

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 359th Edition – July 14, 2012

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones*shaw.ca

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



Lupines and Eleanor's beautiful walking buddy at Carcross.
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)

JOHNNIE JOHNS

Johnnie Johns was born at Tagish on July 10, 1898. He was the eldest son of Maria and Tagish Johns and was a member of the Crow clan of the Deishheetaan tribe. His Tlingit name was Yeil Shaan, which means Old Crow.

During his lifetime, his contributions towards the development of the Yukon have been numerous. At the age of 19, [1917] he started his own guiding outfit. During his time as an outfitter he was

known as one of the top ten guides in the world. As a life-long trapper and fisherman, these talents were second to none. He helped blaze the way for the construction of the Alaska Highway.

He was one of Yukon's best gems and most widely respected elders, who generated warmth and kindness. His domain was the outdoors and all it had to offer. He sang, drummed and danced the stars to bed.

The Klondike Gold Rush was in full swing. The tiny village of Caribou Crossing was witnessing first-hand the largest mass movement of humanity in North American history. Johnnie Johns was born that year. One time, in the '50s, the Duke of Edinburgh asked him where he was born. In typical Johnnie humour he answered, "**Under a spruce tree.**" Not quite, but the village, later known as Carcross, was his life-long home.

Young Johnnie grew up with the greats of the gold rush all around him. Skookum Jim, Patsy Henderson, Tagish Charlie: they were all there in Johnnie's formative years.

By the time he turned 17, Johnnie Johns had become a full-fledged big-game guide. In 1918, years ahead of his time, he placed an ad in Outdoor Life magazine. Soon, the young man had more rich American hunters knocking at his door than he could handle. He quickly became known throughout North America as the guide who could guarantee a trophy.

By the 1930s, he was guiding as many as a dozen hunters at a time - each paying 100 dollars a day. Huge money back then. He loved to say that as a guide he provided everything needed for a hunt, except "liquor and women - bring your own," Johnnie told his guests.

Hunts with Johnnie often yielded Boone and Crockett records of Dall Sheep, woodland caribou and southern lakes moose. One photo shows Johnnie dwarfed by a massive moose rack. He recalled that photo was taken in the Wheaton River valley on the last day of a hunt in 1942. He remembered that he let loose his patented call over a moose pasture and 12 moose stood up to have a look.

When Alaska Highway construction brought another wave of newcomers to the Yukon in the form of the American Army, Johnnie was hired as a guide to help survey the route between Carcross and Teslin. The US government paid him 26 dollars a day plus two dollars for each of his eight horses. Forty-two dollars a day was big money then. With his guiding and other work, Johnnie Johns was rarely short of that necessary commodity, but he was also generous to a fault.

He had three children, including Art Johns, who learned the big-game trade working with his dad, and many grandchildren who in his later years gave Johnnie great pleasure when they would show up en masse and unannounced at his home.

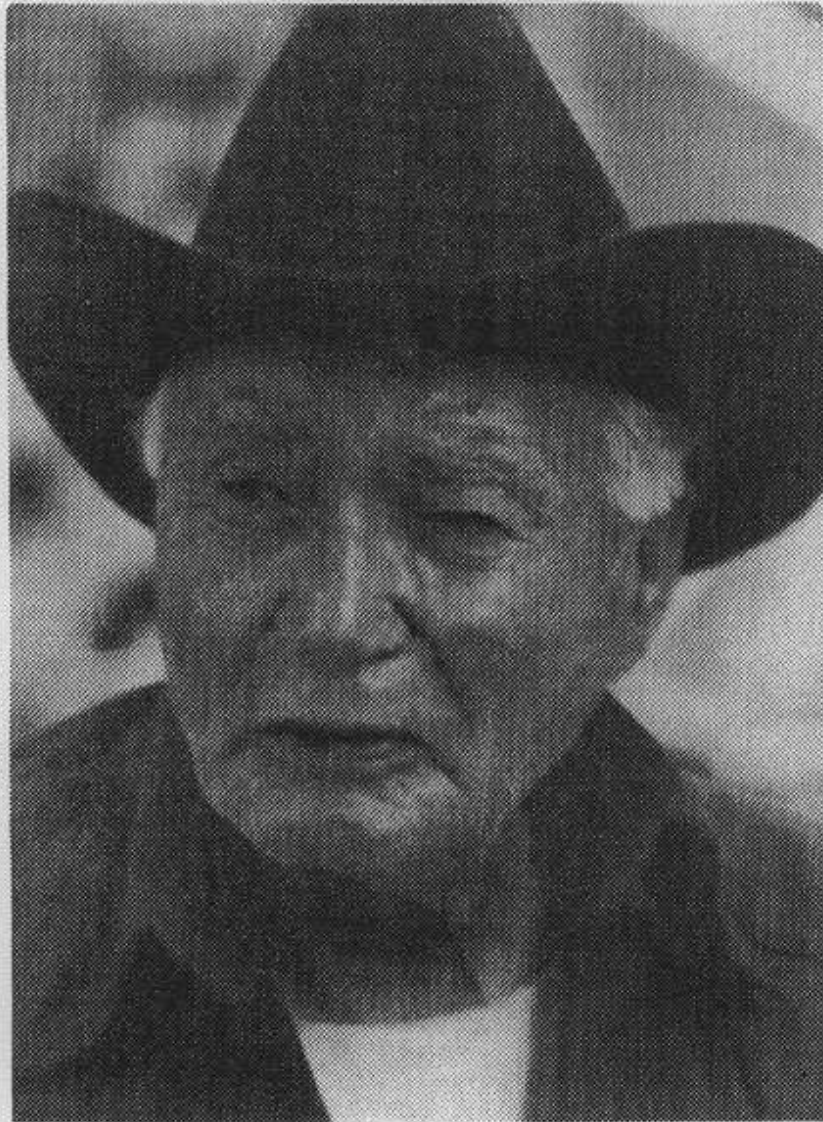
In the early 80s, he finally gave up his life-long career of big-game outfitting, though he still took visitors to his favourite fishing holes in the southern lakes that he loved.

The last time I saw Johnnie Johns in 1986, he was singing and telling stories at the kitchen table of our mutual friend Willard in Carcross. Willard asked Johnnie to recite a poem he had written while on a hunt with a long-time American friend, William Buchan. Johnnie said that he and

Buchan decided to sit around the camp instead of hunting, and they composed the poem that sums up his attitude to life.

I remember a tear in Johnnie's eye as he recited the poem; the last verse of which goes:

JOHNNIE JOHNS "Yéil Shaan"



July 10 1898 – January 18 1988



Ken McKinnon presenting the Commissioners Award to Johnnie Johns 1987.

I'll tell the piper what to play
Until the fates my threads have spun
Death never takes a holiday
It's time to get some living done.

Johnnie Johns did some living.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

LUPINES

Sherron, I should have sent this a few weeks ago but the first picture in issue 358 reminded me to get busy.

Rarely am I surprised by the cross connections between places I have lived but this was one.

A very elderly friend of mine is a spinster with no local relatives. In recent years, it has fallen to me to communicate with her distant relatives during and following her health crises. Last year, her cousin and his wife, who live on Whidbey Island in Washington State, decided they should meet me. This May was their second "take Maribeth and Ena to lunch" occasion. What prompted Hunter's comment, I don't remember. I was just so surprised!

"I landed in Whitehorse on my way to (military) service," he said. "I remember the plane seeming to come down in a field of blue." It was obviously a wonderful memory for him. Given the reality

of air travel in the early 1950's and the prospect of ending up in the midst of the Korean conflict, the Whitehorse airport lupines must have been spectacular that spring.

Hunter and his wife love to talk about flowers, particularly native species. It was great for my friend to have the topic of conversation move from her health to crocuses, lupines and other flowers.

Maribeth (Tubman) Mainer mainerml@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

Hugh Bradley, Pelly farm YT

Submitted by John Stelfox betty_stelfox@telus.net (In Vernon)

An email from Wenda Bradley (Hugh's wife) on June 19th stated that Hugh was in the Whitehorse hospital. He has lung cancer and the focus of his care now is comfort.

It was 60 years ago in 1952 when Hugh and I worked at the federal Agriculture Research Farm at Mile 1019. I was in the process of purchasing the Pelly Farm from J.C. Wilkinson and I needed a partner. I took Hugh there by renting a small boat from Mr. VanBibber at Pelly Crossing. Hugh really liked the Pelly Farm, so we bought it and moved there in 1953. We made Dick Bradley a partner as well as Buck Godwin. Buck and I withdrew from the partnership after finding wives.

Hugh has now spent 60 years on the farm, so he is a real sourdough. Older brother, Dick, now lives in Whitehorse but spends most of his summers at the farm. Hugh's nephew, part owner, and his family are now the major labour force on the farm.

In 2000 - led by Hugh, the Bradley family were given the 'Farm Family of the Century' award by Yukon Territorial Government.

In 2004 Hugh was presented with the Commissioners Award of the Yukon for his contribution to agriculture in the Yukon.

In September 2011, Hugh received an Alumni Award at the University of Alberta Edmonton for his achievements in testing various cereal, forage and horticultural plant species as well as maintaining a federal weather station and giving daily weather information for the lower Pelly River region.

While in the Yukon during 1950-1955, I could never have had better friends and companions than Hugh and Dick Bradley. They are truly great Yukon sourdoughs, always helping others and a wonderful asset to Canada's north. Hugh is now 81.



Hugh's 81st birthday
Submitted by John Stelfox betty_stelfox*telus.net (In Vernon)



Nola Godwin, John Stelfox, Hugh and Wenda Bradley At U of A award
Submitted by John Stelfox betty_stelfox*telus.net (In Vernon)



OKANAGAN YUKONERS PICNIC

L-r: Fred Mandl, Martha Kerr, June & Jim Austin, ?, Irene Kosmenko, Sharon Sowden, Hilde Mehrhoff, ?, Lowell Bleiler

Far right: Al Sowden, Hein Mehrhoff, Joan & Larry Chalmers

Seated: Al & Marie (Fisher) Morgan, Shirley Turton, Lynn Bleiler, Claire Festel, Jim Perry, Sheila Becker, Mrs. Perry, ?, ?, ?

Photo courtesy Ed Festel

DECORATED FISH

I've had company from Alberta and have been touring them around Whitehorse.

We were quite interested in the display of wooden fish at the Fish ladder.

Apparently there was an ad in the newspaper asking school children and/or families if they were interested in decorating these fish. Fifty were made available and 48 decorated. Attached are photos of these fish, now displayed at the fish ladder.

Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)















***George Black* Reunites Dawson and West Dawson Again**

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

May 16, 2012

It was a fine morning for ferry watching in Dawson on May 16. Preparations to get the *George Black* into the Yukon River have been going on since before the break-up on May 1, but the inclement weather (snow, rain and cold) has slowed things down a bit. Still, the launch was on the same day as last year; it's just that the ice was gone a few days earlier this year and so the wait has seemed longer.

The set-up for launching the ferry from its winter berth atop the dyke seems, to the layperson, to be less complex than that needed for the extraction in the fall. That requires a careful arrangement of cables, block and tackle and heavier equipment.

Stated very simply, the spring operation involves overcoming the inertia that would tend to make the craft stay where it is, on level ground, stuck to the wooden beams on which it has been sitting all winter. Once loose, it's a matter of pushing it towards the incline on the wooden rail system, and then controlling its plunge towards the river as another of Newton's Laws is activated and gravity takes over.

This still requires half a dozen cats and loaders and a sizeable work crew. Two cats on one side of the boat pull with cables to loosen it, while loaders with heavy wooden beams affixed vertically in place of their buckets, push from the other side. Extra equipment moves in from time to time to balance the load.

When it reaches the tipping point, the cats move around to the other side of the boat and the cables are adjusted so they can take up a new role as anchors to slow the slide. A final big push and then it's on its way, entering the river smoothly.

As with last year, the river is low for the middle of May and an extra shove was required to swing the boat out into the river and off the sand and mud near the shore just below the water. It was downstream in its normal position and taking on passengers within a few hours. A line-up had already formed on the west bank by that time.



The George Black begins its final slide towards the river.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Heavy equipment keeps it from entering the water with too much force.

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

West Dawsonites lost the use of the ice bridge earlier than usual this year and have been champing at the bit to be able to stock up on supplies again.

The Highways Dept. advises travellers “the ferry runs twenty-four hours per day from approximately mid May to mid September. Mid September to mid October it runs twelve hours per day. The average ferry crossing is six to seven minutes with variations between morning and night traffic flow.”

As a rule it moves back and forth about every 15 minutes.

At this writing West Dawson and Sunnydale would be the only destination for ferry passengers. The Klondike Visitors Association put out a notice on Tuesday that the border at Little Gold on the Top of the World Highway would not likely be open before Saturday due to the presence of “six to eight foot” drifts on the highway that will need to be cleared away.

Dawson Flies the Francophone Flag

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

May 21, 2012

Deputy Mayor Stephen Johnson can be seen in a window at Dawson City Hall as the town flies the Yukon's Francophone Flag on May 15 help the Yukon's French-speaking community celebrate “Journée De La Francophonie Yukonnaise” in the Yukon.



Yukon's Francophone Flag

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

Ron James Packs the Palace Grand

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

May 21, 2012

Ron James is a very funny fellow and very popular one from the size of the audience in the Palace Grand Theatre on May 18. The place hasn't been that packed since Holland-America stopped making the Gaslight Follies a part of their regular tour itinerary. The only time it's been close in recent years is during the Robert Service School's annual commencement exercises.

James had been well briefed on local issues when he hit the stage on Friday night and worked many a Yukon theme into his 90-minute ramble across the country, through politics and down his own personal memory lane. Given the speed with which he delivers his material, you wonder how he ever manages to remember it all.

One way, I suppose, is to anchor it all to a through-line. In this case, James had a lot to say about recent Parks Canada cuts, none of it complimentary to the federal government, and so the framework for all of this inflammatory comedy (which drew lots of laughs and applause from a fairly partisan audience) was family camping trips.

The federal government came in for a drubbing on a number of other topics, as might be expected. Much of the humour from people who grew up in the Atlantic Provinces is salty when it comes to

current events.

James is quite a bit more risqué in his live show than the toned down version people are used to seeing on CBC, but he managed to make that variation part of the act, openly taunting anyone who looked the least bit askance at any of his comments.

James seems hardly able to stand still much of the time, pacing the stage, dropping into a crouch to pantomime the back problems that early pacer miners must have had after weeks panning on the creeks, bouncing about as he makes his points and then pausing to flash that mischievous grin that tells the audience the world's a bit of a joke and they're all in on it with him.

Like many comics he attributes his stage persona to his days in school, when he just could not manage to be quiet in a classroom, and jokes that he has managed to make a living acting exactly the way his teachers told him would cause him to come to nothing as an adult. Part of his schtick is to interrupt himself constantly, run off on tangential topics and spout all of it at a mile a minute, while somehow managing to work in spaces for the inevitable laughter.

He comments on this himself, calling it a sure sign of attention deficit disorder.

An odd feature of James's routine is the lengthy, descriptive, quite poetic passages that may go on for extended runs. While they usually end with something to bring out a laugh, the material before the punch line is often quite beautiful, belying the staccato style of the delivery.



James was presented with a number of gifts at the reception following his performance
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Sue, Ron James and Earl – Sue Hay and Earl Brown (who used to be the Northern BC and Yukon rep of the Milepost) travelled from Toad River to attend this concert.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Following the 90 minute show at the Palace, those who had purchased the limited number of reception tickets were invited back to the Dawson City Museum, where James chatted freely with the guests in the gift shop area and AV room and posed for numerous photos.

Two fans. Earl Brown and his wife, Sue Hay, had driven all the way from Toad River, BC, to take in this show. They left at the end of Sue's school day the day before and arrived in time for the show. Earl, who used to do the Alaska Highway route for the *Milepost* for many years before he retired, is used to driving long stretches, and took the 19 hour one-way drive in his stride, but she had to be back for classes on Tuesday morning after the long weekend.

A Mysterious Sun Shines on the 37th Annual Commissioner's Tea

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

June 10, 2012

One could forgive visitors from Whitehorse for staring at the sky in amazement during the Commissioner's Tea on June 9. Commissioner Phillips himself said he was having trouble concentrating because of that strange yellow ball in the sky – something he said it seemed he had not seen in months.

Indeed, the day contained but a wisp of the clouds so common all over the territory for the last fortnight, and the temperature at noon read 29° C at some homes.

Emcee Gabriela Sgaga welcomed everyone to the 37th Annual Tea, a joint production of the IODE and Parks Canada, put on with the assistance of many volunteer bakers and servers. It recalls the days when Martha Black, wife of then Commissioner George Black, used to hold such teas at the Residence, and also serves to celebrate the Yukon's birthday as a distinct territory.

The actual date is June 13, but tradition has this event and the evening Ball fall on the nearest weekend, which usually seems to be the one before the official day.

On such a day it is appropriate to reflect on history, and David Rohatensky, the Superintendent of the Klondike National Historic Sites, combined past and future in his address. This close to the massive cuts inflicted on Parks Canada by the federal budget, Rohatensky attempted to reassure his audience that KNHS will continue to be the solid corporate citizen that it has been here since the late 1960s, but he conceded that it will be doing so with reduced resources and that it will be more of a struggle.

He praised the spirit of volunteerism that prevails here and helps to make so many events successful, and reminded the crowd that last year **Myrna Butterworth**, president of the Dawson chapter of the IODE, was awarded special recognition for her many volunteer acts on behalf of Parks and in the community. **She has been involved in all 37 Teas.**

He took a moment to praise his staff; particularly those who have lost or will soon lose their jobs as a result of the federal cuts.

“To the staff of Parks Canada who will be leaving the organization I express my personal appreciation for the work that you have done to make this historic site and this community a better place.”

Spontaneous applause broke out as he spoke these words.

Myra Butterworth spoke briefly, welcoming people to the event and thanking everyone for helping out. She noted that the donations today were to be presented to REPRISE, a charitable fund set up in memory of Gord Polichuk, Wendy Perry and Willie Gordon, local musicians who have died during the last three years.

Butterworth introduced Anne Dyer, the national IODE President, who has been visiting Dawson this week, and who was the next to take to the podium.

“IODE,” said Dyer, “is a Canadian women's charitable organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals through educational support, community service, and citizenship programs.”

Founded in 1900, the organization grew rapidly across Canada, and eventually shed the words from which it takes its signature letters. The Dawson chapter is one of the oldest, with a 96-year history.

Finally it was time for the Commissioner himself to take to the stage.

“Sitting here ... is always a highlight of Dale’s and (my) year. June 13th is the 114th anniversary of the Yukon becoming a territory.

“I can’t take credit for the Commissioner’s Tea. This is an absolutely wonderful event. All of the work is done by Parks Canada and especially the IODE. They do a superb job.”

Phillips noted that the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Year has been a busy and exciting one for him and his wife.

“To put that in perspective (the Queen) has seen 12 Canadian Prime Ministers, stretching back to Louis St. Laurent, up to our current Prime Minister, Stephen Harper. For our American friends who are with us today, she was the Queen back when Harry S. Truman was the President.”

Following the practice he established during his first year in office, Phillips introduced some homegrown musical entertainment, beginning with the Hän Singers from the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation. They presented a number of traditional songs, including a Hän version of “O Canada”, followed by an English rendition.

This year the Commissioner’s Award for Public Service was presented by Phillips to Karee Vallevand, who has “shown an interest and tireless dedication to Yukon youth sports” and has been involved in a number of organizations, particularly as a member of the Native Hockey Tournament.

“Her ‘no child left behind’ policy ensures that many more youth are able to participate in these activities,” Sgaga read from the citation.

Phillips and Yukon’s Premier Darrell Pasloski handed out seven Diamond Jubilee Medals. They were presented to:

- Gerald Crayford – a member of the Dawson City Volunteer Fire Dept. for over 35 years.
- Ione Christiansen – Yukon’s first woman Commissioner, a former Senator and promoter of the territory’s environment and history.
- Linda Johnson – a Yukon archivist and historian, and author of several books on Yukon political history, the latest of which would be launched at the Ball that night.
- Shelia Rose – an educator and promoter of Breakfast for Learning in the Yukon.
- Ted Staffen – former Speaker of the Yukon Legislature and sports volunteer, and collaborator with Johnson, on the Yukon Commissioners’ book.
- Geraldine Van Bibber – the former Commissioner and Yukon Administrator who formulated the plan for the Yukon Commissioners’ book, and key member of many worthy tourism and cultural organizations.
- David “Buffalo” Taylor – Deputy Chief and a 40-year plus veteran of the Dawson City Volunteer Fire Dept.

After these folks had gathered for a group photo, the second musical treat came from Robyn Guenette, a young flautist from Whitehorse who is currently active in the MADD program at the Wood Street School.

Finally the only remaining formality was the cutting of the Yukon's birthday cakes (one chocolate and one vanilla) by Phillips and Dyer.

For those who lingered (for some people were going to need the next three hours to get ready for the evening's Ball at the Palace Grand Theatre) Parks provided free tours of the Residence.



“O Canada”, performed in Hän and in English by the Hän Singers.
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Premier Pasloski, his wife and two of his daughters.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The receiving line at the Commissioner's Tea.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Top row: (l-r): David “Buffalo” Taylor, Ted Staffen;
Middle row: (l-r): Geraldine Van Bibber, Gerald Crayford, Premier Darrell Pasloski;
Front row: Ione Christiansen, Shelia Rose, Commissioner Doug Phillips, Karee Vallevand, Linda Johnson. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The west lawn at the Commissioner’s Residence.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



IODE Pres. Ann Dyer and Com. Doug Phillips cut the birthday cake.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Klondike National Historic Sites Superintendent David Rohatensky
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Flautist Robyn Guenette

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



Ann Dyer, National President of the IODE.

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



Commissioner Doug Phillips squinting into the unaccustomed sight of the sun.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Music, History, Good Food and Good Times at the Commissioner's Ball

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

June 11, 2012

What could possibly be a better time and place than the Commissioner's Ball to launch a book about the Yukon's Commissioners? No place at all, obviously, and so that was one of the main events at this year's Ball, held in the Palace Grand Theatre on the evening of June 9.

This year Commissioner Doug Phillips made good on his pledge, made at last year's Ball, to take over the organization and running of the event. There seems to be a rumour going around that the Klondike Visitors Association pulled out at the last moment, leaving Philips' office to scramble.

This is not the case, and the Commissioner offered thanks during his remarks to the KVA for lending their assistance in planning after their many years of running the Ball.

The receiving line began at 7 p.m. but for the "riff-raff" public on the street, watching from the steps of the Old Post Office, as local photographer Janice Cliffe organized the fancy dresses and formal tuxes into an arrangement that would do for the traditional group photo in front of the theatre, the event came to life at 7:50.

The procedure seems to resemble an attempt to herd cats, but Cliffe did manage to produce a stunning tableau once she got the group to stop paying attention to each other and face front.

Inside, the bar, being run by CFYT-fm this year, was open, and the folks in their finery milled about finding seats, snapping each other's pictures and wondering when the assortment of appetizers, being served buffet-style this year by the Culinary Class of Yukon College, would be available.

When emcee Gabriela Sgaga managed to get everyone's attention she introduced Phillips to begin the formal part of the evening inside.

Phillips introduced all the former Commissioners and members of the Yukon Legislature. Referencing the lousy Whitehorse weather as a contrast with the gorgeous day June 9 in Dawson had been, Phillips floated a notion that was well received by the Dawsonites in the crowd, and by the visitors who seemed to outnumber them.

"Dale (Stokes, his wife) and I were wondering how the federal government would feel if we made the decision to move the Commissioner's Office back to ... Dawson. I have this little guy that sits on my shoulder that says to do these things that the federal government doesn't enjoy, but I think I might just write and make the suggestion just to see what happens."

Phillips offered special thanks and the presentation of a bouquet of flowers to the key members of his staff, Lindsay Hamilton and Lillian Lopenen. While he said they didn't know he was going to do this and he often does little things that surprise them, one of them was heard to say that he'd be surprised how little that actually happens.

Locally, Peggy Amendola, a member of the KVA, was cited as being of great assistance in planning the Ball. It was in fact, thanks to Peggy, and local seamstress Debbie Winston, that the Commissioner actually had legs to stand on at the Ball, for he had forgotten to pack the trousers for his tux when he left Whitehorse.

He spoke of the busy series of events that are ahead of him as Canada continues to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. So far he has awarded 29 Jubilee medals to deserving Yukoners and there will be more as the year goes on. Nine recipients were in attendance at the Ball. "This fall I'm going to be embarking on a tour of 14 elementary schools from Old Crow to Watson Lake, taking the message of the history of the Queen in Canada to our Yukon children."

Phillips, who has a long association the Rotary Music Festival and vowed to promote youth musical culture during his term, went on to introduce his musical guests for the evening, the Han Singers and Whitehorse flautist Robyn Guenette.

Following this Sgaga turned the room upside down by informing the guests that the floral centerpieces could be taken home by the person at each table who found a tag under their seat. Pandemonium ensued.

The formal part of the evening concluded with the official launch of Linda Johnson's newest history book, *At the Heart of Gold: the Yukon Commissioner's Office, 1898-2010*. The book and Johnson were introduced by Speaker of the House David Laxton, along with former Speak Ted Staffen and former Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber, during whose terms the book was begun. The evening continued with a dance to tune played by Yukon Jack, and no doubt some of the guests made their way to Diamond Tooth Gertie's after the Ball.



Speaker of the Legislature David Laxton and historian Linda Johnson introduce *At the Heart of Gold* to the audience.

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



Debbie Winston and her brother, Mark.
(gown made by Debbie Winston juba@northwestel.net)



The Hän Singers
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The scene from inside the theatre.



Tara Christie and friend
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Tara McCauley (second from right) is getting married next month, but this surprise gathering of bridesmaids was for Heather Lang.



The traditional fancy dress photo.
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Yukon Jack played for the dance.



Debbie Winston's group of gowns.

Maybe I will get an order or two for next year's ball. I can send you a picture of a group of gowns. Taken by my brother in front of the Palace Grand. We are, from left to right, Kip Veale (Mrs. Justice Ron Veale), me, former Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber, Vicki Winston (my sister-in-law) wearing one I made for Lenore Calnan in 1993 I think, and Carolyn Wong, owner of the Aurora Inn in Dawson, in a recycled salwar kamees.

Debbie Winston juba*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Dawson City Golf Course Takes Over From Top of the World

By Dan Davidson

May 25, 2012

With the opening of the newly renamed **Dawson City Golf Course** set for Saturday morning (May 26) the board members of the **Dawson Golf Association** (DGA) have been busy getting the fledgling business on its feet.

The golf course itself has existed under the name Top of the World Golf Course for some 20 years,

but the old name for the business has encumbrances and debts attached to it, which is why the late Bill Hakonson bequeathed the land and the buildings to the City of Dawson and not the business itself.

It has been known for years that there was a massive debt attached to the Top of the World, but the deal reached between the territorial government and the town shortly before the 2011 territorial election was that the town could run a golf course there and would not be responsible to cover that debt. It was effectively written off and YTG was satisfied that Hakonson senior's personal guarantee of \$55,000 was all the money they would see from the original loan.

DGA board member Carrie Docken says that things have moved very swiftly since the announcement of an agreement was made in March. The transfer had appeared to stall just after the election and DGA members, along with Greg Hakonson, had expressed some concern in public that the whole agreement might fall apart.

MLA Sandy Silver is on record as saying that things were never quite that bad, and that while it was a slow process, it was a steady one. Silver says that YTG officials were actually more helpful behind the scenes than it appeared they were being from outside the process.

Docken expressed appreciation for Silver's support, as well as that of Hakonson and Dawson's town council.

While council and the town's administration were initially caught off guard when Mayor Peter Jenkins announced Hakonson senior's bequest last July, the other council members quickly got on board with the idea of taking over the golf course, and the town's administration put in many hours making sure that it happened without the town having to be responsible for any of the remaining debt, which amounted to almost \$400,000.

By December the council had given first reading to a bylaw that would allow it to own a business outside of the municipal boundaries. Various delays and misunderstandings delayed the final passage of this bylaw until March.

The town had always made it clear that it did not want to attempt to run the operation or to have it be part of its recreation department. While Jenkins initially expressed a desire to have the Klondike Visitors Association take over the running of the facility, the KVA made it clear that it could not afford to take on a business which has always been marginal, and usually had not broken even during its lifetime.

A non-profit organization such as the golfers association was the obvious answer to the problem. Docken says the DCA has existed for a number of years. The current board includes herself, Gary Parker, Irwin Gaw and Coleman Johnson.

“(The association) is made up of volunteers that want to see golf continue, regardless, in this community,” she said. “We’ve been involved for a long time now thinking about junior golf and keep golf going here, and in case there would ever be the need for an organization to step up. “We wanted to be fully functioning and ready if that eventuality happened.”

Bill Hakonson loved the game and the golf course and kept it running in spite of losses for two

decades. He put quite a bit of his own money into it as well as the initial government start-up loans.

The DCA doesn't expect to make a lot of money on the operation. The town has provided \$30,000 in seed money to get things going this year, and Docken says the hope is this will be just enough to stay in the black.

“Working with the city was brilliant,” she said. “As soon as they had the power to do so, they were efficient and helpful and their part of it took all of two to three weeks from getting actual paperwork to say that they owned it, to writing an agreement with us, to putting a cheque in our hands.”

Danielle Chiasson is back for another year as the course manager and Charlie Bond continues to look after the grounds and maintenance, while Coleman Johnson is the golf pro.

Docken says the usual list of tournaments is planned for the year and some additional ones are being planned due to popular requests. The 19th Annual Midnight Sun event is already being advertised for Saturday, June 23.

The newly named course has a new telephone number **Dawson City Golf Course** (867-993-3585) and a new e-mail address (dawsongolf@hotmail.ca).



Willie Gordon at the Golf Course
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



An old photo that I took of the "**Keno Club**", when I lived in that **small village [Keno]** in 1961.
Regards - George Loeppky galoepky*telus.net (In Richmond BC)

Growing, A Journey In Poetry

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

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Linda (Rotondo) Adams-Andre (Debbie's step sister), Sean Kelly (Debbie's son), Debbie Kelly
Photo courtesy debbiekelly*on.aibn.com Debbie Kelly (In Ottawa)

NEW ADDITION

Martha Kerr sent me your last Moccasin Telegraph. Can you please add me to your email list? I live in Kelowna and I was born and raised in Whitehorse and I visit 3 or 4 times a year.

Thanks,
Paula Morrison (Whitte) tenaciouspaula@gmail.com (In Kelowna)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Since my hotmail account has been hacked sending spam and resetting the password didn't help and MSN don't care enough to help either, I will no longer be using hotmail.
Please add my new email address: iakosmenko*eastlink.ca

Irene Kosmenko

Getting settled in Calgary, new email address rlortie001*shaw.ca

Ralph Lortie

I have a new e-mail address and it is : aksala49@gmail.com . Effective immediately.

Larry Chalmers

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Pick good people --- talent never wears out .

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Boston Macaroni & Cheese

3 Cups Dry spiral-shaped pasta, Cook al dente, drain
2/3 Cup Milk (2% or regular)
1 Pound Velveeta cheese, light or Cubed small
1/4 Teaspoon Dry mustard powder
1/2 Teaspoon Ground turmeric
Salt and pepper to taste

Place into top of double boiler over gently simmering water milk, cheese, mustard powder, turmeric, salt and pepper in that order. Stir with whisk occasionally until melted and smooth. Stir pasta into hot cheese mixture and keep hot until serving time over hot water, up to an hour. (If it begins to thicken up too much, dilute with a little milk). Never put into oven or over direct heat as it will scorch and change the texture to a sticky mess.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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