

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 358th Edition – June 23, 2012

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.ca

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



Lupines along Bennett Lake at Carcross June 16, 2012
Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Low water level on Bennett Lake June 3, 2012
Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard*northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Still lots of snow left to melt June 3, 2012
Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard@northwestel.net (In Carcross)



Snow level June 16, 2012
Photo courtesy Eleanor Millard emillard@northwestel.net (In Carcross)

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

Richard Finnie

When I first met him in the late 1960s, he liked to be called Klondike Dick. Richard Finnie had a soft spot for Dawson City where he was born in 1906. His father O.C.S. Finnie was a mining recorder at the time. His maternal grandfather Richard Roediger was founder of the Dawson Daily News in 1899.

But Klondike Dick didn't spend that much time in the Klondike. The family moved to Ottawa in 1909 when his father became inspecting engineer for the Department of the Interior and later served as director of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon until his retirement in 1931.

From there Richard began his beat, which was the entire North. He carried both still and motion picture cameras. He served as an assistant radio operator under Captain Bernier on board the Canadian government ship "Arctic" first in 1925.

Then in 1928 he took the first official motion picture of the Arctic's expedition. It was the first in a long line of professional films by Richard Finnie. One photo shows a comical Richard Finnie, dressed in only a bathing suit diving off the wooden ship into an open lead in the ice-covered waters, probably the first Polar Bear swim.

In 1939 he produced a film in Fort Rae entitled "Dogrib Treaty". Then in 1942 he produced two films which have contributed a great deal to Northern history about the Canol pipeline and the Alaska Highway, both of which gained much acclaim.

His book "Canada Moves North" was described by Stefansson as "the best general book about northern Canada". Finnie retired as official historian and film producer for Bechtel Corporation in 1968 after 25 years covering in word and picture Bechtel's international construction projects. During Finnie's 25 years with the company he produced more than 60 films often being his own cameraman as well as writer, director and narrator. His subjects included the first major Athabasca oilsands development in Northern Alberta.

Klondike Dick Finnie was a fellow of the Arctic Institute of North America and a honorary member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers. Richard Sterling Finnie, a resident of Belvedere, California since 1951, died at his home on February 2, 1987, at the age of 80.



Martha & Bill Kerr & Audrey Gleason
Photo courtesy Martha Kerr marthakerr@shaw.ca (In Kelowna)



Martha Kerr, Joyce Doyle & Audrey Gleason
Photo courtesy Martha Kerr marthakerr@shaw.ca (In Kelowna)



Gert turned 85 today [June 4, 2012], just thought I would pass this latest photo on to you. That's Carol [Squirechuk] in the middle, John Squirechuk and his wife on the left.

Alistair McGregor mmac1952@telus.net (In Vernon)

Dawson Celebrates a May Day Breakup

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

May 1, 2012

Break-up on the Yukon River in front of Dawson occurred at 9:42 on a misty **May 1 Tuesday** morning. This is six days earlier than last year, but well within the range of normal breakup times and about five days from when the Klondike River cleared out at the confluence.

Workers in the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre were alerted by Victor Henry when they arrived that he was certain the ice would soon go.

“The first thing I saw,” said Glenda Bolt, “was Victor Henry’s face in the window with a big smile on his face, saying, ‘It’s gonna go!’”

He has been walking up and down the dike for hours, and he was sure. Bolt and her co-worker, Kylie Van Every, made tea for a few people and then stood on the deck and watched the river.

Bolt phone the IODE's Joyce Caley and told her to be ready for a second call.

She also told her not to bring her ladder, because there was one at the centre.

The octogenarian official timekeeper for the ice pool has been known to cycle down to the centre from her Fifth Avenue home with a ladder strapped to the carrier of her bike.

About a half hour later Victor called out that it was moving.

"It was. It was the whole giant sheet (that the tripod was on) was braking up right to the very foot of the tripod. It was sitting there and sitting there, and then it did the long, slow pull and then snap!"

That was the cable from the tripod tripping the wire that led to the clock mounted on the building where they were standing.

Bolt quickly phoned Caley and then Fire Chief Jim Regimbal, who triggered the fire alarm from city hall.

"We all went out there and we had a good old time calling people and hollering out."

Bolt said she noticed quite a few people either calling or texting on cell phones this year, getting the word around town even before the siren sounded.

Within minutes there were crowds lining the dike from the old CIBC building and down towards the ferry landing.

The excitement lasted for the better part of an hour, and there was some slight concern when it was clear that there was a bit of a jam down towards Moosehide, but the water in the river is low for this time of year and any backwash from a jam seemed unlikely.

Caley arrived and Bolt helped her take down the clock, verifying the time from its stopped hands.

Caley had to wait until she collected the day's mail before making any announcements. The tickets that had been sold in Carmacks had not yet arrived and they needed to be tabulated to see if anyone had picked a time closer to the one she already knew about.

It turned out they had not, and so **Dawson's Mandy Johnson was declared the winner of approximately \$3,700.00 later** in the afternoon.

Joyce Caley said it wasn't a very exciting break-up, but agreed that safe is better than dramatic.



Joyce Caley and Glenda Bolt with the clock.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The tripod can just be seen at the left of this picture, beside the ferry.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



It is traditional for the school to join the crowd if the event occurs during class time.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



While most of the pans that washed up on the shore were no more than a metre thick, this visiting New Zealand family is posing before a two-metre berg that must have been pushed up on the ferry landing by something even bigger.

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

AYC Resolutions deal with Landfills, Recreation and Email Costs

By Dan Davidson

May 7, 2012

While members of the Association of Yukon Communities were very pleased with announcements from the government that were made during its annual general meeting in Dawson City last weekend, there remained a number of issues that members would like to see action on.

The following resolutions were passed after some debate and amendment.

The Village of Carmacks proposed that “municipalities which have requests for resource development dispositions, including oil and gas, near their communities be invited to review the request for development and comment (on) environmental, socio-economic and surface-access concerns that may arise from the proposed project.”

Carmacks Mayor Elaine Wyatt said that it was disconcerting to have no more notice than that given to the general public about such issues. Other voices agreed that hearing about proposals first by way of radio and newspaper reports did not allow local councils the time to decide how they wanted to address these projects.

The Village of Mayo proposed that the “Yukon Government develop an agreement with all Yukon municipalities regarding limiting the cost of landfill liability.”

Christine Smith, YTG’s Director of Community Services, indicated that this was likely to be a difficult legal issue to resolve, but did not rule out an attempt to address it.

With regard to more specific waste disposal concerns the City of Whitehorse was looking for a review of the “Designated Material Regulation with the intent of expanding the range of materials designated under the regulation.”

The city also requested that this review be a “collaborative process involving community and recycling-processor stakeholder groups.”

Two types of materials – electronic waste and an accumulation of larger and larger vehicle tires – were at the root of the dual request.

Whitehorse also requested an expansion and review of the current Beverage Container Regulations for landfills, noting “products under the Beverage Container Regulations do not include the majority of beverage containers communities are encouraged to bring to recycling depots, including dairy-product containers.”

The issue of “Cross-town Packet Charges” was brought forward as a resolution by the City of Whitehorse. It was stated in the briefing notes that internet service providers (ISP) currently levy such charges on data travelling within the territory, and that data which does not actually leave the territory and return before delivery should not be subject to such charges.

“The practice is counterproductive to government, business and individual users in the Yukon,” said the preamble to the resolution.

There was some debate as to whether there was any point in petitioning the ISPs to cease the practice. Some members wanted to go straight to the Canadian Radio Telecommunications Commission.

The second part of the resolution requested that the Yukon Government lend its considerable weight to this effort, being that it is a major user of ISP services.

While the resolutions referred to all ISPs in the territory, it was clear in the debate that it was aimed particularly at NorthwesTel and its affiliates, which process the majority of the email traffic.

The Village of Haines Junction proposed a resolution which encompassed a topic that had come up numerous times over the weekend: the need to find funding for the improvement and revitalization of recreational facilities in the communities.

Mayor George Nassiopoulos pointed out that recreation is more than just a frill in the Yukon. Good facilities are needed to sustain healthy lifestyles “and provide a proven social benefit by actively reducing crime and other anti-social behavior, particularly in small Northern communities which experience long winters.”

The Junction, he said, has been working towards upgrading their pool, arena and curling rink for a number of years, but has been limited by being unable to access anything other than Community Development Fund money.

There is a federal Recreation Infrastructure Canada program, but that fund is too small to make even a dent in the needs of the North, he said.

The resolution asked that YTG “engage their federal counterparts with a view to enabling Build Canada (or any subsequent replacement fund) monies (to be available) for the repair and/or replacement of recreational infrastructure.”

Two other resolutions were withdrawn during debate. The first, dealing with fire protection services, became unnecessary after Minister Taylor’s announcements on Friday. The second, requesting that there be an AYC appointee to the Yukon Territory Water Board, was withdrawn after it was made clear that the Water Board’s enabling legislation doesn’t allow for that sort of representation.

The clarification came from Dawson councillor Stephen Johnson, who is himself a member of the Water Board.



The annual general meeting portion of the AYC gathering took place in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall on Sunday morning.

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

AYC Awards Highlight Achievement and Sustainability

By Dan Davidson

May 8, 2012

The Association of Yukon Communities annual general meeting banquet was also the occasion for the presentation of two of the annual awards the organization gives out.

The Municipal Employee Award of Excellence is presented to “recognize the contribution of an employee of a member community who has demonstrated an exceptional level of professionalism, leadership and innovation in his/her job.”

This year the award went to two Dawson City employees. Chief Administrative Officer Jeff Renaud and Senior Financial Officer Joanne Van Nostrand were cited for many contributions to the town, including:

- implementing the town's new financial software
- recovering previously unknown revenue charges of approximately \$200,000
- creating a new, easy to understand, budgeting system
- working on a redesign of the city's website

“Steering this massive project through to a seamless conclusion,” the citation read, “was accomplishment enough, but they pulled off this task without falling behind in the many other expectations that were heaped on them.”

- installing a capital replacement plan
- enhancing the city’s television service, including a launch of digital service and the soon to be launched high definition service
- designing and implementing a municipal workplace safety program
- working to ensure that the local golf course remains available to citizens and visitor alike, while protecting the town from any undue liability
- restarting a review of the town’s bylaws, including the rescinding of some that date back to 1902.
- initiating the long overdue review of the town’s Official Community Plan.

AYC Second Vice-President Councillor Diana Rogerson, of Faro, presented the award.

Joanne Van Nostrand said she began to understand the depth of her task when she discovered that none of the software packages currently in use by the town could communicate with each other and that the backup system for her accounting system was a floppy disk.

“I knew right at that moment that we were way behind the times. If someone emailed me a Word document I’d have to reply to them to ‘please send it in PDF (format) because I cannot open it.’”

She praised her working relationship with Renaud and the hard work of the rest of the city staff. Working together they had, she said, taken apart the town’s office operations and basically rebuilt them, a task that would continue in the months ahead.

Yukon Energy President and CEO David Morrison was called upon to present the Yukon Sustainable Community Award. This is given to “recognize leadership in sustainable community development with an award for initiatives that demonstrate practical, innovative solutions that enhance the environmental sustainability of Yukon’s communities.”

“The Sustainable Community Award talks directly to municipalities doing work related to environmental sustainability within their area of jurisdiction,” Morrison said. “There’s a lot of work being done across the territory in this area, and it’s really important, as we go forward, with the growth that the Premier talked about. That growth that we see in the territory also means growth in energy consumption and the requirement for new energy. “We’re seeing some very different trends across communities in the territory over the last number of years, all of which are pointing to increasing usage of electrical energy within all subsectors of the territory. I mean both in the residential sector and in the commercial sector, in the government sector and in the industrial sector.

“This year, the recipient of this award is the City of Whitehorse. The city, this year, is being recognized for a very specific initiative – the city’s development of an energy monitoring database. That database will allow the city to monitor the energy use in its facilities, to compare that use, not just from building to building, but between buildings. It’ll give the city the ability to normalize its data back to weather, which is a very important piece of information. Most of all, it will contribute to the city’s development of an energy plan.”

Mayor Bev Buckway was very surprised to have her city getting this award again after last year. She said the AYC offices had managed to hide this from her. She praised the efforts of her city's staff and council in working towards sustainability.

“If it wasn't for council – all of council – who get behind these projects and say that this fits with our fifty year sustainability plan, these projects wouldn't happen.”

The final award is the Hanseatic Award, which was established in 1997 to provide Yukon municipal politicians an opportunity to recognize the work of their peers. It was not presented at the Dawson meeting, but was given to Doctor Luke Lacasse, the former mayor of Carmacks, at his residence at Copper Ridge Place on Tuesday, May 8.

The award is presented to “A person who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Yukon Municipal Government and furthered the goals of the Association of Yukon Communities.”

Nominations for this award come from all Yukon municipal elected officials and are forwarded to the AYC executive to select a recipient. The criteria for nomination to this award are only that the individual is, or once was, a Yukon municipal politician and that they are not currently sitting on the AYC executive.



Mayor Bev Buckway and the City of Whitehorse Award.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Waiting for the Ferry

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

May 13, 2012

There hasn't been any ice flowing in the Yukon River for a few days now and the signs of both canoes and power boats pulled up on the bank indicate that people from West Dawson are crossing regularly. The word is that the George Black Ferry will go in the water on Tuesday of the coming week. In the meantime, the sign seems a bit poignant.



Waiting for the ferry.

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



Canoes.

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

Robert Service School Takes \$6000 in Play Your Part Art Contest

By Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)
May 8, 2012

Dwight Redden, the General Manager of the Yukon Electrical Company, Ltd., was on hand at the Robert Service School on May 4 to hand out awards won by the students as part of the company's ATCO Play Your Part Art Contest. This was held to encourage participation in the Arctic Winter Games.

"Thank you very much," he said, "for your part in making the art contest so exciting. Your school, in the cross section of creatively that was sought from all grades, put so much talent and thought into the artwork. It's just beautiful.

"Congratulations to your school and thank you from Yukon Electrical and ATCO for participating."

"We were really, really excited to get your entries," said Laura Carlson, the company's Corporate Communications Advisor.

The school was presented with an award plaque mounted with copies of the six winning pieces from RSS. The pictures were by Riley Elliot (Gr. 1), Eric Morin (Gr. 2), Joy Morin (Gr. 5), Keenan Davis (Gr. 9), Alastair Findlay-Brook (Gr. 11), and Shaheen Baker (Gr. 12).

"You guys won six categories in the contest," Carlson said, "which means your school won \$6,000 in prizes."

This was the largest award given out of the \$24,000 in prize money spread across the territory. The winner also received individual prizes (a blue backpack full of goodies) and each of the school's students received a penlight flashlight, which won't be of a whole lot of use here until September.

Redden presented Vice-principal Helen McCullough with the \$6,000 cheque.

Only three of the students were present as the others were away on school related trips. Eric Morin picked up the award for his sister. Proud Art teacher Tara McCauley collected the remaining awards for the other two students.



Vice-Principal Helen McCullough collects a \$6,000 cheque from Yukon Electrical's Dwight Redden.

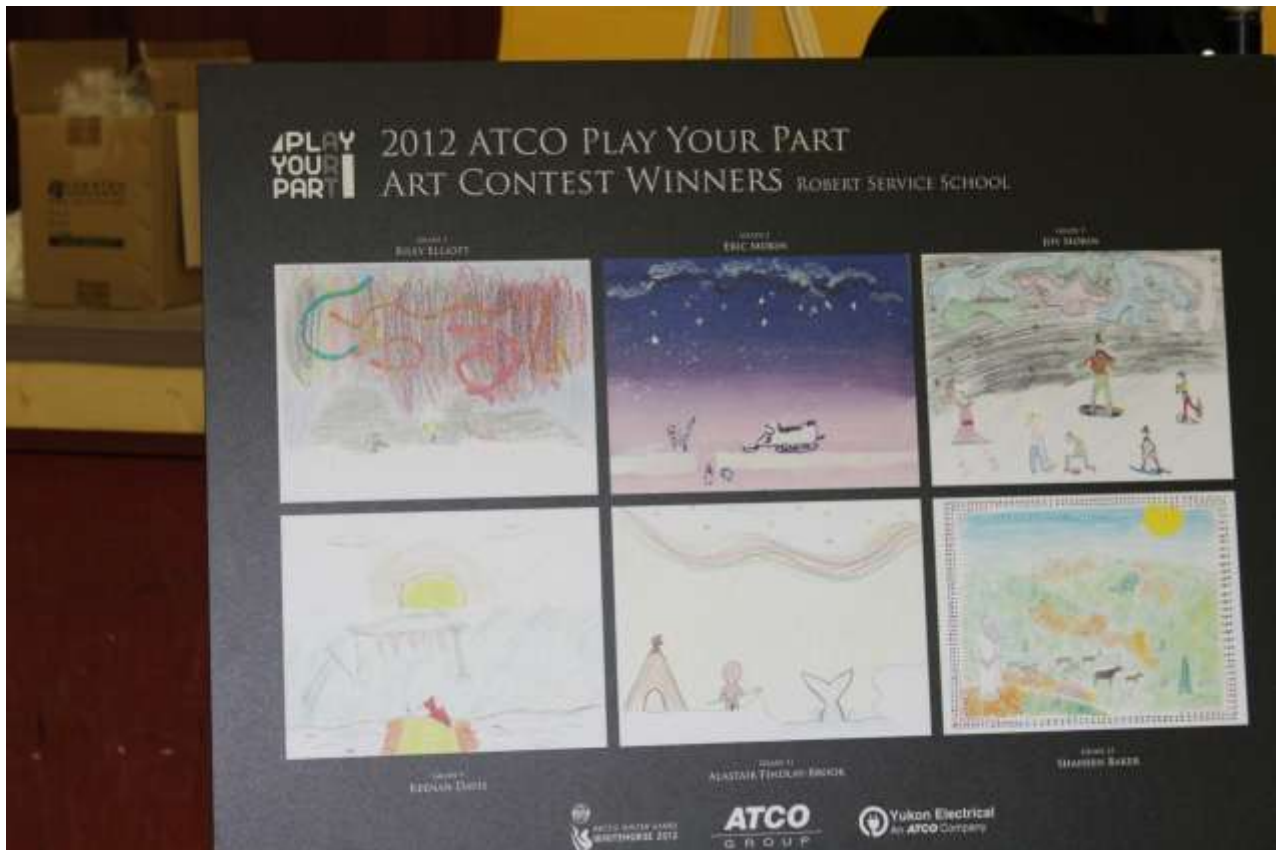
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Proud Tara – Tara McCauley collects awards for her students who could not attend the assembly. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



RSS applause – Student applaud their prize-winning peers.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



RSS Award posters – The winning entries from RSS.
 Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

An Encounter with the Fiddleheads

By Dan Davidson

May 14, 2012

The Fiddleheads were on the road last week, showcasing their latest work, “Encounter”, subtitled ‘A Musical Fantasy’. The first part of their tour took them to Eliza Van Bibber School, in Pelly and J.V. Clark School in Mayo on May 10 and saw them at Robert Service School in Dawson City the next afternoon.

“Encounter”, developed from an idea that was pitched by the young fiddlers themselves is a combination of shadow puppetry and live action, combined with lots of fiddling and a bit of singing.

Musical director Annie Avery says the kids developed the story. They got some assistance in staging from Moira Sauer. Singer/songwriter Nicole Edwards provided the songs and the fiddle teaching came from Amelia Slobogean, Gordon Stobbe, and ZavRT.

The set design and the costumes are credited on the program to “everyone”.

The play begins with fiddling and moves to the shadow box stage, where the sea creatures can be seen swimming about. Hearing the fiddle music, they follow the enchanting sound to the land where they have a startling encounter with the fiddlers. Both groups are scared but the seas creatures follow the fiddlers to the North, where they begin to freeze.

The fiddlers see what is happening and save them with the warming sound of their music.

At Robert Service School this presentation became part of an assembly which also featured some short tunes by the Ukulele Class, some barn dancing by almost the entire student body and a demonstration of Duck Dancing by the primary classes, led by elder Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elder Victor Henry.

On May 18 the tour will continue with performances at Ghuch Tla Community School in Carcross and the Teslin School



Victor Henry directs the Duck Dance
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Fiddleheads play a merry tune.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Sea Creatures on land.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Shadow puppets told part of the story.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The RSS Ukulele Class.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame

I have included the bios and a few pictures of the Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame 2012 Award Winners for Pioneer and Person. The award ceremonies will be June 5th, 7:00pm at the Yukon Transportation Museum.

Thanks,

Randy Mattson
Coordinator of the Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame
Transport Services
Government of Yukon
Ph: 867.667.5832

Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame Person of the Year 2012



The late Harry Campbell

Born December 15, 1928 in Ashfield Township, near Lucknow Ontario, Harry Campbell was the youngest child and only son of Cyril and Mamie Campbell. An adventurous spirit led him West, then to Yukon.

Arriving in Mayo on October 8, 1953, Harry's decision to remain was made for him by freeze up, as the ferry at Pelly Crossing was pulled. With a young family to support, Harry quickly found work with Cole Brothers in Keno City.

Harry's career spanned 55 years in the Yukon transportation industry. Working for Cole Brothers, he hauled ore from Keno mine, fuel from Whitehorse to the Keno mine and placer mined on

Gauvin Gulch. In 1957, Harry and George Ford incorporated Campbell & Ford, purchased trucks, and obtained the mail contract for the Dawson/Whitehorse route, an 820-mile round trip stopping in Mayo, McCabe Creek and Carmacks. On alternate days, they hauled coal from the Carmacks mine to camps and the Federal Building in Dawson. In 1962 Klondike Transport Ltd was incorporated with a new partner, Tim Cole.

Klondike Transport was also the connecting carrier for freight with Canadian Freightways, bringing goods and equipment to Dawson City. When local families sent their grocery orders to be filled in Whitehorse, Harry picked up and delivered their orders.

In 1967, Harry sold the freight line business and his focus became heavy equipment and hauling. If it needed moving, Klondike Transport moved it. From resurfacing roads in preparation for chip seal, to hauling equipment and camps for miners, summer was a busy time. There were no roads that Harry did not travel or work on, including hauling supplies into the Bell River area for Ben Warnsby and Mike Stutter, co-owners of the Brain Storm, a barge that took supplies into Old Crow.

In March 1969, Harry and Bob Caley drove the first two trucks into Old Crow, hauling all the supplies to build the Northern Affairs Building and the Co-op store. The winter trail was off the Dempster Highway. With a top speed of 10 miles per hour, it took 57 hours for the round trip. At -60F the trucks were kept running 24 hours a day and meals were cooked in tinfoil on the manifold. They met local hunters on the way topping off their load with caribou for delivery to Old Crow.

After the 1979 Dawson City flood, Harry excavated or moved most of the major buildings in the area. When asked which buildings he had moved, his response was, "Probably half of Dawson." Harry's town tours were a coveted history lesson for tourists and locals alike.

A highlight of Harry's career was Klondike Transport's contribution to the restoration of Dredge #4. In 1992 Harry excavated the sunken dredge, built a dike, and was an advisor to Canadian Army Engineers. The salvaged dredge is now a major tourist attraction and historical site.

A proud supporter of Brian Gudmundson, Harry took part in the 1995 RCMP lost Patrol re-enactment, driving the supply truck to Fort McPherson with May Gudmundson.

Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame Pioneer of the Year 2012

Bill Taylor was a true transportation pioneer, travelling across the Yukon for business and pleasure in sleds, canoes, riverboats, sternwheelers, cars, trucks and even a home-made snow truck.

Born in 1909, Bill was the eldest son of pioneer merchants Isaac Taylor and Sarah Drury Taylor. Bill's 89 years were closely linked to transportation; as a child he travelled on a company steamer for summer vacations in Teslin; as a young dog-mushing accountant he made his way to a snow-bound Taylor & Drury post; as a bachelor he drove his favourite Chevy roadster to Mayo in the 1930s.



The late **William D. Taylor**

Bill's first job was with Taylor and Drury (T&D's), which had more than a dozen posts throughout the Yukon. Out of necessity, T&D's built its own transportation network, using steamboats, horse teams and trucks in the summer, dog teams, horse-drawn sleds, early snowmobiles, and even cars modified with chains and runners for lake travel in winter.

During Bill's early life, travel in the Yukon was often an adventure. In late 1929, the steamboat Yukon Rose ran into low water at Roaring Bull on the Teslin River and T&D's was forced to leave behind its barge loaded with essential supplies. By February, the Teslin post was running extremely low on food. Bill and Frank Slim mushed from Whitehorse to the barge in three days. Taking on light loads of 200 pounds each, they broke trail for the remaining 75 miles to Teslin. The snow was so deep that they took turns snowshoeing ahead at night so the dogs would have a packed trail the next day. On reaching Teslin, Bill hired and led 10 dog teams back to the barge for another load.

When another of T&D's steamers, the Thistle, sank in Lake Lebarge in 1929, Bill led Whitehorse T&D's staff, in small boats, to "rescue" goods floating up from the wreck, including canned goods with no labels. Soon after T&D's had discounted items on display called, "Canned Surprise."

Bill was inventive and resourceful. One day during the 1930s, while out on a Sunday drive, Bill faced transmission trouble. Winching his car up a tree, he repaired the transmission with his wife

Aline's hair pins. He and his brother Charlie also solved a winter trucking problem by inventing and building their own half-track truck.

Eventually, Bill became manager at Taylor & Drury Motors, Taylor Chevrolet, and Tilden Rent-a-Car. Thirty years after George Johnston of Teslin bought his 1928 Chevrolet from T&D's, Bill took it back on trade-in and restored it. In 1993, Bill donated the Chevy to the George Johnston museum in Teslin, where it is today. Another artefact Bill kept in his garage was the fully restored cutter once belonging to Mrs. Whitney. This is now displayed in the Transportation Museum.

It gave Bill great pleasure to contribute to the preservation of Yukon pioneering and transportation history by donating the 1928 Chevrolet, Mrs. Whitney's cutter, a birch bark canoe, movies, pictures and memorabilia to the Yukon Archives, George Johnston, MacBride and Transportation Museums.

VICTORIA AREA YUKONERS AT BRANNIGAN'S RESTAURANT

Sherron, we just had our 2nd dinner (2nd June 2012) out at Brannigans in Victoria, was pleasant weather so some may have been on the golf course.

Best Stan

Photos courtesy Stan Hegstrom [stanvh*shaw.ca](mailto:stanvh@shaw.ca) (In Sidney)



Vivian Stuart, Joan White, Sharron Redmond



2012 6 2

Trevor Martin, Mary McAvoy, Michael Purves



2012 6 2



Isabelle Townsend, Heather Patterson
2012 6 2



Janet Green, Barb Dixon, Annie Graham
2012 6 2



Connie Moffat, Pat Dixon, Garth Graham



Stan Hegstrom, Sandie Wood Bill Wood

ALASKA HIGHWAY WASH OUT



Km 1102.9 Alaska Highway
Photo shared on Facebook.



(ABOVE) a section of the **Alaska Highway at kilometre 1,639**, south of Sheep Mountain, was washed out this morning due to heavy rain. The road will be closed between Haines Junction and Destruction Bay until further notice.
Photo from Facebook.



Food is unloaded from a First Air L382G Hercules at the Erik Nielsen **Whitehorse International Airport on Sunday evening [June 10 2012]**. The Alaska Highway is still closed between Watson Lake and Teslin due to severe washouts. Transport trucks are unable to get through, causing some shortages in grocery stores.

UPDATE FROM DONNA CLAYSON

Hello Sherron

First, I'm so sorry I haven't kept in touch. I haven't written anything in a long time except for short paragraphs for What's Up Yukon Newspaper.

Yes, the Alaska Highway was closed. There was a mudslide and washouts in the Rancheria area. We were in short supply for groceries, the store shelves were empty causing a bit of hoarding

which, I feel, completely unnecessary. Some residents had lots of food while others very little. The road was also closed from washouts between Carcross and Fraser and Haines Junction and Destruction Bay. The only road not affected was the road to Dawson. Felt rather strange to be completely shut out from Outside. It was quite something. Superstore and Extra Foods pooled together to hire a Herc aircraft to empty the trucks stranded and bring in some food. Two flights on Monday and 3 flights on Tuesday. The road at Haines Jct was opened Monday and the road at Carcross was opened Tuesday. The Alaska Highway was opened for commercial vehicles Tuesday night with private vehicles following after that.

It's been very cool here. We're still waiting for spring time. It was only +3C Tuesday morning and cool days. We have only been reaching +13C as a high at our house. Crazy. There is a huge fire north of Dawson, very close to the Top of the World highway. It's very dry up there.

I've been teaching the Hug a Tree & Survive Program to school children. My busy time is May & June to try and cover as many classes as possible as well as cub scouts. One of my assistants did 160 students in the French school in one day. I am the Coordinator for the program so assembling packages to hand out (coloring book, survival bag, whistle and brochures on the program) keeps me busy. I am now done until next fall with the presentations.

I also am one of three instructors that teach Basic Search & Rescue (Basic SAR) to new members with Whitehorse District Search & Rescue. It's a five day course, held over 2 weekends and a Friday night. We have day sessions in the classroom as well as field exercises during the day and back again starting at 11:00 pm to 1:00 am Saturday/Sunday of the last weekend where the students have to start a fire and set up a survival camp in the woods as well as navigating with a compass. This is done while it still gets dark... Whitehorse SAR also holds their yearly training at Kusawa Lake June 1 to 3. Bryan usually comes to help set up camp and act as a 'victim' for the grid and sound searches for those members training but this year I was by myself, setting up camp and teaching Evidence Searching. June 1 (Friday) was very cold with the ice still covering the lake. During the night it started to rain with snow in the nearby mountains and rained pretty much all day Saturday. The ice disappeared quickly on the lake. Again, it was very cold Saturday night with Sunday being a nice day to pack up and come home. I was very tired doing all the work myself (setting up camp, freezing at night etc.) and unpacked only what I had to when I got home. I was in bed by 4:30 pm until 10:30 am Monday morning. Took me several days to clean my camp gear and tent of the all the wet sand and pebbles. I'm to the point that trudging through the bush is getting too difficult so I'm training up as radio operator in the Mobile Command Post and anything else to stay out of bush whacking. I'm currently studying for my radio operators' license (aviation and land) and will take a Search Coordinator course when it comes available.

I have been training up as Yukon Zone Commander for the last year with one more year to go with the Civil Air Search & Rescue (CASARA) and that keeps me busy studying and planning flights for the new members as well as trying to keep the current members' currency up to date. So much to learn, so much to read. I have travelled a bit the last 1 ½ years to Montreal once, Toronto twice and Winnipeg twice for SAR training. I'm really not home much and Bryan is learning to fend for himself quite well.

Bryan is recovering from his broken femur two years ago. It still bothers him and he sits and cat-naps a lot. He's pretty much finished the restoration on the 1934 Chev and wants to get it on the road this summer. He'd like to get at the 1962 Caddy and there's a 1934 Olds he's been working

on. There is also yard work to do and he has a greenhouse as well as raspberry bushes. Can't take the farm out of the Saskatchewan boy. LOL. Bryan enjoys his involvement with the Copperbelt Railway as well as the Whitehorse Trolley. He is the only maintenance person they have so they depend on him to keep everything running and in top notch condition. It usually means fabricating parts he isn't able to buy. CBC interviewed him regarding the trolley and he did a mighty fine job answering the reporters' questions.

I've been busy with our granddaughter, Jayden who will be three July 31. What a delightful child. Full of ambition and never sits still for 1 minute. She can tire grandma and grandpa out in no time. I babysit once in a while. Verena is working at the Medicine Chest and loves it. There is no bath tub or washer/dryer in the guest house so every 3 days Jayden comes over for a bath and once a week the clothes are washed. Her mom keeps busy.

Yukoners Day was fun. We all went for a train ride from Skagway to Fraser and back. The tickets were 75% off. What a great day. Now talk about being tired and when we got home late that night I hit the bed and was out in minutes.

When I moved here 4 years ago I sold my 1967 Cougar and regretted it. Last year while in Edmonton the buyer wanted to know if I wanted the car back. So-o-o, Bryan, Verena and Jayden drove to Edmonton June 2 to pick the car up. Bryan also had other business there as well and Verena wanted to pick up the rest of her household belongings she had to leave behind last year when she moved here. I have no intention of ever going back to the City or travelling anywhere for that matter. They left Edmonton this morning and expecting a slow drive back, especially with the repaired areas of the highway slowing traffic down. I was happy to take care of the house and the greenhouse. We were in Edmonton three times last summer so no yard work was done. I had 2 weeks to do all the yard work while they were in Alberta that Bryan normally does. Our poor vehicle hasn't been cleaned for a year and was full of branches, etc. from my outdoor excursions so spent 2 hours yesterday cleaning it. What a job. Found my favorite winter glove I've been missing for months and lots of coins. Now I have to go grocery shopping for Bryan and all the company that is expected starting today; a couple from Edmonton should be arriving any time. Not sure how long they will be staying but I've promised them a tour of Carcross, Haines Jct and some lakes as well as local sights. I have an AGM meeting tonight for CASARA and I'm training for Team Leader all weekend so will only see them a bit until the course is over. Bryan should arrive Saturday as well as a fellow from England on the same day. Bryan will escort him around. I'm expecting a niece I've never met before to arrive July 1 from Alberta. There are always some people that just show up. Visited a friend I only see once a year that spends the summers here. She lives in a complex in Yuma during the winter. We don't cross paths it seems all summer as she stays at Marsh Lake quite a bit.

Well, that sort of catches you up on what it's like living in the Yukon. Glad I'm retired but keep busier than when I was working and with no pay. Will try and stay in touch.

All the best,
Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Town ‘a community that pulled together’

[Highway closure results in activity in Watson Lake]

Watson Lake Mayor Richard Durocher is impressed with how his community handled the massive influx of highway travellers over the last few days.

By Chuck Tobin on June 13, 2012



Photo by Vince Fedoroff

EDIBLE RELIABILITY – While Watson Lakers were busy hosting hundreds of unexpected guests, The Fruit Stand in downtown Whitehorse ran low on some items but was never out of stock. Other produce outlets’ supplies were exhausted during the Alaska Highway disruptions. Saturday was the stand’s busiest day in 23 years.

Watson Lake Mayor Richard Durocher is impressed with how his community handled the massive influx of highway travellers over the last few days.

“And that is not me bragging,” Durocher said in an interview this morning. “That is a community that pulled together.

“We have people walking into the town office saying what a fantastic little town they stayed in.” Durocher said the community of 1,500-plus came together to make people as comfortable as possible, stuffing stranded commercial truck and passenger vehicles into every little nook and cranny.

Hotels were chock-full, people were sleeping in their cars and others were setting up camp next to their vehicles, said the mayor.

“The downtown core was as busy as I have ever seen in the 33 years I’ve lived here. But we had a lot of capacity left.

“Even if the highway was closed for another three or four days, we could have provided for them.”

Durocher estimates there were about 400 vehicles of all types backed up in Watson Lake as crews were dealing with the massive washout of the Alaska Highway near Rancheria.

“I was worried a bit that people might start to become agitated and antsy, but it did not happen.” The Grade 12 high school students, for example, put on a chili and movie night for stranded travellers, he pointed out.

Durocher said the various Yukon government and municipal departments did a commendable job in responding to the emergency situation, from personnel with the Emergency Measurers Organization to the town’s bylaw staff.

Meanwhile, traffic has been flowing smoothly since the **highway reopened Monday** evening with the completion of a rough one-lane detour around the washout at Canyon Creek, near Rancheria.

Meanwhile, freight outlets in Whitehorse were busy this morning dealing with the backlog. It’s expected a higher volume of grocery and other transport trucks will be seen over the next couple of days as stores get back up to their normal inventories.

Though the waters of the Liard River continue to recede, they’re still well above the flood level and several displaced residents of Upper Liard are unable to return to their homes.

Hydrologist Ric Janowicz of Environment Yukon expects the river will not return to below flood levels until Saturday.

The river peaked at 1.9 metres above the flood stage last Sunday morning. It has since fallen by 1.2 metres but remained 77 centimetres above the flood level at 7 a.m. today.

Janowicz said the river level has been receding by about one centimetre an hour in the last 24 hours.

The Liard peaked a full metre above the previous high recorded in 1972, and slightly more than a metre above the peak that caused the flooding in 2007, records indicate.

Janowicz has described the high waters across the southern Yukon as unprecedented; the product of a perfect storm caused by above-average spring rains combining with an above-average snowpack in the mountains.

The low-lying area at Upper Liard was evacuated early Sunday morning, a couple of hours before the rushing river breached the protective dike.

Officials have not yet been able to provide a damage estimate, though it’s expected to be significant.

Vald Petrlak, owner of the Upper Liard Highway Lodge, said he understands at least one of the 11 flooded residences was pushed off its foundation.

The Daylu Dena Council of Lower Post, B.C. is also continuing to deal with flooding in its community and residents who’ve had to leave their homes.

Government spokesman Matt King said the five members of the team who were mobilized to coordinate emergency services in Watson Lake have returned to their regular duties.

But services are still being provided by staff at the community's local office of the Department of Health and Social Services, he said.

King said the 13 displaced residents of Upper Liard can contact the office to make long-term arrangements for food and shelter.

It's believed many moved in with friends and family, but there are services available, he said.

Crucial highway link to the South restored

The Alaska Highway reopened Monday evening near Rancheria following the completion of a road detour around the substantial washout at Canyon Creek.

By Chuck Tobin on June 12, 2012



Photo by MINNIE CLARK

BACK ON THE ROAD – Suppressed traffic on the Alaska Highway was ‘chalk a block’ Monday evening after the artery was reopened. Shown above are some of the semi-trucks lined up along the main route through Teslin, awaiting the green light to proceed.

The Alaska Highway reopened Monday evening near Rancheria following the completion of a road detour around the substantial washout at Canyon Creek.

Northbound commercial trucks stranded at the highway lodge since the washout occurred last Thursday night were the first to be taken over the single-lane detour beginning at 7:30 p.m.

They were followed by private vehicles, according to government officials.

Once Rancheria was cleared, some 200 commercial trucks waiting in Watson Lake to come north were released between 8:00 and 9:30. They moved as one big convoy behind a pilot vehicle that stayed with them until they'd passed through the detour at Canyon Creek.

Larger industrial vehicles followed. Then private vehicles and RVs were released in groups behind a pilot car.

Southbound traffic backed up in Teslin was released at about the same time as vehicles waiting in Watson Lake to come north.

Government spokesman Matt King explained today that now that the congestion has been cleared at the choke points, pilot cars are no longer being used, except to guide vehicles through the detour.

King said highway crews are estimating they will have a Bailey bridge in place and an upgraded two-lane route flowing around the Canyon Creek washout as early as Thursday.

The Campbell Highway reopened at about noon today, though the Nahanni Range Road into the Cantung Mine remains closed, along with South Canol. The North Canol hasn't yet been opened for the season.

The North Alaska Highway between Haines Junction and Destruction Bay was opened Saturday.

Al Nixon, assistant deputy minister of the Yukon's transportation division, said engineers are flying into the Nahanni Range Road today to assess several washouts.

Communications officer Aisha Montgomery of the Yukon's Emergency Measurers Organization said this morning from Watson Lake the release of vehicles went fairly smoothly.

RV travellers, she said, were asked if they minded staying behind for the night just to reduce traffic. Many agreed to, though most were cleared out by late this morning.

All indications from traffic coming south through Watson Lake today is that the highway is fine, but for what is being called a "burp" at Canyon Creek, she said.

Meanwhile, Montgomery added, efforts are continuing to ensure that the needs of flood victims from Upper Liard and Lower Post, B.C. are being met.

She said 177 received some form of assistance from the emergency reception centre established in Watson Lake to assist stranded highway travellers and flood victims.

Approximately 25 people had registered for overnight accommodations last night but only eight showed up, she said, suggesting many probably took advantage of the Alaska Highway's reopening up.

The Daylu Dena Council of Lower Post has established emergency provisions for victims of the Kaska community on the B.C. side of the Yukon-B.C. border, a stone's throw from Watson Lake, she said.

Montgomery said the government is encouraging Upper Liard residents who were forced to flee their homes to register with emergency services in Watson Lake.

It's important people understand services like the provision of food and accommodations are available for flood victims, she said.

Montgomery said many went to stay with family and friends, but that was three days ago, and some may be wanting to make other arrangements.

The number for the emergency centre in Watson Lake is 867-536-2232, she said.

Hydrologist Ric Janowicz of Environment Yukon has described this spring's flood conditions across the southern Yukon as the product of a perfect storm, combining above average spring rains and above-average snowpack in the mountains.

The amount of water busting over the banks of rivers everywhere is unprecedented, he said during a technical briefing Monday.

Janowicz said this morning the Liard River at Upper Liard has receded a total of 3/4 of a metre or 77 centimetres since it peaked Sunday morning at an all-time high of 1.9 metres – more than six feet – above what is described as the beginning of the flood stage.

The previous high for the peak was recorded at 90 centimetres in 1972, he said.

Janowicz said the river will likely take two or three days to recede back to or below the flood stage level.

The volume of rain expected in the area in the next couple of days is not likely to prevent the river level from falling, though they may slow the drop, said Janowicz.

Twelve residents from Upper Liard were removed early Saturday shortly before the river breached the flood dike.

Eleven homes were under and remain under more than a metre of water.

Government spokesman Elaine Schiman explained this morning all hands are currently focused on co-ordinating the response to the emergency situations that have occurred over the last week.

Once the emergency subsides and officials turn their focus to restoration, the territorial cabinet will certainly be considering whether to provide a financial relief program for flood victims, as it did in 2007, she said.

NAHANNI RANGE ROAD WASHOUTS

These photos are taken by Al Gladda, foreman at North American Tungsten, you have his permission to use them if you wish. The contents are as named on the photos, Conglomerate Creek at km 74 on the Nahanni Range Road and Dolly Varden Creek at km 38 also on the Nahanni Range Road.

Unfortunately what was slated to be a busy exploration season in this area is being scaled back due to the flooding and washouts. North American Tungsten (where I am currently), and Northern Tiger are sending their crews out until the 4 washouts on the Nahanni Range Road are repaired and the road is once more passable.

George Millen george_millen@hotmail.com (In Watson Lake)



Dolly Varden Creek at km 38 also on the Nahanni Range Road.
Photo courtesy Al Gladda, foreman at North American Tunsten.



Conglomerate Creek 2
Photo courtesy Al Gladda, foreman at North American Tunsten.



Conglomerate Creek
Photo courtesy Al Gladda, foreman at North American Tunsten.



Conglomerate Creek 3

Photo courtesy Al Gladda, foreman at North American Tunsten.



Whitehorse 1954

Photo courtesy Heather (Hankins) Fullager heather*okanaganengraving.com (In Vernon)

Hi Sherron & Bob - I'm just going through all Dad's old photos that he had scanned over the years and came across this one and had to share.

Looks like the Post Office is just under construction and you can see the boats on the river. What year do you think it is?

Cheers

Heather

Heather - I would say it was 1952 or 53. I remember walking by that construction site on my way to school in Gr. 2 or 3.

Bob Cameron

Great picture. Very nostalgic, Makes me realize how much we watched that town change and grow over the fifteen years that we lived there. When I went there in April, 1953, the Federal Building construction had not yet begun. I would judge that picture was taken in early 1954. I remember I was on duty in red serge etc. at the official opening which I would guess to be about Oct. or Nov. 54. I know because it was just shortly before I obtained my discharge from The Force, in Jan. 55. All those H huts scattered around were PMQ's, offices, barracks, Mess hall etc. for the Canadian Forces and Civilian employees with the Canadian Army. Our barracks had just opened in the white building, kitty corner from the Construction site. The mess hall in our barracks had not yet opened, so at meal times we walked complete with any prisoners (at that time the Jail was in the Police Barracks), and ate at the Army mess.

ahhh - memories.

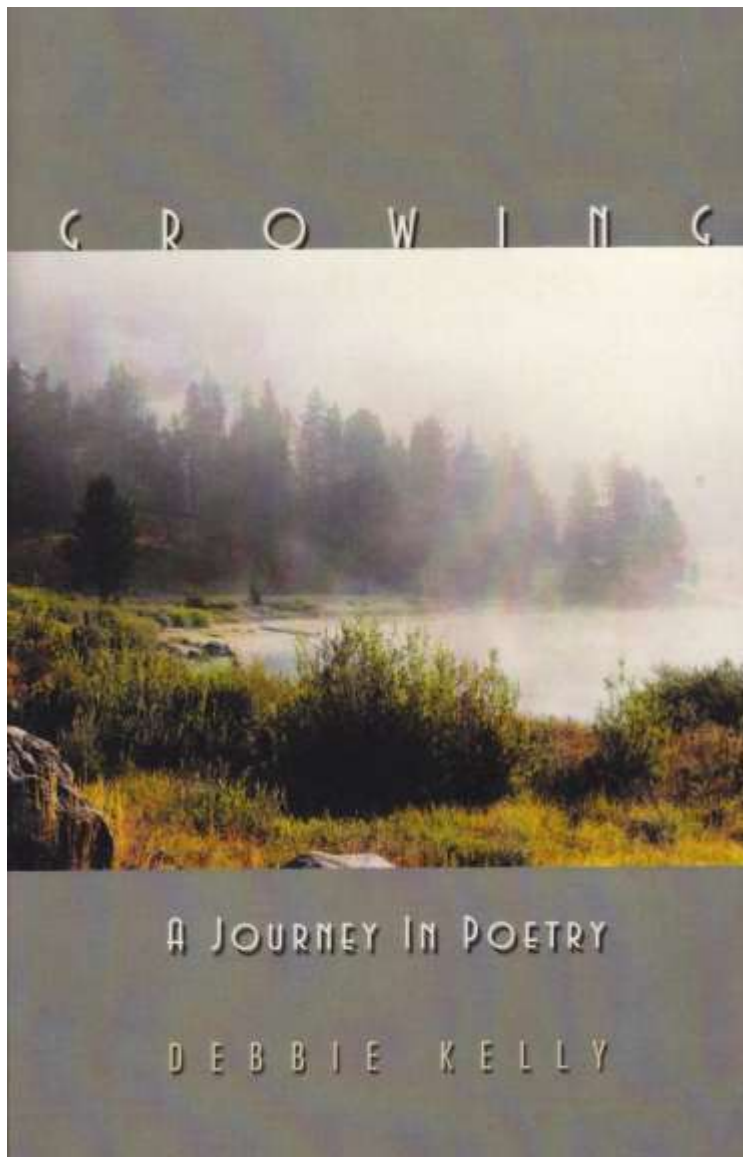
Gus Barrett sourdoughs2*shaw.ca (In Qualicum Beach BC)

Sherron - I suspect Gus is "senior" to me, if he was in red serge while I was in primary school, so I would bow to his estimate of the date, as he has a more memorable "milestone" to go by than I do. I certainly remember the vacant block (ie a ball field) that was there prior to the construction of the Federal Bldg, but I don't remember it being just the ball park when I had to walk by it 4 times a day in Gr. 2 and 3. However there is probably a lot of other things I don't remember from those days when I was 7 and 8!

I don't remember Gus Barrett, but I do know the story of the tragic death of Blanche's father Bud. In recent times I have gotten to know Paul and Donna Rivest, one of Blanche's sisters. Bob

Growing, A Journey In Poetry

By Debbie Kelly debbiekelly*on.aibn.com (In Ottawa)



From the back of her book:

I was born Isabella Elizabeth Kelly in Renfrew, Ontario, on April 27, 1944. I lived for the first fifteen years of my life in Matawatchan, Ontario. My parents were Isabella Margret Hutson and Clifton Kelly of Matawatchan. My mother died at my birth and I was raised by an aunt and uncle. Flo and Harold Carswell. My father moved to Yukon in 1954. In 1959 my brother Brian, age seventeen, and I, age fifteen, went to live with my father and his second wife, Fran, her two children, Richard and Linda [Rotondo] and a half-brother Peter. We became a yours, mine and ours family. The Yukon became my adopted home and I fell madly in love with its scenic beauty and powerful presence. At this time I decided to become Debbie Mary Kelly.

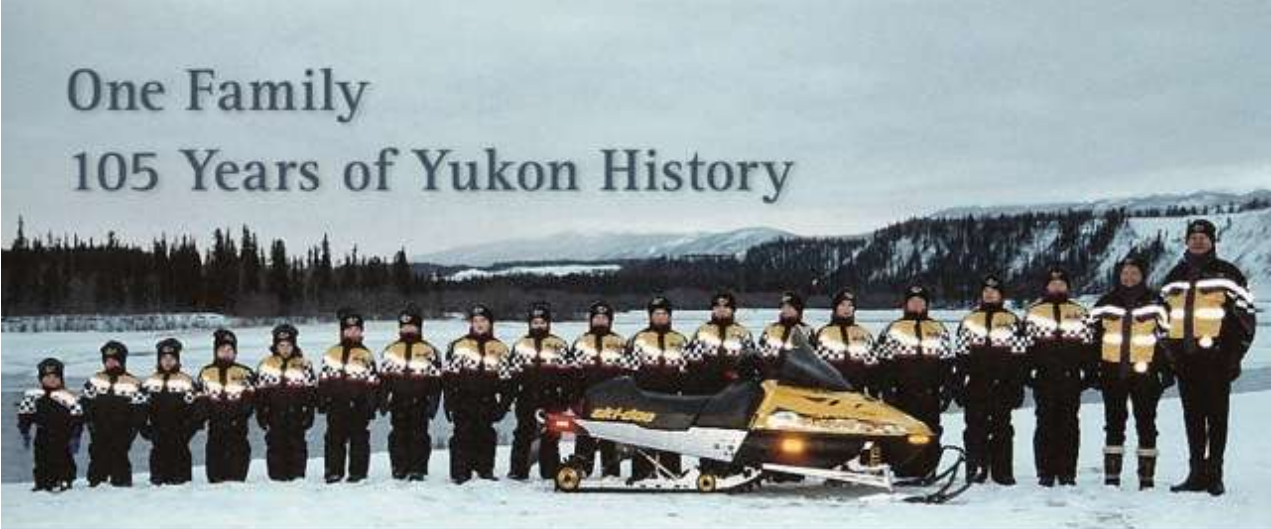
I finished high school in Whitehorse, worked two years for the department of education and in 1962 returned to Ontario to work for Yukon's member of Parliament. I worked for Erik Nielsen for the next sixteen years.

In 1973 I gave birth to my son, the delight of my life, Sean Gregory Kelly. In 1981 I started work in the newly established Yukon office in Ottawa, thereby retaining constant contact with my beloved Yukon Territory.

These poems were written over the span of a decade, from the coast of PEI to Yukon. In many instances my poetry served as a vehicle to resolve issues, deal with pain and search out my personal truth. I think of my poems as thoughts on the road to growth and maturity.

Growing – A Journey In Poetry
By Debbie Kelly
Guardian Books
ISBN 155452742-2

Book Launch - Wednesday July 4, 2012 - Arts Underground



**One Family
105 Years of Yukon History**

You are invited to the launch of Helene Dobrowsky's new book:
**The Hougén Family in the Yukon
A Pictorial History 1906-2011**

**Arts
UNDERGROUND**
305 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon
PLEASE RSVP to 105yearsyukon@gmail.com
Questions? Please call 867-333-0466

WINE & CHEESE CELEBRATION
Wednesday July 4, 5 to 7 p.m.

Rolf and Margaret HOUGEN
210 Rogers St, Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 1X2
Tel: 867-667-7977
e-mail: marg*hougens.com

OBIT

<p>In Loving Memory</p> <p>Isobel Lewis</p> <p>BORN October 16, 1926 Garden Plain District, Alberta</p> <p>PASSED AWAY June 1, 2012 Red Deer, Alberta</p> <p>AGE 85 Years</p> <p>TIME OF FELLOWSHIP Following Isobel's celebration of life, relatives and friends are invited to join the family in the Lower Hall after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments.</p>	<p>CELEBRATION OF ISOBEL'S LIFE Sunnybrook United Church Red Deer, Alberta Wednesday June 6, 2012 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>OFFICIATING Rev. Ray Goodship</p> <p>MUSICAL SELECTIONS In The Bulb There is a Flower - #703 This Is God's Wondrous World - # 296 We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection # 586</p> <p>EULOGY Celebrating Mum - Jim & Glen Lewis</p> <p>PIANIST Allison Hahn</p> <p>MUSICAL TRIBUTE Joanne Lewis</p>
--	---

Hi Sherron, This afternoon I attended Mrs. Isobel Lewis' celebration of life, the church was packed. It was a beautiful service for a beautiful woman. Her husband is Rev Don Lewis was at the United Church on Main St. Whitehorse. Dianne Sutherland w.dsutherland@yahoo.ca (In Red Deer)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

You can't escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today. ~ Lincoln

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Submitted by Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

LEMON CURD

Makes one and a half jars.

Combine juice of 3 lemons

3 oz. unsalted butter

Melt in large container on HIGH in microwave. 1 3/4 minutes.

I guess you could use the zest of the lemons too.

add 8 ozs sugar and cook 2 minutes on HIGH

strain

3 beaten eggs into mixture

microwave 5 minutes on LOW or until it thickens.

** I adjusted tried the recipe and reduced the times given by Gillian's friend in England. They may need to be adjusted to your microwaves speed of cooking. The curd is delicious – even when I substituted the sugar for mostly Splenda and a much smaller amount of sugar. This will be a good recipe to have in Yuma where the lemons orchards are nearby and the supply is abundant.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Okanagan Yukoners' Picnic

- will be held at the Summerland Ornamental Gardens again this year on Sunday the **24th of June** week after Father's Day. Set-up at 11AM potluck at noon.

Hope to see lots of people there this year.

Larry Chalmers aksala49@telus.net

Island Yukoner's Picnic

Aug.18 at St Mary's in Nanoose on Powder Pt. Rd. turn at the Petro Can
12:00-3:00PM Bring your own lunch,

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

Sherron Jones 9205 Orchard Ridge Drive Vernon BC V1B 1V8