

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 389th Edition – April 13th, 2014

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



Whitehorse 1958

Courtesy Alistair McGregor mmac1952@telus.net (In Vernon)

Sent this image to Harry Miller and received these comments:

This fantastic bright sunny Yukon day photo was taken on the corner of Second and Main Street. Note the banners, must be getting ready for May Day. Hard to believe the streets were so dirty and didn't have proper crush gravel on them, how soon we forget. Even though some of the cars are muddy they are very colourful, something you don't see today.

I remember the giant mud puddles and lakes that would develop in the spring when the snow melted. They were so big us kids would make rafts and float on them. Whitehorse didn't have any storm sewer set up at the time. The streets would get so full of potholes you could hardly drive on them. This must have been a good day as it looks like they were freshly bladed.

The two blue and white 1958 Ford cars that are on the extreme left, just the rear of them, would be from Inn Cabs, Yellow Cabs moved in later on in years. The Inn Cafe and restaurant was the place to go, food was good and they were always busy. I remember the roof at the Taylor and Drury Store. I stood under it when the Edgewater Hotel, old White Pass Hotel, burned to the ground on Christmas Day. It was so hot you could hardly stand where the Burns Building is. The White Pass Station was in her glory and the crane that was used to load the boats with freight for Dawson. I'm not absolutely sure but I think Rexall Drugs burned down in that fire and then moved to the old Bank of Commerce building on the corner of Second and Main only to have it burn down a few years later. The TD Bank is there now. The Capital Hotel was just across the alley from the White Pass Hotel, a favourite spot to go for a quiet drink after work for many people back in the day. You can also make out the Yukon Electric Office where you went to pay your light bill.

I compared a picture of Whitehorse today via internet and you know it had much more character back then than today.

Harry Miller ee.miller@shaw.ca (In Coombs BC)

P.S. I am going to send you a couple pictures of Whitehorse in the early and late 40's along with a story published by the Whitehorse Star. It is interesting reading as I remember a lot of what they are saying in the story. We moved to Whitehorse from Carmacks in 1953, just when the new Federal Building on Main Street was built. We lived on the corner of 3rd and Wood, where the new Court house is now.



Looking west up Main Street in Whitehorse. Some of the buildings visible are the Whitehorse Inn, Burns and Co. Ltd. Butchers and Taylor and Drury. Date: ca. 1940.
Yukon Archives. Claude & Mary Tidd fonds, #8275.



WHITEHORSE DURING THE 1940'S - The Bank of Commerce is to the immediate left. The three story white building is the Whitehorse Inn. The White Pass train depot is at the end of the street, with the Whitehorse Theatre to the immediate right. U.S. National Archives & Records Coll./Yukon Archives

A Stroll Around Whitehorse

By Horace E. Moore Star Editor 1937 - 1950

Having enjoyed all the comforts of home and congenial surroundings at the Whitehorse Inn, a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast at the Inn Cafe, let's spend the morning visiting the stores and business houses in town, become acquainted at first-hand with the townspeople and visit the points of interest, bearing in mind that this article is offered as a substitute for a personally conducted tour of the town.

We first visit the local branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce of which Mr. A. E. Hardy is the manager. It was here that Robert Service was employed as a teller and where he wrote his first poems and "Trail of '98", which were to bring him both fame and fortune.

During the construction of the Alaska Highway, when anywhere between 30,000 and 50,000 U.S. personnel "moved in" to carry out one of the greatest engineering feats of modern times, the bank premises were extended and a largely augmented staff worked all hours of the day and night to meet the situation.

A portion of the premises on Main Street are now used by Mr. W. E. Emery, the mining recorder for this southern section of the Territory.

Next door is the Yukon Taxi where, if you care to drop in, you may meet Mr. Clyde Wann who operated the first commercial air service in the Yukon.

Next in line traveling Westward, is located the Whitehorse Star which from the same location has been serving the community for the past 47 years.

The Fashion Shoppe is near by where Mrs. Burke operates a thriving business in serving the needs of the community.

The ball park, between Third and Fourth Avenue, has been the favourite stomping ground for all sports events for many years past.

There also stood at one time, the old community hall operated by the North Star Athletic Association; a veritable landmark if ever there was one. Unfortunately, this edifice was destroyed by fire a few years ago, whilst occupied by the U. S. Army for hospital purposes.

The old curling rink is the only portion now standing and its days are now numbered. In the near future, a new federal building is to be erected on the ball park to house a new post office, customs department and other federal offices at present located in various parts of the town.

On the west end of the ball park is Fourth Avenue. Turning northwards a couple of blocks, you come to Sacred Heart Church of which Father J.L. Caron is Rector.

Retracing your steps to Main Street and then proceeding southward along Fourth Avenue, you will observe the Hi-Way Cafe at the junction of Fourth and Main and the up-to-date Whitehorse Meat Market, which was opened a short time ago.

A little further on you come to the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, of which Inspector Howard Cronkhite is the officer commanding. (The town detachment is located on First Avenue).

A few blocks further on is located the Staff House of Canadian Pacific Air Lines Ltd. (C.P.A.) and another block further southward, the headquarters of the Northwest Highway System, Brig. General Geoffrey Walsh, C.B.E., D.S.O., Commanding Officer.

Retracing your steps toward and one block before reaching Main Street, is Elliott Street. Proceeding down it you come first to the Parish Hall, where many community functions are held, and then The Old Log Church and rectory of which Rev. Canon L.G. Chappell, L.Th. is the Rector. At one time Robert Service was Clerk to the Vestry during his sojourn in Whitehorse.

During the tourist season the Rector delivers a very interesting, illustrated lecture on the Yukon in the Parish Hall.

Opposite the church stands Sam McGee's Cabin of which the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.) is in charge.

Walking eastward for half a block we arrive at Third Avenue. Turning to the left one block we arrive back on Main Street with the Capitol Theatre on the corner and the ball park facing northwards.

Keeping on the south side of Main, walking toward Second Avenue, we drop in at the Whitehorse Jewellery Store, where Mrs. Besner will be glad to do the honors and show you some Yukon nuggets which her husband and associates are securing from their claims not far from Whitehorse.

You should then drop in at the Yukon Fur Shop and have a chat with Mrs. Hingle, a real old-timer in the North, or her daughter, Mrs. Gertsen.

At the corner of Main and Second Avenue stands the W.H. Theatre, the first movie theatre erected in Whitehorse. It is closed for the present as the owner, Mr. Sam McLimon, is operating the Capitol Theatre at the corner of Main and Third Avenue.

Adjoining the W.H. Theatre on Second Avenue is the Cake Box, an up-to-date bakery and confectionery establishment owned and operated by Mr. E. F. (Ted) Pinchin.

On the vacant lot to the south once stood the first hospital in Whitehorse, which was in later years used as a public library until it was razed to the ground by personnel of the U. S. Army, who at the time were using the rear part of the premises.

On the opposite side of the street stands the largest and most modern garage in town, owned and operated by Richards Transportation.

The neat little office nearby is occupied by Mr. Harry I. Hoddart, a dealer in made-to-measure clothing.

As you stand at the corner of Main and Second Avenue, looking southward the two large imposing buildings right ahead are the General Hospital and Nurses' Home.

By the time you have covered the ground thus far it will be lunch-time so we'll leave you at the Whitehorse Inn and call for you again after lunch to show you the rest of the town.

Having "refreshed the inner man," and the ladies having fixed their "Hairdo," let's start out and take in the downtown section of the commercial metropolis of the Yukon.

On the south side of Main, right opposite the Whitehorse Inn, is the Blue Owl Cafe, a favourite rendezvous for many, where the topics of the day are discussed and local gossip is sometimes indulged in.

Adjoining is the Yukon Ivory Shop where Mr. Jack Elliott, a former chief engineer on the river steamers for many years, now operates a high-class store and spends much of his time carving mastodon ivory which is the delight of tourists to the Yukon.

Next door is the modern downtown office of Pan-America World Airways (P.A.A.), where you can make reservations through Mary Gunn, in charge, for Fairbanks, Alaska; Seattle, Washington; Mexico, Hawaii or anywhere else you choose to designate.

You might also meet Ken Wilson, Keith Johnson, Jimmy Norrington or some other members of the staff whilst securing information. In the windows you will see on display for the benefit of all and sundry, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the same day it is published in Seattle.

Proceeding toward the W.P.&Y.R. depot, you can call in and make an appointment at Laura's Beauty Salon or have a shave or haircut at Pete's Barber Shop.

Then comes The Yukon Jewellery and Novelty Shop operated by Mr. R. Gordon Lee, who is the Councillor for this southern end of the Territory. He is conversant with mining in the Mayo district, where he resided for some years before coming to Whitehorse.

On the opposite side of the lane is Hougen's Variety Store, where Mrs. Hougen will be at your service.

The White Pass Hotel, an old landmark, owned and operated by Mr. Viaux, occupies the remainder of the block to First Avenue (often called Front Street).

Turning to the right you next come to the Whitehorse Pharmacy, where Mr. Stewart Macpherson dispenses prescriptions and deals in all sorts of merchandise familiar in all drugstores.

Mr. D.B. Ryan operates the electric shop adjoining and is kept busy taking care of the electrical needs of the community.

Still further along is Seely's Pool Room and then the Post Office on the south corner of Elliott Street and First Avenue.

The plant of the Yukon Electric Co. Ltd., which services the town, the fire hall (Stan. Dunbrack, Fire Chief) and the W.P.&Y.R. depot occupy the east side of First Avenue.

Crossing to Main Street, just below the Whitehorse Inn Cafe, is Burns & Co. Ltd., who for many years past have been the meat merchants, not only for Whitehorse but also throughout the Territory. Mr. T.C. Richards, one of the town's most prominent citizens is the territorial Manager and Mr. H.G. Armstrong the local Manager.

Then we come to the two largest department stores in town which occupy a whole block on First Street. These are Messrs. Taylor & Drury Ltd. and the northern Commercial Co. Ltd. These two largest stores are on a parity with those of larger centres.

Visitors on first entering them are amazed at the floor space each occupies and the large variety and quantity of merchandise carried. They are in reality the nerve centres for merchandising throughout the territory, conducting a very large volume of business the year round.

Messrs. Taylor & Drury Ltd. operate several trading posts in strategic places throughout the territory and have done so since the early days, whilst The Northern Commercial Co. Ltd., with headquarters in Seattle, Washington, not only have a large store in Dawson, Y.T. and another in Mayo, Y.T., but also have a network of stores throughout Alaska.

In the next block, northward, are located the downtown detachment of the R.C.M.P. and the Dominion Telegraph Office in charge of Mr. J. Bruce Watson whose parents came over the Chilkoot Pass in '98. Mr. Watson was born and raised here and is one of the best informed on the history of this town and the southern end of the territory.

At the corner of the next block stands the Regina Hotel owned and operated by Mr. O.F. Erickson.

This hotel is also a landmark and has been in the possession of Mr. Erickson for many years now. It is the rendezvous for many of the old-timers on their way into the Territory of going outside.

Mr. Lortie operates the Yukon Tire Shop in premises adjacent to the Regina Hotel and is kept busy all the time. Next door is Jack Lewell's store which is unique in more ways than one. You should certainly drop in and have a chat with him for he is another old-timer. However, the transformation of recent years has not deterred him for carrying on his business in the same old way he has done all these years. Beyond are the shipyards of the British Yukon Navigation Co.

Ltd. (B.Y.N. Co.) a subsidiary of the W.P.&Y.R. Here the river steamers are hauled up on the ways for the long winter and, in the summer time, kept in repair and overhauled. It is a great institution and if the old boats, which now stand as silent sentinels of the days gone by, could only speak, what a story they could unfold!

Before we return to the Whitehorse Inn, we should perhaps retrieve our steps to the office of the local government agent and the liquor store. If you don't wish to make a purchase at this time, it is at least well to know where to go and when to get it.

Having escorted you on this tour around town, we now leave you to your own resources. We trust you have had an enjoyable time and we are pleased to have had this opportunity of being of some service to you.

You can find more articles like this on www.whitehorsestar.com click on "News History "

Alex VanBibber turned 98 Friday April 4th, 2014.

Happy Birthday was wished to Alex at the 98 when he turned 98. Congratulations Alex.

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

Pierre Berton

In the tiny clapboard hospital in downtown Whitehorse, on July 12, 1920, a future Canadian icon came into the world. His mother, the now-famous Yukon school teacher, Laura Berton, delivered a healthy eight-pound boy and named him Pierre.

His childhood years were spent roaming the dilapidated streets and alleys of Dawson, where memories of the explosive Klondike Gold Rush still lingered like a fresh, though fading, flower.

He unknowingly soaked up the atmosphere of this defining moment in Canadian history. His teen years were spent working the diggings on Dominion Creek, where the mere sight of legendary Klondike gold would inspire his first and most important book of Canadian history.

Klondike - published in 1958 - was his first epic volume and would remain, until his death on November 20, 2004, at age 84, the most significant in a series of fifty important historical volumes.

The Berton family moved to Vancouver when Pierre was old enough to attend the University of British Columbia. He was a moderate scholar and said later he went to university only because they had a campus newspaper.



Pierre Berton, right, at the 1962 Dawson City Festival seen here talking to the Minister of Northern Development, Walter Dinsdale.

He became editor of that paper - The Ubbessy - and began a journalistic career which would lead to the editor's desk of the prestigious McLean's magazine in 1947, at the tender age of 27.

Moving to Ontario, he wrote a daily 1500-word column for the Toronto Star for four long years. His enterprising Star stories formed the basis of his coming books including the Comfortable Pew, a tome attacking the Anglican Church, and the Smug Minority in 1968, which railed against the cronyism between politics and big business. It gained him

few friends on Bay Street, but many readers outside the corporate headquarters in Toronto.

In the 1970s, he continued work as a popular historian. The building of the CPR was told in the National Dream in 1970 and the Last Spike the following year. His wonderful tome, Hollywood's Canada in 1975 examines the way American films misrepresent Canada. The Dionne Years, published in 1977, showed he was versatile enough to write a real social history of the country.

He chronicled the country's early-day troubles with the United States in The Invasion of Canada in 1980 and Flames Across the Border, written in 1981.

Drifting Home, written in 1973, is an unexpected autobiography in the form of an account of a northern rafting trip with his family. It was during his publicity tour for this book that I met Berton for the first time in Montreal.

I was moderately in awe since he was not only by now a radio, television and book-writing icon, but a huge man whose size dwarfed mine. He barely fit in the front seat of my aging Chevelle as I drove him, in a torrential downpour, to his next studio interview.

During the 1980s, Berton continued writing popular history, with The Promised Land in 1984, a history of the settling of the Canadian West, and Vimy, an examination of the WW I battle in which tough Canadian troops took VIMY RIDGE in April, 1917.

His lasting contributions to the Yukon are many. Though often thought of as pompous - even unconcerned about the average person - his commitment to Berton House, for writers in Dawson, and his constant references to the Yukon, in almost every public setting, show that the man truly did care about his home and native land.

And for those who were certain he lacked any sense of humour, his final public appearance on CBC Television, teaching Canadians how to properly roll a joint of weed, should dispel that myth.

Pierre Berton, a Yukon and Canadian Idol had kept the good name of his birthplace in the public spotlight. For that alone, in the Yukon, he will be sorely missed.

YUKON TERRITORY 2014-15 BUDGET - WHITEHORSE MARCH 2014

PAUL TUCKER: Yukon government is spending big bucks to boost business this year. The 2014-15 Budget was announced yesterday to open the spring sitting of the Yukon legislative assembly.

Premier Darrell Pasloski says the \$1.3 billion budget is the biggest ever presented and

includes nearly \$300 million for transportation, telecommunications and energy infrastructure. Pasloski says the money is being spent at a critical time in the territory.

PREMIER PASLOSKI: Mr. Speaker, there was a reason that this is the largest capital budget in Yukon's history. At a time when the private sector is facing economic challenges this is the time for the Yukon government to step up to the plate and invest in infrastructure that will facilitate and stimulate the private sector.

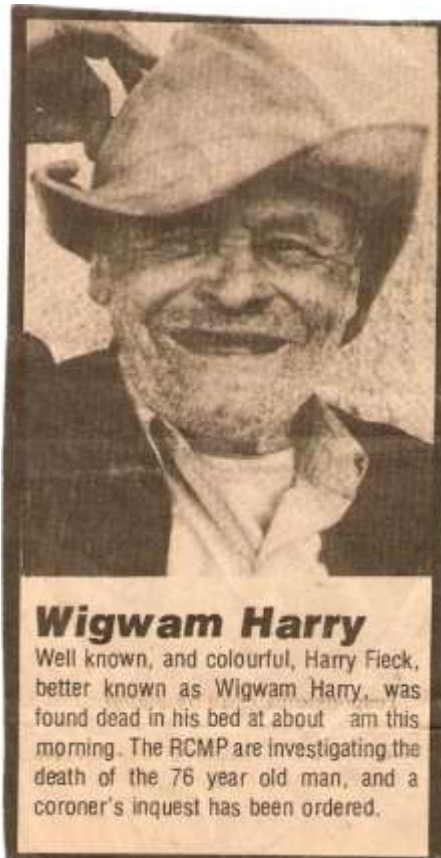
TUCKER: Other capital projects include the FH Collins Secondary School in Whitehorse and new affordable housing units. The government projects a surplus of around \$70 million over the next 3 years.

Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous' Queen 2014



My name is Elizabeth Foubister and I was born in Watson Lake 31 years ago. I don't have any real children but I do have four lovely fur babies; my uniquely mixed dog sled team, with two Boston terriers in the lead and a mixed husky and Rottweiler bringing up the rear. I currently live in Dawson City and work as the Bylaw Officer, or as I am more commonly called by people, "the dog catcher."

Maroesja VanOveran sent along the following clip of Wigwam Harry, which led me to search out the other two items of information about Harry. - Sherron



Birth: 1900

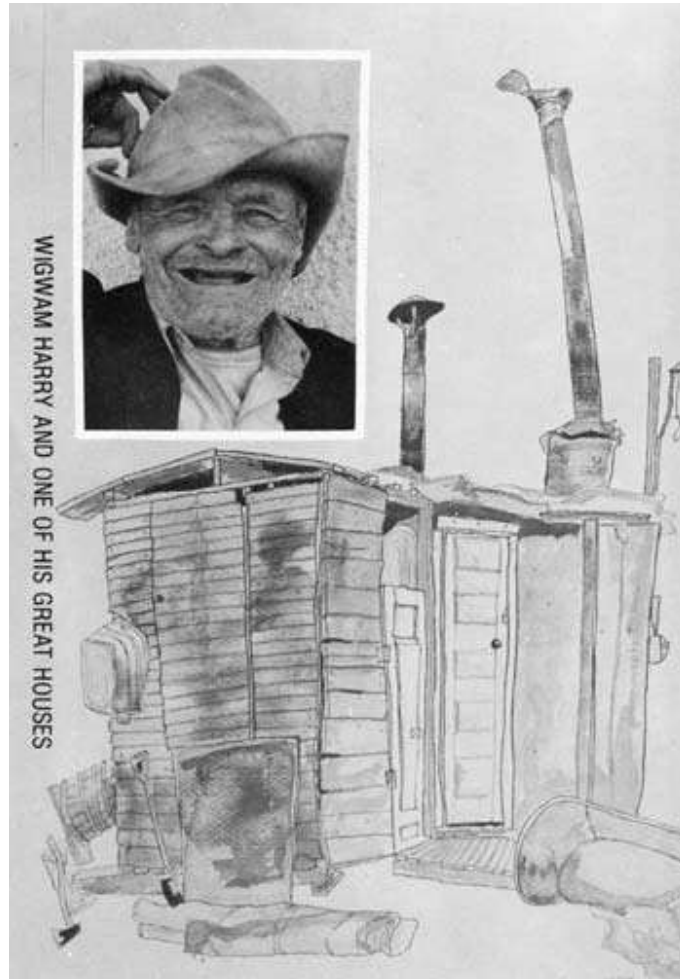
Death: 1977

Inscription:

This old timer was unique. It's not the same in Whitehorse without "Wigwam Harry" Fieck

Note: interment date 10/7/1977

Burial: Grey Mountain Cemetery, Whitehorse



One of the Yukon's "colourful 5%", Harry "Wigwam" Fieck arrived in the Yukon in 1942 to work on the highway as an employee of the U.S. Army. The drawing and photograph on the postcard are by Jim Robb, a Yukon artist whose efforts to document longtime Yukoners earned him an appointment to the Order of Canada. Yukon Archives. Post Card collection, 82/427 #44, PHO 58.

Hi Sherron:

Here is a picture & write up of 'A CAR COMPLETELY COVERED IN PENNIES' that I sent to my brother (who lives in Cawston, BC) who renews old cars to a thing of beauty. He didn't do this one, but I made an enlargement for him with the write-up attached to the back of it.

I am sure he will love it.

It is something I got off of google, or one of my friends or relatives sent it to me to show my brother. My brother does have a computer.

RUSTY REID rustyreid.yukon@gmail.com (In Penticton)

A 1949 Cadillac completely covered with 38,295 pennies.

The 'Pennies' were adhered by someone using a silicone glue. They added over 200 pounds to the overall weight and the project took 6 weeks.

All the pennies are American, and include an 1817 "Big Cent", two Error pennies and four 1943 Steel Pennies.

It looks awesome!

They say that pennies are not worth much anymore?

I wonder just how much their insurance went up.

I wonder if they had to re-register the car.



1949 CADILLAC COMPLETELY COVERED IN PENNIES

Celebrating the Great 88 in the Ballroom

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

February 1, 2014

The exact history of the Bechstein piano that currently resides in the Odd Fellows Hall's ballroom is not clear. It's not true, for instance, that it was moved to its present home by helicopter, though how they got it up those back stairs to the second floor would probably be a story in itself.

Barnacle Bob Hilliard believes that the grand piano's 145-year history encompasses several gold rushes.

"I believe this piano has gone through every gold rush in the North, beginning in Juno, and that it belonged to Joe Ladue and finally wound up here," he told the audience at the recent concert in the ballroom.

The Great 88: a Concert of Piano Music was organized by the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture, which currently has the care and keeping of the Bechstein, though it is actually owned by Parks Canada.

This, emcee Peter Menzies, reminded the audience, leads to the interesting scenario where players who have volunteered their time and talents at KIAC's monthly coffee houses may in fact end up playing the 1869 vintage instrument, something that can't be said about too many small town coffee houses.

As History Hunter Michael Gates (who used to have the care and feeding of the piano at Parks) has indicated in his regular column, the piano used to live in the Arctic Brotherhood Hall (now Diamond Tooth Gerties) and has been repaired and restored a number of times since Parks acquired it in the early 1970s.

The evening was a fundraiser for the piano's upkeep it raised between \$700 and \$800.

It was also a CD launch party for Barnacle Bob, who had two albums ready to go, one containing the honky-tonk bar tunes for which he is known around town, and the other a collection of original tunes and improvisations.

Three other players opened the show.

Angela Van Nostrand contributed Etude in C Minor by Henri Bertini; Waltz in Aflat by Johannes Brahms; and Georgia on My Mind by Stuart Gorrell and Hoagy Carmicheal.

Fred Osson, better known for his saxophone playing, was next to the keyboard with Nocturne No. 2 by Chopin.

Tiss Clark closed this portion of the show with Rhapsody Op. 79, No. 2 by Johannes

Brahms.

Those performances ate up just under 30 minutes of the evening. The remaining hour and a bit was all Barnacle, as he ran through samples of his repertoire, including material from the CDs and other things that just came to mind, including his totally non-piano rendition of Stan Rogers' "Northwest Passage", with appropriate chorus harmonies from certain folk in the audience.



Angela Van Nostrand

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



Barnacle Bob Hilliard

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



Fred Osson

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



Tiss Clark

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

Dawsonites consider what Tr'ondëk-Klondike means to them

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

February 10, 2014

What does the notion of Tr'ondëk-Klondike mean to you?

That was the question posed during the February 6 evening assembled by the committee formed to discuss promoting World heritage Status for the region.

The Odd Fellows Hall was host to nine slide/talk presentations and about an hour of light jazz stylings.

Barnacle Bob Hilliard on the Bechstein Piano and Jesse Cooke on drums provided the music during the opening half hour of the evening and were the soundtrack for singers Sandra Hall, Tiss Clark and Lue Maxwell during the half-time intermission.

The purpose of the evening was spelled out by co-hosts Paula Hassard, the World Heritage Project Manager for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and Trina Buhler, a member of the Outstanding Universal Value Working Group subcommittee.

Hassard described the evening as a Dawson-style TED Talk.

“This is to increase awareness about the World Heritage Project. The purpose (of this project) is to explore what UNESCO designation might mean for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

and for Dawson. (The discussion) is still in progress, but it's looking pretty positive so far."

Aside from potential economic benefits, Hassard felt that one of the major benefits would be bringing "recognition and respect for the shared story that we have here in a living community today and tell that to the world at an international level."

To qualify a case must be made that the region has something called "outstanding universal value". In order to encourage the local discussion along these lines, Hassard and Buhler organized this evening to give some locals a chance to talk about what they think makes the Klondike special.

With one exception the presenters has twenty slides to show with time limit of twenty second per slide to talk, making each presentation a bit over six and a half minutes.

Kylie Van Every and Kim Joseph gave a shortened version of the talks they give at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre. They called it "Tr'ondëk Means the River".



Lulu Keating

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

Filmmaker Lulu Keating spoke of "A Newcomer's Gradual Awareness", to some extent the story she uses to tell people in her home province of Nova Scotia why she has chosen to settle here and continue her career from this base.



Jen Laliberté

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

Jen Laliberté, a sometime instructor at the Yukon School of Visual Arts and a new mom, talked about “Maps. Borders and Boundaries” and how often the things that are on paper fail to deal with the actual terrain and history.

Karen MacKay, who splits her life between Dawson winters and Ottawa summers, spoke about her forays “Off the Beaten Path: Trails and Cabins” in a humorous dissertation on the options open to house hunters here.

Peggy Kormendy and Debbie Nagano spoke as a mother-daughter pair. “A Peek at Our Trapping Life with Q&A” had them talking about life out in the bush as they have known it over several generations. Theirs was the longest piece of the evening.



Molly MacDonald

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

After the intermission Molly MacDonald, who worked until last summer at the Dawson City Museum, spoke about “A View from Outside” and all the ways the Klondike myth has been developed, propagated, mined and mangled by Outside interests, including the recent Discovery Channel mini-series which did such a disservice to history and reality.



Veronica Verkley

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

Veronica Verkley, a YSOVA instructor, artist and filmmaker, provided a comical look at somewhat the same subject, but from a different angle.



Paula Hassard and Trina Buhler organized this TED Talk style evening.

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

Trina Buhler, an expediter, architectural consultant, and former Parks Canada employee, tackled a sometimes-contentious subject: “Why Preserve Buildings ... in Dawson”. Some reasons include history, conservation, charm, jobs, identity, integrity and, strangely enough, energy efficiency.



David Neufeld

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

Historian David Neufeld wrapped up the presentations with his look at “A Century of Conversation between Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and locals’, during which he outlined some of the narratives that have been used to explain the region and hinted at the one that has been developing in more recent years.

There were about 50 people at the meeting and, unlike many gatherings; this one had a mix of TH and other locals.

Tom Byrne reaches his 90th milestone

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

Feb 13, 2014

Tom Byrne, known for nearly 30 years as the voice of Robert Service at the little cabin on 8th Avenue, and later on Front Street and at the Westmark Hotel, celebrated his 90th birthday on January 10 in Robert Creek, B.C. on the Sunshine Coast, north of Vancouver.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Byrne came to Canada with his family in 1956 and moved North in the early 1970s when he was hired to work for the NWT’s Housing Corporation in Inuvik. There is some traffic between there and Dawson City, and Tom, who had started an amateur theatre troop in his new home, brought the group to the Klondike’s Break-up Drama Festival in 1979.

While in town he recited a bit of Robert Service and was asked if he would consider reciting regularly at the cabin during the summer seasons. “The Robert Service Show”, as it became known, ran at the cabin for the next 28 years, with one season’s absence to

stage it in Vancouver during Expo 86.

Byrne acquired a cabin in the North End of town and spent his summers and parts of some winters here for many years. In the off-season it became his stock in trade to take the words of his favorite poet on tour to schools all over the lower mainland.

During his time in Dawson his performance became nearly as well known as the poet he had set out to honour, and spread through the creation of audio and videotapes. He became a national figure of sorts, and was featured on Wayne Rostad's "On the Road Again" in 1998.

In 1999 he severed his relationship with Parks Canada over a contract dispute and moved his show, first to a storefront on Front Street and later, by request, into the Westmark Hotel. The initial move made the national news and was featured as an article in the monthly Saturday Night magazine.

By 2004 the breach had healed and Byrne was presented with a memorial Jim Robb print of the cabin by Parks Canada in a ceremony at the place where he had held forth for so many years.

His daughter, Christine Byrne, who has been living with him for the last three years, says that Tom is in fair health for a man his age. A life-long asthmatic, he has lung problems caused by his 85 years of battling for proper breath, but he takes a long walk every day.

There were two birthday celebrations, one on the 10th and another the next weekend. There are about forty people in Byrne's extended family, including the recent addition of a great-granddaughter a week or so prior to his own birthday.

Though he hasn't done a regular show for about five years now Byrne still recites Service at the drop of a hat and his daughter says he still has the verses by heart.

Christine Byrne says that she and her dad would like to plan a trip to Dawson this coming summer, to touch bases with old haunts and friends and perhaps to do something about selling Byrne's cabin, which has been unoccupied for a number of years now.



Tom Byrne on Front Street in 1999.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Parks Canada's Rose Margeson presents Tom with a print in 2004.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Tom Byrne in rocker at Robert Service's Cabin in 2004.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The glacier closes the road to the Dome again

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

February 13, 2014

It's that time of year again, when folks who live at the top of Mary MacLeod Road will have to take the long way around via the Dome Road to access their homes at the top of that road.

Residents living in the Dome subdivisions, named for Pierre Berton, Robert Service, Jack London and Dick North lose the option of heading up the hill from downtown's King Street.

The glacier which blocks the road just below the parking lot for the Crocus Bluff Recreation Area is caused by groundwater seeping onto the road and freezing, making the road impassable for regular vehicles. Snowmobiles and pedestrians still travel the road, but trucks and cars risk either sliding off the road or having their undercarriages damaged.

The road will be closed where King Street meets 7th Avenue for several months.



Road closed

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

YWEC travellers got a lot of value from their trip

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

February 14, 2014

The idea of having Grade 12 students at Robert Service School take a trip to explore educational options Outside is not a new one, but the program had lain dormant for several years before the current crop of girls made the decision, back in October 2011, to revive it.

As the program usually seems to involve girls, it is known as Young Women Exploring Careers, or YWEC. It's not that the boys in the class could not participate, but the present group decided that the 10 day trip would be too big an interruption of the welding course they were planning to take, so it was an all-female group once again.

This year's group was made up of Christina McIntyre, Jelene Panaligan, Natalja Blanchard, and Victoria Holmes. They were accompanied by their high school science teacher, Ms. Liz Woods.

With some years of experience at leading these trips, the students were unanimous that Ms. Woods was great at organizing them, getting the best rates, booking hotels and

making sure they raised the money they needed.

In a draft report on the project, the group put forward the following goals:

- to encourage, assist, and support young women from Dawson City to pursue post-secondary school education;
- to increase employment and educational opportunities for these young women;
- to promote the development of professional and technical women for potential employment in the Yukon;
- to build partnerships among these young women and adult mentors;
- to work on the life skills required to live and study in a major centre;
- to promote self-esteem and a positive self-image among these young women by involving them in the organization of the project.

Two years' worth of planning fund raising saw them on a pre-excursion trip to Yukon College in Whitehorse in November and then off to the BC lower mainland on January 5.

For recent immigrant Jelene Panaligan the trip was an eye opener to the differences between Canadian systems and those in the Philippines.

“It’s really helped me to have an idea of what it’s like to be in a college or university in Canada. I think I will be ready.”

For Christina McIntyre the trip was a revelation.

“It kind of changed my life plan. I didn’t originally plan to go to university right out of high school. I was going to take a year off and travel. The university tour showed me that it’s better not to wait ... So now I’ve applied to two universities.”

Victoria Holmes has felt university bound since the age when she was aware they existed and has always wanted to go to UBC. Her experience has been that adults seem to assume that students will know what to do and what programs to follow to achieve their goals. She said that hasn’t been the case for her.

“(On this trip) it was explained to us where we had to go and what to do, not just at the university we visited, but to whatever university.”

Any trip like this has a social aspect as well. Three of the four girls have been together since daycare years and are well aware that at the end of this school year they might not see each other again for a while.

“I’m really glad that I got to spend two weeks with my best friends in Vancouver as a last memory trip,” said Torie Holmes, “because there are just three months left that we’re going to be able to spend every day together. After we graduate I’m not going to see them every single day and that’s kind of sad.”

Among the surprises of the WYEC experience was their discovery of the worth of looking at Yukon College for academic courses. They had thought of it as being mainly a trade school.

Other schools on the trip included the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, a day working with the automotive cohort at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, a studio day with the make-up artistry cohort at Blanche MacDonald Centre, and the smaller campuses and classes at University of Victoria and Vancouver Island University.

At each school the group got a complete tour of the campus and facilities, including residences. In their group report they note, “We met with the admissions/recruiting team to find out about their programs, admission requirements, application process, and student support. We were privileged to audit a classes at each school in the area of study what was of interest to us.”

In Whitehorse they also had a session with the people in Student Financial Aid.

They are producing a CD photo album and DVD in order to share their experience and it will be on display during the Dawson City Career Fair.



Jelene Panaligan, Natalja Blanchard, Victoria Holmes and Christina McIntyre at UBC.
Photo by Liz Woods.



Attending a lecture at UBC



The group at Canada Place

Wastewater Plant turnover extended by another fortnight

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

Feb 14, 2014

The failure of the new wastewater treatment plant to meet water licence requirements in December means that the date that the town will have to take over the plant has been extended by another two weeks to March 16, at the earliest.

The plant has not met the required standard since it went online over 16 months ago.

At the February 11 council meeting city manager Jeff Renaud told council that the spilling incident at the plant late in January is still under investigation and no final decision has been reached as to what impact that will have of future deadlines.

In the meantime the plant has still not been cleared by Corix to accept educted effluent from households in the catchment area that are not hooked up to the town's sewer and water system.

Public Works Superintendent Norm Carlson reports that negotiations are underway between the Yukon government, Corix and the City of Dawson for a service agreement to have the contractor operate the plant for two years past the “acceptance testing period” which was actually supposed to have wrapped up last August.

The town is arguing that the plant is not fully functional until that requirement has been met.

As reported earlier, the town is concerned that it does not have staff qualified to run the plant and that training has not being possible, since that part of the memorandum of agreement assumed that the plant would be fully functional and that training could at least begin to take place during its test run year.

Carlson's report indicates some concern as to how the plant will function once the winter bleeding stops and the effluent flow increases with the opening of summer hotels. Traditionally it was during the summer months that the town failed to meet its water licence requirements and the new plant failed to meet those limits last summer.

Bookends: Taking another look at the Lost Patrol

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

February 19, 2014

Death Wins in the Arctic The Lost Winter Patrol of 1910

By Kerry Karram

Dundurn Press

232 pages \$19.99

Kerry Karram's fascination with tales of Arctic survival, made evident in her earlier book, *Four Degrees Celsius: a Tale of Arctic Peril* (Dundurn, 2012), continues with this detailed account of the famous Lost Patrol story.

Her interest in this expedition stemmed from her attendance at her son's graduation and commissioning as a member of the modern day RCMP, which took place at Depot, in Regina. This is also the home of the RCMP Heritage Centre. It was also at Depot where she met Corporal Sean Chiddenton, who was able to show her the handwritten journal kept by Inspector F.J. Fitzgerald during his last, fatal trek from Fort McPherson down into the Dempster country and almost back again.

This is a document which is not referred to in the bibliography of Dick North's earlier book, *The Lost Patrol* (Raincoast reprint edition, 1995), and I can only assume it was not available as a resource when North was researching his account back in the 1970s. Fittingly, his book is one of the sources for this one.

With the journal as a source Karram was enabled to give a day by day account, up to the point where the Inspector was too far gone to make any further entries. Quotations from the journal, from Robert Service's poetry and from other sources introduce each chapter of the book.

Fitzgerald's entries are spare, and she pads out the daily jottings with stories of the Force that the men might have shared with each other around the campfire at night before turning in. Aside from providing contextual tales of Royal Northwest Mounted Police history, this is a useful narrative device and helps enliven a story which might otherwise have consisted of repetitions of the same daily round, from the early morning rising, to the noon hour stop, the evening chores, looking after the dogs, having a meal and turning in while trying to keep as warm as possible.

The basic pattern is repeated so many times that it threatens to become tedious, but it does serve to give a sense of the daily grind on the trail in temperatures and snow conditions that eventually did in the four man patrol once they had managed to get lost.

It would certainly appear that they were defeated, for the most part, by overestimating their ability to find their way along the trail without a First Nations guide. The man in the patrol most familiar with the route had only ever travelled it from the opposite direction, and we all know that things can look very different depending on your orientation.

My friend, History Hunter Michael Gates, has pointed out a number of factual problems with this book. Some of them originate with Cpl. Chiddenton, who wrote the foreword. He has the year gold was found in the Klondike off by two years, confusing the Discovery with the Gold Rush.

Some of the captions and text references in the book bounce back and forth between NWMP and RNWMP. By the time this story took place the R had been added to the

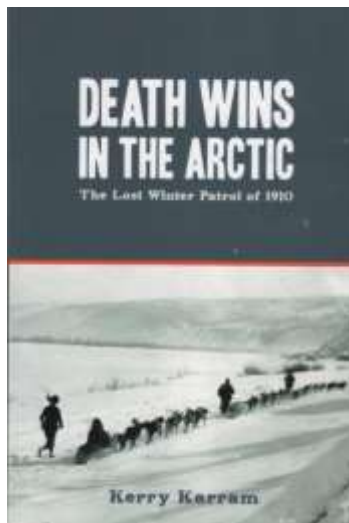
original name six years earlier. Some of the confusion comes from the telling of tales that take place before this, but it would have been good to clear that up.

Karram is at some pains to show how difficult this trek was in either direction. Inspector Dempster's relief patrol succeeded because it was better supplied and used a guide, but it was still an ordeal. To underline this fact, Karram briefly tells the story of the 75th anniversary patrol, which was attempted in 1985. It was unsuccessful.

She does not mention the two other successful re-enactments. One of these took place in 1969 and is mentioned briefly in Keith Billington's *House Calls by Dogsled* (Harbour Publishing, 2008) Billington has since devoted an entire book, *The Last Patrol* (Caitlin Press, 2013) to this lively tale.

In 1995, to help mark the 100th anniversary of the force in the territory, another successful patrol was undertaken, using Dempster's relief route from Dawson to Fort McPherson and back. This was also the year that North's book was revived after its original eight printings by another firm.

Karram tells an interesting story and has a lively style, but the book does suffer from the reader's certain knowledge that it's going to end badly for the central characters. There were days when I simply found it too depressing to read about another really bad day. There was, however, never any doubt that I would finish the story.



MOCTEL DVD

The **Moccasin Telegraph collection** is now available on a DVD. Included are all editions from the beginning in 2002 to the end of 2013.

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Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca (In Vernon BC)

OBIT



Vera May (Breaden) (Miller) (Watkins)

October 27, 1923 – January 22, 2014.

Another Yukon Pioneer has passed on.

It is with sadness but not unexpected that our mother left us after battling many illnesses this past year. She was the daughter of the infamous “Spot Cash” Jim Breaden and his wife Katherine (Kitsy) from Mayo Yukon. She was born in England but came to Canada as a babe in arms and was raised in Whitehorse and Mayo where, with her older sister Audrey and younger brother Henry attended school and was taught by Gordon McIntyre in the old log school house.

In 1942 she met and married Carl C. Miller who was working in the area at the time on the Mayo Airstrip. During their twenty-two years together they lived in Mayo, Dawson, Carmacks and Whitehorse where they raised their family until Carl’s sudden death in

1964. She started work with her old friend Charlie Taylor at Taylor & Drury Hardware Department where she became the manager and was there for many years. In 1975 she made the decision to move to Vancouver Island to semi retire. While living in Nanaimo B.C., she met Gordon Watkins, they were married and enjoyed a leisurely lifestyle until he passed away in 2005.

It was her wish that there not be a funeral but a celebration of life and “Potluck” be held in her honor. It was well attended by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband’s Carl Miller and Gordon Watkins. Survived by her children Harry Miller, Aileen Miller (Dobronay), Carl Miller Jr., and Kenneth Miller and their families, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

*Forever in our Hearts
“We’ll Meet Again”*



LINDER, Lesley Louise (nee Good)

Passed away around midnight March 21st, 2014 at the age of 75. She was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma Cancer in November 13th, 2009 (Friday 13th), and had been under treatment and fighting this disease since that time, with the last 6 months getting progressively worse. During the last few days she was under terminal sedation and pain medication and kept comfortable until her passing. Lesley was born October 12th, 1938 in Carcross, Yukon. Daughter of Bertha Good, a Tlingit native from the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. Her father is not known. She was one of 6 children from Bertha (Lesley, Carol, Edna, Brian, Clyde, Gary), all have now passed on. Lesley, along with her 2 sisters (Carol, Edna) and their mother Bertha, moved away from the Carcross/Whitehorse area to Vancouver around 1944. She grew up as a teenager in Vancouver. She met Bob (Robert Ogilvie) and married at the age of 16 (1954) and had 2 children (Allan, Doreen), then moved to Courtenay (1959). Unfortunately, that relationship did not work out and she left. She travelled around for a few years, then ended up in Port Moody (1968?), where she spent many years. She re-married to Larry Linder (October 1st, 1982). Larry and Lesley moved to Sparwood for work in 1997. This was one place that she did not like and constantly looked forward to the day they could move out. After far too many years, she and Larry finally did move to a place of their choice, which was back to Courtenay (2005), where they both had spent so many years in their younger years, and where both considered their home. Lesley was a very active, outgoing and social person. She enjoyed

sports (softball, bowling), dancing, and parties. She loved people and was a very loving person. She was the life of a party, or any gathering for that matter. She was always a joy to be around. She brought people up and made them happy. Lesley always said that when she goes, she does not want no fancy service. She wanted just basic and simple, and to be cremated. Lesley is survived by her husband Larry Linder, and her children Allan Ogilvie and Doreen (Ogilvie) MacLeod; her daughter-in-law Kim George, her grandchildren from Allan: Shane Ogilvie, Robyn (Ogilvie) Cook; her grandchildren from Doreen: Robert, Crystal, Richard, Jason, Jordon, Angel; her great-grandchildren from Robyn (Ogilvie) Cook: Trinity, Cohen; and her great-grandchild from Crystal: Hailey. Lesley was always so proud and happy of her grand and great-grandchildren, and loved to tell people that she was a great-grandmother. Lesley is and will always be so dearly missed. Her loving son, Allan

Published in Comox Valley Echo from Mar. 28 to Mar. 29, 2014 - See more at:
http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/comoxvalleyecho/obituary.aspx?n=lesley-louise-linder-good&pid=170398792&fhid=11406&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.EAewm6D8.dpuf

Louiza Doris (Millen) Maguire - July 2, 1946 – February 28, 2014. Louiza, the first child of Les and Jackie Millen, was born in Rouyn/Noranda, Quebec; however, she became a Dawsonite prior to her first birthday. She grew up in this northern community and resided here throughout her life. She was well-known for her inner and outer beauty, for she was generous, gracious, and beautiful. She loved to be with people, and she had a mischievous personality as well as a way with words that revealed an imaginative sense of humor that delighted her listeners.

She was well-versed in First Nations history, and felt most at home surrounded by First Nations art. She remembered everything she heard or read and so listening to her was enlightening and pleasant. She became interested in cooking while a teenager, and later she took this love to camps, where she enjoyed cooking for crews. The beauty of the outdoors inspired her, and it answered her desire to feel free.

She understood symmetry, and it showed in her surroundings as well as in her appearance. Her home resembled an art gallery, and when she traveled, she was photographed for newspapers or sent cards by people who noticed her in dining rooms and on streets. One card read: "From here you could double for Liz Taylor".

Louiza lived a life for which she was thankful, and this illness only signified, as she said, that her "expiry date had arrived". She was especially grateful to Susan Gould and her family, who were instrumental in ensuring she remain 'at home', for in their loving kindness, they provided the comfort and care she required on a daily basis. In essence, they were as close as family to her.

Louiza was surrounded in love and died peacefully in the Dawson hospital, with her daughter, Casey, at her side. She is survived by her daughters, Kelly and Casey, sisters, Teri McNaughton and Madeleine Wakefield, brother, George, and nieces and nephews. There will be a memorial service for her on the May long weekend in Dawson.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There is a choice you have to make, in everything you do. And you must always keep in mind the choice you make, makes you."

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Super easy beef and cabbage soup

Yield: 1 pot of soup, enough for about 6 - 8 people

Ingredients:

butter - 1 tbsp
ground beef - 1 pound, lean
garlic salt – 1/2 tsp
garlic powder – 1/2 tsp
pepper – 1/4 tsp
celery stalks - 2, chopped fine
1 tin kernel corn
1 16 oz can, not drained
cabbage - 1/2 head (medium)
chopped tomatoes - 1 can (28 oz)
including liquid water - 1 tomato can worth
beef bouillon - 4 cubes
parsley - fresh, for garnish

Instructions:

Brown the beef in the butter in a Dutch oven over medium heat.
Add all the remaining ingredients except the parsley; bring to a boil.
Reduce heat and simmer for 1 hour.
Serve garnished with fresh parsley.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Vancouver Yukoners' Association 86th 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

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
#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

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If you have received this copy of the Moccasin Telegraph from a friend and wish to sign
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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
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ie: moctel and press "Send". It's that easy. Then please send me an email to confirm your
payment.

– Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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