be found scanning the walls to see how they looked 33 years ago, and whether John Steins really had mutton-chop sideburns that large.

The CBC North sponsored Gazebo concert on Front Street was the only even to get kicked indoors by possibly inclement weather during the weekend. It was dicey on Friday morning and so this event was relocated. Shotgun Jimmie, Coole & Downes, Amelia Curran and Tim Hus blasted over the airwaves from the dry safety of the Oddfellows Hall.

It turned out to have been unnecessary, but it's best to be safe with electronic equipment, as the organizers of Ottawa's Bluesfest learned over the weekend when a sudden wind collapsed main stage while Cheap Trick was playing.

There was a torrential downpour on Saturday between 5:30 and 6:30 when there was nothing scheduled, and it drizzled on and off that night, but not seriously enough to do more than send people under the canopies and into the bars from time to time. It may have contributed to the festival running out of beer early on Saturday.



The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Singers opened the first night Main Stage concert.

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

Mainstage opened on Friday night, with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Singers, who have been working on choreography to go with their chanting during the last several months, and it shows. It was noted by many seasoned observers that the tent filled up early and steadily for opening night acts Sarah MacDougall, Dennis Allen and the Hellhounds, Shotgun Jimmie, Shout Out Out Out Out, and Rich Aucoin, with performances wrapping up slightly after 2 a.m.

In deference to late night jammers only those with children needed to be up for the Saturday morning event, the KidsFest, which began with Mamma Yamma, Major Conrad Flaps and Rich Aucoin at 11 a.m. and ran until 2 p.m.

Workshops and mini-concerts began at 1 o'clock and continued throughout the afternoon at St. Paul's, the Front Street Gazebo, the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, the Palace Grand and Mainstage. It was not humanly possible to take in all this music and this reviewer spent his afternoon at Saint Paul's Church where the Ladies First (Simone Downes, Drea, Amelia Curran and Sarah MacDougall) and Northern

Songs (MacDougall, Dennis Allen, Jude Waldman, David Essig and Tim Hus) workshops bracketed a stellar mini-concert by David Essig.



David Essig rocks out at the Gazebo
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Other workshops that afternoon included Sounds Jazzy, Songs I Wish I Wrote, and Broken Shotgun Scene, while there were mini-concerts by the Brenda Lee Quartet and the Willie Gordon Trio.

On Saturday night music fans had a choice of destinations: St. Paul's and the Palace Grand offered performances until 9:15 and 10:15 after which the streets were packed with people making their way to Mino Park, where the Main Stage had begun with the Kaska Drummers from Ross River at 7:30 and carried on with an eclectic evening roots, acapella, West African influenced jazz and straight-ahead rock 'n' roll from Carlyle & the Sugar Strings, Fish & Bird, Chic Gamine, Mr. Something Something, Yukon Blonde and the Stampeders.

Fish and Bird proved their winter house concert was just a taste of what they can do. Chic Gamine gave acapella music a neat twist, while Mr. Something Something proved that message music can also be good time dance music.

Sunday provided the same challenge for listeners, with eleven events taking place at the same five venues. Sunday's weather was lovely, and the Gazebo had a large audience for the Fish & Bird / David Essig workshop as well as the Fiddle Jam with Jesse Zubot, Adam Iredale-Gray, Willie Gordon, Chris Coole, Miriah Phelps, Patrick & Sarah Hamilton.



Roots music at the Gazebo

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

At Main Stage the Afrobeat Summit and the Canadian Classic Rock segments were well received and most of the smaller venues had wrapped up their events in time for people to gather for the perennially popular Potluck, where scrambled bands try to come together on classic cover tunes.

Sunday evening was a bit less hectic, with only two venues active. David Essig, Chic Gamine and Yukon Blonde held forth at the Palace Grand.

Over at Main Stage local band The River Bends got the audience dancing early in the evening. Ryan McNally stepped away from his Sasquatch Prom Date persona to keep everyone on the floor.

Etran Finatawa's two tribal groups came to us from Niger to prove that there are beats other than 3/4 or 4/4. Seasoned guitarists and percussionists listened with fascination and a bit of frustration to the combination of calabasse (gourd) drums, tricky guitar riffs and rhythms and high tenor vocal solos. Dancers seemed to have no problem moving to the beat, however changeable it might have been.

Tim Hus, sounding for all the world like a younger Stompin' Tom, bringing the tent songs full of Canadian place names, truck drivers, mushers, bush pilots, corny stage patter and strong performances from his three piece band. Dancing, including an attempt at line-dancing on one side of the floor, continued unabated.

The Minotaurs closed out the evening with some strong Afrobeat rhythms and then the entire cast swarmed the stage for a rousing version of OutKast's "Hey Ya", which, while a departure from most DCMF closing numbers, is a catchy hip-hop tune that seems to have spawned dozens of acoustic covers on YouTube, so perhaps it's not that strange.



Karen Dubois and Molly Shore check out the Don't Stop Believin' photo exhibition.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Sarah MacDougall and her band.



Dennis Allen and the Hellhounds
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Caryle Watt and the Sugar Strings joined us from Anchorage.



Chic Gamine gave acapella a new twist.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Etran Finitawa introduces Dawson to exotic rhythms.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Fiddle Jam at the Gazebo
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Tim Hus tells stories of working people.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Ryan McNally and friends.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The River Bends reunited again.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Mr Something Something presents dance music with a message.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

YUKON FLOWERS



Lupins

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

OBIT

Sad News

Thanks for the latest issue of the Moccasin Telegraph. Here is some sad news on an ex-Yukoner, who was well respected by many. My husband, Erwin, and I bowled with Doris and her husband, Allen, at the Takhini Club when there were pin setters.

Doris was truly a wonderful person, never one to gossip and always exciting to listen to with all her stories of travels across Canada and the States!

This is the message I received on my e-mail:

"We just heard some days ago that Doris died after a short illness, pancreatic and liver cancer.

Her oldest daughter Rhonda spent nearly a month with her then one day Doris felt it was time to go to the hospital and died in her sleep that night.

The memorial service will be in Creston this coming Saturday."

Some info below.

<http://www.gfoliverfuneralchapel.com/index.shtml>

In Loving Memory Of

MARGARET DORIS KIRKPATRICK

Passed Away August 9, 2011

Age 88 Years, Residence Creston, BC

Celebration of Life Service

G.F. Oliver Funeral Chapel

Saturday, August 20th, 2011 at 1:00 pm

Pastor Harry Haberstock officiating

Interment

To take place at a later date

Friends wishing to make a memorial contribution may do so to the

Order of Eastern Star

Creston Unit

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If you paint in your mind a picture of bright and happy expectations, you put yourself into a condition conducive to your goal. - Norman Vincent Peale

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Applebee's Club House Grill Sandwich

2 thick slices of french bread
softened butter
mayonnaise
1/3 cup shredded cheddar cheese
2 slices deli turkey breast
2 slices deli ham
2 slices tomato
2 tsps. bullseye barbecue sauce

Butter one slice of bread and put butter side down into preheated skillet, on medium heat. Spread the up side of the slice with mayo. Sprinkle on half of cheese. Heat the turkey and ham slices in the same skillet for about 30 seconds. Lay the turkey on the cheese, then the tomato. Spread bbq sauce over tomato, then lay on the ham, sprinkle the rest of the cheese over ham.

Butter the second slice of bread on one side and put on top, with butter side up. The first bread slice should be brown, flip sandwich over and brown the second side for 2–3 minutes, or till golden brown. Remove from skillet, cut in half diagonally and serve with additional bbq sauce.

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.

An easy way to send a money transfer is via your internet banking. Log into you bank's website, find "Money Transfers" or "Email Money Transfers" or however your bank may list it, enter the amount, my email address of sherronjones@shaw.ca and enter a password ie: moctel and press "Send". It's that easy. Then please send me an email to confirm your payment.

Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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