

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 355th Edition – April 22 , 2012

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.ca

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



Carcross fox portrait.

Taken on the train bridge in Carcross March 27, 2012.

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones*northwestel.net (In Carcross)

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

Expo '86

It was a magical time - a time during the endless Vancouver summer to showcase the sights, sounds and pleasures of the Yukon. They called it Expo '86, a six-month world fair about

transportation and communications. It featured exhibits from fifty-four countries and countless corporations.

Expo '86 was opened by Prince Charles, Princess Diana, and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on May 2, 1986. The largest single-day attendance was a whopping 341,806 on Sunday, October 12.

As someone lucky enough to spend time on the False Creek fair grounds, I can say the **Yukon Pavilion** was among the most colourful and accessible. The front of the dramatic Yukon Pavilion formed an open-air theatre with a brilliant 3-D northern sky backdrop designed by famed Yukon artist **Ted Harrison** and looking every bit like a colourful Harrison painting.

Mirrored panels helped capture the magical qualities of the Northern Lights. Surrounded by artefacts from the **Klondike Gold Rush**, the entranceway also served as a stage for entertainers.

Overhead hung a replica of the sister plane to Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis. The bush plane "**Queen of the Yukon**", owned by aviation pioneer **Clyde Wann**, was a striking symbol of the role played by aircraft in opening up the Yukon.

Inside, the Yukon's transportation story unfolded. The **Klondike Gold Rush of 1898** came alive with the tales of the men and women who laboured to locate the gold in the valley of **Bonanza** and **Eldorado Creeks**. Visitors could pan for gold nuggets and, as I did, obtain a passport to take part in the Great Yukon Treasure hunt of 1986. Nope, I did not find the treasure, but that's another story.

Exhibits also showed the awesome story of building the Alaska Highway. The pavilion's main attraction was a stunning eighteen projector audio-visual show. From the ice-covered peaks of **Kluane National Park** to the wilderness of **Dempster Highway**, the Yukon's history and natural splendours unfolded to the delight of countless thousands of potential Yukon visitors.

The Yukon's native culture and history was highlighted through ancient artefacts from Old Crow. Also on display were traditional and modern dog sleds, including high-tech, long-distance racing sleds.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

Yukon competition: win a real gold nugget

Here's your chance to win a prize that will prove a talking point in your household for many years to come - a genuine gold nugget from the Yukon.

(Note this is an extract from the online Telegraph.UK)



Gold panning in the Yukon Photo: Government of Yukon / J.F. Bergeron

There are two nuggets to be won in this unusual prize draw, with estimated values of C\$1,000 (about £625) and C\$500 (£313).

Each comes with a certificate of authenticity and a map showing where they were panned.

These natural gold nuggets were recovered by "placer" miners in the Klondike region, just as they would have been during the Gold Rush.

Less than a sixth of the world's gold is found by this old, traditional method.

For more information:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/travel/yukon/8316388/Yukon-competition-win-a-real-gold-nugget.html>

YUKON FOUNDATION

Attached are photos taken by Rolf Hougen at the Yukon Foundation's Annual General Meeting on Dec. 15, 2011. All are long-time Yukoners who actually haven't moved out of the Yukon to live in Arizona or the Okanagan in their retirement(?) years.

The Foundation turned 30 last year and has about 170 funds with deposits in excess of \$6 million under administration. It has distributed almost \$1.5 million in grants and scholarships to about 1,500 Yukon students, non-for-profit groups, arts and sports groups over the past three decades.

It's definitely something that should be considered by former Yukoners as an option when it comes to estate planning and the desire to leave a legacy for the future of the northern territory that keeps

us all bonded. The fact that MocTel has enjoyed the success it has over the years is proof that no matter how removed we may physically get from the territory, it retains an emotional hold on us.

The Foundation is one way for individuals or families to acknowledge their ties to the north and an opportunity for us to give something back in return for the memories it gave us.

People can name the Foundation as a beneficiary, either in their will or on a life insurance policy, and designate which aspect of future Yukoners they wish to influence (i.e. students in nursing, aboriginal studies, engineering etc). For those who don't want to benefit the Foundation in their will or on a life policy, there is the option of becoming a Patron - which would cost \$50/year.

At a time in our history where government support is dwindling for students and non-profit groups, they are turning more and more to organizations like Yukon Foundation for support. The danger is that demand will someday out-strip the capability of the Foundation to fulfill the needs. The Foundation needs present-day and former Yukoners to ensure the future growth of our children and grandchildren.

Anyone wishing to set up a fund or contribute to an existing fund through estate planning, or interested in becoming a patron can contact executive director Sophie Partridge through the Yukon Foundation website.

John Firth (In Whitehorse)

Folks in the photos (L to R for all photos):



Patricia Kohler, Mike Brown, Babe Richardson
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



Howard Ryder, Goody Sparling
Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



Sophie Partridge, John Firth, Foundation chair Verna Hart
Photos courtesy Rolf Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



Kim Sova, Carol Campion, Taelin Free (representing Yukon MP Ryan Leef)



Glen Hart, Hazel Overland, Bert Hadvick
Photos courtesy Rolf Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



Dave Kalles (husband of recently deceased Foundation board member from Watson Lake, Alice Kalles), Kim Tanner, Brian McWatters, Jo-Ann Waugh



Fred Smith, Mary-Lou Smith, Dawn Dimond
Photos courtesy Rolf Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)



Bill Bowie (board member for Dawson City), Helen Bowie, Art Christensen, Ione Christensen

Others in attendance included Yukon College president Karen Barnes, Yukon College communications director Jacqueline Bedard, Yukon College board chair Paul Flaherty, Dan Anton, Dianne Bruce, Jared Watson, Micheal and Kathy Gates, Karen Hougen-Bell, Jim Bell, Rolf and Marg Hougen, Lorraine Joe, Dr. Nesta Leduc, Micheal Pealow, Mary-Anne Phillips, Gordon Ryder, Blaise Shilleto, Al Doherty and Peter Woodruff.

John Firth johnfirth@hotmail.ca (In Whitehorse)

VANCOUVER YUKONERS PHOTOS – by Heather Jones

Hi Heather

Was wondering if you attended the Vancouver Yukoners Banquet and if so did you take any photos that you would care to share with the MocTel readers ?

Sherron Jones

Hi Sherron,

Yes I was able to get to the Yukoners and take a number of photos. I am just completing the editing of between 400 and 500 shots from Saturday night. I was thinking that I would create an online gallery so people can look at the entire collection if they are interested. As soon as I have that up and running I will forward a link so you can post it in Moc Tel. I will also pull together some shots that you can publish if you like. Most of the shooting was the table variety with lots of individual portraits this year.

Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)

Will advise of link address to further photos at a later date.

Thankyou Heather for sharing your wonderful photos. – Sherron Jones



Mr & Mrs Yukon – Richard & Rose Mazur
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Edward Thompson and Gillian Campbell – Led O' Canada
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Jim Perry - President

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Helen Munro – Past President

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Ken Taylor – Master of Ceremonies
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Ken Jones – Door Prize announcements and Silent Auction
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Fred Mandl

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Joe Sparling

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Gudrun 'Goody' (Erickson) Sparling
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Percy DeWolfe

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Millie Jones

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Howard Ryder

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Cookie Morgan
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Harvey Burian
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Mike Gates –proud to be wearing the Yukon Tartan
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Tony Penikket
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Maureen (Hougen) Nielsen and Jill (Tanner) Seviour
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Evelyn (MacPherson) Nielsen and Maree (Nielsen) MacPherson
Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Lloyd Romfo

Photo courtesy Heather Jones hjones*northwestel.net (In Carcross)

VANCOUVER YUKONERS BANQUET & visit from Palma Berger



Cookie Morgan and Greg Karias, the publisher of Harper Street Publishing / who publish "Yukon, North of Ordinary" at the Yukoners banquet.



Deb Ryan, Joe Sparling president of Air North, Goody (Erickson) Sparling with Edward Thompson at the Vancouver Yukoners Banquet – April 14, 2012.



Michael Gates (wearing Yukon Tartan) & Kathy Gates at the Banquet



At the Vancouver Yukoners Banquet April 14 2012.



Palma Berger and Edward Thompson in the Thompson's front garden.



Palma Berger and Gillian Campbell-Thompson on the deck at the Thompson's.



Palma Berger and Gillian Campbell checking out the race sheet at the race track.
Above photos courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby BC)

DeWolfe Races Begin in Brisk Weather

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

It may have been only about -17 at the corner of King St. and Third Avenue on Thursday morning at 10 a.m., but it was bitterly cold in the breeze as Gaby Sgaga and Sarah Lenart announced the invisible departure of sled number 1, in honour of Percy DeWolfe, after whom the Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race is named.

It's not a strong year for the Percy. There were only six entrants in the main race, the lowest number of teams since 2007. Last year there were 14 teams at the starting line, and the race has generally been in the low to mid teens since 2007.

The majority of the spectators arrived from the Robert Service School and the town's daycares just as the mail sack was handed off to Number 2 musher, Brian Wilmshurst by Postmaster Robert LePage and RCMP Corporal Dave Morin. Number 2 carries actual mail, letters purchased as part of the race's fund raising efforts.

Two minutes later the next team, driven by Maria Hernetkoski of Whitehorse, headed down King Street to Front and then off over the dike to the river and on North to Eagle. Following in succession were Kyia Bouchard of Dawson City, Yukon, Gerry Willomitzer of Whitehorse, Dyan Bergen of Yellowknife and Will van Randen of Whitehorse.

The race is a 210-mile (338 km) run, mostly following the Yukon River, to Eagle, Alaska, and back. Musher take a mandatory six-hour layover in Eagle, plus an additional 2 hours in either Fortymile or Eagle. Running times for the race are between 20 and 30 hours.

Only Willomitzer and Wilmshurst have run this race before, the usual list of race veterans being absent this year. Willomitzer has come second and first in previous races. Wilmshurst has placed seventh and fourth.

By 10:30 Thursday night the race updates were showing Wilmshurst leading the pack and that Kyia Bouchard had scratched.

The **Percy Junior Race** and the **Percy Skijor** launched from the north side of the ice bridge at noon. Jonathan Lucas of Whitehorse was the only entry in the skijor competition and he headed north with his three dogs at noon, arriving in Fortymile to spend the night 7 hours later.

The Percy Junior teams took off in a ragged version of what was to have been a mass start at about 12:30. The starting line-up included Whitehorse mushers Gaetan Pierrard, Erin Stevens, Melissa Schenke and Deb Knight; Christina Reeves from Tagish, and Dawson City mushers Shelley Brown and Anezka Kolafova.

Jo van Randen from Whitehorse had signed up but withdrew.

The mass start for this race was more like mass confusion. The volunteer with the red flag was so far away from the teams that no one could hear him for the noise the dogs were making and it appeared that everyone had forgotten what time it was in the confusion of controlling their dogs, so no one was looking.

With eight or nine photographers out of the course shouting “go” in unison with the starter, Shelly Brown’s team finally charged out of the gate, alerting the other mushers to the fact that it was time, after which they peeled off down the river one by one over a period of several minutes. According to the race updates online, everyone but Kolafova had reached Fortymile by 7:51 last night.

All the Percy Junior racers and Lucas spent the night at Fortymile and were scheduled to begin the run back to Dawson (for a total run of 100 miles or 160 km) at 10 on Friday morning.



Postmaster Robert LePage and Cpl Dave Morin hand the mail to Brian Wilmhurst
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



#2 start – Brian Wilmhurst
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



#3 start - Maria Hernetkoski

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



#4 start - Kyia Bouchard

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



#5 start - Gerry Willomitzer
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



6 start - Dyan Bergen
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



#7 start - Will van Randen
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Percy Junior Start Photos:



Skijor start - Jonathan Lucas starts out alone for Fortymile.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Shelly Brown, in Bib #14, was the first musher to realize it was time to start racing.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



#8 start - Gaetan Pierrard
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



#9 start - Erin Stevens
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



*#11 start.jpg - Melissa Schenke
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



#16 start - Anezka Kolafova

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

Willomitzer Wins the Mid-Distance Percy DeWolfe

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

March 25, 2012

Gerry Willomitzer added to his list of Percy DeWolfe wins with a finishing time of 24 hours and 14 minutes on Friday, March 23, pulling into Dawson at 6:28 p.m., just three minutes ahead of the second place finisher, Maria Hernetkoski. That she was his handler in the big races this winter, and was running another of his teams, means that the Blackjack Racing Kennels really owned the Memorial Mail Race this year.

Willomitzer was the 2008 Percy Champion, and ran in second place in 2011. He has run the Iditarod six times and the Yukon Quest five times.

The third down to fifth place finishers were Will van Randen (25:22), Brian Wilmshurst 25:23) and Dyan Bergen (30:34). As there were only five teams that finished this year, everyone was in the money. In fact, there was some left over and the organizers decided to spread it among the seven finishers in the Junior Percy.

In descending order they were Gaetan Pierrard (12:31), Melissa Schenke (12:46), Anezka Kolafova (13:31), Deb Knight (13:44), Erin Stevens (13:45), Shelley Brown (14:15) and Christina Reeves (14:34).

The sole skijor racer was Jonathan Lucas, who had the very respectable time of 13:21, faster than some of the dog teams.

The pot was also sweetened for the two winners of the Vets' Choice awards. Joe and Wendy Fellers donated two gold nuggets to the Percy committee to use as they saw fit. So the committee decided they would go to the winners of the Vet's Choice awards.

Brian Wilmshurst, from the main race, received a nugget worth about \$1500, and Melissa Schenke, from the junior event, received one worth about \$700.

The Rookie of the Year, in a year when nearly all the racers in the main event were rookies, was Maria Hernetkoski, who also managed to win the anorak in one of the door prize draws. She said she was returning to her home in Norway with some unique memories and a unique piece of clothing.

Gerry Willomitzer received the Sportsmanship award, which is voted on by all the mushers. The race suffered in registration this year, with only six teams in the main race, half of last year's number. There would have been two more, but a couple of mushers travelling together from Alaska were prevented from attending when one of them had issues at the US/Canadian border. Altogether there were 15 teams registered for the three events, with 14 actually running and 13 finishing.

"There wouldn't have been much of a race this year if it wasn't for the rookies," said Race Marshall John Borg. And that was true. Willomitzer was the oldest veteran of the race and Wilmshurst was running for the third time. The list of regulars who have raced here for years was almost completely depleted.

Organizers feel that many veterans, who usually attend this race after the two big races, and always speak of it as a nice way to end the season, were prevented by the Iditarod being held later than normal this year.

Gerry Willomitzer advised the organizers and the other mushers not to be discouraged by this year's low numbers.

"It was a small field ... but that doesn't mean that's easy for anybody who is in the race. I remember in 2006 we had six teams in the race and then a few years later it was 15 or almost 20. It cycles up and down so, for all the organizers and volunteers, don't be discouraged by the small number this year. I'm sure there will be more people next year."

The Percy Committee was only a trio this year, but some 50 volunteers stepped in when needed to actually carry out the plan, including trail making, preparing the starting chutes, making sure King Street still had snow on it for the start, setting up the Oddfellows ballroom for the banquet, selling tickets and staffing the merchandise table.

Beginning as a memorial run in honour of the Iron Man Mail Carrier in 1977, the event morphed into an actual race in the 1980s and has continued with some ups and downs ever since.



Vets Choice Awards.jpg - Brian Wilmshurst and Melissa Schenke were the surprised recipients of gold nuggets for winning the approval of the three vets attending the race.
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Raffle Prize – Creator Megan Waterman (far right), of Dawson City's Northern Garments, draws for the winner of the coveted Skookum Brand parka in the Percy Raffle.



Race winner Gerry Willomitzer and Race Marshall John Borg. This is Willomitzer's second win, although he has been in the top three a number of times.

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

ART DEER REMEMBERED



Art Deer - June 2007

Photo courtesy George Bliss jrsports*sasktel.net (In Regina)

Staff Sergeant Art Deer

Much of Art's career with the RCMP was a "yo-yo" ride that rolled him in and out of Whitehorse, a place he inevitably recognized as home and devoted his life to after retirement.

Art was sworn in as a Mountie on July 26, 1948, in Ottawa, at the age of 20. His first postings in Winnipeg, Brandon and Virden, Manitoba, were brief. He landed for the first time in Whitehorse, Yukon, in June, 1949, after which he lived in three more Yukon towns, including Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Burwash Landing, as well as Frobisher Bay, (now Iqaluit, Nunavut), Baker Lake and Inuvik in the Northwest Territories.

In 1956, Art married his childhood sweetheart, Faye, and together they made an adventure of his northern postings. The couple is together still and has two sons and two daughters who also continue to make Whitehorse their home.

Art was posted to Whitehorse for the second time in 1964 and for a third time in 1969. He retired in 1973 and decided to stay. He and Faye built a house on the picturesque Marsh Lake outside the city but also maintain a residence in town.

Immediately upon retiring from the force, Art worked for eight years as the head of security and safety for the Yukon territorial government. Additionally, between 1973 and 1991, Art served for a total of 14 years as a city counselor.

Art is a member of the Yukon Transportation Association, which he joined in 1970. He serves on the Yukon Housing board of directors and is active with the Masonic Lodge and the RCMP Yukon Veteran's Association, of which he is a past president.

*Art & Faye Deer were Mr. & Mrs Yukon in 2006.
Art Deer passed away April 12, 2012.*

After thinking about the many times I saw Art Deer serving as an Alderman for the City of Whitehorse I went digging in my photo album from that era and found these photos taken by Jim Whyard at a dinner held in my honor when I left the City's employ in 1983. – Sherron Jones



Foreground – Retiring Director of Finance Sherron Jones, Alderman Bert Law, Ellen Law. On the far side of the table, Ron Gourley's wife, City Manager Ron Gourley, Alderman Vern Toews & his wife, next is Faye & **Art Deer**.



Such a young couple, I hardly recognize them – early 1983 – 29 years ago.
Sherron & Bill Jones - Photo by Jim Whyard.



Saying good bye to the Mayor and Alderman
Mrs. & Alderman Vern Toews, Faye and Alderman Art Deer.
Near side view – Alderman Bert Law. Far right Alderman Doug Gallup.
Photos by Jim Whyard



L to R Rear row: Mr & Mrs. Vern Toews, Faye and Art Deer.
Front row: Ellen Law, Mrs. Gallup & Doug Gallup.



Rear L to R: Jan McConachy, Alderman Conrad Boyce, Bill Jones, Mrs. Gourley
?, Mayor Flo Whyard.
Photos by Jim Whyard



Sherron Jones, City Clerk Jan McConachy, Conrad Boyce, Bill Jones

VINTAGE AIRPLANE – CF–CRR on its journey

With so many Yukoners related to aviation and CPAir, perhaps this story would be of interest.
George Bliss

Have been reading through this material for some time now and it is very interesting with accounts from different aviators. Even recognized Rex Terpenings in an account.

For those interested in vintage aircraft stories – take a look at this site.

<http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/348/language/en-CA/First-Love.aspx>

Thaw di Gras anticipates the coming of Spring

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

March 18, 2012

Last weekend saw Dawson celebrate another Thaw di Gras. The name of the Klondike's spring carnival is a play on the idea of Mardi Gras, which actually took place a month earlier on Shrove Tuesday.

Can it really be a "spring" carnival when temperatures hovered between -7 and -15 and there was enough wind to put an edge on it?

Well, the street hockey players on Third Avenue outside the Westminster thought it was okay, and several teams braved the chill to create snow sculptures opposite the Oddfellows Hall on Second Avenue.

In the parking lot across from Diamond Tooth Gerties kids and adults spent Sunday afternoon at a variety of outdoor activities, including axe throwing, log sawing and tea brewing.

The One Dog Pull, made famous in Jack London's *Call of the Wild*, took place across the street from the Eldorado Hotel.

Out of the ice bridge the Percy DeWolfe Committee ran the Sunnysdale Classic dog race.

Adults and kids showed off their air band talents in lip sync events on Friday and Saturday nights, and just about all the hotels in town had indoor events, including ping pong, arm wrestling, hat tossing, hot dog races, x-box Olympics, and tricycle races.

Lovers of both canines and felines got to show off their animals at Bombay Peggy's and Gerties, and there was even a fireworks display on Saturday night.

The weekend brought the two week March Break to a close and it was back to school for students and teachers on Monday morning.

It may not actually be spring yet, but Dawsonites can see it coming.



Snow Sculpture

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



Kids work at tea boiling.
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Street hockey is a favorite of boys of all ages.



Both adults and kids love lip sync contests.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Rangers Hold Graduation Exercise for Operation Mate

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

March 16, 2012

The Dawson Rangers completed a 12-Day Training Exercise during February and a Graduation Parade was held on Feb. 29, with Sergeant Bill Cornish from First Canadian Ranger Patrol Group in Yellowknife as their trainer and special guest and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elder Peggy Kormendy assisting with the presentations.

It was also a time to catch up on a number of overdue presentations.

The Canadian Decoration (CD) for 12 years of service was presented to Ranger (RGR) Willie Fellers, RGR Peter Jensen, RGR Darren Kormendy and Corporal (CPL) Mitchell Strid.

The Special Service Medal (SSM) for six years of service was presented to RGR Janet Bell, RGR Guy Couture, RGR Jonathan Dowdell, RGR Doug Fraser, RGR Jeremy Lancaster, RGR Berwyn Larson, RGR Kyler Mather, CPL Richard Nagano, CPL Simon Nagano, RGR John Taylor and RGR Melina Tessier Fontaine.

Guy Couture was awarded Top Shot in the Ranger's rifle competition.

Brian McDonald received the St John's Ambulance Award for saving a life after a snowmobile accident endangered a fellow Ranger. McDonald and three other Rangers received the

Commander's Pennant for their role in this rescue. The others were CPL Bob Blanchard, RGR Melina Tessier Fontaine and RGR Corrie Loewen.

McDonald led in the administration of First Aid that stabilized the victim for transportation by helicopter from the scene of the accident to the hospital. Blanchard, Loewen and Fontaine assisted McDonald with the first aid and cut a chopper pad for medivac. Fontaine accompanied the victim as a First Aid attendant on the flight.

The crew also recovered the damaged skidoo, brought it to town and assisted in repairs.

The citation, by Brigadier General J.J.K. Hamel, Commander - Joint Task Force North, read, "For the prompt and continued application of First Aid ..." that "... prevented a major injury from turning into a life threatening situation."

Ranger Sergeant John "Mitch" Mitchell reported that eight Rangers (CPL Bob Blanchard, RGR Guy Couture, RGR Melina Tessier Fontaine, RGR Peter Brokking, RGR Brad Whitelaw, RGR Steven Kormendy, RGR Jonathan Dowdell and RGR Berwyn Larson) "successfully graduated from an Avalanche Training Course presented by Kirstie Simpson of Avalanche North with her trusty avalanche dog Brody.

"The training is in response to the increased risk of an avalanche incident as we push patrols into new areas of operation along the Dempster Highway.

"This was a pilot project for 1CRPG. The course was a great success and another course is planned for the other Yukon Ranger Patrols in March.

"In terms of participation this was our largest ever since our standup in 1991," Mitchell said. "A total of 31 Rangers were out on the land operating in Five Sections, including five new recruits: Phillippe Bartholemous, Ron McCready, Jarred Mather, Kevin Hastings and Scott Widmeyer."

During this Exercise the Rangers:

- pre-positioned a fuel cache for a long range Sovereignty Patrol planned for late March
- conducted rifle qualifications and weapons familiarization
- conducted numerous local reconnaissance patrols in the vicinity of Cache Creek and did a Patrol strength Search and Rescue scenario.

"The Exercise was named Operation Mate, in memory of Ranger Jack Semple, who left us this past summer. A simple ceremony of remembrance was held in his memory at the conclusion of the Exercise.

"It was an excellent Exercise; the instructor was pleased with the performance.

"We'd like to thank the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for their generous provision of the Community Hall for the class room training and the use of the Cache Creek site for our operations base."



Sgt. Mitch receives his certificate of participation from Peggy Kormendy• Ranger Group shot - All the participants in Operation Mate, with trainer Sgt. Bill Cornish on the far right. • Ranger Guy – Top Shot Ranger Guy Couture.

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



Service Awards – These Rangers received awards for six and 12 years of service.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Special Award - Commander's Pennant winners Cpl Bob Blanchard, RGR Brian McDonald and RGR Melina Tessier Fontaine (RGR Corrie Loewen is missing from this photo).
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

WHITEHORSE HISTORY BOOK SOCIETY



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Another society? While some may think we don't need another society, many will agree that we do need to capture the fast fading history of our city. There are many books on various aspects of our history, but there is no comprehensive story of early residents, events, places, spaces, businesses, and the myriad influences that made our community what it was and has grown to be. Yes – there is a great story and treasure trove of history to put between two strong covers, with photos, maps and illustrations. That is why we formed a new society to publish a book on the history of Whitehorse. Our Board is made up of Gudrun Sparling, Vince Fedoroff, Bob Cameron, Shirley Adamson, Yann Herry, Art and Ione Christensen. We have been active for the past year discussing ideas, promoting the project, and raising money to make the book a reality.

We plan to start with pre-contact First Nations people, continue with the arrival of newcomers before, during and after the Gold Rush, the developments leading up to the Alaska Highway, and subsequent changes to the present day. We'll look at evolving architectural styles, infrastructure, sports, arts, and cultural events, reflecting on how those things affected the daily lives of Whitehorse people through the decades. We'll describe the many strands of language, culture and lifestyle that constitute our multicultural heritage – the First Nations people, Francophone community, European immigrants, Australians, Asians, and people from so many other places around the world who have come to call Whitehorse their home.

Our two lead writers are Linda Johnson and Helene Dobrowolsky, plus we have a number of theme writers including John Firth, Ingrid Johnson, Marilyn Jensen, Pat Elis, Bob Cameron, and Rob Ingram. A winning team!

We need a budget of \$150,000 to bring us to a successful book launch. To date we have two thirds of that committed but we still need another \$50,000 and we are working hard to meet that goal. Our writing team went into action on April 1st, 2012 – so stay tuned for more news and make space on your reading list for *The History of Whitehorse*! This is our working title only, the final version will unfold as the story is researched and written.

You can also help by becoming a Patron of the Society at a cost of \$250. This offer will close in Dec. 31, 2012. As Patron you will receive a first edition of the book and be recognition within the book as a financial supporter.

If you can help, or would like us to send you a Patron Form please email us at pepper@northwestel.net Looking forward to some of you joining us in this endeavour,

Ione Christensen, Chair

AN UPDATE FROM RUSTY REID

I am in Penticton visiting my daughter Shelley Biden and my son-in-law, Mike Biden. I have been here since June 2011. I am in the Wilson Apartments just 3 houses away from Shelley's house. I had a cataract removed from my right eye in July & from my left eye in August. I have been waiting since September 2011 for a different eye surgeon to operate on a blocked tear duct in my left eye. It has to be done in hospital under with an anaesthetist. I just got word today that they have set a date for June 12th to do this operation. When my eyes have been taken care of, I plan on heading back to Whitehorse to spend the summer at our cabin down at Marsh Lake.

My son, Dave, brought my violin down so I would have something to do while I was here. Shelley just happened to hear some violin music when she was out in her yard here in Penticton. She wandered over and spoke to the man. He just happens to be the Music Director, Gerald Nadeau, for many things:

THE PENTICTON TUNEAGERS ORCHESTRA & CHOIR

I ended up playing First Violin with THE PENTICTON TUNE- AGERS ORCHESTRA (all the string instruments and all the wind instruments).

For example, our group played the following:

TRIBUTE TO HENRY MANCINI: (Baby Elephant Walk, Charade, Days of Wine & Roses, Peter Gunn)

OKLAHOMA (Rogers & Hammerstein)

EMBRACEABLE YOU (Ira Gershwin)

THE SOUND OF MUSIC (Rogers & Hammerstein)

I am also attending the Wednesday evening practices with another group of musicians called Penticton String Ensemble. This group of about 30 musicians just play the string instruments. I am playing First Violin with this group as well. We have played for several concerts.

Last week the Kiwanis Music Festival had many different categories of music being played and judged. Our group, The PENTICTON STRING ENSEMBLE, played the following classical selections:

AMERICAN SKETCHES
a fantasy for string orchestra
JOSHUA REZNICOW
and
FINALE
From Symphony No. 41 "Jupiter"
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

THE PENTICTON STRING ENSEMBLE started practicing two new classical pieces of music which they plan to play at a concert on June 22nd.

'The Barber of Seville by Gioacchino Rossini' and
Concert grosso I by G.F. Handel, OP.6 Nr.1

Rusty Reid rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com (In Penticton)



Rusty Reid - 2012
Photo courtesy Rusty Reid

YUKON FLOWERS



Lady Slippers
Photo courtesy Carol (Domes) Foster CarolAMAFoster@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)

YUKON PILOTS



Photo taken at the Vancouver Yukoners Banquet April 14, 2012.
Barry Watson, Bob Campbell, Doug Phillips, George Loeppky, Heather Jones, Bob Cameron,
Lloyd Romfo, Rick Nielsen, Bob Jacobs, Joe Sparling, Tom Firth
Photo courtesy Jim Perry

OBITS

Bud Twigge

October 10th, 1927 - March 25th, 2012

It is with great sadness that the family must announce the passing of Harold “Bud” Twigge who passed away peacefully with family at his side in his residence at Macaulay Lodge in Whitehorse.

Predeceased by his wife Pearl and eldest son Larry, he left behind four sons, Brian (Rhonda), Gregory (Cathy), Robert (Rita), Douglas (Shirly) and grandchildren Nicole, Allan, Cecilia, Adam, Cameron, Blake, Lee and 3 great grandchildren, Ethan, Shai and Isabella.

Bud is truly one of the unsung heroes of the North. Having come to the Yukon in the late 40s he has impacted strongly the world around him from being a humanitarian to those in need, to braving cold stormy waters in darkness to save those in peril, to being there in times of need for others in 70 below temperatures in remote areas.

His friends knew him as Bud and he was fortunate to share in his life times of work and play with friends that were a breed that are a rare find today. In places, temperatures, and situations the friendship was also a lifeline that trust in each other was a trait they could not survive without.

Bud was a 'million miler' in the Arctic, a highway truck driver, lodge builder and owner (Spirit Lake Lodge), service provider of many needs, decades on the pipeline between Skagway and Whitehorse, dog musher, and the list could go on but his accomplishments are far too many to mention.

The family would like to thank the unbelievable care and love and professionalism of all the staff at Macaulay Lodge that Bud was fortunate enough to experience while there. The cleaning, kitchen, administration, therapeutic and nursing staff is very much appreciated.

A special thanks to Dr. D. Kanachowski for her expertise in her care for our father with her ability to cross the line from medical science to compassion with a manner that is sincere and heartfelt.

The family as well would like to take this time to gratefully thank Greg and Cathy for their unconditional support and care that they extended time and time again and at all times of need that Bud often required both expected and unexpected over these past several years.

A private ceremony will be held by the family.



Art Deer 1928 – 2012



Art Deer circa. 1950 on Highway Patrol near Kluane Lake Yukon.

Bertram Arthur “Art” Deer

Born July 17, 1928 in Edmonton, Alberta to Fred and Bessy Deer, Art passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at Whitehorse General Hospital with his family near him.

Art is survived by Faye, his wife of 55 years, and four children (Barbara, Catherine, Peter, and Christopher) and four grand-children (Jeffery, Tyler, Anders, and Patrick).

Working briefly (1947-48) for the Ottawa Citizen newspaper, where his father was a type-setter, Art opted for a career in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police undertaking training at Regina and Rockcliffé. He immediately volunteered for northern service and, after short postings at Winnipeg and Brandon, stepped off a military transport aircraft in Whitehorse, Yukon on June 10, 1949. Posted to Whitehorse, Haines Junction, and Watson Lake, Art carried out highway patrol during the early days of the Alaska Highway from 1949 to 1953 where he made many enduring friendships from Watson Lake to Beaver Creek and all points between. Art then took an opportunity to go to the Eastern Arctic with a posting to Frobisher Bay from 1953-1956 where he was fortunate to experience and photograph an incredible but vanishing way of early Inuit life. In 1956, following a three year engagement, Art and Faye married in Edmonton and began life together during postings to Yorkton and Ottawa (Ident.). Missing the North, Art re-applied for northern service and received postings to Baker Lake (1960-1963), Whitehorse (1964-1966), and Inuvik (1966-1969). Art returned to Whitehorse in the fall of 1969 as S/Sgt. Whitehorse Detachment retiring with long service in 1973.

Opting to stay in the North, Art worked until 1986 with the Government of Yukon as head of security and Emergency Measures Organization. Art had a strong sense of civic duty serving as a Whitehorse City Councillor on most terms from 1975 through 1991 as well as belonging to community organizations, the Masonic Lodge and Yukon Order of Pioneers.

~ As a husband, a father, and a friend, Art will be dearly missed. ~

By Art's wishes there will be no memorial service; however there will be a drop-in tea on Saturday, April 21st from noon to 4:00 PM at the **Golden Age Society** (4061-4th Avenue) in Whitehorse.



Art & Fay Deer
Photo courtesy Peter Deer

BILL “Willy” BRAGA

Bill ‘Willy’ Braga passed away in Calgary March 26, 2012.

Bill was from Dawson and formed many friendships during his years there.

Bill had been admitted to Chinook Hospice in Calgary on Sunday March 18th after being found outdoors when he had wandered from his apartment during the night; he was suffering from hypothermia.

I am hoping to receive an obituary from the family. - Sherron

NEW ADDITIONS

CHRISTENSEN, Ione

pepper*northwestel.net

(In Whitehorse)

I'd really appreciate if you could include me on your Moccasin Telegraph newsletter list.

Best regards,

Peter Deer

DEER, Peter

pdeer*northwestel.net

(In Whitehorse)

REMOVED FROM THE LIST

Sherron, please remove us from the Moc Tel mailing list. Unfortunately we find that we just don't read it anymore. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Donna Lambert lynnlambert*shaw.ca

LAMBERT, Lynn & Donna (CUSICK) lynnlambert*shaw.ca (Donna born Dawson, Lynn 1961- 2000)
Westbank

Hello Sherron....

For quite some time now there has been very little in the Moccasin Telegraph newsletters about Dawson City, Yukon. I lived in Dawson City only (for 15 years during my childhood).. and as I am not at all familiar with most people mentioned in the newsletter who have lived in other places in the Yukon, or the goings-on there (past and present), I seem to have lost interest in reading the Moc Tels. I do have a close friend who gets the MT, so I know she will keep me informed if there is something in them that she knows would be of interest to me. As well, I do not care for the format the MT is now being sent in. So would you please take my name off your list of people to send them to?

Thank you, Sherron, for all the time and energy you have spent over the years gathering news and stories for the newsletters. You have been, and still are doing a super job of it and have helped so many former Yukoners connect with each other. Keep up the good work!

Regards,

Joan M. White (nee Poirier),

4375 Torquay Drive,

Victoria B.C. V8N 3L3

Email: jomar31@shaw.ca

WHITE, Joan M. (POIRIER) jomar31*shaw.ca (In Dawson 1935-1950) (250) 477-8207 Victoria

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The scenery only changes for the lead dog.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Submitted by Jenny Roberts jiroberts@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)

Swedish apple pie

3/4 cup butter
1 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 1/2 cup sliced apples

Mix apples with 1 tsp cinnamon and 1 tsp sugar

Lay apples in pie plate baking dish.

Mix butter, flour, sugar and vanilla in bowl together. Pour over apples in dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min or until golden brown.

Great apple pie.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Vancouver Yukoners' Association Notice of Annual General Meeting

April 26, 2012

11:30am

Croatian Cultural Centre

Vancouver BC

Nominations and volunteers accepted from members for positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and two Directors.

Contact vanyukoners@gmail.com

Brannigans will host the 2nd (annual) Yukon Party in Victoria

June 2, 2012

6:30 – 9:00 pm

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.

Sandie Wood sandie@brannigans.ca
Brannigans Restaurant (Cedar Hill Mall)

250-472-1083 (restaurant)

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 criterion 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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