

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 360th Edition – August 5, 2012

Created by Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

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



Dave & Rusty Reid

WORLD CUP SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT 2012 Whitehorse, Yukon July 22nd 2012

My son, Dave, and I are back down at Army Beach, Marsh Lake. It is a beautiful sunny day and there is nowhere we would both sooner be.

Rusty Reid

Here is a list of the various Fastpitch Teams

ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA
CANADA
CHINA
CHINESE TAIPEI
CZECH REPUBLIC
GREAT BRITAIN

ITALY
JAPAN
MEXICO
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
PUERTI RICO
SOUTH AFRICA
UNITED STATES
VENEZUELA

WELCOME FROM SOFTBALL YUKON - GEORGE ARCAND - Executive Director - 1 867
667-4487

Who hosted the 2012 ISF WOMEN'S WORLD FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

RUSTY

JAPAN WON GOLD



Japan team in red – USA in Navy blue and white.
Photo courtesy Rusty Reid rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com (Marsh Lake Yukon)



Snowbirds doing fly past.

Photo courtesy Rusty Reid rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com (Marsh Lake Yukon)



Japan - ladies dugout.

Photo courtesy Rusty Reid rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com (Marsh Lake Yukon)



Photo courtesy Rusty Reid rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com (Marsh Lake Yukon)



Japan batting, USA running in on play.

Photo courtesy Rusty Reid rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com (Marsh Lake Yukon)

Japan wins Gold

Japan's star pitcher led her team to gold in a 2-1 win over the U.S. at the ISF Women's World Championships on Sunday afternoon.

In a defensive marathon, Ueno pitched ten innings after going the distance just a few hours earlier in the day where she registered a complete game in a 2-0 win over Australia.

In an incredible display of stamina and physical and mental endurance, Ueno threw more than 200 pitches in 17 innings of play on Sunday.

"I'm very happy. It's very special to win on my birthday," she said through the team's translator.

The win snapped the U.S.'s streak of seven consecutive world titles.

It's the first time Japan has won gold in the event since 1970.

"It was so much pressure, physically and psychologically but I feel really great that I was able to play well under that kind of pressure."

Ueno said the victory placed second on her list of accomplishments, right behind Japan's gold medal performance at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

It was the only loss for the United States throughout the entirety of the tournament.

Ueno faced strong competition in Keilani Ricketts of the United States, a 20 year-old who pitches for the University of Oklahoma.

Ricketts collected 10 strike outs over nine innings in what she said was one the longest games of her career.

"Your heart just takes over and it keeps you going," she said.

"Japan's a tough team to beat and we knew that. We just couldn't get the runs across Ueno. She threw an amazing game."

Ueno collected three strike-outs and gave up only three hits to a U.S. team that posted 78 runs for and only one against in round robin play.

"It was a heck of a game. You can't ask for much more," said Ken Erikson, head coach of the U.S. team.

"There was some phenomenal defensive play and some great pitching."

The game almost ended in the top of the eighth inning, with a runner on second for Japan, Eri Yamada stepped to the plate and crushed a ball directly to centre field.

USA's Michelle Moultrie got a perfect read on the ball and reached over the fence just in time to steal what would have been a two-run homer.

"It was definitely one of the best catches I've ever seen in my life," said Ricketts.

Note from Rusty

Yes, that was the final game. Like I said, the first half was boring because they were so good, but, the second half was great. Something they do in those last innings, that I have never seen done before, whichever team is up to bat, they place a runner on second base right at the start of that inning. That sure puts the pressure on.

Rusty Reid rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com (Marsh Lake Yukon)

TED HARRISON CLOSING HIS STUDIO IN VICTORIA

Attached is an article that was in today's Times Colonist in Victoria about the closing of Ted Harrison's studio on Aug 31st. There will likely not be too many readers that have been there or even aware of it, but it is indeed a wonderful studio with all his art.

Might be of some interest to publish.

Information about him and his studio at: <http://tedharrison.com/the-studio>

Vivian Stuart, Treasurer

Vancouver Yukoners' Association

lornellis@shaw.ca

visit us at <http://www.vancouver-yukoners.com>

Ted Harrison Studio to close next month but not before party

By Amy Smart, Times Colonist July 24, 2012

Six years since first opening the doors to his gallery and studio at (2004 Oak Bay Avenue Victoria, British Columbia V8R 1E4) in Oak Bay, renowned artist Ted Harrison will be closing it.

Harrison, 85, paints less frequently these days and it made sense to move sales online, said gallery manager Kaitlyn Webb Patience.

But Harrison has enjoyed welcoming visitors to the Ted Harrison Studio to watch him at work since 2006.

"It was something that he thought would be a fun idea," said Webb Patience. "He just doesn't get to the studio as often - and he is the main attraction."

Harrison is best known for his colourful paintings of the Yukon, where he lived for 25 years. As one of the country's most popular artists, he received the Order of Canada in 1987. He moved to Oak Bay 19 years ago.

Webb Patience, who has managed the studio for 20 months, said working with Harrison has been a memorable experience.

"He's the most amazing, charming, modest man that you will ever meet," she said.

"He knows that [art] is about creating something that people will love - he doesn't treat it as sacrosanct."

Harrison will play host to a final party at the Ted Harrison Studio Aug. 9 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"It's kind of a say-goodbye-to-the-studio and say-hello-to-Ted-event," Webb Patience said.

The studio officially closes its doors Aug. 31

SOME OLD MEMORIES – JOYCE YARDLEY

By Joyce Yardley Joyce*dataspan.ca (In Nanaimo)

Hi Sherron.

I took over the job of "Postmistress" in Carcross, Yukon in 1955; which I kept until 1960 when my first husband, Gordon Yardley and I moved to Dezadeash Lake.

At this time we were still ranching at 10 Mile, and started a little store in Carcross (ten miles away) which we supplied with fresh produce from our garden at the Ranch. When winter came we brought our cattle and horses into town where we had built corrals in the sand dunes along the lake shore. Drove them down to the frozen lake in winter months so they could "water" at the holes we kept open in the ice. We trucked enough hay (that we produced on our meadows) from the ranch to Carcross, to last for the winter and built a hay-shed to keep it in.

During these years, Gordon also hauled horses for hunting “Outfitters” from Fort St. John over the Alaska Highway, as well as yearling cattle to put on our own meadows. He had a commercial fishing license to supply the “S.S. Tutshi” which was taken off the run in 1955, I believe.

When Gordon and I bought Dezadeash Lodge in 1960, our daughter, Norma, started school in Whitehorse, and the boys Kirk and Ted started correspondence at the Lodge.

Our best friends, Harold and Rita Olsen eventually moved to Whitehorse and started a trucking business. Harold had the “freight haul” between Haines, Alaska and Whitehorse. His truck drivers stopped for meals at our Lodge at Dezadeash Lake; and made use of our garage for tire repairs etc. fueling up at our diesel pump.

My son Kirk was running the “Garage” at the time, while trying to continue his education; (as did my son Ted, by correspondence and without too much success, I’m afraid ... (there were too many distractions.) Ted finally had to move to Whitehorse for his schooling; where he stayed with our daughter Norma and Cal Waddington. Kirk took a course at the Vocational School on welding and mechanics.

Rita helped us out cooking during that period and her daughter “Pam” was waitress, along with Gordon’s niece, Barbara Cameron, and Lois (“Pee-Wee,”) who was the wife of one of the truckers, Bill Melsness. (Rita later took over management of a hotel in Whitehorse.)

“Randy,” a young intern, who was working his way through University with the intention of becoming a doctor, became our very capable “Cook” for two seasons. In his spare time he designed a beautiful rock garden in front of the Lodge.

One of Harold’s truckers was a Texan, Don Uzell. He had a pretty little wife, Riva, who had a broad Texas accent. She stayed at the Lodge and helped out as waitress when we were busy. Gunn, Kirk’s wife-to-be, arrived on the scene from Norway, to work for her “Aunt and Uncle Bakke” at the Hotel at Haines Junction.

(Many years later, in July 1978, Rita and Harold Olsen became our partners in a gold mine venture in Atlin, B.C.)

CURLY GRAHAM’S – 92ND BIRTHDAY

Hi Sherron,

Curly Graham recently celebrated his 92nd birthday with friends and a cake at Trails North Car and Truck Stop in Whitehorse, where he frequents fairly regularly for meals. He is still very active in his shop, building and repairing things for other people. He has quite a collection of old Caterpillar machinery, some running, some not. He says he has the parts to fix them all. To top it off he is still collecting and has his sights set on an old grader next, that is in the Marsh Lake area. This spring he purchased a Caterpillar 920 rubber tired loader and is busy fixing it up so he can plow snow with it next winter. He was raised in Atlin and arrived in Whitehorse in the early 1940's. He ran a construction firm building roads, moving buildings and operated several

Kenworth trucks over the years. He used to fly his own Cessna 310, a small twin engine aircraft as well as other planes.

Curly lives by himself and is in good health.

Attached find a photo that I took today.

I suppose you are glad to be home. Say Hi to Bill.

Don Frizzell frizzell*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Happy 92nd Birthday – Curly Graham - July 26th, 2012
Photo courtesy Don Frizzell frizzell*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

HORSEBACK RIDING NEAR FISH LAKE YUKON

Bryan got a gift certificate for riding at Christmas. Of course, I just had to go as well. We drove up to Fish Lake and embarked on a 3 hour ride to 5,000 feet into the mountains. Wow, what a view. What Bryan liked the most: no fences! Caribou, moose and bear have been spotted here but the only thing we saw today (and felt) were mosquitoes and black flies, mostly on top of the mountain.

It was a beautiful, hot day, perfect for riding. Crossing mountain creeks was interesting, something my horse, Golden Girl, didn't enjoy. Once we can walk normally again we might consider an overnight trip, further back in the mountains.

Fish Lake Road is just before you enter Rabbits Foot Canyon to go to Porter Creek. I didn't know the size of Fish Lake, until I got up high and looked down at it.

Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Starting out.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Lush bush.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Getting into the mountains.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Vista from the top of the mountain.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Fish lake and the mountains are beautiful.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Bryan enjoying the ride. Lots of surrounding mountains.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Heading back down the mountain.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



At our leader.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Second in command.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

Leroy Napoleon "Jack" McQuesten (1836-1909) - FATHER OF THE YUKON

He was in the Yukon long before almost anyone knew where the territory was, long before it was a territory, for that matter. Leroy "Jack" McQuesten rightly earned the nickname, Father of the Yukon.

He was born in New Hampshire in 1836. He worked on a Puget Sound-based schooner owned by his older brother. That's where he got the nickname, "Jack", which was later prefixed with the title "Captain." And why not - when he entered the Yukon district, McQuesten skippered one of the first steamboats that plied the Yukon River.

In 1874, McQuesten established Fort Reliance, six miles down the Yukon river from what would later become Dawson City. He used Reliance as his trading post for about a decade. While there, he made the first recording of Yukon weather in 1880-81. In 1879, McQuesten was hired by the Hudson's Bay Company to manage their trading posts. In 1893, he founded Circle City, Alaska.

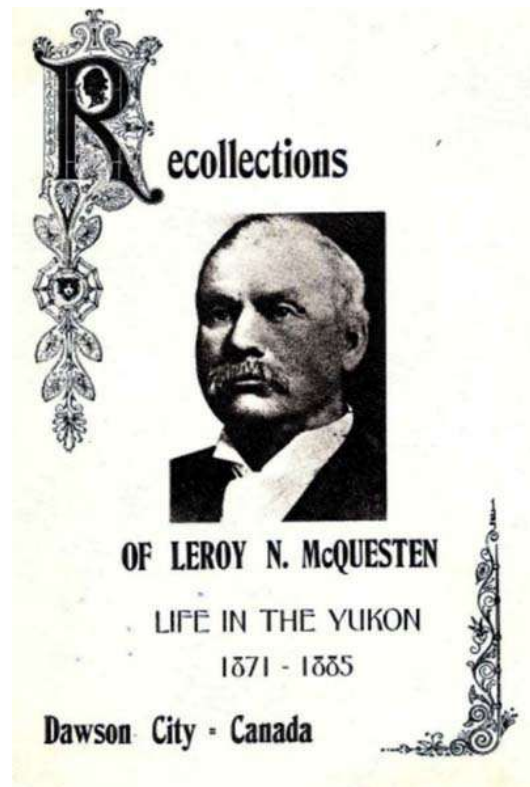
McQuesten was one of the first white men to marry a native Athabascan woman in the Yukon Alaska district – Katherine McQuesten. He proudly told his relatives in the southern United States how much he loved his dark-skinned children. McQuesten came into the country with his partners, Arthur Harper and Al Mayo. They established trading posts at Stewart City, Fort Reliance, Forty Mile, Eagle, Circle City, and Fort Yukon, and McQuesten's patience with native trappers became legendary. The trading posts also served as meeting places.

Before the Mounties arrived in the Yukon, McQuesten, Harper or Mayo presided over miners' meetings. This is where the law was established and enforced in the mining camps. At the post in Forty Mile in 1894, the Alaskan and Yukon Order of Pioneers were formed, with Captain Jack McQuesten as the first President.

As a businessman, McQuesten did well. His philosophy was that if everyone is digging for gold, someone has to sell them the shovels. After twenty-five years in the North, he could afford to move his family into a palatial Victorian home at Berkeley, California, and educate his children in the best schools. Leroy Jack McQuesten died in 1909 and his wife Katherine in 1921.

A tributary of the Yukon River is named the McQuesten River. The area also features the McQuesten Mineral Belt. Yukon Jack, the 100-proof Canadian whiskey is said to be named after McQuesten. Leroy "Jack" McQuesten was also inducted into the Yukon Prospectors' Association's Hall of Fame in 1988. His name is engraved on the goldseeker statue in Whitehorse.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin



Cover of a booklet written by McQuesten.

CELEBRATED ANNIVERSARY WITH TRIP TO FORT SELKIRK

By Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

On July 21 'Parks Day' Parks Canada held a free trip to Fort Selkirk. We usually take a ride on the Schwatka on this day each year to celebrate our wedding anniversary. We were married on the MV Schwatka July 21, 1986 and try to include the tour boat as part of our celebration each year.

I was fortunate to see Fort Selkirk two years ago during my trip on the safety boat during the River Quest. It's so beautiful there and very peaceful. When Parks Canada offered a free trip we decided the Schwatka would have to wait until next year.

I've never been to the Pelly Ranch but heard it was 50 km off the North Klondike Highway past the bridge at Pelly. No problem, easy to find, right? Well, and our friend, Davina that accompanied us couldn't remember how to get there after her last trip on the road many years ago. We were told by the organizers to watch for signage. After driving three quarters of an hour on a single lane dirt road we were beginning to feel this path was not the right one, however we kept going. The journey is more fun than the destination, right? After one hour of driving we arrived at the beautiful, well-kept Pelly Ranch. We asked the organizers why there was no signage and they seemed a bit offended that we asked. At least I now know for sure how to get there.

It was a beautiful, hot day, perfect for a short 20 minute boat ride. As we merged from the Pelly River unto the historic Yukon River Fort Selkirk came into view.

We spent all afternoon exploring the buildings and well-kept grounds. I was glad I signed up early as the organizers only allow 80 persons to visit the Fort each year. The heat was a bit bothersome to me so I decided to rest in the shade while Bryan and Davina walked the 700 meters to the airstrip to check it out as requested by a pilot friend.

We toured the graveyard which is very well kept. I can't imagine a more peaceful and beautiful resting place for those that have passed on.

The tour ended at 5:00 pm and as we climbed aboard the boat to return to the Pelly Ranch I noticed two deep depressions on the hillside across the river from the Fort. Apparently these were made by residents who once lived here as they practiced with their cannon.

A perfect day to tour a special, historic location. I would recommend anyone interested in visiting Fort Selkirk to do so. It can be reached by either boat on the Yukon River or fly in. I'd like to thank those that organized this event for all their hard work and long hours answering questions and handing out a Fort Selkirk information booklet, a real treasure. Next year perhaps there will be signage.

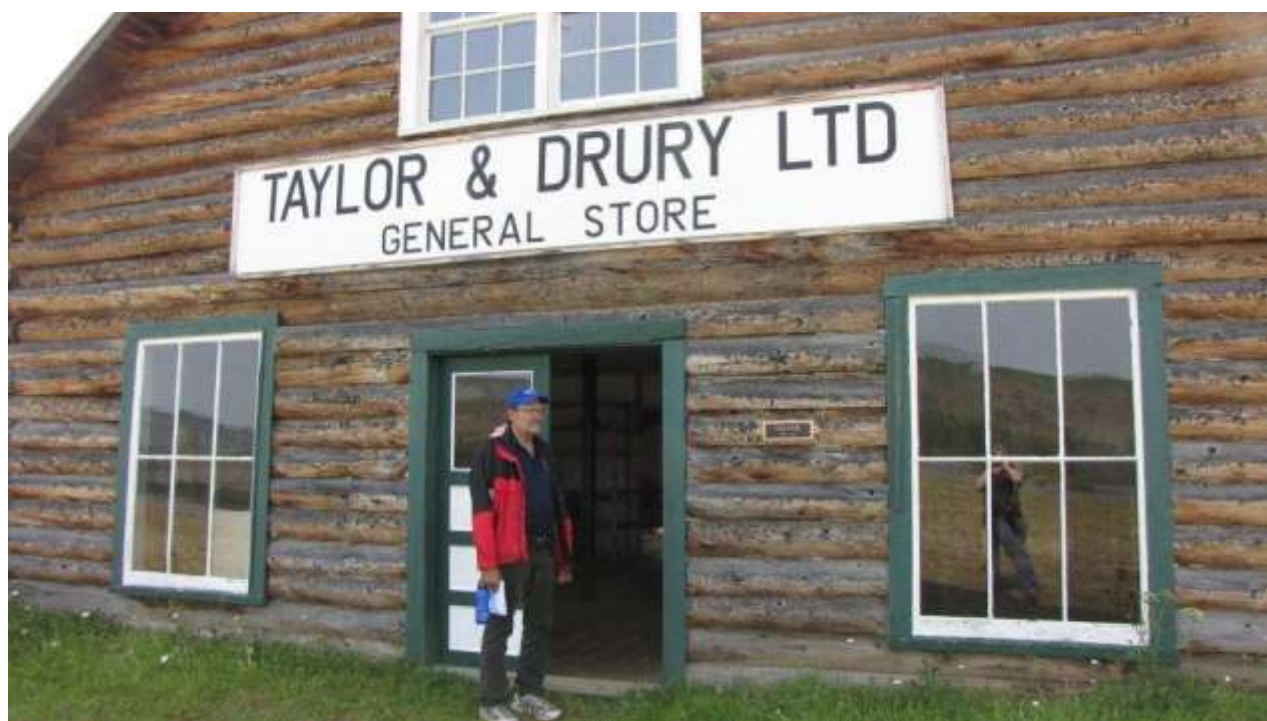


Boat leaving us at Fort Selkirk.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Brian and Davina having lunch at Fort Selkirk.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Brian warm but wearing his jacket to keep bugs off.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Yukon River at Fort Selkirk

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Bryan at Ft Selkirk.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Fort Selkirk.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Buildings at Fort Selkirk.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



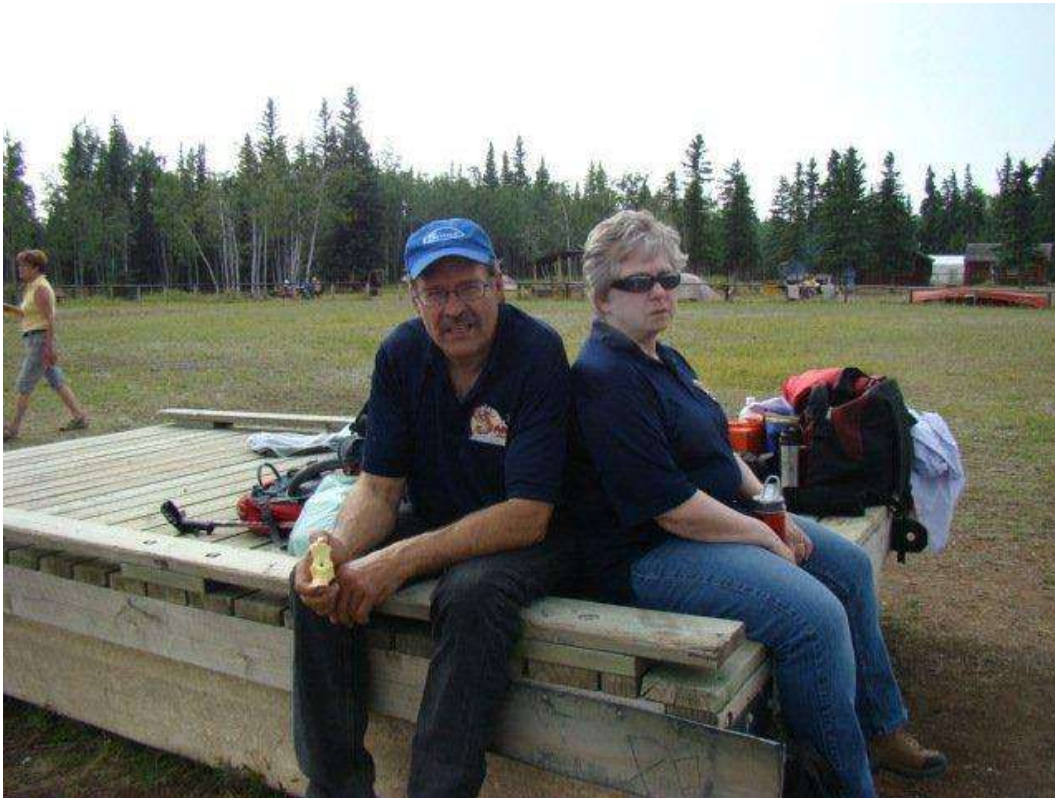
Old Wagon at Fort Selkirk.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Some of the buildings at Fort Selkirk.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Brian and Donna Clayson at Fort Selkirk.
Waiting for the boat back to Pelly Ranch.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Overlooking the Yukon River from Fort Selkirk.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Here comes our ride back to Pelly Farm.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Pelly Farm.
Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Pelly Farm

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Pelly Farm.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)



Bailing time at Pelly Farm.

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

North Words Symposium Wraps Up Third Annual Conference

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

June 4, 2012

While the streets of Skagway were surging with cruise ship tourists and dripping with rain last week, the Arctic Brotherhood Hall was awash with words. Twenty-five scribes from the Yukon and Alaska (and one walk-in off the boat from San Francisco) were celebrating the written word in all its forms, from poetry to magazine articles, memoirs and screenplays.

The symposium began, as usual, with a meet and greet at the Red Onion, including, of course, the famous brothel tour.

Early morning continental breakfast at the AB Hall were part of the routine on Thursday and Friday, after which the delegates broke up in a number of panel discussions held at either the Hall or the local Presbyterian Church.

Topics included From a Good Idea to a Damn Good Film: All the Steps; I Got One for You: Writing Your Story; Bear With Me: Managing Wild Animals Penned By Perspective; Brokering: On Relationships with Agents and Publishers; Girls and Boys On Paper; The Fine Line Between Obsession and Discipline; The Pitch and the Schmooze: Steps to Successful Promotion; The Secrets of Writing Manuscripts that Sell.

There were also opportunities to workshop writing ideas, including a train ride up to the Denver Glacier Trail, where one group hiked off to trail write and the other played with word by the firepit.

The keynote speaker for the weekend was Scott Silver, as screenwriter whose successful projects include Eight Mile and The Fighter. He is currently writing the screenplay for Howard Blum's

bestselling novel, *The Floor Of Heaven*. Blum was last year's keynote speaker, to this made for an interesting follow-up.

When the symposium began three years ago, organizers "Buckwheat" Donahue, Jeff Brady and Dan Henry planned to have the event rotate around Alaska and the Yukon, with the three host towns being Skagway, Dawson City and Denali. So far they haven't been able to launch out of the windy city, but there is a push on to hold the fourth event in Dawson during the first weekend in June in 2014. There is interest from both Parks Canada and the Klondike Visitors Association, as well as the Writers' Trust of Canada (which runs Berton House) and the territory's Arts Branch, so perhaps this can be accomplished.



Full group panel discussion - While many of the panels split the delegates by themes, some were full group affairs at the AB Hall.

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



The banquet was at the fabulous Jewel Gardens.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Lunch times at the AB Hall were also chatting times.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



* NW WP&YR ride – The symposium hitches a ride to the Denver Glacier.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Highway Closures Prompt Grocery Airlift

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

June 18, 2012

The road washouts that shut down the Alaska Highway between Watson Lake and Teslin, and again around Kluane Lake, were experienced rather differently by Dawson's two grocery outlets.

For Paul Derry, at the Bonanza Market, it was pretty much business as usual. His supply truck got through on June 14 before the road washed out early Friday morning and the next one on his schedule was just a day late after the frontier road through the washout area restored service on Monday morning.

"It was pretty much like what we'd have on a holiday weekend," said Derry last week. "Everything was a day late."

For the Mark, June and Carla Mather at the Dawson City General Store the situation was a good deal more complicated. Mark Mather and his daughter, Carla, were on their way home from a quick trip up the Alaska Highway about midnight on Thursday when Carla says they watched the road start to vanish in front of them.

"We were the first people on the scene," Carla said, "and the road just kind of washed away."

She has video on her iPad of the water surging across the road beside Kluane Lake where extensive work has been done in the past to prevent just this sort of thing. It's worked pretty well since 2008, but not this year.

To get home, the Mathers had to back out of the washout area, turn around and go back through Beaver Creek, up to Tetlin Junction and home over the Taylor/Top of the World route, a trip complicated by the fact that Mark didn't have his passport with him. Back in Dawson June faxed a copy to the US border stations and that, along with an explanation, got them through.

By that time the Mathers were aware of the washouts at the southern end of the territory, and knew that the grocery truck that had been scheduled to arrive in Dawson on Saturday morning wasn't going to make it.

Their own experience made them acutely aware of the problem they were likely to be facing. Their truck arrived in Watson Lake well after the road shut down.

"We weren't going to be in dire need of groceries," Carla said, "but we were going to be in need of fresh produce, milk and meat."

By Saturday morning Mark was looking for information and went to MLA Sandy Silver to get the names of government people he might be able to contact. The amount of time that it was going to take to open a road (with the Campbell Highway also affected) was going to determine what he did next, but he was already thinking in terms of an airlift. Silver got a report from Highway's Minister Wade Ischenko, who said that Premier Pasloski would have a full briefing later that day.

The Premier arrived here for Commissioner's Day events, expressed his concerns and gave some idea of what was happening during informal conversations with this reporter.

Mark Mather was very happy with the cooperation and information he got from the various levels of the government.

Mather, who initially thought he would airlift to Dawson directly from Watson Lake, was advised by Mayor Peter Jenkins to do the thing in two stages, airlifting to Whitehorse and then trucking the groceries to Dawson.

He was grateful for this advice, as it was a considerable saving over his initial plan.

Mather said that Shane Branch, the general manager at Kluane Freightlines, was great, personally arranging for a trailer and driver to be ready at the Air North terminal when the groceries arrived there,

At Air North, Jackie Gabinet and Nigel Cripps at the charters desk sorted out the weight and cost details and began to organize their end, just waiting for a final decision from Mather.

"About 2 o'clock or 2:30 I made the decision that we were going to airlift the product to Whitehorse, deciding that it really made sense if we wanted to keep the community full of perishable foods, not knowing if the road was going to be closed another 24 hours or longer."

Mather was concerned about more than the population of the Klondike. The store also has to assemble bulk orders for 150-170 bush and mining camps. On Saturday June Mather was having trouble assembling those orders, so they needed to get those supplies in town.

"Air North was fabulous," Mather said. "They set up two flights, they gave me times and they met the times, actually, to a tee. They ended up landing the second aircraft in Whitehorse at one o'clock, transferred the product over to the semi-trailer and at two o'clock that transport truck left – so it was great."

It arrived in Dawson on Sunday morning at 8 a.m., with all the product in good shape, more than a day earlier than it could have after the frontier road in the south opened on Monday morning.

The Mathers both indicated that the experience had heightened their awareness of the territory's dependence on its supply lines, as well as giving them appreciation of how well things can be worked out when everyone cooperates for the common good.



Bonanza Market

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



Dawson City General Store

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

The *Yukon Queen II* Sails From Dawson One Last Time

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

June 21, 2012

The *Yukon Queen II* sailed from Eagle to Dawson City for the final time on June 13, arriving to pick up some of the gear that was left behind in September 2011 when no one knew that it had served its last summer on the Yukon River.

"It's a repositioning cruise," said Captain Al Bruce. "We're taking the *Queen* out of service here in the Yukon, and taking it down to the Seattle Area where it's going to, hopefully, be transferred to one of our other company divisions within the larger corporation (Carnival Cruise Lines)"

It could end up in Australia or in the Bahamas.

"If none of those pan out it'll be offered for sale on the market."

It's predecessor, the *Yukon Queen I*, has been sold several times since it was taken out of service here 13 years ago after a 12 year run. The *YQII* replaced it in 1999.

Bruce, who captained both boats during his 25 years on the Yukon River, says he is sad to be leaving the Yukon. He's enjoyed his summers here and felt quite at home in the community.

"I won't be back here this way (as a boat captain) again, but I hope to visit a couple of times as a tourist. I love this country. It's phenomenal country. Most of the people are just great.

"We get along with pretty much everybody here. We have some adversaries, but at least we talk to each other."

As far as Bruce knows the upper levels of management at Carnival, a step above the Westmark and Holland-America executives that had previously been the front line voices on issues related to the *Queen*, began to reassess options in September, after the boat had returned to its winter berth in Eagle.

While both *Queens* have been the subject of some debate about river safety, destruction of fish and river bank erosion, complaints ramped up considerably when the bigger boat arrived in 1999, and the last ten years have been spent in a series of environmental reviews related to its operations and, more recently, its water license.

When the local office of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board was unable to reach a decision about the boat's operations, the file was bumped upstairs to the YESAB executive board in 2008. There was supposed to have been a final decision by now, but it hasn't happened.

Some blame the company for failing to provide required data. Some note that its activity on the river has been anything but normal since the floods of 2009 devastated Eagle, Alaska, and road washouts the next year reduced the boat's cruising range for the next two seasons.

In the end it was a decision by Carnival's risk management teams over the state of the Taylor Highway from the junction to Eagle that told the tale, so the water licence is now a moot point. As far as Bruce knows, the final decision to remove the boat came down in February, though the official announcement reached the Yukon only in April.

And so the *Yukon Queen II*, fitted out with new ocean going equipment and with one of its washrooms converted back to a shower, has sat in Dawson for a few days, taking on extra water, figuring out where the sleeping bags and air mattresses are going to go at night and getting ready for its long farewell cruise.

"It's a 3500 mile journey," said Bruce, "and it should take about two weeks. We'll leave here on the 20th and we expect to be in Seattle – with ideal conditions - around the 4th of July."

He brought the boat up the river in the first place but it's been a dozen years since he's cruised the whole thing and he expects conditions have changed.

Back in the south he will be doing some marine engineering consulting work for a shipbuilder, picking up a few more classes at one of the marine colleges where he has been lecturing as an instructor in the off season, and continuing his volunteer sea scout work with the Boy Scouts. He'll keep busy.

There was a farewell party for the staff on the 18th and an invitation-only open house for locals on the 19th and then the boat sailed away on the 20th. There have been mixed feelings about the boat for years. Some will be sad to see it go. Some will rejoice. Most will admit that its captain was a pretty nice fellow.



Captain All Bruce surveys his landing possibilities.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Yukon Queen II arrives for its final visit.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The YQII at dock during loading and farewell events.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Captain Al Bruce in full gear. The hat was seldom worn.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

First Highland Games in Dawson Are a Success

By Dan Davidson

June 25, 2012

When the committee for the first Top of the World Highland Games began to plan the event 18 months ago, they were all sure it would be a great success, but no one really thought there would be any records broken.

There was one. Karyn Dallimore broke a World Record for the Women Masters (over 50 yrs) in the Weight for Distance, breaking it by 2 feet, with a distance of 37ft.

There were many other surprises along the way. The committee was surprised by the support they got from the Highland Games community, Five professional Highland Games athletes came to the show and one of them, Greg Bell, has written a letter to the committee calling these the best spirited games he's ever attended.

Four pipe bands, including the Midnight Sun Pipe Band from Whitehorse showed up to perform. The other three came from Alaska with Anchorage sending the Crow Creek and Anchorage Celtic Pipe and Drums and Fairbanks the Red Hackle Pipe Band.

The weather for the day was perfect, almost highlandish. A blazing sun would have made the Crocus Bluff Ball Diamond and Soccer Pitch very uncomfortable. Slightly overcast skies (watch out for sunburn anyway) with a mild breeze and one or two brief spatters of rain made it quite pleasant for the spectators and contestants alike on June 16.

The event had actually begun the night before, with a gathering at the Front Street Gazebo for welcoming speeches and some solo pipe competitions. At various times during the day there had been some training sessions for any novices who wanted to try the games the next day.

The evening concluded up on the Midnight Dome, with the massed bands serenading the valley.

On the day of the games, the heavy events took place on the ball diamond while the pipe band judging was held on the soccer field in a timely fashion so that the double booking for that facility would allow for the soccer tournament also scheduled for that afternoon.

Heavy events were held in novice, women's and men's classes. There was hurling, which is something like the shot-put but with an irregularly shaped smooth rock instead. There are two weight-tossing events – distance and height. The weight looks a bit like the one used in the Olympic hammer throw, but the Scots have something entirely different for a hammer throw: a weight on the end of a rigid pole.

Speaking of poles, there's the ironically named caber toss, which looks a lot more like caber double heave, as the contestants struggle to get the 19 foot, 175 pound pole into an erect position and then flip it over in the air so that the bottom end of the pole lands facing away from the thrower.

After all these events there was a brief tug-o-war, followed by the massed bands sounding off with a marching tune, a demonstration of Scottish dancing by two young girls and "Amazing Grace" by the massed bands.

Sally Derry got the idea for these games while attending similar events in Alberta. She began pitching the idea about 18 months ago and soon had a dedicated committee of Celticophiles working with her to make it happen. This event was tad unusual in that they decided it needed to pay for itself. With a budget in the range of \$50,000 (because there was travel, grounds rental, transportation and a travel allowance for the visitors) they hoped to have 300 to 350 people pay to attend the event and the banquet/Ceilidh that closed it off.

The fences around the fields were swathed in blue plastic tarps to block the view. If you wanted to see what all the fuss was about, you had to buy a ticket. Derry admits to having been unsure as to how that would go over, but it seems that it worked out fine.

The group does not plan to do a full Games annually, but will pull together a smaller scale event for 2013 and plan the next full games for 2014.

The Ceilidh in the Fry Arena was a fine finish to the event, with a great feed of steak and rollicking music by St. James Gate.

Results in the Sports Events were as follows:

Novice Heavy Event Overall Winners

1. Cameron Sinclair Dawson City
2. Malcolm Dewell Dawson City
- 3 Calvin Laveck and Clint McElfresh
4. Bobby Milnes
5. Alex Olessen

Women's Novice Winner

Annie Morrison

Professional Heavy Event Winners

1. John Odden - Oregon, Portland.
2. Matthew Doherty - Antigonish, Nova Scotia.
3. Gregory Bell - Seattle, Washington
4. Owen Willem - London, Ontario
5. Rob Young - Calgary, Alberta

Open Amateurs

1. Sean Fabanich - Alaska
2. Dave Roe - Calgary, Alberta
3. Jimmy Johnson - Alaska
4. Curtis Davis

Women's Masters

1. Karyn Dallimore - British Columbia
2. Kim McDonald - Alaska

Men's Masters

1. Bret McDonald - Alaska

John Odden won the Caber Toss



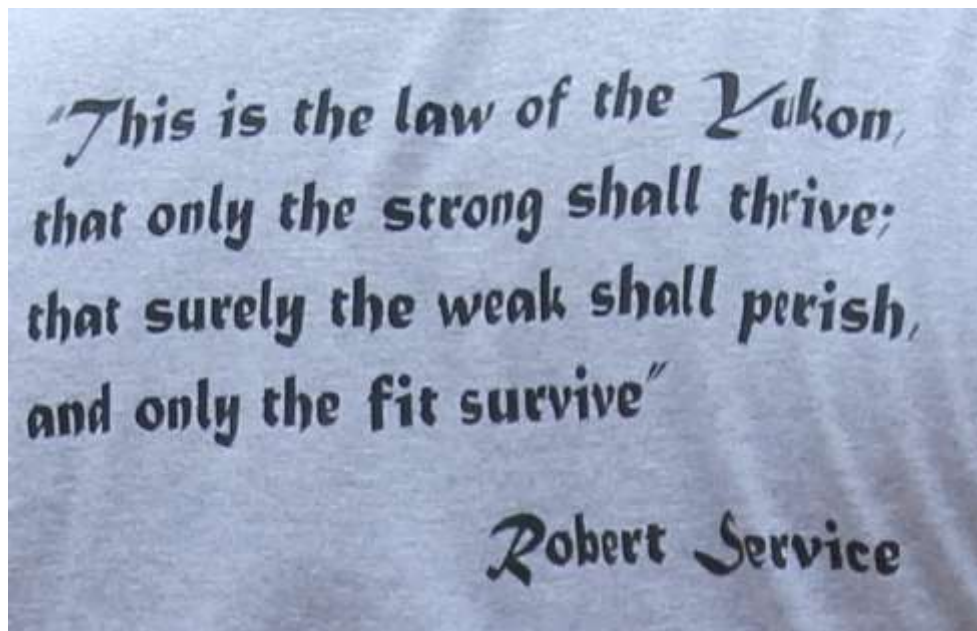
The winners of the games pose with their hardware.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The tug of war was a crowd favorite.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Throw the weight over your head and them get out of the way.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



A snatch of Robert Service's verse provided a local motto.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Throw it? Lifting it was hard enough!
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



A bit of highland dancing from the girls.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



But Thor made it look so easy.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Victory is just a stone's throw away.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Four bands joined in one tune at the end.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Dawson Celebrated a Fine Aboriginal Day

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

June 27, 2012

June 21 dawned bright and sunny, helping to create a beautiful setting for the Aboriginal Day celebrations at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.

The day began at 11:30 with a chili and bannock lunch, a fundraiser for the Moosehide Gathering, which will be held during the first week in August.

By the time the official part of the day began, shortly after noon, a substantial crowd had gathered at the outdoor amphitheatre and under the canopies.

MC Kris Janus introduced elder and Anglican deacon Percy Henry, who opened the afternoon with a prayer.

“Welcome everybody,” he said. “We share together today.”

In his prayer he asked the Great Spirit to help all the people come together as one.

Henry then led the Hän Singers to the stage to sing the Welcome Song and several other traditional songs.

Steve Taylor, a member of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in council, greeted the crowd on behalf of the First Nation council.

“The Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in have a long history of welcoming people to our traditional territory and it is my honour to welcome you to our national Aboriginal Day celebration. Aboriginal Day is a chance to share the best of our First Nation’s culture. It recognizes the diversity of this country and celebrates the outstanding contributions that First Nations people have made to Canada.”

Mayor Peter Jenkins welcomed the crowd to the living historical community that is Dawson City.

“On behalf of my council I’d like to extend, to the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, a great day to celebrate and our thanks for allowing us to join in with you. It’s come a long way, the self-government First Nation here. It’s taken on a lot of responsibility and has done a magnificent job. The issue is ‘for our children tomorrow’ and as you can see there are many children here with us today.”

Jenkins called on Ron Johnson, the caretaker who is known as the Mayor of Moosehide, to join him at the podium.

“Part of the responsibility of the Mayor of Dawson is to wear a chain of office, which I would like to share with Ron for today. You can’t keep it, Ron.”

So saying, he transferred the gold nugget laden chain from his neck to Johnson’s.

Klondike MLA Sandy Silver (Liberal) used the words of Algonquin spiritual leader William Commanda to talk about the ways in which natives and non-natives are learning to cooperate and work with each other. Commanda was the holder of the Seven Fires Prophecy Belt, which spoke of the tribulations that his people would have to go through before they would see better time following the arrival of European settlers. The seventh fire is to be followed by an eighth, which suggests that if enough people—of all colors and faiths—turn from materialism and instead choose a path of respect, wisdom and spirituality, environmental and social catastrophe can be avoided, and an era of spiritual illumination will unfold.

“The Eighth Fire is warm and inviting here in Dawson City,” Silver said, “and it’s all thanks to the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in people, a community that is a positive model for the rest of Canada.”

The speeches were followed by a couple of hours of music, featuring Ecka Janus, Whoa Bear!, the Crelli family, and the River Bends.

Later in the afternoon the cultural centre opened for tours. IN addition to the permanent exhibit on TH history in the Hammerstone Gallery, and local films in the theatre, this summer’s offering in the Gathering Room is “Hello Dolly” the acclaimed Cultural Exhibition from the Vancouver

2010 Olympics' "Sewing our Traditions: Dolls of Canada's North" exhibit, featuring hand-crafted dolls from the Yukon, Northwest Territory and Nunavut.



Fine weather made the grounds at Dänojà Zho a great place to celebrate Aboriginal Day.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Ecka Janus and her backup band the River Bends.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



* Han Singers.jpg – The Hän Singers welcome the crowd.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Deacon/Elder Percy Henry opened with a prayer.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Mayor Peter Jenkins shares his chain of office with Ronald Johnson, the honorary “Mayor of Moosehide”. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



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



TH Councillor Steve Taylor
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Musical group Whoa Bear!

Fine Weather Graced Dawson's Canada Day Weekend

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

July 2, 2012

Canada Day celebrations in Dawson City spread themselves over the weekend, beginning with a feast of Sourdough Pancakes on Saturday morning put on by St. Paul's Anglican Church at St. Mary's Catholic Church. For those who had not had quite enough cooked goods, there was the Fourth Annual Bannock Cook-off at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre later that morning.

The big event of the day was the dedication of a plaque out at Dredge #4 as an Historic Civil Engineering Site, and a free opportunity to roam through the vessel, which will be closed to the public after the end of this season due to cutbacks at Parks Canada.

In town, the Dawson Pool was coloured red and open for swimming all afternoon, and for anyone inclined to stroll about there was a Bird-watching Walk along the river and the Ninth Avenue Trail from 3 to 5 p.m.

Bike riders who wanted to decorate and float participants with last minute parade preparations gathered at the Fry Recreation Centre Sunday morning at 10:30, and the RCMP led the parade down King Street to Front St. shortly after 11 a.m., with a good crowd of eager tourists and locals happy to see the short but energetic march.

The parade took about seven minutes to pass any given point on the route and about half an hour to make its way to the Dawson City Museum on Fifth Avenue.

There the crowd assembled for a flag-raising by Diamond Tooth Gertie and her Girls, aided by the Mounties in Red Serge.

As the museum's executive director Laura Mann informed the crowd, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the DCM moving into the Old Territorial Administration Building (or the Big Cabin, as it was known to old timers in the town) after its original home on Front Street was destroyed by fire.

Mann noted that the fiftieth anniversary seemed to have been marked by a sprinkler system disaster early in the spring.

Mayor Peter Jenkins welcomed locals and guests to Canada Day in Dawson, "the best place to be on Canada Day."

MLA Sandy Silver had a somewhat longer speech, during which he commented on how quickly the tourist season seemed to be advancing.

"Dawson is an interesting mix. Our history is vibrant, tangible and alive, but we have lived in such close proximity to that, that sometimes we don't see it as being unusual and we don't see how lucky we are. We forget that we are living and working and going about our days in an historic site, a loving museum.

"The building behind me is 111 years old. It was built in 1901, the same year that Joseph Ladue and James Wilson registered Lot 14 and christened it the Westminster Hotel."

It hasn't always been a museum, of course. The building originally housed government offices, as well as the territorial legislative assembly. At various times it has also been home to the local post office, a radio station, and the public school, when the original school burned down.

Following the speeches there was the cutting of the two birthday cakes, a country picnic lunch, and games for the kids in Victory Gardens.

Down on Front Street the Yukon Goldpanning Championships took up most of the afternoon, but there was time for a third cake cutting at the Visitor Reception Centre, more swimming at the pool and live music at the Front Street Gazebo, with Barnacle Bob and Friends and Whoa Bear!



One of the kids games was a life saving game put on by the pool.
 Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Diamond Tooth Gertie led in the singing of “O Canada”.
 Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Climbing on the Great War cannons has always been a favorite activity.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The parade, led by the Mounties in Red Serge, comes up 5th Avenue.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



MLA Sandy Silver and Mayor Peter Jenkins shared a ride this year.
 Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Barnacle Bob and Friends are a parade staple.
 Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Bikes decorated for the day.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



MLA Sandy Silver cuts the birthday cake, assisted by young Jasmin Stange.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The Fire Dept. and the EMS ambulance crew bring up the rear.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Diamond Tooth Gertie and her Girls always ride Dawson's oldest still running Fire Dept. vehicle. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Robitaille Holds on to Goldpanning Crown

By Dan Davidson

July 4, 2012

Paul Robitaille held onto his first place standing in the Yukon Open class at the 2012 Yukon Goldpanning Championships, held in Dawson City on July 1. Robitaille recovered all six flakes of gold in three minutes and four seconds. He was followed closely by his mentor David Miller with a time of 3:23 and by Ralph Nordling at 3:46. Both of these competitors have been winners in past years.

There were 16 entrants in this contest.

Robitaille took a prize of \$2500 to assist him in attending the World Goldpanning Championships, which will be held October 1 to 7 in Pilgrim's Rest, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa at the Mac Mac Panning Club.

Miller also won a cash prize of \$1500.

The afternoon was blessed with lots of sunshine and just the occasional cloud to provide a bit of shade, and both the stands and the dike hillside were lined with spectators. While it would be hard to say if the numbers were up or down from previous years, there is no doubt that the crowd remained strong through the four hour event and for once it did not start to rain about the time that the awards were being handed out.

The Klondike Open (14 participants) had a different result with David Miller panning 7 of the 8 flakes in 6:39, brother Dirk Miller also finding 7 in 8:32 and Paul Robitaille coming in a weak third with only 4 of the flakes for a time of 15:05. Fortunately for him, this event came before the Yukon Open, so he could consider a warm-up event. Clearly he was back in form for the Yukon Open later in the afternoon.

In the Sourdough Open (6 contestants in all, 60 or older), with nine flakes to be found, Dianne Schroeder found eight to take first place in 6:15. Coleman Johnson was second at 3:42, and Arthur Sailer found four flakes for a total time of 19:28. The rules stipulate a penalty of three minutes for each missing flake.

There was an abundance of entries (31) the Cheechako Open (for novice panners) this year, so that there had to be two heats. Simon Luca found all 11 flakes in 5:45 to claim first prize. Barry Bouhard captured second with a time of 7:15, and Rachel Ryckman found 10 in 7:46.

There were 28 flakes to be found in the Corporate Challenge (3 teams), which was won by the 98 Drive-in team. They found 26 flakes in a total time of 21 minutes. The Goldbottom Team panned 25 flakes in 29 minutes. The third place Ryan Gold team seemed to indicate they are better at finding soil samples than panning for gold. Their team was plagued by disaster as they dumped part of the dirt pail without panning it and subsequently knocked their gold vial into the panning tank. They could only produce six flakes in the end, with a total time (mostly penalties) of 85 minutes.

The Youth Under 11 Years category had 16 participants looking for 12 flakes. Hudson Huffman found 10 of them for a first place time of 12:55. Makenzie McDonald and Jania Popadynech both found eight, as times of 12:57 and 24:27 respectively.

The Youth 12-15 Years category was the smallest, with only two participants. Michaela DeCook panned 10 of the 12 flakes in a time of 14:27 and Isaac Pope found 7 in a time of 20:49.



Klondike Open winners David and Dirk Miller and Paul Robitaille. Behind them is KVA chair Brian Stethem. Photos courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



A couple of panners going for the gold.



The panning venue on Front Street drew a strong crowd.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



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



Sourdough winners Coleman Johnson, Dianne Schroeder and Art Sailer.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Yukon Open winners Paul Robitaille, Ralph Nordling and David Miller. Behind them is KVA chair Brian Stethem. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Left – 98 Drive-in team, Brian Stethem, right – Goldbottom team
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dear Sherron: I would ask you not to send any new Moc Tel until I notify you. As I am cutting this computer off next week and am moving to Chilliwack in July. I will notify you of our new e-mail when I get down there and we get a new one there. We would like to keep in touch and do appreciate the Moccasin Telegraph and would like to continue as soon as we can get a new e-mail to you.

All the best
Arleen Kovac and George Van Vugt

Here is our new e-mail address

Georgearleen*telus.net

Hope all is well with everyone. We are finally getting our house settled and looking forward to some swimming, etc. fun things. George spent the last two days getting his garden spruced up a bit. It was neglected for 3 months. Looking good now.

We are fine and hope everyone is the same.

Love to all George and Arleen

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

In Mexico we have a word for sushi --- bait. - Jose' Simon

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Tony Roma's Onion Rings - Loaf

6 each White onions
1 cup Milk
3 each Eggs, beaten
Salt
2 cups Pancake mix

Slice the onions crosswise and separate into rings.

Combine milk, eggs, and salt to taste in mixing bowl.

Soak the onions in the mixture about 30 minutes.

Place pancake mix in a shallow bowl.

Heat oil for frying in skillet to 375 degrees.

Remove the onion rings from milk mixture, dip in pancake mix and place in hot oil. Fry rings until golden brown and drain on paper towels. Pack fried onion rings solidly, but loosely, without pressing, into an 8x4" loaf pan. Bake at 400 degrees 10 to 15 minutes. Turn onto serving plate.

DATES TO REMEMBER

VANCOUVER ISLAND YUKONERS PICNIC

Island Yukoner's Picnic
Saturday, Aug.18th 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