

## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 375<sup>th</sup> Edition – June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

Created by Sherron Jones [sherronjones\\*shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones*shaw.ca)

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



Old Barn on Sisters Island – 1974

Island buildings destroyed by flood, 1979.

Photo courtesy Ed & Star Jones [edandstar@gmail.com](mailto:edandstar@gmail.com) (In New Mexico)

### **YUKON NUGGET**

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

Courtesy Rolf & Marg Hougen [marg\\*hougens.com](mailto:marg*hougens.com) (In Whitehorse)

### **Emerald Lake**

In the old days, as we old timers like to succinctly say, things were different. Yep, when we used to make a rare trip to Carcross on the winding, narrow dirt road, we rarely stopped to take pictures at Rainbow Lake.

That's what we used to call this most photographed of all Yukon scenes. There weren't many tourists around in the fifties and we had precious little interest in taking pictures anyway. Getting to Carcross - fast - was the main goal. I forget why!

Today, of course, that most photographed location is called Emerald Lake. I don't know when the name changed from Rainbow to Emerald. Anyway, it is a favourite photo-op because of the gorgeous blue-green colour. Why does Emerald Lake look like that? Well, scientists who study such things explain it this way.



Emerald Lake

The colour is created by sunlight reflecting off a white layer of "marl" on the lake bed. Marl is calcium carbonate clay that forms in the water and then settles onto the lake bottom. It forms when the carbonate from dissolving limestone reacts with calcium in the water.

The limestone, in the surrounding hills, was created about 200 million years ago in a shallow sea. Imagine what it was like around here two hundred million years ago.

The valley of Emerald and Spirit lakes - now known as the Watson River Valley - was at one time covered by a glacier during the last ice age. These lakes formed when the glaciers retreated about 14,000 years ago.

Retreating ice deposited limestone gravel, eroded from the surrounding hills, onto the valley floor. The carbonate rich gravel eventually led to the formation of marl in the lake. Thus, the colour of Emerald Lake.

Got that? Good! So the next time you stop to take a picture on your way to Carcross, impress your travelling companions with the story of why the beautiful Emerald Lake looks the way it does.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin



### **Spirit Lake near Carcross**

This view of Spirit Lake and Montana Mountain was taken in 2004 from the Caribou Mountain trail. Typical of the many trails in the region, this is for experienced hikers only, and bear protection must be carried. Photo courtesy Murray Lundberg [yukonalaska@gmail.com](mailto:yukonalaska@gmail.com)

## **PETER BRADY**

It was such fun to read about Pat and Pete Brady in the recent Moc Tel.

Pat had died by the time I came to Dawson, but Pete was very much a part of my social work life. Pete was fond of telling the story about how he pulled up the ladder from their mining shaft and left Pat down inside for a day, when Pat wouldn't go to town with him on Discovery Day.

When he wanted to move into Dawson from Hunker Creek, Pete stayed for one winter in the sod-roofed cabin on 7th that I later purchased from Anton Finnes. Then he was in the Sunset Home for another winter, where he was famous for burning potatoes on the gas stove while he slept off his rum. I'll never forget the episodes involving the fire truck arriving in the middle of the night and the fire alarm being set off by Ruby Scott. He was often trying to crawl in the window of his room when he'd forget his key after a night on the town, much to the consternation of yours truly and

residents Rod McRae and Mary Field, and the caretaker Danny McDonald.

In the summer of 1967, Pete was the focus of a television film which was a Master's thesis for David Acoma's degree in Performing Arts from Los Angeles. I helped them herd Pete from bar to bar while David and his partner tried to film him getting his yearly haircut, watching the parade, and playing his usual part as bon vivant with the ladies. I was later thrilled to see that film in Toronto in 1969, which David showed me privately after I happened to see that he was producing a TV show for Ian and Sylvia. I was able to contact him with one phone call.

David went on to become a very successful director and producer, filming many musical notables such as Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Hank Williams, Anton Kuerti, Ravi Shankar, and George Harrison. He worked in New York and Los Angeles, but now lives in Ontario, and is the Executive Director of the All-Canadian Jazz Festival in Port Hope. His dramatic films have been shown in London, LA, and Toronto film festivals and he has received many awards. He lectures at Ontario universities. Sometimes I wonder if he mentions the Discovery Day antics of Pete Brady as he instructs his students on how to manage to film an irascible Irishman intent on having a good time and not paying any attention to those young kids from Los Angeles.

Eleanor Millard [emillard\\*northwestel.net](mailto:emillard*northwestel.net) (In Carcross)

## **Chester Henderson**

In addition to being meticulous, Chester had a mischievous streak. I remember being at his place with my parents and siblings and enjoying tea and cookies when he brought out his latest rifle acquisition to show my Dad, another appreciator of guns. This particular rifle was old, burly looking, and short-barreled. Chester methodically went through all its attributes and then invited my Dad to take it out and fire it.

We walked over to the target area, Chester talking much more than usual about this firearm and then he handed it to my Dad with a bullet. Once loaded, my Dad raised and aimed it in his own practiced way, but then lowered it in the same way and handed it to Chester, saying "Here, you fire it first", for he had caught sight of Chester's unconcealed mirth as he was about to pull the trigger.

Chester explained it had a kick that would be felt for a week or two unless held in a certain way, which he said he'd learned through experience. Then, each one fired it, and I saw that, even in knowing how to hold it, this rifle required a mind set and stance to keep it in line.

About the Brady brothers, I only remember their names, but I laughed so hard at the stories told that I would have loved to know them too.

Madeleine (Millen) Wakefield [mwakefield\\*shaw.ca](mailto:mwakefield*shaw.ca) (In Calgary)

## **HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY TO YOU JEAN JAMIESON**

Hi Sherron ,  
Sheila has asked me to forward this note to you.

Hi Larry:  
Hope to see everyone at the Yukoner's Picnic On June 23rd - Have just this bit of information for your Newsletter.

Norman and I have been talking to Jean Jamieson in Whitehorse, and the conversation was made possible by her daughter Jerry. Jean lives with Craig and Jerry Tuton at #2 Grafter, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 0A2. On June 22nd, 2013 at the High Country Inn in Whitehorse, there will be a celebration for Jean's 100th Birthday. Should anyone be up that way during that time they would be more than welcome to attend. We talked with her on the phone and she certainly sounds good and looking forward to the big day. Jean is one of the Remarkable Yukon Women and many people were helped in countless ways by Jean over the years. She was synonymous with Jamieson's Store on 4th Avenue. We wish her all the best and a VERY HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!!!!!!!!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

Norm and I have sent our best wishes and I have put a little notice in the Yukon Newsletter but I enclosed in Jean's birthday card, our memories of our time when Jean and Jamieson's Store were a daily thing for us, way back when Gus and Blanche were our neighbors in the early 1950's. I thought perhaps there were some still around who would remember those days but use your discretion.

Thanks Sheila Becker

As we join the ranks of the senior citizens, it is a known fact that we remember way back when and cannot remember what happened a few minutes ago. This is the situation for your birthday and a lot of living in 100 years and a lot of great memories.

Norman and I were thinking back to when he went to Whitehorse to play hockey in 1952 and we were from a little town in the Peace River country named McLennan Alberta.

There were two fellows from McLennan already there - Bob Frigon and Jack Simpson and it was Jack that got Norm there to play for the Legion Hockey Team.

Jack and Doe just happened to live in the log shacks across the alley from Jamieson's store and yes, that's where Norm lived when he first arrived. There were a number of people who lived there in those early days - Like Irene and Bud Harrison, Gus and Blanche Barrett, Bob and Margaret (McLaughlin) Frigon, Norman and Sheila Becker, and the list goes on.

We were the fortunate ones living on 4th Avenue and Strickland as we were on running water from the U.S. Aquaduct ... Wow!

A lot of people worked there at Jamieson's store. Ie. Ethel McDonald, Elsie Embree, Stan Wilcox, etc., but mostly Jean Jamieson & you were there for a whole lot of people through thick and thin, You saved our bacon more than once.

Looking at today's date of 2013, we are going back 60 years and we surely have reason to toast you for your contribution to the people of Whitehorse – for your contribution to your community and to all who had the opportunity to call you “FRIEND”.

We were there for 30 of the past 60 years, but there is no place like it and when we walked into the store in 1986 on our only visit back, you were sitting in the front window and recognized us. What a reunion that was and we do so dearly wish we could be with you today to celebrate this great occasion.

Thanks for the memories Jean, and enjoy your day !!!!!

Much love, Norman and Sheila Becker

Norm & Sheila Becker [snbecker\\*\\*shaw.ca](mailto:snbecker**shaw.ca) (In Penticton)

## **Pete Brady – MocTel 374**

Dear Sherron

That was so very interesting reading “Thank you.” Lovely seeing Old Pete Brady, he was such a character.

When I was doing the Palace Grand Show he came in to the Foyer with a small glass tube filled with nuggets and wanted \$80., and I didn't have the \$80 ... SIGH !!...

He was a Love... I thought.

Jinks Ross took me out to see his Gold Mine, and there he was... smiling like a Cheshire cat. He had just made some bread, and gave me a loaf. I have pictures that I have been meaning to dig out for Years. Must get to it..... and Star and her husband .. what a handsome good looking couple they are. Great pictures.

Thanks again ....Love and Hugs Edward and Gillian xo [gillianklondikekate\\*shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate*shaw.ca) (In Burnaby)

## **Photo of Patrick Brady in from of Occidental Hotel in MocTel 374**

In the MocTel of June 2nd, the page 19 picture in front of the Occidental Hotel, has the far right person as Pat Brady. My bet is it is Rod MacDonald. My recall is that Rod was a retired carpenter from YCGC and did handy man jobs around Dawson in the mid 50's. He was a resident of the Sunset Lodge into the mid/late 60's.

He and Bert Barber were a couple of Dawson characters and drinking buddies into their very old age. Both defied medical science/statistics.

All the best,

Joe Redmond [yukon43\\*telusplanet.net](mailto:yukon43*telusplanet.net) (In Sylvan AB)

*Hi Joe*

*Have now placed your message in the next MocTel as well as forwarded it to the Dawson Museum. The photo was one that the Museum sent to me saying it was Patrick Brady – so will leave it for them to resolve and compare to a photo of Rod MacDonald if they have one.*

*The were some stories they sent me that I did not think to be accurate – so I did not include them in the MocTel. Have attached them for your perusal.*

*ie. Fred Caley said that the Brady's came about the same time as him in 1920's. One brother came in 1900 and the other in 1908.*

*I think I could include the two messages from Barbara Hanulik and Barbara Hogan.*

*On the other page the message from Jimmy Mellor says Pete was born in 1898 and yet I see him on the 1911 census at Henderson Creek at age 20.*

*Cannot prove John Gould right or wrong, but he says Pete arrived in 1910 and Jim Robb has 1908.*

*As for the John Firth comments – I have tried to verify the Australia trip, but have not been able to.*

*Do you think I should include these two pages of info ?*

*Sherron Jones*

Hi Sherron,

The comments from the Dawson Museum inputs might stir some comments for further info. Those of us that remember these characters were kids at the time. As an aside, I was in e-mail contact with John Gould 8 or 9 years ago. His remarks about his Dad's arrival in Dawson were that he came into the Klondike with my Grandfather in 1902. I had just transcribed my grandfather's diaries at that time and the first entry was him leaving Seattle Aug. 1st 1900, heading for Dawson, no mention of John's Dad. I told John this, but no reply! Interestingly the Goulds and Redmonds were both from Upper Musquodobit NS and both spent time in WA prior to the Gold Rush.

Joe Redmond

## **Pete Brady**

The following were sent to the MocTel courtesy the Dawson Museum and are interviews recorded on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1981 and are all referring to Pete Brady. They were not initially included with the other material collected on Pete Brady because they included some inaccuracies and/or unproven references.

Notes taken April 1<sup>st</sup>/81 by S. Robinson - re Pete Brady.

From Fred Caley:

Pat and Pete Brady came to the Yukon at about the same time that I did, in the early 1920's. They worked for Y.C.G.C. during the summer and mined on their own during the winter. After Pat died, Pete continued to mine on upper Hunker by himself. Pete is remembered in Dawson as a "character"; drinking, chewing tobacco and arguing with his brother. No known relatives in the area.

From Barbara Hogan:

Pete lived in the cabin now owned by Pete Erikson on Upper Hunker. Erik has kept some contents of the cabin including mining photos and cabin interiors. John Erikson (brother) on #11 Hunker has Pete Brady's Mining diary and letter home.

From Barbara Hanulik:

In 1965, when she and a friend were visiting Dawson, they were taken by two men from the bank to meet Pete Brady. They called a warning and Pete stepped out of the bush. He had killed a bear two days before and was unable to move it. He was in his sixty's at the time. He had gathered firewood and roasted the bear on the spot.

Interviews done April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1981 by Chris Grant - re Pete Brady

Pete was born in 1898 in Ireland. [1911 Census on Henderson Creek shows he was aged 20 = born about 1891] Editors note

From Jimmy Mellor, McDonald Lodge.

Pete was very Irish. He worked for the Guggies and for Yukon Gold. He was an oiler on the dredges – Nos. 2 and 4 and the earliest ones. After that he worked for his brother. Pete had a sister in Scenectity, N.Y., and after W.W. I he led the St. Patrick's Day parade with the Mayor in New York. There are lots of tales about him. He lived in McDonald Lodge shortly after W.W. II.

From M. Gould.

Moved to the Yukon in 1910 from Australia. Moved to Whitehorse in 1910? for five or six years.

[1911 Census on Henderson Creek conflicts with the information by indicating he had been in Yukon for 3 years. = 1908 – also in question that he was in Whitehorse in 1910 when the census shows he is at Henderson Creek.] Editors note

From John Firth ?

Pete went to Australia first and then came here to join his brother. He worked for Yukon Gold (Guggies) as an oiler on the dredges during the summer and worked on Claim No. II - Hunker Creek in the winter. Spent most of his life on the creeks and mined after Pat died into the '70's. Pete moved to Whitehorse and lived in Alexander Street Apartments, and then in MacAuley Lodge.

# I Tamed a Wolf for my Dog Team

Reprinted, from October 1942, the **ALASKA SPORTSMAN**

By Wilfred R. Gordon (husband of former MLA for Mayo – Jean Gordon)

Shared with Moccasin Telegraph by their daughter Betty Lone [lonhbk@sdnet.ca](mailto:lonhbk@sdnet.ca) (In Morden MB)

Trapping has never earned me my living, but I certainly get a kick out of doing it. Sometimes there's a little profit in the skins of the animals that I get in my trips.

During the last five years that I have been trapping here on Australia Creek, near Granville in Yukon Territory, I've had some exciting experiences. One experience that I remember quite vividly is the time that I had a young lynx in my trap and didn't know it. I hadn't been able to get out to look over my traps for a while and in the meantime there was a snowfall. The snow had covered any tracks made by the animal, so I couldn't see that my set had been disturbed.

The trap had been set in a clump of spruce that stood about two feet high. I pushed through the spruce to see that the trap was all right when out came a young lynx! He was full of fight. Being in the trap had not improved his temper. I barely escaped his sharp claws. I realized that he must have bedded down under a small tree after getting caught in the trap and was feeling pretty resentful by the time I arrived.

Another unusual experience I had was the time that my brother-in-law and a friend and I were hunting meat for the table. We discovered a bear den and dug into it. We shot the old bear but saved the three young cubs that were so small that you could have put them into a cigar box. We took them home and raised them with the use of a bottle and a female dog. But that's another story ...

The one I want to tell this time is about wolves. Wolves are plentiful in this part of Yukon Territory. There's no bounty on wolves here and their hides bring so little that it hardly pays to skin them. Yet I do enjoy matching wits with the devils.

I ordered some traps last fall which were to be delivered to Granville about the first of November. When the traps arrived I had to make the three-mile trip by dog sled to get them.

I have just two sled dogs and the load that I had to bring from Granville was pretty heavy for only two animals. To lighten the sled, I hung up some of the traps and set a few along the trail. I also set a snare that I had with me. I had seen wolf tracks along the trail that morning. There wasn't any reason for missing a possible chance to catch one of the brutes.

It is my custom to go to Granville every Tuesday to get the mail. On the way to town I set a few traps. I was hoping for a little luck that day as I hadn't taken much care when I set my traps the week before. However, I had taken pains in setting a snare. I'd even told my wife that the snare would surely catch any wolf who came this way. She'd said, "Oh, sure!" and laughed a little.



**Lady is a willing worker, but she seems to tire more easily than my two dogs. In the picture above Lady is resting from the task of helping pull a heavy load.**

As we neared that first trap the dogs began to go a little faster. I thought that I could see tracks in the trail ahead. Sure enough, they were wolf tracks. A little farther along the trail I found a female wolf pup caught in the trap by two toes.

As I viewed my catch it occurred to me that she, being only a pup, might be tamed. I needed more power to pull my dog sled, too.

In the sled I carried a snare and a dog chain. I caught this wolf pup around the nose with the snare which I had the forethought to put on the end of a pole. After I had thus eliminated the chances of being bitten by her sharp fangs I put a collar on her and fastened the end of the dog chain to a heavy drag.

During the time I was securing the wolf she never became violent at all. In fact, she didn't seem to mind having me come near her.

"Well, we have to make time, now," I said aloud to my dogs, "so we can get back for this wolf." My dogs seemed to understand, for they started off down the trail at a fast clip.

Soon I realized that it wasn't my words, but the scent of more wolf tracks that caused the dogs to increase their speed. Wolves had the trail well tramped from there on to the next trap.

At the second trap I found another wolf pup had been caught. I had a male, this time. Unlike the first wolf, he was full of fight. I wasn't discouraged by his show of spirit and thought that as long as I had taken one wolf alive why not take this one, too? "After trying both wolf pups in the harness I can pick the best one to add to my dog team," I said aloud to myself.

I had no chain and no snare to put on this second wolf so was forced to leave him in the trap until I could get back. I went on to my other traps, but I learned that the remaining wolves had passed the next few traps I had set.

Along my trail I could see the tracks of one big wolf and a couple of pups. As I neared Granville a puzzling sight awaited me. Around one of my snares there was fresh blood on the snow. The nearby willows had been chewed. Obviously, a wolf had been caught in my snare, yet here was the snare in good condition and there was no sign of the wolf couldn't figure it out, because the snare wasn't broken.



**When I have my dog team out for a run it is Lady, the tamed wolf, who is at the wheel.  
She is the animal nearest the sled.**

As I continued down the trail wondering how that wolf had escaped, the mystery solved itself! In the snow along the trail were the tracks made by men's rubbers. Ah, ha! So there was a man in the case! That simplified matters a good deal. Someone had come along, seen the wolf in my snare, and had taken the wolf. That was why the snare was still on the toggle.

My sled dogs and I made good time after leaving the looted snare. I was calling all the cuss words I knew, and they were plentiful as I've spent most of my life driving either horses or dogs.

Sure enough, up ahead I saw three fellows and my wolf. Two of them were carrying the wolf. I controlled my rage long enough to get their story. They told me that two of them had been hunting and they had seen what they thought was a wolf on the loose. They shot the animal with a

powerful rifle. They had begun to skin it when the third man of the party, Slim Lambert, came along.

Slim told the two men that he had caught a wolf that morning, but that the wolf had managed to free the trap from the toggle and had escaped. When he saw the men skinning the wolf he'd thought that they had his wolf. When they examined the wolf they found only the snare, but no trap, but they decided to take it anyway because they had killed it and did not know who had set the snares.

I had said nothing to my friends about making sets. I couldn't blame these men for not knowing who owned the snare until I overtook them and explained. Of course they gave up the wolf to me, then. Before the men went on their way I told them that I had two more sets along the trail.

Slim Lambert decided to go in to Granville and come back with me. In town we got the mail and some hay wire. I skinned the old wolf that the men had returned to me and hurried on to the trap where the male pup was.



**When I first caught Lady she fought the chain before she resigned to captivity.**

By the time Slim and I arrived at the trap the wolf had quieted somewhat. The two of us had little trouble in slipping a wire noose over the pup's nose and in tying his feet. After we tied him in the toboggan, we started down the trail for the next pup.

We found the female wolf pup almost as I had left her on my way to Granville. She was so timid that we had no trouble in tying her feet and putting her in the toboggan along with the male pup.

My two sled dogs were curious about their strange load and wanted to look at it. I managed to straighten them in their harness and we started homeward. The combined weight of the two wolves

was about 60 pounds, so it wasn't difficult for the two dogs to pull. The trail was good and the traveling was easy.

When we came to my cabin I called to my wife to come outside. At first, she thought the pups were dead; that is, until one blinked its eyes. "Oh, they're alive!" she exclaimed as she made a hasty retreat. Slim and I laughed.

We tied the young female to a tree, and then Slim helped me put chain on the other one. Both animals fought their chains for a while before quieting. We left them alone and went inside for supper. Of course, we had to tell my wife the whole story.

After supper we took a couple pieces of liver to the pups to see if they would eat. The female ate her piece and looked for more. But not the other fellow: he just tried to look a hole through us!

After the pups had had a few days to rest from the ordeal of being caught in a trap we harnessed them before the dog sled. I have had more trouble with some dogs than I had with that female pup. She worked the first time she was in the harness. I kept the muzzle on her, though. I have a great deal of respect for her white, sharp fangs.

The male pup wouldn't work at all. He would drag in the harness or would try to fight with my dogs. After a few tries in the harness I gave up trying to train him and gave him the "lead cure." His hide was good and brought me \$7.50.

I've kept the female wolf and she is a part of my dog team, now. I call her Lady. The name is appropriate as she behaves very well. I still keep a muzzle on her when she's in harness. Those teeth could do too much damage in a very short time.

Lady weighs about 90 pounds and can pull as well as my dogs. However, she seems to tire more easily. I want to keep her long enough to get some pups as I need more power for my sled.

I think Lady will be valuable to me in trapping wolves, because her scent will act as a decoy. She works as hard as she can in the harness and I am quite fond of her. Lady is a living example of what can be done with a wild animal that becomes used to man from puppyhood. I treat her without harshness and she reciprocates by working hard for me.

***June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 7:00pm***

I've attached photos from tonight's **annual Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame Ceremony**. You should be getting the information on each of the three recipients from Randy Mattson...or will have already received the information. Well over 100 people turned out for a wonderfully presented evening at the Yukon Transportation Museum.

Cheers

Kathy Gates [kmgates\\*northwestel.net](mailto:kmgates*northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

## 2013 ORDER OF POLARIS



Kelly Collins is a Class I flying instructor. He is also Chief flight instructor, Chief pilot and holds a Class 1 Aerobatic instructor rating. As the Transport Canada Pilot Examiner for Yukon, Kelly currently holds over 11,000 hours in single-engine fixed wing aircraft, with the majority of those hours spent in the right-hand seat – teaching, coaching, and mentoring those who sit in the left.

Born in Vancouver in 1958, Kelly’s earliest memories are of watching airplanes fly overhead. He has pursued his interest in flight his entire life, taking his first flying lesson at Chilliwack Airport in 1972, at the age of 14. Kelly moved to Whitehorse in 1986 when, feeling the call of the North, he answered a flying instructor wanted ad. He rented a U-Haul and drove with his family up the Alaska Highway, arriving in Whitehorse as the brand new CFI for Aerokon Aviation.

During his 27 years of teaching pilots in the North, over 300 Yukon pilots have received their fixed-wing, single-engine recreational, private, commercial or instructor ratings under his tutelage, and he has sat next to approximately 800 more in “check-out” and other various training flights. His keen sense of humour and expertise in teaching the unique challenges of northern and mountain flying, as well as the art of flying a tail dragger, are attributes much appreciated by his students.

Kelly has a special interest in human factors and pilot decision making. His lessons are peppered with anecdotes, stories and thoughtful questions to help students relate real-life experience to the subject of flying. If someone was to ask him what the single, most important piece of advice he would give to pilots, he would stress the importance of situational awareness. In fact, he stresses situational awareness in every aspect of training, and his students will most likely remember him for the question: “How’s that look?” This has resulted in a perfect safety record.

His reputation for innovative teaching methods and excellence in instruction preceded him across Canada. In 1999, Kelly spent the year as flight instructor for the Canadian Forces training school in Manitoba. This was followed in 2000, with a year at New Brunswick Moncton Flight College, where he was tasked with setting up and introducing a brand new aerobatics program, as well as re-organizing and updating their instructor rating program. He returned to Yukon in part because his heart belonged in the right-hand seat, beside his beloved students.

Kelly’s gift to aviation in Yukon is in his exemplary safety record; it is in the skills and accomplishments of the many pilots who trained with him; and, it is in the sincere joy of recreational and private pilots who just always wanted to fly – a joy Kelly can honestly relate to.

## **2013 Transportation Person**



### **Mr. JOHN VAN EVERY**

John Van Every was born in 1936 in Sudbury, Ontario, the eldest son of Owen and Grace Van Every. Like his father before him, John became interested in the transportation industry at a very young age. John’s mother Grace would often put three bottles of formula in his father’s lunch bag and away father and son would go for the day in the truck. The summer John was 11 years old, he skidded logs with a small farm tractor for his father on a clearing contract. By the time he was 14 years of age John was working in a garage and driving a tow truck.

In the fall of 1968 John came north to drive for Cassiar Asbestos Transport Division. Upon his arrival, he knew that trucking in the North was his true calling. John's truck was one of two trucks loaded with asbestos from the mine that went through the ice bridge in the Yukon River in December of 1969.

After hauling asbestos for a few years, John became the supervisor of the Skyline in Dawson City. The Skyline was a tramline that hauled asbestos across the Yukon River during break-up and freeze-up. Before the Clinton Creek mine closed in 1978, John became employed with Klondike Transport. In 1985, John formed a company called Dawson City Backhoe Service. Dawson City Backhoe Service expanded into truck and equipment rentals. The company owned a Cessna 185 aircraft that was used for company business.

In 1986, John started his own transportation business called Van Every Inc. John's business began small but eventually grew and consisted of tire sales and service, propane sales and supplies, RV recovery, Esso products, Finning products, fuel, and, his passion – equipment hauling.

In March of 2004, John was one of the many transport drivers that took supplies into Old Crow on the winter road for the construction on the airport. The trip was a memorable one taking 24 hours to go in and 18 hours to return.

John eventually purchased a 1947 Chevy 3 ton truck which he restored and now uses in the Canada Day and Discovery Day parades in Dawson City. John is a member of the Yukon Transportation Association and continues to be a strong advocate for the transportation industry in Yukon.

Believing that the transportation industry is an integral part of Yukon's economy, over the years John has lobbied various levels of government about its operation and welfare.

John has always given generously to auction fundraisers for the Klondike Placer Miners Association, Dawson City Museum, and various other organizations. It also gave him great pleasure to help a child by donating to the annual R.C.M.P. bike rodeo.

John is a true pioneer for his many years and miles dedicated to the transportation industry of Yukon.

## 2013 YUKON TRANSPORTATION PIONEER

### THE LATE MR. FRANK STEELE



“Frank” (Fearon Lindsay) Steele was an Alaska Highway lodge pioneer. Frank, with his wife Evelyn and two young sons, moved to Whitehorse from Atlin in 1942. They lived on the Fish Lake road while the Alaska Highway was under construction. A third son was born in Whitehorse in 1943. After serving in the war, Frank returned to Yukon. In 1946, Frank and Evelyn welcomed their fourth son, then a daughter in 1952, and a fifth son in 1954.

In the immediate post-war period, there were few travellers’ facilities along the Alaska Highway. As highway maintenance operations were streamlined, the Canadian government abandoned a number of maintenance and construction camps along the highway. These camps often included gas stations, garages, cook halls and dormitories that could easily be converted into commercial operations. A small group of entrepreneurs made the most of this opportunity by using them to start highway lodges.

Frank Steele was part of that small core group of entrepreneurs. He began his career by working for Clyde Wann. Frank operated and managed the Swift River Lodge at Mile 733. Frank first met Clyde Wann in Atlin in the 1940s and were family friends in addition to being business partners. He then served a brief stint running Clyde Wann Motors and Circle Service in Whitehorse.

In 1955, Frank leased Jac and Mac's at Watson Lake, Mile 635, but Frank always wanted to run his own lodge. In 1957, he purchased Summit Lake Lodge, Mile 392, the highest point on the Alaska Highway. Frank operated it for the next eighteen years, until 1976.

Without highway lodges, travel on the Alaska Highway would have been extremely hazardous in the 1950s and 1960s. Even with a highway lodge located about every fifty miles travel could be very dangerous, particularly in winter, due in part to poor road conditions, severe weather, and the condition of many of the vehicles at that time.

By the 1970s, as road and vehicular reliability improved, the economic viability of many highway lodges was no longer sustainable.

Frank Steele was there to see it all happen over the course of his twenty-five years in the Alaska Highway lodge business. The life of an Alaska Highway lodge operator was not an easy one; it was a life with many challenges. Although their stories are the stories of the early Alaska Highway, most have not been recorded and we will not see their like again.



Yukon Commissioner Doug Phillips presenting the Order of Polaris Award to Whitehorse's Kelly Collins.

Photo by Kathy Gates



Yukon Minister of Highways and Public Works, Wade Istchenko presenting the Transportation Pioneer Award to Gordon Steele, on behalf of his father, the late Mr. Frank Steele, of Whitehorse.  
Photo by Kathy Gates



Yukon Minister of Highways and Public Works, Wade Istchenko presenting the Transportation Person of the Year Award to Mr. John Van Every of Dawson City.  
Photo by Kathy Gates



2013 Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame Award presenters and recipients, Left to right: Hon. Wade Istchenko, Yukon Minister of Highways and Public works, Kelly Collins, Gordon Steele , John Van Every and Yukon Commissioner Doug Phillips.  
Photo by Michael Gates



M.C. for the evening, Michael Gates  
Photo by Kathy Gates

The Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame annually honours individuals who have made a significant and memorable contribution to the transportation industry in Yukon. During National Transportation Week, the first week in June, awards are presented to the recipients of the Order of Polaris, the Pioneer of the Year, the Person of the Year. The Hall of Fame is located at the Yukon Transportation Museum in Whitehorse and is sponsored by the Northern Air Transport

Association, Yukon Transportation Museum, Yukon Transportation Association and the Government of Yukon.



2013 Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame award, presenters, recipients and wives: left to right: Hon Wade Istchenko, Nita and Kelly Collins, Gordon and Anita Steele, and John Van Every and wife Linda, with Yukon Commissioner Doug Phillips  
Photos by Michael Gates

***Criteria for Awards:***

**Transportation Pioneer of the Year**

Presented to nominees who ventured into unknown or unclaimed territory, opened up new areas of thought, research or development, and made a past major contribution affecting or advancing the transportation industry or a closely related activity connected with the movement of goods and/or people in Yukon. The nominee will be retired or deceased.

**Transportation Person of the Year**

A nominee must be currently engaged in transportation, or a closely related activity connected with the movement of goods and/or people in Yukon.

Nominees will have assumed a leadership role during their career which has advanced the transportation industry as a whole or in any one of the several modes. This includes policy, safety,

education, enforcement, innovation, performance or an exemplary act of bravery in perilous circumstances. Persons who have recently retired will also be considered.

**Order of Polaris**

Presented to individuals, groups or associations whose contributions to aviation include meritorious service in Yukon. A nominee will have made a significant contribution and/or advancement to the aviation industry. Air-men and women, engineers, air crew, mechanics, designers and ground support, groups or associations, who played an important role in opening up the Northwill also be considered. All inductees are admitted as members to the Order of Polaris.

**For more information or to submit your nomination:**

**Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame**

c/o Transport Services Branch W-17  
P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6  
Phone (867) 667-5832 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 ext 5832  
fax (867) 667-5799  
email [thof@gov.yk.ca](mailto:thof@gov.yk.ca)

**2014 Nomination Form**

**Category (check one):**

**Transportation Pioneer/Person of the Year**

**Order of Polaris**

*Note: The selection panel will act upon their discretion to determine the appropriate category for nominee submissions.*

**Nominee:**

Name Title  
Company (or other)  
Address  
Postal Code  
Telephone email

Telephone email  
  
Signed  
  
Name Title  
Company (or other)  
Address  
Postal Code  
Telephone email

**Submitted by:**

Name Title  
Company (or other)  
Address  
Postal Code

Signed

Please attach a typed narrative detailing the achievement of the nominee that would merit this award. Criteria for awards, detailed submission requirements and a submission sample is provided on the following pages.

**Deadline:** December 31, 2013

## CHESTER HENDERSON



Chester Henderson with Donna ?

Photo courtesy Ed & Star Jones [edandstar@gmail.com](mailto:edandstar@gmail.com) (In New Mexico)



Chester Henderson with Jim Archibald

Photo courtesy Ed & Star Jones [edandstar@gmail.com](mailto:edandstar@gmail.com) (In New Mexico)



Chester Henderson with Nina George, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student of Ed Jones in Sarasota, Florida 1964. [Star & Ed brought Nina George to Sisters Island that summer as her mother also a teacher with Ed had gone to Europe that summer. Ed shared that the only place for her to sleep in the little cabin was on the kitchen counter.] Photo courtesy Ed & Star Jones [edandstar@gmail.com](mailto:edandstar@gmail.com) (In New Mexico)



Chester Henderson Museum building on his property – Klondike Highway – 1967. Photo courtesy Ed & Star Jones [edandstar@gmail.com](mailto:edandstar@gmail.com) (In New Mexico)



Star Jones, Chester Henderson, Ed Jones in front of Chester's cabin on Klondike Highway.  
(Star holding Chester's 4 bore shotgun.)

Photo courtesy Ed & Star Jones [edandstar@gmail.com](mailto:edandstar@gmail.com) (In New Mexico)

## **CHESTER HENDERSON**

(This message below, just in prior to sending out this edition of the Moccasin Telegraph. Ed Jones has typed it in, to share with the MocTel readers and followed up on his email with a phone call to see that it was received and in time for this edition. – Sherron Jones)

### **A SOURDOUGH'S HOBBY**

"Ever since I was a young fellow, I've always had a fondness for guns, axes and knives." These were the softly spoken words of a collector of axes- double bitted and heads. In the firm conviction that axes will be one of the items among many others, that in the near future will no longer be needed or will have a place in our rapidly changing society, **Chester Henderson** decided that he would make a collection of them.

Chester lives at the Hay Ranch on the banks of the Klondike River, approximately 18 miles from Dawson. Of pioneer stock, the **son of Grant and Margaret Henderson, and grandson of Robert Henderson**, recognized the world-over as one of the discoverers of gold in the Klondike, Chester is very meticulous and precise in his habits. He cuts wood in the winter months, and at first glance the piles of cordwood at the ranch give you the impression that each stick has been hand-picked for size--even, uniform and piled symmetrically.

In his cabin the axe collection has taken precedence, and more advantageously displayed, than a previous gun collection. The axe heads are arranged in brackets on the walls around the doorways. In a period of 18 months the number of axes total 150 of Canadian, American, Australian, German and Swedish manufacture.

Emphatically Chester states that he does not like to write letters, and with the exception of a few personal ones, does so only if a specific or pressing need arises. The urge and necessity to obtain items for his collection surmounted any repugnance, and inquiries and contacts were made by sitting down and writing letters to numerous places in both Canada and United States.

A few axes were obtained by talking of his hobby with tourists who stopped at the ranch to chat, and offered to try to locate one more axe for the Yukoner. In a few instances a year had passed by, and Chester had abandoned hope of hearing from his friends, when along would come the promised axe. The Australian axe was one of those procured by a friend. No lead or inkling of any possible chance to increase the collection is ever overlooked, no matter how small or trivial it might seem.

In the collection there are many Kelly & Collins' axes, manufactured in the United States. Incidentally, all the axes are new- there are no used ones. A 1916 edition of the Dawson Daily News advertised the Kelly axe, and it is one of the very few double bitted axes still being manufactured.

Chester obtained from Rudy Burian at Stewart River a Plumb axe which had been in stock at the old Hudson's Bay Store there for over 30 years.

There are Sager axes of several different weights- all of them manufactured 50 years ago. The Snow and Nealy axe made in Bangor, Maine is the product of another firm no longer in business. A Walters axe is from Hull, Quebec.

Chester is counting on a friend to obtain for him a falling axe with a 40" handle from Eureka, California, and he is still hoping to obtain a Mann axe- just one more brand no longer available on the market.

One of the more recent additions to the growing collection was a Blonkhorn Chief from Ganning, Nova Scotia. This model also belongs to the category of discontinued manufacture, as does a prized Sater Banko Swedish broad axe which he received from Hazelton, B.C. just recently. Chester recalls having used a chopping axe of that brand but had never before seen the broad axe.

The cost of procuring the axes averages from \$8.00 to \$14.00 each, but the pleasure, enjoyment and satisfaction to the owner of this unusual collection cannot be assessed with a monetary value, and so Chester Henderson continues to add new models to fill any vacant spaces on the walls of his cabin on the Klondike River.

Pretoria Butterworth  
Probably in the late 1960s to early 1970s

Submitted by Ed Jones [edandstar@gmail.com](mailto:edandstar@gmail.com) (In New Mexico)

## **Gillian Campbell**

Gillian and her friends put on a show in Vancouver this past week. Her notice of the event came out just after the last Moccasin Telegraph went out.

**“PRESS RELEASE: SINGLE MOM STRIKES SHOW BIZ KLONDIKE GOLD WITH LIVE SHOW IN VANCOUVER JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> .....**

**June 15<sup>th</sup> @ St. James Community Centre..... 2.p.m... wheel chair accessible as well....tickets on line ,or at the Door \$20.. a portion will go to ‘Cancer also Diabetes’ ”**

She has now received notice that photos of the event are on a friend Todd’s blog at:  
<http://www.poshtodd.com/2013/06/gala-glamour-glitter-hip-hips-away.html>

Also this brief note from Gillian after the show:

I have asked Bill if he would like to put out something in the Moc Tel he is going to get back to me.. thanks so much.... The George Shaw girls were there.. I was told.. also Maureen MacDonald... Maribeth Mainer was there too...also Linda Rawlinson and some other Yukoners to I didn’t see anyone after the Show. We had to move fast and get out of there for the Next booking at 5.p.m. Love Gillian xo

## **Myrt Acton (formerly Myrt Raymond)**

Myrtle broke four Canadian Records – the Weight Throw with a 8.52m mark (old CAN 8.29), the Discus with a 17.70m (old was 16.97), the Shot Put with a 7.34m (old CAN 7.22) and she broke the 19.67m Hammer record twice – once with a 19.86m toss and then with a 20.77m. She may have also broken the Throws Pentathlon record (they are recalculating the marks).

## **EAGLETS NEAR WHITEHORSE DAM**

Check out the growth of the three eaglets that hatched near the Yukon River at Whitehorse. If you Google <http://www.yecleagles.com/> you can see 3 baby eagles live in a nest that was built by Yukon Electric near Whitehorse rapids.

## **Yukon School of Visual Arts Graduates Fourteen this Spring**

By Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

May 8, 2013

It was fitting that the opening minutes of the graduation ceremony for the 2012-13 class at the Yukon School of Visual Arts (SOVA) should be filled with a Piano and Projections Prelude by talented a talented student, Suzanne Roberts. There had already been displays of finished art in the Confluence Gallery and of video based art in the ODD Gallery.

The graduation exercises took place in the Oddfellows Hall, more generally known these days as the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture (KIAC).

Following Roberts' recital Dr. Curtis Collins, the college's Program Director, introduced Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Deputy Chief Clara Van Bibber, who offered an opening prayer and congratulations to the graduates.

Collins then took a moment to honour the three SOVA staffers who he described as being the "mechanics of the place": Kit Hepburn, Library Technician; John Steins, Studio Technician; and Kyla MacArthur, Administrative Officer.

Next up the podium was another trio, speakers representing Yukon College, the Dawson City Arts Society (DCAS) and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the three organizations whose partnership has made YSOVA possible.

Dr. Deborah Bartlette, the Dean of Applied Arts at Yukon College, was in full academic regalia. "I wear it for the students," she explained. "Once you've earned a doctorate you get to wear this ... to honour the academic achievement of the students. You only wear it at events like this, so I only get to wear it twice a year, but I'm wearing it to honour your students and what you've achieved his year. Congratulations to you all.

“I want to thank you all for having the courage to study art as a time when business schools are full and everyone admires those good, solid, kinds of program that are going to get you jobs when you graduate.

“But the world needs artists, and you took a leap of faith in deciding to study art, whether you go on to complete a degree or on to earn your living through art, or simply have an art practice throughout your lives.

“Artists blow open our minds, and a world without art is a world without soul, so thank you all, and congratulations again.”

Gail Calder, vice president of DCAS, spoke next.

“We are very proud of what we’ve accomplished here in the last few years, since 2007, leading to this graduating class of 2013. As our grads move forward I hope you will reflect back to this year and return to share your future successes with us one day. More so, I’d like to thank each and every one of you for your contribution to this community while you were here; your involvement through the arts has certainly enriched our lives in the past ten months.”

Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in’s Director of Heritage, Jackie Olsen, herself an artist, spoke last.

“The Yukon School of Visual Arts and its students have turned Dawson City into Canada’s northern capital for art education. As an artist myself, I am proud that my home community has recognized the value of nurturing your talent. As the Trondek Hwëch’in representative on the SOVA governance council, I’m pleased so many ... artists have chosen our town to advance their skills. Congratulations to every student here tonight. Your achievements honour our town. I wish you all the best in your next steps as artists.”

Olsen made special mention of two TH citizens, young and old. Tamika Knutson was a member of the class this year and Elder Percy Henry was to be presented with an Honorary Diploma for Northern Studies later in the evening.

Following these speeches the three representatives sat down to sign the documents that would renew the tripartite partnership for another year.

Faculty members Bill Burns, Nicole Rayburn and Meg Walker each made brief speeches about their experiences during the year, concluding that it had been both challenging and fun. Walker concluded with a quotation from Douglas Adams’ *Life, the Universe and Everything*, which contains an almanac called *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*: “The Guide says there’s an art to flying – or rather a knack to flying. The knack lies in learning how to throw yourself at the ground – and miss.”

Tamika Knutson spoke of her experience at the college, where she applied late last year while being at loose ends after months of travelling abroad. The year had, she said, given her a direction for her life and she going to continue here studies in Nova Scotia next year.

Collin Curtis introduced TH Elder Percy Henry, who was presented with the first Honorary Diploma that Yukon College has given out to a Yukoner in some time.

Yukon College Vice-Chair Patti Balsillie presented the diploma.

MLA Sandy Silver sent greetings from Whitehorse, where he was in attendance at the Legislature. “Our artistic community is a precious defining characteristic in Dawson and it has a positive effect on our image on the national and international stage. I am happy to report that the Yukon Hospital Corporation will finally allow local art in the new hospital. Also, I am working on housing solutions for students and staff that will hopefully be announced in the very near future. It is of great importance to me that potential students are not turned away because they have no place to live.”

Silver noted that the class contained friends of his as well a former student from his years at Robert Service School.

Mayor Wayne Potoroka, who once served on the governance board as part of his day job with TH, was the keynote speaker for the evening, and so the audience learned of some of the alternative names that had been bruited about for the school.

“(If) memory serves, we spent an excessive amount of time on what to call the school. In fact, you students were close to being graduates of the Blackstone School of Art or the Dawson City School of Fine Arts—SOFA, which, in retrospect, is not a good acronym to hang on any post-secondary institution.”

“So thank you, students, for allowing this town to share in the pride of your success because it feels just a little bit like our own.

“But thank you, most of all, for the impact you've had on our community. Dawson City improves when creatives hone their craft in our town: our worldview expands through your art and fresh ideas; our understanding of ourselves develops when we see our culture reflected in your creations; our community is enriched with your enthusiasm and energy. Our lives are better because you're here.

“Whether you're from Dawson, the Yukon, or Outside, we're honoured you chose our town in which to grow, both as artists and people. On behalf of Dawson City residents and City of Dawson Council, thank you and congratulations on your achievement.

“If next year finds you in a southern art school, I hope you leave with good memories of the place where your arts education began. And if you stick around and make your life here in Dawson, and there are always a few that do, welcome. We're happy to have you.”

Presentation of the diplomas was in no particular order, as the students, according to Collins, had refused to sit down in alphabetical order. The class included Andree Belanger, Darcie Bernhardt, Derian Blake, Adonika Clark, Isabel Ford, Tamika Knutson, Vivian McIntosh, Sarah Jo O'Neil, Robert Paul, Suzanne Roberts, Dustin Sheldon, Colleen Smith, Karen Thomas and Sean Warnick.



\* SOVA Class 2013.jpg – The SOVA class of 2013.  
Photo by Nicole Rayburn  
Submitted by Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Search and Rescue Trainees Drop in on the Ice Bridge**

By Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

April 12, 2013

The yellow CC-115 Buffalo aircraft circled above the Yukon River half a dozen times before the two parachutists bailed out and their orange chutes bloomed, looking a lot like the paraglider wings that often slide across the Dawson skies in the summer.

This, however, was April 12, and the military men gliding to a landing just a few hundred feet off the ice bridge were dressed in full Arctic Gear.

“For us this is a normal weekend of SAR (Search and Rescue) training,” said Master Corporal Guitard from 442 Squadron in Comox, B.C. “We’re in Whitehorse for the weekend and we came up here just for a normal SAR training.”

“This is a nice surprise for us,” said Ranger Sergeant John Mitchell. “We just got a call about 12 (noon) that it was happening, so it was very realistic for us to respond and throw things together.”

Mitchell’s part was posting a flag near the drop zone and standing by with a radio to give instructions as needed.

“Our area of operations is very large,” said Guitard, “so it’s good for us to come up here once in a while and operate in these conditions. As you can see I’m dressed for the Arctic here. If we always train where it’s nice and calm and we don’t come where it’s nice and cold, we don’t get that experience.”

It was sunny and about -10 C° out on the ice bridge, but there was a chilly breeze and the Buffalo made a number of passes at various heights as well as dropping some streamers to gauge wind direction before Guitard and his partner, Master Warrant Officer Jean Tremblay, took to the air.

The military visitors were heading back to Whitehorse at the conclusion of the operation.



Approaching Search and Rescue aircraft over river bank at Dawson.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



SAR Aircraft over river at Dawson  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



SAR Parachutes descending over river at Dawson  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



SAR personnel set down near Ice Bridge on Yukon River at Dawson  
Interesting inflatable parasails would allow for redirecting your position before landing.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](http://uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **A Guitar Summit in the Ballroom Left the Ears Ringing**

By Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](http://uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

April 28, 2013

With the Grade 9/10 Shop Class nearing the end of a unit on building electric guitars, shop teacher Peter Menzies thought it would be a good idea to have what he called a guitar summit and expose his students to the wide range of instruments that there are in the community, as well as show off their progress.

To that end the Oddfellows Hall ballroom filled up with 16 guitar players, from juniors to seniors, and about 30 guitars, on March 20. The assortment included a variety of electric instruments, as well as an assortment of acoustic and resonator guitars.

As might be expected with a room full of guitar heroes of all ages, as soon as the players had them in tune they all began noodling their favorite riffs and zoning out on their favorite guitar daydreams.

The decibel level wasn't exactly off the charts, but it did leave the ears ringing after an hour and half.

The 9/10s have been shaping the bodies of their electrics, practicing first on spruce before moving to harder woods for the finished products.

They expect to have them finished and the electronics packages attached by the end of the school year.



After 90 minutes of comparing and jamming everyone gathered for a group photo.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Guitars in the making – The Shop 9/10 guitars in the making.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Guitars of all shapes and sizes were on display.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **“Acknowledging the Past. Celebrating the Present. Moving Forward in Unity.”**

By Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

May 7, 2013

April 30 marked an important day for both the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and the Robert Service School. A mid-morning assembly was called to jointly celebrate the installation of the *Statement of Apology to Former Students of Indian Residential Schools, on behalf of the Government of Canada*, which was originally delivered in Parliament on June 11, 2008, in the school. The assembly honoured the community’s former residential school students.

The secondary purpose of the assembly was to celebrate the amount of First Nation teachings and activities that have been incorporated into the classrooms of this school, beginning some 15 years ago with Hän Language classes, and exploding into a variety of cultural events over the last five years.

Thus the title of the assembly: “Acknowledging the Past. Celebrating the Present. Moving Forward in Unity.”

Emcee Glenda Bolt, Manager of the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, introduced TH Elder Angie Joseph Rear, who gave an opening prayer in Hän. Madeleine de Repentigny explained the significance of the circle seating arrangement.

“In the circle there is no beginning and no end. All is equal and balanced... When in the circle you should respect and acknowledge all creation holistically.”

Because some of the subject matter of the assembly held great emotional import for some people, Bolt announced that there were counselors in attendance to offer support if it was needed.

Bolt delivered a brief summary of the history of Residential Schools, a program established by successive governments and run often by the established churches, a program rooted in the belief that the indigenous people on British North America were somehow culturally and racially inferior to the newly arrived European settler culture. The state set out to integrate the local population with the new arrivals by a policy of assimilation, a policy that involved raising aboriginal children in residential schools and depriving them of their parents, language and cultural heritage.

“The children were raised,” Bolt said, “without the support of their families, and they were taught to be ashamed of being First Nations.”

The policy has had long ranging intergenerational consequences that are still being worked on.

Bolt read from a portion of Prime Minister Harper’s speech on the day of the apology.

“To the approximately 80,000 living former students, and all family members and communities, the Government of Canada now recognizes that it was wrong to forcibly remove children from their homes and we apologize for having done this. We now recognize that it was wrong to separate children from rich and vibrant cultures and traditions that it created a void in many lives and communities, and we apologize for having done this. We now recognize that, in separating

children from their families, we undermined the ability of many to adequately parent their own children and sowed the seeds for generations to follow, and we apologize for having done this.”

Roy Johnson was one of the former students who were in attendance in Ottawa when the apology was delivered.

“Every survivor has their own story across Canada,” he told the assembly. “In some places, their language is dying; so I say to you young students, don’t let it.

“At the apology, when the Prime Minister said ‘I apologize’ the people in the audience had tears of joy; there was hooting and hollering and crying, including me. It was something to witness what happened in the Parliament Hall. For 150 years we lived under the suppression of the government and the churches, so the suffering today still continues and the survivors will always remember what happened.”

Johnson was assisted by Leilani Sharp-Chan in unveiling the famed copy of the Apology, which will hang in the front foyer of the school. This is one of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for all schools across the nation.

The emphasis of the assembly shifted as Bolt introduced an 11 minute slide and video produced by the school to show all the ways in which RSS and TH have worked together over the years to bring TH culture into the education of Dawson’s children. These include lessons in native history, field trips onto the land, art activities and special events such as First Hunt, Moose Hunt, First Fish and Spring Camp that teach elements of First Nations culture to all the school’s students.

Georgette Mcleod, TH’s Cultural Education Coordinator, spoke about all these elements and how the last five years have seen a rapid growth in this area of education.

“TH is also now partnering with Yukon Government Education to have the culture camps accredited, to offer credit to high school students to participate in the camps,” she said.

“There has been jointly organized cultural programming such as the Myth and Medium series, the Justice production, and the jigging club. TH staff have made strong efforts to be guest lecturers and classroom support people for the school. TH has been building a library of resources for the school (as well as) curriculum resources to be used throughout the school. One of the ones we’re working on now is for the Känächá scrapbook project.”

This is the group that produced the book *Tr’əhuch’in Nāwtr’udāh’a (Finding Our Way Home)*, a 116-page coffee table sized book of Residential School survivor memories from the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in.

“The Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and the Robert Service School have been working hard together,” McLeod said, “to bring all ages and all cultures together to share.”

Along with the plaque, the school will also now display the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in flag, with its distinctive center crest of moose head, snowshoe and salmon within an open rope and flower circle. It was designed 20 years ago, in 1993, by Jenny Christianson, whose grandchildren now attend the school.

In celebration of the presentation, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Singers sang the "Flag Song" to bring the ceremony to a close.

The event was attended by all the school's students, many of their parents and other members of the community, as well as members of the TH council, Mayor Wayne Potoroka and members of the municipal council and MLA Sandy Silver, formerly a teacher at RSS.

The day continued with a feast held at the TH Community Hall, where entertainment was provided by the Jigging Club performing a number of different dances.



Big Circle – Major events in TH tradition are always celebrated in circle formations.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Angie Joseph Rear delivered the prayers  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The Han Singers mark the arrival of the TH Flag into the school by singing the Flag Song.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Madeleine de Repentigny explained the significance of the circle.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Emcee Glenda Bolt  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Roy Johnson and Leilani Sharp-Chan unveil the Apology Plaque  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Georgette McLeod  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The student from the Jigging Club perform the Handkerchief Dance.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## NEW ADDITIONS

Thanks so much for the copy of Moccasin Telegraph. I enjoyed reading about the Brady boys, Ed and Star Jones. I still have a couple of Al Oster records 33s from about 50 years ago.

I would like to sign up and I would like to get a subscription for my sister Carol [Butterworth], her e-mail is, [proszell@northwestel.net](mailto:proszell@northwestel.net)

Carol and I both live in Whitehorse as well as another sister Joanne. We are from Dawson. My parents were Pretoria and Jack Butterworth. My mother was born in Dawson and my father came to Dawson in 1935. They met at Bear Creek, where they were both employed by YCGC in the 1930's

They were married in Dawson 1938 and had 5 kids. George, Joanne, John, Nancy, and Carol.

My parents ran Butterworth's Store in Dawson from 1942-1977. The store was on 2nd ave across from the Downtown hotel. The old store now owned by Parks Canada "Oak Hall Clothing Store" was Butterworth's Store from 1942-1957. My Dad then built the store on the corner (what is now the Raven's Nook) and that was Butterworth's store till my mother sold it in 1977. My siblings and I were all born in Dawson and grew up in downtown Dawson in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. Over time we all moved away.

I lived in Dawson till 1987 and in Whitehorse since. I worked mainly in the gold mines around Dawson and even after moving to Whitehorse would return to Dawson for the mining season. I retired in 2009 but still go back to Dawson often. From 1964-1966 I worked for YCGC at Bear Creek. Spent some time on #11 dredge and a brief time on #9 dredge. For most of my time there I worked in the gold room. Often saw Pete Brady on Hunker Creek, when we were going around the loop to do a cleanup on one of the dredges.

My dad had 3 brothers, Cec, Roy, and Les. They all worked for YCGC at one time or another. My Dad was the oldest and Les was the youngest. Myrna was married to my uncle Les.

Thanks again

John (JB) Butterworth [jbgoldminer@yahoo.ca](mailto:jbgoldminer@yahoo.ca) (In Whitehorse)

Just wondering if you still have the MT going or not?

David Lee

F.H. Collins Grad Class of '67

Yes I would like to subscribe again.

David Lee [FinalCut@shaw.ca](mailto:FinalCut@shaw.ca)

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Here's to the crazy ones, the ones who see things differently. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because... the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do. - Steve Jobs*

## RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Recipe courtesy Dan & Bonnie (ROMFO) Vars [dvars@shaw.ca](mailto:dvars@shaw.ca) (In Calgary)

Copied from The Star Cook Book compiled by the women of Yukon Chapter No. 1 Order of Eastern Star Dawson, Yukon Territory, 1942.

### Beet Luncheon Salad

1 pkg lemon Jello

1 pint hot water

3 tablespoons vinegar

1 ½ cups diced beets

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon scraped onion

1 ½ cup chopped cabbage

Dissolve the Jello in warm water. Add vinegar salt and onion. Chill until slightly thickened. Fold in the vegetables and chill until firm. Serve on finely shredded cabbage or lettuce.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Summerland Picnic**

The Spring Picnic to be held as usual at the Summerland Ornamental Gardens on Sunday, June, 23rd 11 am to 3pm. People will be arriving about 11am, so if you want a longer visit with friends come early and stay late. We will have the usual fare of a Pot Luck lunch starting at noon. You will need to bring your own cutlery and dishes and food to share, also a beverage. There is water and electricity available. To find your way to the Picnic, come north on Highway 97 from Penticton or south from Summerland. It would be nice to see a few people from the Island and the lower mainland again this year.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)

## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

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