

**MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 387<sup>th</sup> Edition – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

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



Boreal Owl – Feb 2014

Photo courtesy Betty Sutton [bettsutt@gmail.com](mailto:bettsutt@gmail.com) (In Whitehorse)



White Fireweed

I was interested in the latest Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin about fireweed. In the sea of magenta flowers, there can be a light pink variety, and a white kind that has magenta lines in the flower petals. But some of your readers may not know that a rare variety of fireweed flower is totally white. I have been fortunate enough to see the phenomenon three times in my 48 years in the Yukon: once on Bonanza Creek in the late sixties, once on the Dempster Highway when it had just been completed, and the latest was in Inuvik in the commercial campground there a couple years ago. Although I have checked the spots again where it was located, it doesn't apparently reproduce. These photos are from the Inuvik campground.

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



[www.eleanormillard.com](http://www.eleanormillard.com)

## **YUKON NUGGET**

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

## **Moe Grant**

Moe Grant wasn't born in the Yukon, but he arrived with his parents from Saskatchewan in 1929, when he was six months old. The family lived in Carcross and it was here that Moe developed his lifelong love of flying.

From the single-bay garage where he got his first job as a mechanic, Moe watched the busy gravel airstrip from which there seemed an endless parade of airplanes. Moe was hooked. In 1947, the teenager earned his pilot's license.

He flew mostly for fun for the following fifty years. But, in 1950, his flying days nearly ended when he crashed his single-engine plane on an isolated mountain between Atlin and Carcross. Only the determined searching by Herman Peterson saved Moe from certain death.

He survived on the snow-covered mountain for five days before he was rescued. But his feet were frozen and he lost both legs in the ordeal. However, that did not stop him from flying well into his seventies. He didn't officially retire until 2003, when he was inducted as a pioneer aviator into the Yukon Transportation Museum's Hall of Fame.

Moe married wife Cora in 1953 and the couple had two children, George and David.

In 1969, Moe became a partner in the Ford dealership when Rolf Hougen purchased the company from the Northern Commercial Co. He was already managing the car business, then located on Main Street, which was relocated to its current location on Fourth Avenue.

Moe gave much to the Yukon as a musician, and as a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers. He is also fondly remembered for driving his Model "T" Ford in the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous parade.

He was the man with a mandolin and he liked to share the music. In 1975, he began visiting Macaulay Lodge to play for senior residents. Eventually, other musicians joined the group and their performances became a meaningful part of activities at the lodge. Recently, a group of musicians celebrated the 32nd anniversary of the weekly performances begun by Moe Grant.

In 2002, Moe was honoured with the Commissioner's Award "for his tireless dedication to bringing music into the lives of Yukon's senior citizens."

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

## **CANADA'S ARCTIC 1870 - 1970 – POLAR BEAR CHAPTER – ORDER OF ARCTIC ADVENTURERS - CERTIFICATE**

Funny after seeing your last Moctel I had to find this. Now I really feel old.  
Duane "Duet" Hankins [hankinsduane@hotmail.com](mailto:hankinsduane@hotmail.com) (In Calgary)



1870 ..... 1970  
**CANADA'S ARCTIC  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**  
BEAR WITNESS THAT

Ernie Gaudin (May)  
HAVING CROSSED THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

ON April 5 1970

DURING THE CENTENNIAL YEAR  
OF CANADA'S NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

AND IS DULY QUALIFIED FOR  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE EXCLUSIVE

**POLAR BEAR CHAPTER  
ORDER OF ARCTIC ADVENTURERS**



GIVEN UNDER THE HAND AND SEAL OF  
CHIEF ADVENTURER



Stuart M. Hodgson

STUART M. HODGSON  
COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WITNESS He W. Hodgson

**Dawson's new wastewater treatment plant continues to disappoint**

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

December 11, 2013

Dawson's new secondary treatment plant for wastewater is continuing to fail to meet the conditions of the town's water license, at a time of year when the old primary treatment screening was generally sufficient to the task.

Despite continued warnings by regulatory bodies that "dilution is not the solution" it remains true that Dawson City rarely fails to meet its water license requirements in the off season, once the population has shrunk to winter size, most of the hotels have closed, and several thousand visitors are neither flushing toilets, dirtying hotel linens and towels or dumping holding tanks on their recreational vehicles.

Added to that is the fact that Dawsonites must turn on their bleeders in the winter to prevent the sewer and water lines from freezing up. The system installed here by the Yukon government decades ago, and turned over to the town to run, depends on a certain volume of water flow to work properly.

So the December 5 report from Norm Carlson, the town's Superintendent of Public Works, is no surprise to anyone familiar with the system.

"Wastewater is getting weaker in strength now with winter bleeding in effect. Our untreated wastewater is almost meeting the parameter of the water licence so I am expecting the treated, plant discharge to start complying shortly."

Council is concerned that this compliance will not be an accurate reflection of the plant's success or (so far) failure to perform as advertised. The reason is that the plant has so far not been tested with the other source of effluent that is normal for the Klondike region, that being the waste from the education of the many holding tanks that exist outside the area served by the town's piped sewer and water system.

At present this material is being disposed of at a site on the Dempster Highway, a practice which greatly increases the cost per household.

The town was supposed to have the ownership and operating responsibility of the plant downloaded to it last August, but the plant had failed to meet the test of three steady months of trouble free operation, failing water quality tests with monotonous regularity, so that did not happen, and has yet to happen.

Carlson's concern, echoed in the council members' discussion on his report, was that success in January would not be a true test of the plant's operational readiness. Carlson was quite blunt about his thoughts regarding the education issue.

"I am of the opinion that Corix does not want to accept education at the plant now because the higher strength of educated wastewater may upset the treatment process and cause failures which would reset the required 'consecutive, 3 month successful acceptance testing period'."

Each time the plant fails to meet water licence standards another three months are added to the time that Corix has to continue running the plant before it becomes Dawson's property.

Previous discussions at the council table have expressed the opinion that the true test of the plant would be to have it operate trouble free for a year, and especially during the more intense summer period when the population and number of businesses creating effluent is at its highest, and when bleeding is not in effect. This is the period when the town has traditionally failed to meet some of its licence requirements.

City manager Jeff Renaud assured council that he has been in discussions with his counterparts in the Yukon government, and that a policy is being developed to take into account the shortcomings so far experienced at the plant, as well as the fact that Dawson does not possess (and will not for some time, until after the plant has truly succeeded) the trained staff necessary to run the facility. The on-site training depended on having the plant in good operating order. That has yet to happen.



Waste Water Treatment Plant – Dawson hasn't taken ownership of this plant yet – and doesn't want to until it works properly.

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

## **RSS Celebrates the Season in Song and Dance**

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

December 17, 2013

Robert Service School added a bit of video to the mix for this year's edition of its annual Christmas Concert.

Titled "1898 Klondike Christmas" the evening's presentations attempted to cast a look back at how things might have looked in 1898, beginning with "Santa Claus" a one-minute silent film (with piano accompaniment by Principal Ann Moore) that was made in that year.

Grade 1 went Caroling in the Klondike, a multi-media production that began with them live on stage and then had them exit the gymnasium to reappear on the screen on a visit to Macdonald Lodge seniors' home and then back to the school with their outdoor gear on after their field trip.

Grade 2 presented a pantomimed reading of "A Visit from St. Nicholas".

Kindergarten sang "Jingle Bells"

Grade 4 performed a ribbon dance to simulate the Aurora before a Dawson street backdrop.

The Grade 5/6 Intensive French class performed the bilingual "La Magie de Noël".

Grade 3 sang "Santa, Santa" to the tune of "A Bicycle Built for Two."

The Grade 5/6 English class presented a skit called "Chief Isaac's Gift to his People" and then the Jigging Club did a Circle Dance and a Red River Jig.

The High School Theatre Club presented a timeslip play in which one of the members fell asleep in class and dreamed herself back to 1898, waking up later to find that she had brought a few things back with her.

The evening concluded with 'Jingle Bells', sung by all the students in English, French and Hän and, of course, "We Wish you a Merry Christmas".



Grade 3 sang “Santa, Santa” to the tune of “A Bicycle Built for Two.”  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Grade 4 Northern Lights ribbon dance.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The Grade 5/6 Intensive French class performed the bilingual “La Magie de Noël”.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **The Solstice Boat Parade Brightened up Dawson’s Streets**

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

December 22, 2013

Lighted boat parades to help brighten up the Winter Solstice are no an unusual sight in the Northern hemisphere, but when you check out the idea most of them take place on bodies of open water, on lakes and rivers or ocean harbours.

Dawson’s Solstice Boat Parade is a little unusual in that it takes place around the frozen, snow covered streets of the Klondike Capital, often at temperatures well below anything that might be considered at all like boating weather.

This year eight boats decorated with Christmas and winter themes hit the streets, paraded about the town in the freshly falling snow at a mild -18 or so, and attracted a few spectators outside of the 250 or so people who were crowded into the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Community Hall for the annual Christmas Feast.

Apparently some of the participants were throwing candy at the spectators, though it was hard to see the stuff in the dark.

*Most of them ended up later parked* outside of the Westminster Hotel, which was a good place to snap a few pictures after the event. Moving boat trailers in the dark don’t tend to photograph all that well, especially when your own breath is there to fog the lens.



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



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



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



## **Uffish Thoughts: What to do when the ice bridge can't form**

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

December 28, 2013

The sign at the ferry landing at the east bank of the Yukon River in Dawson says “PUBLIC LINEUP WAIT HERE”. This is posted above a STOP sign. Behind both the open water continues to release gray ice fog into the air as the wide channel that begins upstream at just past the RCMP Detachment wends its way down to Moosehide and as far as you can see into the distance.

The *George Black* ferry stopped running on October 29, after several days of heavy ice flow the week before made it seem like the river might close up fairly fast, but it all went away quite quickly, and Hallowe'en saw us looking at a wide open, glassy mirror that was a harbinger of things to come.

The photo was taken on December 28. That expanse of open water has been slowly narrowing ever since late October, but it looks like it will never fill in enough to make an ice bridge in the traditional location this year.

If the public were actually to heed the sign they'd be waiting a long time.



Open water and ice fog mark the place where the ice bridge cannot be formed this winter.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](http://uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

This has happened twice before during my 28 years here, though this year's failure to freeze is probably the most dramatic. A Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elder has been heard to say that he's never seen it quite like this, so I feel safe in calling this unusual.

In a normal year, people were able to begin crossing from point to point at the ferry landing within about a week, sometimes a little less, sometimes a little more. Foot traffic happens first, then snowmobiles and ATVs, light 4x4 trucks and steadily heavier vehicles. Someone with a plough will smooth the trail out enough to permit regular cars. After that, it will be thick enough for the Highways Dept. to take a hand, and they will flood, freeze and shape the original trail into a massive four-lane highway with an ice meridian in the center.

Some time after that I will drive across the bridge a few times just because it's a neat sensation and the town looks different from the other side.

Still, West Dawsonites can only wait just so long before they have to get to town. I spotted my first walkers on November 28, though a West Dawson resident told me he'd been walking and biking for about 14 days by that time.

The route involves a kilometer long trek south from the ferry landing along the thoroughly frozen ice next to the west bank until the traveller is approximately opposite the RCMP detachment. Then there's a diagonal path more or less straight across to a point where the lower dyke path has a bit of a rocky beach in the summer time. Once up on the path the traveller moves south to the upper dyke path access ramp and comes down onto Front Street right across from the little park that is situated between Front and Craig Streets.

Walkers may have gone the other way and walked north to Mary Hanulik Gardens before hitting the street.

When I first walked part of this route on December 10 it was still pretty rough and didn't look at all inviting. A few days later some kind soul had taken a blade to it and smoothed out a lot of the rough spots. I've seen people walking the route and riding bicycles. Every day there are snow machines parked along the Front Street Park by the gazebo and near the Old CIBC building, testimony to other crossings.

Sometimes it's a busy trail. I go down to the ferry landing every day or so just to keep tabs, and on one such day I saw a van driving along the far bank. The driver stopped to talk to someone who was walking the trail in the other direction, and while they were chatting a skidoo passed them heading towards town.

This is more or less the trail that was followed on one of the two previous times when I've seen open water stymie the ice bridge makers. The other alternative was to head north along the east bank and then cut across where it freezes solid above the shallower sand and gravel banks and tack back to the landing on the west side. That doesn't look like it will be possible this year either.

Neither of these alternate roads are really good replacements. They are several times longer than the traditional route and, because they follow the riverbanks for such long stretches, they become unsafe sooner in the spring. It's always the areas along the banks where the ice starts to soften and rot away first.

It will be interesting to see what form break up takes in the spring if there is still that much open water right in front of the town. Will the ice pans break up and surge away, or will they just slowly dissolve? What about the tripod whose movement is used to signal the winner of the IODE ICE Pool? Stay tuned.

## **Dawson gets five blooms from Communities in Bloom**

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

December 30, 2013

It's a little hard to tell in the middle of the winter, but Dawson City has a long history of greening and blooming during its short summer season and has received a number of good reviews during the annual Communities in Bloom judging's over the last decade.

This year was no exception, with the town receiving a Five Bloom rating (82 points and higher) and coming in third place in its category of towns having between 1001 and 2000 residents.

Following their evaluation, volunteer judges Lorna McIlroy and Ted Zarudny recorded the following comments.

“Dawson City in the Yukon Territory is a unique town where civic pride, common objectives and a living history meet to create a community that embraces the spirit that is at the heart of survival in e North.

“Although the growing season is short, the citizens of this little floodplain take full advantage of the long days to grown those plants that thrive in this sub-arctic climate. There are large gardens, tiny ones, raised beds and planter boxes. Garden teeming with vegetables, fruits, herbs and edible flowers are providing fresh fruit for the owners, the food bank and the soup kitchens. Produce from market gardens is also in great demand. The community flourishes and the children, our future gardeners, are being involved.”  
The winning results were announced at the December 30 council meeting.



The Farmers' Market is busy every Saturday during the summer.  
Photos courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Victory Garden is Dawson's oldest public garden.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Front Street Park, with town clock & gazebo.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Getting together and sharing the holidays**

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

January 2, 2014

The pre-Christmas feast at the TH Hall on December 21 was a gathering for the entire community of Dawson, with well over 250 people packed into the room. There was music, good food, dancing and time for the First Nation's community awards.

“This feast is all about getting together and sharing during the holidays,” said Chief Eddie Taylor in his opening remarks. “It reminds us of what's important about our community. We are better together and there's always time to give and share. I'm honoured to be a part of this Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Christmas Feast.”

The meal was a combination of Christmas staples and traditional foods, served buffet style to a line-up that took up three quarters of the perimeter of the hall. During the meal music was provided by the duo of Peter Menzies and Jimmy Roberts, and later Menzies was joined by four young fiddlers from the North Klondike Highway Music Society's fiddle project.

After the meal Deputy Chief Jay Farr and Cultural Education Coordinator Georgette McLeod announced the community awards.

The Volunteer of the Year Award went to Robert Joseph, who was said to be “someone who makes herself available when there's work to be done and is there to help out the Elders. If there is an activity taking place, she gets involved without having to be asked. She gives her all, whether it's fundraising for the Hän Singers, assisting with a funeral, or helping at her church. In the words of one of her nominators, (she) is just ‘there when she's needed.’”

The Elder of the Year was Peggy Kormendy.

“She dedicates time to our youth and our camps no matter what. She goes to great lengths to be part of every on-the-land experience, whether it's to share her knowledge or just have a visit. For many years she has been spreading the message of working with others to better ourselves and our community. She sets a positive path to follow and is one of the great story tellers and joke tellers in our town.”

Ryan Titus was selected as the Youth of the Year.

“He is a good role model with a kind heart and a calm personality. He is steadily growing into a leadership role, especially at the daycare and the Youth Centre. He has taken an active role in fundraising and helped out with the Saturday night MacDonald Lodge bingos. We got a look at this future leader when he presented at our last General Assembly on behalf of the youth and the Youth Centre, and one of his nominators described him as ‘doing his job for the youth’.”

Kevin McLeod was named Employee of the Year.

“He is recognized for his dedication to the government. He’s a great worker and never complains about any task he’s given. No job is too big and no job is too small for this hardworking individual. Most of all, Kevin has been with TH for a good many years, and we are pleased that he has remained loyal to our government. Employees like him are hard to find. His commitment make the TH government better.”

George McLeod was named Citizen of the Year.

“George is being recognized for the work he does for the First Nation and the work he’s done on himself. There isn’t a person in this town who isn’t proud of how this individual has turned over a new leaf. He is a constant reminder of the good we all have in ourselves. He shows us that with hard work everything is possible. This person is an inspiration to us all.”

The evening continued with the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Singers presenting Hän versions of several Christmas hymns and carols and with a display of various dances by the Robert Service School’s jigging club.



Young fiddlers – Members of the North Klondike Highway Music Society entertained.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Roberta Joseph, Volunteer of the Year  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Kevin McLeod, Employee of the Year  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



George McLeod, Citizen of the Year  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Singers caroling.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Musical Festival happy to be a little smaller and calmer**

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

January 3, 2014

There weren't a lot of changes to the 2013 edition of the Dawson City Music Festival, but the most obvious physical one was the relocation of the Beer Garden from the Minto Park dirt infield to the grassed over outfield. Speaking at the DCMF annual general meeting in late November vice-president Jody Beaumont noted that the new site was cleaner and more user friendly, and it seemed to encourage the performers to wander over and mingle with the crowd rather than staying in the hospitality area.

Less obvious was the fact that "we tried to maintain the same level of quality in the performances but bring in less people." That basically meant bringing in smaller groups, with the result that there were 25 fewer performers to have to find billets for as well as reducing the travel costs for the festival.

The board observed that the festival seemed to be calmer this year, and attributed some of that to the competition from the Atlin festival, which apparently drew off some of the visiting crowd that tends to be of the rowdier sort.

Beaumont noted that the festival doesn't mind being slightly smaller. It's been a couple of years since the board decided to concentrate on being better rather than bigger.

"Our numbers had been growing. We hit a tipping point and decided to bring those numbers down," so the board was not dismayed to have sold 200 fewer tickets last summer, and will not be planning to sell out in 2014 either.

Producer Jenna Roebuck echoed a number of those points and added a few more. Last summer the performers who played the Beer Garden had a better open stage. Finding the money to hire two summer staff meant that everything ran much more smoothly. Having the Y2C2 (Yukon Youth Conservation Corps) crew available for the clean-up worked out really well.

Roebuck said that her second festival was plagued with a batch of "bizarre, crazy" snafus prior to the actual event, but that the festival itself was very laid back and calm. Once again the DCMF cooperated with other organizations in town to produce a series of eight non-festival events during the year, including having its ninth songwriter-in-residence during the winter, a film screening and concert with Calypso Rose, the festival opening concert with Wanda Jackson and the Martha Wainwright concert in the fall. Elected at the meeting, the new DCMF Board of Directors consists of John Watt – President; Matt Sarty – Vice-President; Jamie Koski – Treasurer; Allie Winton – Secretary; and Directors Jody Beaumont, Jonna Reaume and Dan Degroot.

The meeting concluded with a review of the new strategic plan for the years 2013-2016, which was prepared for the group by former DCMF producer Dominic Lloyd.



Dawson City Music Festival Board – The 2013 table officers: Matt Sarty, Dan Degroot, Jenna Roebuck (Producer), Jamie Koski, Jody Beaumont (vice-president); Karen Thomas, John Watt.

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

## **LADY ON A PEDESTAL**

Double Crosser - Donna----LADY is stirring up a lot of memories from the emails I've been getting. What fun.

The pilot that signed your certificate ---Harry Burfield was at the impromptu book signing in Calgary last Nov.

Gordon Bartsch [Gordchimo.me.com](http://Gordchimo.me.com) (In Oregon)

Gordon, I have finished reading *Lady on a Pedestal*. Even though I didn't know GNA or CPY that long I found the book an emotional read. The memories I garnered in such a short time was enough to last a lifetime. I'm so glad my former husband worked for GNA and that I was able to be a passenger whenever I wanted. As I finished the chapter describing CPYs last flight and how she was left to the elements I found it difficult to hold back the tears. Thank goodness for Joe Muff taking the reins and purchasing her for \$1.00, saving this incredible lady so everyone can continue to enjoy her as she faces into the wind on her pedestal.

Thank you for filling in the blanks and, especially, thanks for the memories.

Donna Clayson [bdclayson@northwestel.net](mailto:bdclayson@northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)

*Flight: More than anything else the sensation is one of perfect peace mingled with an excitement that strains every nerve to the utmost, if you can conceive of such a combination.*

— Wilbur Wright



Cutlery with GNA Logo

Photo courtesy Donna Clayson [bdclayson@northwestel.net](mailto:bdclayson@northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)



CF-CUC & CF-SKI - GNA Aircraft

Re photo above - I have this pic too. My recall is that Denis Hosking took it. Another GNA DC-3, CF-JWP, is in the background, right centre. For those not familiar, the location is Inuvik, summer 1970. I'm sure it's safe to say Denis wouldn't mind it in MocTel. For interest, these two airplanes and the DC-4, were the only ones with this "new" paint job. - Joe Redmond

This copy of the image was from Dan Bereza to/and shared by Donna Clayson  
[bdclayson\\*northwestel.net](mailto:bdclayson*northwestel.net) (In Whitehorse)



Robert Haudenschild - Robert flew as Line Engineer for three years (1957-1959)  
GNA Aircraft in Whitehorse CF-CPY  
Photo courtesy Robert Haudenschild via Donna Clayson



Gillian & Edward in Whitehorse for  
Sourdough Rendezvous 2014  
Image courtesy Gillian Campbell  
[gillianklondikekate\\*shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate*shaw.ca) (In Burnaby  
BC)



Sarah Drury – Clark, Gillian Campbell, Sibell Hackney  
Image shared by Sibell via Gillian.

## **A Brief History of the Vancouver Yukoners Association (VYA)**

Yukoners who had moved Outside (which meant to the coast, most commonly Vancouver), or were out for the winter, had often met informally. In March 1928 they formed the association, with some help from the Yukon Order of Pioneers (YOOP) which in the early '20's had a group that met regularly.

In the early years there was more social activity, picnics, dinners, and dances. The annual banquet tradition started in 1929. We even had an office in the Castle Hotel which was donated by Maurice DeLeon who had owned hotels in Dawson and had a share in the Castle. We had the office for 29 years. It served as a contact place for Yukoners. During the '30's when many Yukoners fell upon hard times VYA helped out those needing help. In 1950 when St Mary's Hospital funds were contributed to help relocate the hospital.

Membership declined for a few years as members died. During WW2 there were no Banquets but by 1947 the numbers were growing and Vancouver hosted the International Sourdough Reunion; there were 342 people at the Banquet.

Women made the sandwiches for the meetings and were advised that if they wanted to be on the Board they were welcome to form an auxiliary. By 1961 women were on the Board (But I bet they were still making sandwiches).

Through the years some things did not change much. Live music and dancing continued into the late '70's, early '80's as far as Vivien Stuart (Lelievre) and I can remember.

1956 there were no speeches which had presented problems with length. 1959 there was a time limit on speeches. 1960 speakers were informed *in writing* to shorten speeches. 1970 long speeches were banned..... and so it goes.

Now we meet for lunch 4 times a year. Sandwiches are provided. Women are very well represented on the Board. There are still discussions regarding speeches and entertainment.

We continue to support Yukon communities and people. Most recently benches have been placed in Whitehorse and Dawson. A plaque was placed on the Binet building in Mayo. We donated a much needed refrigerator at the Jean C. Barbour Lodge in Vancouver where many Yukoners stay while being treated for cancer. We provide a scholarship for a student in the trades every year.

Our latest donation went to the Yukon Hospital Foundation for the Whitehorse General Hospital. After consultation with Krista Prochazka, president of the Board, 2 wheelchairs seemed to be the best use for the money (which is raised at the silent auction at the reunion). A plaque will be placed in a suitable location. It is hoped that VYA members living in Whitehorse will take part in a photo opportunity when the plaque is installed.

We have started calling our annual event a "reunion" rather than banquet because it more closely defines the event, especially which we now open Friday afternoon. If you are interested in coming to the reunion scroll down to information under the title "DATES TO REMEMBER".

## **Chief Isaac's Chair**

Having recently posted about young Presley, Chief Isaac's great-great-grandson, I got to thinking about his chair. Chief Isaac's chair that is. This unique, hand-made chair was donated to our collection in 2005 by Greg and Shelley Hakonson.



**Greg and Shelley with Chief Isaac's chair.**

This handmade wood chair was part of the assets acquired by Fran and Bill Hakonson when they purchased the Occidental Hotel. It is unclear if it was a chair frequently sat in by Chief Isaac in front of the Occidental Hotel or if it is a chair made by Chief Isaac. If you know the answer to this, please let Sue know. At: <http://heritage.trondek.ca/2014/01/16/whats-in-our-treasure-cache-chief-isaacs-chair/>

Have a close look at the chair and you will note that the sides are made of a single piece of S shaped branch that has been split to form each side.

## **Fortune seekers on Yukon Gold**

### **Drayton Valley family succumbs to allure of the north**

By Ruth Myles, Postmedia News February 24, 2014



**Cam Johnson, a farmer from Drayton Valley, joins the cast of Yukon Gold in the series' second season, premiering Wednesday, Feb. 26 on History.**

Popcorn bowls, Tupperware containers, cereal bowl; you name it; the miners on Yukon Gold use it to store the riches they pull out of the ground.

Janine Johnson is particular to an empty Kraft peanut-butter jar, the plastic kind with the green twist-off lid. On the second episode of the series, she and her husband Cam use it to tote their latest findings into Dawson City to have it weighed.

The gold — which takes up about a quarter of the jar — comes in at just a hair under 70 ounces, netting them a cool \$90,000.

“We use everything to hold our gold, as long as we feel safe. We have it in old tobacco cans, in snuff cans, whatever works,” Cam Johnson says. “You’ll go see the banker in the Dawson and he’ll say, ‘Only you gold miners would walk down the street with \$150,000 worth of gold but not even think about it’.”

The Johnsons are new additions to the cast of Yukon Gold, the highest-rated docu-series on History. The show tracks the efforts of four mines trying to pull money from the

ground, Johnson's among them. The most recent dip in the oil patch caused Johnson to re-evaluate how he was making a living. He was running an oilfield business, in addition to working the family farm in Drayton Valley, about 130 kilometres southwest of Edmonton.

"I had a chance to re-evaluate everything. I talked to my grandfather, and he told me if he had to do it all over, he would be up in the Yukon," Johnson says. "It's always been a dream of mine . . . so I just jumped. I tucked tail and went into gold mining."

That first summer in 2009, Johnson only saw his wife twice. And it wasn't because he was too busy taking his gold to the bank. Instead, he was getting his hands dirty, finding out how the business worked. "I leased my equipment to another fella. I didn't make any money, but I learned lots."

Now he's running two operations on his claim on 10 Mile Creek, a remote site north of Dawson City. He takes a boat 67 kilometres up the Yukon River. Then, it's another 25 km inland to the site. The operation is a family affair, with Janine working alongside Cam and their three children. Brother-in-law Dennis shares in the operation of the wet plant while partner Kevin works with Johnson on a dry plant. It's all in pursuit of that most precious of metals that's caused more than one case of gold fever.

"Oh man, I've seen people shake. It's real when people get it. I've had it. I kind of enjoyed it. When you see that sluice box full of gold, its fun. . . . But it could consume you if you're not careful," Johnson says. "It's like there is reality and emotion trying to get into a tug of war. I want to be excited, but you have all these bills. Should I go buy a Mercedes or should I pay my bills. I should pay my bills."

The earth doesn't give up its riches easily, though. The season is a short one, running from first thaw in June until early October. Johnson says the tendency is to overdo it, with the constant daylight compounding the willingness to work long hours. "You just go until you can't go any more." He figures he loses 20 to 25 pounds a season, working those 16-hour-plus days.

## **OBITUARIES**



**LOCKE, Terence (Terry) Alan**  
February 9, 1939 - February 14, 2014

Born in Whitehorse, Yukon and passed away in Penticton, B.C. It is with regret and sadness that we announce the passing of Terry Locke. Terry lost his battle with cancer at the Moog & Friends Hospice House. He is survived by his three children, Jim, Dean and Meredith; nine grandchildren; brothers Dave and Charlie; and countless extended family and friends. The family takes comfort in knowing Terry has been reunited with his sweetheart Maureen and granddaughter Courtney.

Terry will be remembered for his love of family and friends, his generosity, his years of hard work and his uncanny luck at poker. A service will be held at a later date.

Condolences can be shared in the online guest book at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/vancouver.sun/](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/vancouver.sun/) - See more at: [http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/vancouver.sun/obituary.aspx?n=terence-locke&pid=169788375&eid=sp\\_ommatch#sthash.3bTkAzX6.dpuf](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/vancouver.sun/obituary.aspx?n=terence-locke&pid=169788375&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.3bTkAzX6.dpuf)



**BERUBE, Raymond Anthony**  
February 28, 1931 - January 25, 2014

It is with great sadness and loving memories that the family of Ray Berube (82) announce his passing at Lake Country Lodge, Winfield, on January 25, 2014, after complications from pneumonia and heart failure brought on from his stroke on September 18, 2013. Ray was born in Westmount (Montreal) on February 28, 1931. He is predeceased by his father, Paul (1948) and his mother Helen nee Gates (1981), his brother Gerry and his sister Paula. He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Pat, sons Bob (Margaret), Bill, Mike and daughter Lori, grandchildren Mike, Kurt, Taylor and Brooke, and great-grandchildren Indy, Brody, Landen and Sophie, as well as nieces Donna, Lynn, Suzanne, and Brigitte and various in-laws, friends and neighbours. Ray had a life-long love of aviation. There is almost no part of Canada that Ray didn't have first hand experience with. He lived in almost every province and territory and flew into the rest. He loved the fact that his family came to Canada in the 1600's, a truly proud Canadian. Ray loved animals. If desired, in lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to an animal shelter of your choice. The family would like to especially thank the staff at Lake Country Lodge

for the kindness, care and respect they showed Ray over the last few months. Ray will be cremated and a Celebration of Life will be held at First Memorial Funeral Home, 1211 Sutherland Ave., Kelowna on February 21st , 2014 at 1:00 PM. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com) clicking on stories and typing in Raymond Berube. Arrangements entrusted with First Memorial Funeral Services, Kelowna, 250-762-2299 .

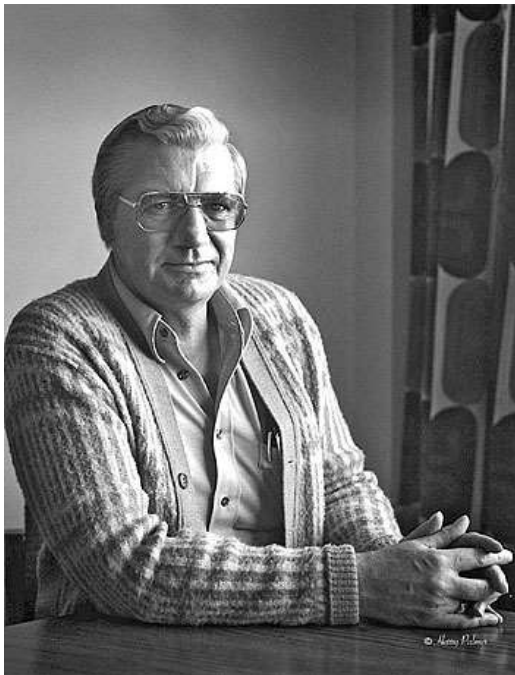
I sent a message to Joe Redmond to ask about Ray Berube's Yukon connection. Here is Joe's reply. Sherron

Ray was base manager for Great Northern Airways, in Inuvik, starting spring 1968. In 1970 he moved to Whitehorse as Northern Operations Manager, for GNA. After the breakup of Great Northern, spring 1971, he was Whitehorse base manager for Northward Airlines, who acquired GNA's DC-3 routes in Yukon/NWT. He left Whitehorse in the early '70's and shortly after started his aviation consulting firm, Avcon, frequently visiting Whitehorse on business.

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

## **First Yukon premier remembered as political pioneer**

by Jacqueline Ronson Friday February 21, 2014, Yukon News



Harry Palmer photo

Yukon's first premier, Chris Pearson, seen here in 1982, died on Feb. 14. He was 82.

Chris Pearson, 82, will be remembered as a pioneer of Yukon politics and a mentor to many.

Originally from Alberta, Pearson moved to Yukon in 1957, where he worked for the government and dedicated himself to volunteer work with the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce as well as various boards and sports organizations.

He was elected in 1978 as Yukon's majority leader with the Yukon Territorial Progressive Conservative Party.

But at the time ultimate power lay not with the elected territorial officials but with a federally appointed commissioner.

In 1979, Pearson famously asked then Indian Affairs Minister Jake Epp to implement responsible government, meaning a fully elected executive committee responsible for all aspects of the administration.

The resulting letter penned to Commissioner Ione Christensen, the Epp Letter, changed the face of Yukon politics forever.

It also allowed Pearson to assume the title of premier, the first to do so in Yukon's history.

"He was really a pioneer for Yukon in terms of getting us to evolve from where we were as a sort of colony, as a territory of the federal government, and got us on the path towards really the success that we have today," said Premier Darrell Pasloski in an interview this week.

Christensen remembers Pearson coming to her when she was the mayor of Whitehorse, looking for advice as to whether or not he should get involved in politics, she said.

"I thought it was a good idea, because he was very involved in community things."

The advice must have been good, as many now remember Pearson as a great political teacher.

Jim Smith, who served as commissioner from 1966 to 1976, said that he learned much about bureaucracy from Pearson.

"He became my mentor on the movement of paperwork and the function of government and how the thing operated. And he carried on in that capacity for a long time, and it was very helpful to me."

David Morrison, president of Yukon Energy, credits both Pearson and Smith for being mentors to a young generation of Yukoners, which included himself.

Morrison started working for Pearson at about age 20, when Pearson was a secretary to the legislature, he said.

“There were a number of us, all young Yukon kids, who had finished high school and were in the middle of our university days who all worked for Chris when Jim Smith was the commissioner,” said Morrison.

“He never treated us like we were young kids, even though we were in those days. He treated us like valuable employees.”

Pearson’s political contributions to the Yukon were pivotal, he said.

“The work that Chris and Jim Smith and others did to lay the foundation for what we have as a modern-day government - I don’t think people could really describe its total impact or how profound the work was.

“What I know today, and how I do my job today, I give Chris a lot of the credit for that.”

Gordon Steele, long-time principal secretary for the Yukon Party, worked with Pearson in many capacities over the years, he said.

“He was a great leader, really dedicated to Yukon. We’re lucky and fortunate to have a leader at that time, in that transitional period from the consensus-style government to the political party system.”

Pearson served as premier until he left Yukon politics in 1985. He ended his career as a diplomat, serving in the Canadian Consulate in Dallas, Texas.

At the time of his death he lived in Calytor Lake, Virginia, with his second wife, Nelda Pearson.

Yukon’s flags are at half-mast in Pearson’s honour.

Contact Jacqueline Ronson at [jronson\\*yukon-news.com](mailto:jronson@yukon-news.com)

**Note: Joann Robertson’s book - The Yukon: Life Between the Gold Rush and the Alaska Highway is now available as a Kindle ebook.**

Joann (Stevenson) Robertson [yukonbook.robertson@gmail.com](mailto:yukonbook.robertson@gmail.com) (In Vancouver)

## **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*Happiness is the cheapest thing in the world when we buy it for someone else. ~Paul Fleming*

## **RECIPE OF THE WEEK**

### **SWEET HAWAIIAN CROCK POT CHICKEN**

2 lbs chicken tenderloin chunks- Have used both boneless and bone in "thighs"  
1 C. Pineapple juice ( I use one small can of crushed pineapple)  
1/2 c. brown sugar  
1/3 c. soy sauce

Combine all. Cook on low 6-8 hours

Serve with rice.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Vancouver Yukoners' Association 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**  
Banquet – Saturday, April 12, 2014

River Rock Casino/Resort Whistler Ballroom  
8811 River Rd. Richmond BC  
Free Parking in Casino Parkade  
Hotel Reservations 604-247-8900 or toll free 1-866-748-3718  
Ask for Yukoners Rate

**FOR GROUP SEATING RESERVATIONS FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON WEB PAGE AT**  
[www.vancouver-yukoners.com](http://www.vancouver-yukoners.com)

Hospitality Room open Friday from 4 pm and Saturday from noon. Pick up tickets then  
Banquet Reception No Host Bar 5 pm – 6 pm – Welcome followed by Dinner 6:15 pm

For tickets contact Vivian Stuart at [lornellis@shaw.ca](mailto:lornellis@shaw.ca)  
#217 – 3255 Cook St, Victoria BC V8X 1A4 250-383-1349

Tickets are \$58.00 payable in advance. Tickets will be available for pickup on Friday  
and Saturday

## **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)

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