

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 391st Edition – May 25th, 2014

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



Crocus – Whitehorse - 2014

Photo courtesy Betty Sutton BettySutt@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)

COURTESY WHITEHORSE STAR – YUKON HISTORY SECTION -

Can't Count His Money - The Bennett Sun, September 2, 1899

THE BENNETT SUN.

VOL. I.

BENNETT LAKE, B. C., SEPTEMBER 30, 1899

No. 28

Can't Count His Money

Such Is the Sad Condition in Which Alexander McDonald Finds Himself.

Alexander McDonald, king of the Klondike, not only is not insolvent but has so much money it is almost a hopeless task to compute it.

Such is the report brought out by a shrewd business man who left McDonald about fifteen days ago, and is a partner with him in his many enterprises.

“The report is not only absurd but is malicious,” said this gentleman.

Mr. McDonald went in to Dawson in March and his business affairs were never in better shape. Since then he has purchased five claims on Sulphur Creek at from \$30,000 to \$50,000 each.

He owns a whole or a fractional interest in 79 claims on Sulphur, Bonanza, Eldorado and Dominion creeks, and there isn't one wildcat among them. Every single claim is turning out a profit daily - and instead of borrowing money Mr. McDonald is loaning it. Rates used to be at 10 per cent per month, but any one with good security can get all the money he wants of McDonald at 2 and 3 per cent a month.

The so called story of McDonald's insolvency had not reached Dawson when this gentleman left, and when it does reach there, there will be a great laugh.

The idea of a man being broke who does not owe a dollar and whose clean-up for the winter work amounted to \$1,250,000 is something decidedly funny. Since he went to Dawson in March McDonald has paid \$100,000 in royalties to the Canadian government, and besides his daily deeds of charity has made a donation of \$30,000 cash to the Catholic Church and hospital.

His income is continuous and he does not have to wait for the result of a winter's work in a spring cleanup. Some of his best paying claims are summer diggings and his pack train of mules comes into Dawson regularly once a week loaded down with gold.

The facts are McDonald is so wealthy it is impossible for him or anyone else to make a close computation of his holdings. Besides his gold he has large improved holdings in real estate that bring in a splendid income. The person who started the story of his insolvency simply did so to injure the credit of one of the richest, best, most generous and highly respected men in all Alaska.

Mr. McDonald's friends in Juneau do not need these assurances, but they are none the less gratifying. - Juneau Miner.

The Bennett Sun became the Whitehorse Star upon moving to Whitehorse from Bennett Lake, B. C. in July of 1900. The Whitehorse Star's first publication was on July 18, 1900.

In the event former Dawsonites....Yukoners in general... may wish to view the daily happenings of the Yukon River Break-Up at Dawson City.

A daily check-in will allow everyone to see the changes.

<http://www.yukonriverbreakup.com/>

Note: The history of previous break-up dates is also linked to this webpage.

Kathy Gates kmgates@northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

Take a minute and watch this really neat video – a song about the Beaver DHC2.

Also see a little bit of Washington, British Columbia, and Alaskan coastal history, past and present.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=3w_v0k57KhE

YUKON NUGGET

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

The Yukon River

Where does the Yukon River start? Where does it go? How does it get there? So many questions. Many answered only in the eye or mind of the beholder.

Some say the source is the Llewellyn Glacier at the southern end of Atlin Lake while others say it is Lake Lindeman which empties into Lake Bennett.

Either way, Atlin Lake flows into Tagish Lake as does Lake Lindeman after flowing into Bennett Lake. Tagish Lake then flows into Marsh Lake via the Tagish River. The Yukon River proper starts at the northern end of Marsh Lake, just south of Whitehorse.

The upper end of the Yukon River at Whitehorse was originally known as the Lewes River. Then past Lebarge it became the Thirty Mile and finally it was known as the Yukon at Hootalinqua where the Teslin River joins up.

But then again, some argue that the source of the Yukon River should really be Teslin Lake and the Teslin River, which has a larger flow when it reaches the Yukon at Hootalinqua. So the definitive answer is somewhat of a mystery.

We do know that many large lakes and rivers are part of the Yukon River system including Kusawa Lake which flows into the Takhini River and Kluane Lake which flows into the Kluane and then White Rivers.

Merrily along flows the Yukon, joined by the Pelly and the Stewart before the White and then the Klondike river at Dawson and the Forty Mile further downstream. When the Yukon finally reaches Alaska the mighty river has taken a lot of water from the Yukon Territory.

The river is 3,185 km long and empties into the Bering Sea at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total drainage area is a massive 832,700 km of which a third is in Canada. And bigger than Texas.

For all that length it is surprising to learn that there are only four bridges across the Yukon River that can carry vehicles.

They are the Lewes Bridge, north of Marsh Lake on the Alaska Highway, the Robert Campbell Bridge, which connects Whitehorse proper with Riverdale, the Yukon River Bridge at Carmacks on the Klondike Highway; and The E. L. Patton Yukon River Bridge, north of Fairbanks on the Dalton Highway.

Plans to build a permanent bridge in Dawson were announced in 2004, but they are currently on hold because it was going to cost a lot more than first estimated.

There is also one pedestrian-only bridge in Whitehorse. And of course, the Whitehorse Rapids dam which we used to be able to drive across.

The Yukon River, a sense of wonder and mystery right on our doorsteps.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin



Miles Canyon and pedestian bridge before the 1958 hydro dam



Shooting Whitehorse Rapids

Dawson Film Find

From Kathy Gates

Mike and myself were interviewed on local CBC radio this morning about the wonderful...but somewhat crazy..... story of the " Dawson Film Find " from 1978. Not sure how much you are aware of this story, so to fill you in a little: Dawson City used to have one huge Rec. Centre, that was built in 1902....the owners installed a huge Swimming Pool...they called it a Natatorium or Tank at the time..... and that opened in 1908 in that building. By the late teens, the pool was no longer in operation so anyone keen to swim made use of an old Gold Dredge pond at the edge of town until the 1940's. Anyway, in 1929, it was agreed that the lid placed over the pool was cumbersome and bumpy to skate on when used as a Skating rink in the winter, so the Rec. Club membership of the time, decided to fill the pool in...(the pool was drained at the time). Everything and anything got tossed in there, and that included many, many old reels of movie film. Dawson City was considered the " end of the Road" for film distributors, so the Bank Manager, who was the agent for the distribution, had to store or throw out the films...one manager decided not to toss them out so stored them in the basement of the local Carnegie Library. In 1929...into this old pool they all went. The earliest dated back to 1910 and the latest to 1925...but no Dawson film footage apparently....

Workmen digging up the ground so as to build on it in 1978 came across the reels of film and alerted Mike, working for Parks Canada and myself working at the Museum...and the rest, as they say was history. The Director of the Canadian Film Archives flew to Dawson City the day after he received Mike's call about the 'Find' to check things out. We all knew we had no facility, nor the

expertise or equipment at that time to restore them, so he wrote up a contract with the Museum and I hired people to recover as many of the films that came up with the bulldozing, as could be located, and they were stored out of town in a cold storage facility, and the reels were brushed of the old rust and dirt and rewound by hand onto new plastic reel cores and documented as best we could. . The film was Cellulose Nitrate, so were highly flammable, so a Canadian Armed Forces Hercules jet was sent to Whitehorse to collect all the films, which had been stored in boxes with metal lined sides. The Film Archives shared the find with the Library of Congress in the USA as there was far too much film to copy in time to preserve it all.

Here we are, some 35 years later, and the story again makes headlines due to the finding of one of the reels in the Canadian Archives that was labeled "1919 White Sox World Series game". ...a New York movie producer is doing a documentary on Dawson and focused on the Film Find. He visited Ottawa back in January and unearthed the reel of film about the infamous Boston Red Sox scandal.. where it was later found they had thrown the game deliberately. He alerted the Film Archives people and they copied the reel and posted it to You Tube...and Wow...*The National Post* did a story of this remarkable find recently and the Yukon has been abuzz ever since.

Go here to read the story first if you like:

(Images from the film are shown on this link)

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/05/04/baseball-history-unearthed-rare-footage-of-infamous-1919-black-sox-world-series-found-in-yukon-permafrost/>

After conspiring with gamblers to intentionally lose to the Cincinnati Reds in the so-called Black Sox scandal.

IF you are still interested, click on this Facebook web page (you don't have to sign on to view it) and scroll down a little, and on left hand side, you will see some information and some of my own black and white photos of the Dawson Film Find....(I did not give them the better quality copies due to copying that gets done on Facebook of others images) from our radio interview this morning:

<https://www.facebook.com/cbcnewday>

(See the date May 7th for film story)

For those of you unfamiliar with this, If you read the little blurb, it says you can *listen to the interview here*...click on the blue lettering and up will come the program's web page and if you will scroll down there...left side, and you will see the item about the Film Find and us, and if you click on the start for the taped interview...you should be able to listen in.

If you are again still interested, go back to this Radio program's Facebook page, and scroll down to the right hand side mention of an interview with Bill Morrison of New York who is doing the documentary on the Film Find and also Dawson, and again, click on the mention of being able to listen to his interview and it takes you back to their other webpage where you can once again listen in to what he has to say.

The photo of the two of us is not the best...but Hey...its a photo and we were in the studio at 7:30 a.m..... when interviewer Sandi Coleman took the photo with her Iphone. What memories it evokes for Mike and I, as we learned to work together and once we had the world premiere screening of

segments of the film footage in Dawson a year later...Mike and I got married a month later...How Cool is that ????

Happy to share with you...it is a real fun story for the two of us to have been participants in the discovery and recovery of that film footage.

Kathy Gates kmgates*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

START PLANNING FOR FH COLLINS REUNION 2015

Hi Sherron,

Thank you again for all the interesting information and all those photos [in the last MocTel], now, if all these people attend the FH Collins school reunion on the weekend of the 11 & 12th of July 2015, in Whitehorse, we'll have a ball!!

Kind regards, Maroesja VanOveren maroesjabigm*hotmail.com (In Holland)

See Facebook page: FH Collins 60's Reunion OR See message below.

"This is a reminder to all those who attended FH Collins High School during the 60's that a Reunion is planned for the July 11, 2015 weekend in Whitehorse, Yukon.

You can register and obtain more information regarding this huge event by visiting our web site at: www.fhcollins60sreunion.com

Message courtesy David Lee.



Arts in the Park - May 21, 2014
Claire Ness and David Sutton (Betty Sutton's son)
Photo courtesy Betty Sutton BettySutt@gmail.com (In Whitehorse)



New President of Vancouver Yukoners, Ken Jones receiving the gavel from now Past President Corinne Leoppky, Mike Rawlinson takes over as Vice President. (April 24, 2014)
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca (In Burnaby)

The 21st Trek Over the Top Arrives in Dawson

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

March 6, 2014

Crossing the Yukon River at Dawson is a little different for this year's Trek Over the Top riders. Watching them arrive at the ferry landing on the west bank after what they are describing as a great ride over the Top of the World Highway from Tok, one can see them getting a little confused and taking one false route before doubling back to pick up the actual trail.

On a snow machine it's not necessary to travel the entire four kilometres that people are having to drive in order to cross the river in a truck or car, so the riders peel off that ice road just across the river from the place where the docks are installed every summer and enter town from the boat ramp hole in the dike.

Trekkers departed from Tok between 6 and 11 a.m. Alaska time, and the first of them, Randall Hill, arrived in Dawson at 12:30 local time.

John Kaercher and Aaron Stillwell were the next to arrive, around 1:50, making them the silver and bronze riders, respectively. They are Trek veterans, with Kaercher on his 14th run and Stillwell on his 9th. Both of them were enthusiastic about the trip, saying the conditions were great, the temperatures moderate and the day beautiful.

The grooming the trail received after the Rangers did their recent patrol to the border must have improved it a lot, because the Rangers reported it was a bit rough for them.

The Trekkers have two days of events ahead of them, organized by the Klondike Visitors Association and the Dawson Sled Dawgs. They return to Tok on Sunday.



Snow machines report to the Visitor Information Centre to clear Customs and pick up the agenda for the weekend.

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



Riders comparing notes on the trip at the VIC.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The river crossing was located at the docks this year, causing a little confusion for veteran participants who were used to crossing at the ferry landing.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish@northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Shooting the bull at the Dancing Moose

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

March 8, 2014

The big draw at the Dancing Moose in Dawson City on Saturday, March 8 was Heinz Naef's set of bull moose antlers. Visitors from the Trek Over the Top tour packed the Front Street between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to gaze at the massive antlers and have their pictures taken with them, or have Naef pose standing between them.

The Dancing Moose is selling a line of t-shirts with a photo of Naef and his friends with the antlers, bearing the logo "Size Does Matter".

Naef shot the moose last September at the point where the Stewart River meets the Yukon River. He was hunting for the meat, which was a substantial prize from an animal weighing 560 kilograms (1250 pounds).

He wasn't concerned about the antlers at the time. As several press stories have related, it was only later that he was persuaded to pay closer attention to their size, which he measured to be 75 and 1/4 inches (191 centimetres) across at the time.

He decided to submit his antlers to the Boone and Crockett Club to see if they qualified for record status. In the end he took the rack to Reno, Nevada, where it was examined by five different judges, who determined that it was a record breaker.

Published reports indicate that it was bit bigger than Naef had thought. Boone and Crockett has a system for evaluating antlers. Naef's moose beat the previous record, held by John Crouse, of Soldotna, Alaska by two points. The previous record was set in 1994.

"There's five different measurements on here," Naef said, pointing them out on the antlers, "and they all add up. It's not inches no more, it's points. The length gets measured; the thickness gets measured; it's complex."

The antlers measure 75-5/8 inches at the greatest spread. The left side has 17 points and a palm measuring 17-5/8 inches wide by 51 inches long. The right antler has 19 points and a palm measuring 23-6/8 inches wide by 50-7/8 inches long. The antler circumferences are 8-4/8 and 8-7/8 inches on the right and left sides, respectively.

That makes a total of 263 5/8 points on the Boone and Crockett scale.

"The antlers weighed in a 94 pounds," said Naef. "He was quite impressive coming at me."

What will happen to the antlers now that the judging is done? There are a couple of things.

"We're going to make a replica and put it in the Visitors Information Centre," Naef said. As for the original, he says it a matter of economics.

"A lot of people want to buy it."

He'd like it to go to some museum. "I wouldn't sell it to a private collector."



Heinz Naef and his antlers at the Dancing Moose.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

Klondike – the Gold Rush known round the world, is more than just that event

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

March 9, 2014

If you were trying to build a case for the Klondike region to be declared a World Heritage Site, you could hardly find a more enthusiastic booster than historian Ken Coates. He made that very clear during his talk at Myth and Medium 2014 in late February.

While his lecture had the rather long-winded academic sounding title "Precious Lands: Territory, Resources and Values in the Klondike River Valley" there was nothing stuffy about the presentation itself.

Coates first visited Dawson in 1965 and has been fascinated with its history and that of the Yukon ever since.

The Klondike, he told his audience, is unique for two reasons. First one must acknowledge the long history of the native people who have lived here for thousands of years. Secondly, however, one must recognize the impact of the Gold Rush.

“We can’t get away from that. We can pretend the Gold Rush isn’t a dominant theme, but it really is. The Gold Rush is really probably the only event in Canadian history that’s known around the world. Interestingly, the only place where it’s not really known as a Canadian event is in the United States, because they claim it as theirs, which is why Sgt. Preston on the Mounted is there in Disneyland, right in the middle of it.”

In his world travels Coates has run into a number of gold mining centers where the promotional banners have read “(This country’s) Klondike”, and that says a lot.

“In the United States they still think of the word Klondike as an ice cream bar, but in the rest of the world, where they’re literate – oh, I shouldn’t say that. In these places, the word Klondike didn’t need an explanation. (In New Zealand and South Africa) they didn’t have to add ‘famous place where they found gold and dug it out of the ground’. All they had to say was the word Klondike.”

His brother, who is a historian living in the United Kingdom, found dozens of places named Klondike and Bonanza there when he did a search just for fun.

Coates said he made the mistake of downloading the recent Discovery Channel mini-series *Klondike*, only to discover that the peaceful history of the Yukon had been transmogrified into the American frontier myth before his eyes and had become Deadwood North.

In the serious portion of his talk, Coates outlined a number of key points about the Tr’ondëk/Klondike experience, breaking each one into three parts: the event itself, the values it displayed, and the threads that spin out from it.

“The real transcendent importance, the powerful story about the Klondike,” he began, “is not just about what happened here, but what it tells us about the broader world.

“What is happening in Dawson City is actually a marvelous way of telling the story of humanity, not just the people who came here, but of the broader forces that shape big parts of the human condition.”

Aboriginal occupation is the first event, a story of human adaptation to the environment. The values are reflected in the way this adaptation took place, how people managed to thrive in a place most would find inhospitable. The threads speak to the fact that this same type of process has taken place in different settings all over the world.

European exploration started here well before the Gold Rush, a process that was frightening for both the explorers and those being explored. Out of this drive to both expand and satisfy curiosity came a key development, which was the establishment of the boundary between British North America and Russian North America. This would eventually lead to the boundaries we know today.

The Europeans brought to North America the value of human domination over the land. It's not a value unique to their culture, he said. You find it in Japan, China and other cultural milieus, but it was fairly new here, where the ethos had been to work with what the land provided. Europeans had technology that could overcome most obstacles and they tended to do just that.

The search for gold did not begin in the Klondike. It is a global story, Coates said, one that continues right down to the present day. It is a trail we can follow down through history, a human phenomenon, and a very North American one. It's the pursuit of wealth, of fame, of opportunity.

The Klondike Rush occurred at a time when it seemed like the last frontier had already been closed off, and at a time of a great North American economic depression. It captured the imagination of the world.

"This was a truly global phenomenon," he said, "and this thread is what gives the Klondike its greatest mystique."

The imposition of Canadian Law is another process, and one that plays a major role in the history of this region.

"The fact that the Northwest Mounted Police were already here when gold was discovered was very very important," Coates said, wondering how the degree of American influence might have increased without them.

"The value here is one of sovereignty, of national governments demonstrating their ownership and control over territory."

Again, this process was going on all over the world at that time.

The stampede led to cultural encounters between aboriginal people and newcomers.

"In very few places on the planet does it happen as fast and on such a large scale," Coates said. "A couple of hundred local first nations people and several tens of thousands of outsiders pouring in and imposing themselves on the people in this area very very quickly."

The new arrivals, as they did in places around the world, assumed they were the superior people with the absolute right to displace those who were here already and marginalize them in their own land.

Following the Rush there is the inevitable decline of the boomtown, though Coates noted that "Dawson City is one of the most resilient places" in this regard.

There follows the development of the Klondike legend, magnified, popularized and distorted by the tales of Jack London, the verses of Robert Service and even the narrative history of Pierre Berton, not to mention the reimagining that has taken place in the movies, on radio and on television.

In more recent times, there has been the development of a tourism industry, somewhat based on reality and somewhat on the mythology.

And even more recently there has been the revival of First Nations culture that is producing the sort of events at which Coates had come to speak.

Concluding his talk, Coates put forth a sort of manifesto.

“I think we need to use the history of this area as a means of teaching about reconciliation, and teaching about partnership.

“This is a precious land, as aboriginal people, clearly your land. As newcomers you’re hopefully welcome as neighbours and friends into this territory. You know it but not enough people do.

“Only a single story has really leaked out from the Klondike. Only a single story has leaked out from the Yukon and that is about the Klondike Gold Rush. We have allowed outsiders to tell the story, I think, too long.

“You are telling the story differently with your lives. You tell the story differently with the cultural centre. You tell the story differently with the kind of wonderful celebration you are having this week, in this particular event of Myth and Medium. And you find new ways of telling stories to different people in different audiences.

“It is magnificent that you are telling these stories to each other as aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. Please do it and please find a way to share these stories with the rest of the world.”



Ken Coates is Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and Director of the International Centre of Northern Governance and Development at the University of Saskatchewan. In 2013, Ken was named as the Macdonald-Laurier Institute’s Senior Fellow in Aboriginal and Northern Canadian Issues.

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

awson's Airport will see major traffic this summer as Holland-America passengers fly in with Air North

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

March 17, 2014

The March monthly meeting of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce was all about the changes coming this summer to both Air North and the Westmark Hotel as a result of Holland-America's decision to stop busing its clients over the Top of the World and Alaska Highways in the coming season.

Ed Peart, Corporate Sales Representative for Air North, and Shenaya Lande-Greensides, Yukon Guest Services Manager for Holland America Line and Princess Cruises Alaska and the Yukon, were in attendance to discuss some of the changes.

While there will still be bus tours travelling between Whitehorse and Dawson, the majority of Holland-America's passengers will be arriving in Dawson by air this year, usually on the Boeing 737, flying out of Fairbanks, and continuing their journey by the same means.

This could mean nine additional 737 flights weekly in and out of Dawson. Should inclement weather soften the runway so that the larger plane cannot use it, that would mean even more flights with the smaller Hawker aircraft.

The plan is to use the jet on the Whitehorse-Dawson run whenever passenger loads justify it, Peart told the two dozen people at the meeting in the Downtown Hotel.

Peart noted that Air North has had to come to the tour company's rescue several times during recent summers, when road conditions, fires, washouts and mud slides have shut down either of the two highways, so the airline has proven its ability to handle the traffic.

The Holland-America flights are strictly a private charter operation, so locals should not expect to be able to buy tickets on these flights. The regularly scheduled service is the only option available to non Holland-America travellers.

The increased traffic here will mean that the Canadian Border Services Agency will have to enlarge its presence here. Just what will happen is not yet clear, but the vague description sounds like it will be more substantial than the on-board checks that used to be a feature of the *Yukon Queen II* experience and something more official than the skid shack that used to sit down by the Dawson docks will be added to the Customs office at the airport, which is clearly too small to deal with an entire planeload of foreign passengers at one time.

Pierre St. Germain, with the Yukon's Dept. of Tourism and Culture, indicated that a request for proposals has been posted to deal with the need.

Air North anticipates placing a couple of structures at the airport for storage. Peart suggested these would most likely be "C-can" type units. The airline will also need to place another fuel tank on site as well as arrangements for a three phase power supply.

Arrivals on these flights will not be using the terminal, but will be loaded onto Holland-America coaches for the ride into town. Peart and senior ramp lead Craig Spenser indicated that the highway out by the airport could expect to see increased traffic from buses and cube vans carrying luggage during both arrival and departure times.

“We do intend to have an increased staff presence in Dawson City,” Peart said, indicating that part of the purpose of this trip was to begin recruiting additional ground staff for the airline. In addition, airplanes and flight crews will be overnighing here during the summer.

For Holland-America passengers there will be a big difference in their Dawson experience, as they will be in town during the hours they would previously have been spending on a motor coach. The difference in travel times basically gives visitors almost a whole extra day in Dawson.

There were some questions and concerns raised by local business people.

The Eldorado Hotel’s Peter Jenkins wanted to know if there was any movement on upgrading and/or replacement of the present airport, which he felt would soon prove inadequate to handle the increased traffic. There was some brief discussion of a study that was held here a couple of years ago, but which never did seem to produce a report that anyone could recall seeing.

“What’s the long range plan?” he asked. “Is somebody lobbying the Yukon government?”

Lande-Greensides fielded some questions about customer interest so far.

“We are very happy ... sales are doing well. Local excursions are selling well and our numbers are up comparatively this year to last year. That’s because our guests now have more time to spend in Dawson. Not only do they have more meals to eat within the community ... they also have more free time to spend in the community as well.

“We took two days of travelling, essentially, and turned it into a one hour flight. Guests don’t want to spend as much time out and about when they’ve been on a coach for (a long time) so by eliminating this, not only are we giving them more time in Dawson, but they’re going to be more apt to get out and do things if they haven’t been spending all their day on a motor coach.”

Passengers will arrive here early in the afternoon most days and will not have to leave until later in the morning, making for a more leisurely experience.

This arrangement with Air North is a one year contract, so the future depends on 2014 being a good year.

Pierre St. Germain, with Yukon Tourism, noted that this change in the travel program is significant.

“The Yukon government is very excited about this. Holland-America brings more visitors to the Yukon than any other tour company. This virtually results in every single passenger that they have in the Yukon coming to Dawson. It means a huge shift and we’re really pleased to see them working together with Air North to expand jet service into Dawson. It’s an exciting opportunity.”

“If it works, you’ll need a new airport,” Jenkins added.

“KVA sees it, realistically, as a real game changer,” said Gary Parker, CEO of the Klondike Visitors Association.



Ed Peart, Craig Spenser, and Shenaya Lande-Greensides attended the March meeting of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce.

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

Parks in Dawson will extend its fall season by two weeks

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

March 20, 2014

Parks Canada is revisiting its decision to close down its Yukon sites the day after Labour Day, and will be extending its season in Dawson by an additional two weeks to the middle of September on a trial basis for the 2014 tourist season.

The announcement was made at the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce March meeting and confirmed the same day at that evening’s annual general meeting of the Klondike Visitors Association.

At the KVA meeting Klondike National Historic Sites Superintendent David Rohatensky made the announcement.

“In 2012 the direction given to Parks Canada for 2013 was to operate from the Victoria Day long weekend to the Labour Day long weekend as our core operating season. Our year-end evaluation indicated that there was enough market demand that we should examine extending the post season

in September slightly longer. So following this analysis Parks Canada has determined that there is a potential to increase the season up to essentially mid-September – the second Sunday after Labour Day.

“So in 2014, on a pilot basis, we will have a reduced offer, a fewer number of tours, but we will still have a visitor offering until that second Sunday.”

That will be September 14 this year.

Rohatensky emphasized that Parks is considering this move as a pilot project and there is no guarantee that it will be extended beyond this trial.

“To do this on a pilot basis, we need to make sure that the market demand is there and that we are able to recover reasonable costs of that venture.

“We know that other businesses are looking at that shoulder season and we hope that this contributes to the critical mass to keep Dawson on the tourism radar for visitors at that time of the year.”

The KVA membership burst into enthusiastic applause at the end of his announcement.

When the word came down from Ottawa nearly two years ago now that Parks operations would be standardized to a shorter season all across the country, there was nearly universal condemnation in the Yukon from the territorial political parties, municipal governments, the Tourism Industry Association and the business community at large. Member of Parliament Ryan Leef was pretty much the sole voice defending the move.

Much of the outrage focussed on the closure of two key sites, the SS Klondike in Whitehorse and Dredge No. 4 in Dawson. After a protracted delay, a proposal to allow these sites to be serviced by private enterprise was revealed to the public in the spring and operators were selected by bid to carry out daily tours.

In Dawson the two local operators (the third was based in Whitehorse) have indicated that the announcement came far too late in terms of promotional opportunities and their summer operations did not fulfill their expectations.

The number of operators has dropped to one this year and David Millar’s Goldbottom Tours has a three year contract at the Dredge. Millar says that learning this in November was still too late for him to advertise it effectively for 2014, but he’s looking ahead to 2015.

The fall tourism roundup held by the KVA revealed a widespread feeling among the business community here that the early closure of the Parks’ attractions had put a serious damper on the September tourism business. While Parks does not offer the only attractions in town, it does have the biggest number of attractions.



Tours on the SS Keno should continue for an extra two weeks this coming summer.
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish*northwestel.net (In Dawson)

The KVA had a stable year but ran slightly in the red

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

March 25, 2014

When David Rohatensky referred to the financial situation of the Klondike Visitors Association as “fragile but stable”, the KVA’s treasurer really wasn’t saying anything that hasn’t been true for years. While the organization’s cash flow was still healthy at the end of the fiscal year, the amortization deduction now required of financial reports knocked the bottom line into the red by \$32,532.

As executive director Gary Parker noted in his report to the annual general meeting on March 12, “KVA has always been a non-profit organization”. He provided a roller coaster graph on the organization’s net revenues from 1978 to 2013, showing the many ups and downs. 2012 showed a profit of \$201,185, the strongest year in over a decade. 2013 did not do as well, but it was far from being the worst year on the chart.

Rohatensky provided context.

“The operating climate of the KVA remains relatively stable; the challenges are similar, including rising costs, inflation. KVA is for the most part a relatively predictable and stable organization and what you’ll notice as you go through the draft audit report is that it reflects that stability.”

Parker's report indicated that the average bottom line for the organization over the past 36 years has been \$33,213 in net revenue, while 14 of those years have ended in deficits.

Rohatensky noted that hovering just above and below the zero balance point was probably a good thing for the organization and added that there are times when major investments have to be made in the infrastructure in order to keep things going for the long term.

The KVA's cash cow is Diamond Tooth Gerties, the building which it rents from the City of Dawson for a nominal annual sum. In return it takes on all the costs of maintaining and upgrading the building and these are not cheap. Parker's report indicates that last year's major expenses included upgrading the public washrooms and purchasing new stage curtains, along with all the associated hardware.

He also noted that an immediate problem, which is going to require a significant monetary outlay, is "one time funding for the overall replacement of all slot machines and associated systems hardware and software to bring them up to industry standards."

This is not the first time this issue has been raised. Last year's report contained the warning that some of the slots in the building were running the risk of becoming "unintentionally and unsustainably historic" and that situation has not improved since that report.

Working as part of the regional economic development plan led by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the KVA has developed a fresh marketing plan for the immediate future and will soon be launching its revamped website. The report from Marketing and Events Manager Paul Robitaille noted that the organization has been part of the Klondike/Klondike: A World Heritage Site? process, has partnered with Air North and the Yukon Gold TV show in a contest, and created two other contests based on the Sourtoe Cocktail and the "I Love Dawson" concept.

In social media the KVA is active on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube and partnered with the Discovery Channel to place web cams around town and create a launch night event at the Oddfellows Hall on the Klondike mini-series website the night the series premiered.

The KVA runs the Jack London Interpretive Centre, partners with the Alaska Trailblazers to organize the Trek Over the Top, coordinates the Thaw di Gras spring carnival, and the Break-up Comedy Festival, assists the Commissioner's Office in putting on the Commissioner's Ball, helps with the Dust to Dawson Motorcycle Ride (Not a Rally), puts on the Yukon Goldpanning Championships and the Authors on Eighth literary contest and walking tour each August.

The organization assisted with planning the Discovery Days weekend, the Labour Day Slo-Pitch Tournament and the Great Klondike International Outhouse Race.

A partnership with CFYT-fm made the annual Talent Night possible at Gerties and the Nutcracker Ballet came to Dawson again due to a partnership with the Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture.

In addition the KVA's pilot project point of sales online registration has assisted both events and businesses in selling tickets and attracting visitors.

Elections took place after the reports and five candidates stood for the four rotating seats on the board. David Rohatensky, Peggy Amendola, Dianne Brooks and Diego Martin (the new guy) joined continuing board members Brian Stethem, Johnny Nunan, Evelyn Pollock and Mark Mather.



Attendance was not large but it was healthy.

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



L-R: Mark Mather, Eric Zalitis, Gary Parker, Brian Stethem, Evelyn Pollock, David Rohatensky and Johnny Nunan.

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

Studer sets new race record for the Percy in this third win

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

March 20, 2014

With a time of 18 hours and 18 minutes, Crispin Studer racked up his third first place finish at the Percy de Wolfe Memorial Mail Race. He won it first in 2011, then skipped a year and won it again last year. More than simply improving upon his fastest previous time, Studer set what race officials think is a new record for the race. For his winning time, Studer collected \$3,000.00.

Race Marshall Brent McDonald said he thought the overall field of 13 was one of the fastest ever, with the top four all under 20 hours and everyone else finished in 28 and a half.

William Kleedehn was just 7 minutes behind Studer, but picked up an hour penalty due to a rule infraction, so he placed third. When he dropped a dog at Forty Mile he didn't have it tied with the proper restraint and it escaped. It was caught and he picked it up on the way back, completing the race with it in harness.

Gerry Willomitzer came in just under an hour later, but ended up in third place for a prize of \$2,000.00

"Percy de Wolfe," he quipped. "The only race where you can come in third and place second."

In the event, these awards were being presented at the banquet after one of Studer's dogs has escaped its container out on the street and had been brought up to the ballroom so that it could be identified and dealt with, creating a bit of a stir (of the 'oh, how cute' variety) at the back of the room

"Does this mean that Crispin gets a penalty too?" Willomitzer queried hopefully.

Kleedehn's third place finish gave him a \$1,500 prize.

Asked to answer the question "What is the most important thing to do before the race?" he replied, "To make sure that Crispin reads the rules."

The veteran musher sold all his dogs a few years ago and has been running this year with part of Studer's kennel, so they have run a number of races together.

"I was actually completely too lazy for every single race we went to," Kleedehn said with a chuckle, "and I let him read all the rules."

The race paid out down to 7th place this year, with the following mushers collecting cash prizes.

Jean-Denis Britten of Dawson City came in 4th place and won \$1,200.

Meghan Luke of Two Rivers, Alaska, placed 5th, for a purse of \$1,000.

"Thanks for letting us Alaskans come and run your race," Luke said, and then coined the phrase that the race committee threatens to use in next year's advertising.

“I think it’s the most fun a gal can have in 20 hours.

“I’ve always been a handler when I came to Dawson, so thanks. This was a good time.”

Amanda Gecas from Fairbanks came in 6th place for \$750. Amanda grew up in Eagle, where she spent many years helping with this race.

“Growing up in Eagle was pretty cool,” she said, “watching this race from the time I was really little and helping the best I could till the point where I was actually useful. It was something that I always wanted to run.”

Oddly, it didn’t happen until she had moved even farther away from home, making it that much harder to do.

Joanna Jagow, also from Fairbanks, took 7th place and \$650. Joanna and Amanda travelled together, after having talked themselves into it at the start of the Quest 300 this year.

The remaining mushers, in order, were Jason Biasetti, Ed Hopkins, Gustav Sakshaug, Brian Wilmshurst, Colin Morrison and Jacob Heigers, who won the Red Lantern.

Three of the Junior Percy mushers were from Whitehorse.

Gaetan Pierrard ran to Forty Mile and back in 9:48 for \$135. He said that he really liked Forty Mile and wouldn’t have minded staying there longer.

Rob Wilmshurst, from Hastings, Ontario, father of local musher Brian, came second with a time of 10:14. Brian has been mushing dogs for all of two and a half weeks, having come to Dawson to visit his family here. He won \$110.

“I’ve done a lot of things in my life, but I always thought sailing was the best thing in the world,” he said. “It’s peaceful, quiet – just you and your surroundings.

“Dog teaming beats that hands down. You guys are amazing. You women are the best in the world. I’ve had so much fun here in the past month that I don’t know what to say. I’ll be back.”

Melissa Schenke came third for a \$90 prize.

Nathaniel Hamlyn was the Red Lantern winner with 12:07, for which he collected the lantern and \$115.

The final racer, and only one to skijor the Percy Junior route was Raija Easterbrook, of Athlamere, B.C., who travelled here with her son as her handler. She ran the race in 13:12 and would have had a much faster time if she hadn’t decided to wait until the sun came up, which was longer than her 8 hour layover, before heading back to Dawson. She earned \$100.

“Winning the Percy Skijor was really easy,” said the 57 year old Easterbrook, who was the only one in that category, “but actually doing it - it was tough. The pain is temporary, but the pride will last forever.”



Percy Committee president Anna Claxton and winner Crispin Studer struggle to hold up the moose antler trophy.

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



Crispin Studer fooled everyone by pulling into Dawson just before 1 o'clock on Friday.

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

My Family lived in Oyama from 1937 to 41.

- Tom Tait

Proprietors of the "Log Cabin Inn" situated at the junction of the two lakes on the highway.

Five small cabins for tourists and apple pickers in season.

No shoes from the time school let out till it went back in September.

We had a Coffee Shop. Dad made his own ice cream five gallons at a time. I was the most popular kid in town when the paddle came out of the machine. If you weren't my buddy you didn't get a spoon.

The ice for the making came out of Woods Lake. Winter temperatures were a lot colder in those days. Good preparation for my time in the Yukon.

Love the Moctel.

Regards

Tom Tait thtait@shaw.ca

OBIT

Alan passed away April 8th. I just wanted you to know how much the telegraph meant to him. Unfortunately, I have trouble reading on screen.

Thank you.

Helen Sideen afs@shaw.ca (In Prince George)



Alan Francis Sideen (1937 - 2014)

Alan Francis Sideen, born April 28, 1937 in Fort William, Ontario passed away on April 8, 2014 in Prince George, BC. He suffered a stroke on March 27, 2014, and despite a promising initial recovery, succumbed to heart failure 12 days later, after daily opportunities to reflect and express to the immediate family on his 76 years. Alan was predeceased by his parents, Eric and Edythe Sideen, his brother John Doherty, sister Edith Evelyn (Lyn) Niemi, and brother Robert. He is survived by his wife Helen, sons Neil (Grace) and Chris (Chaylene), granddaughter Anna Grace, sister Barbara and brothers George and David.

During their 48 years of marriage, Alan and Helen lived and worked in Niagara Falls, Yellowknife, **Whitehorse**, Kelowna and Richmond before settling in Prince George in 1979. After considering a career in medicine, Alan joined the RCAF and became an aircraft maintenance engineer, stationed in Germany and France from 1961 to 1963. As a Leading Aircraftman, he supported the 430 Silver Falcon F-86 Sabre Squadron. His love of aviation continued after the RCAF as he became a helicopter pilot, attained his B-Endorsed AME designation and finished his career with Northwood Pulp & Timber (Canfor, by his retirement) as the chief engineer for the executive Learjet.

Alan loved music and was particularly talented in carpentry, leaving many lasting examples of his work exhibiting both farm-raised pragmatism and Scandinavian elegance. His artistry and brilliant sense of humour were expressed through sketches, cartoons and elegant, devastatingly accurate personal caricatures, which are considered among the world's finest in the opinion of many who know them. Alan had interests in tracing the family's Scandinavian history and loved keeping in touch. He fulfilled his earlier medical ambitions later in life, travelling again both North and abroad, becoming devoutly spiritual and helping a great many people, and will be truly missed.

We would like to thank the doctors and staff at PGRH for their care over Alan in his last weeks.

A gathering of friends and family will take place at 5:30 pm, Friday April 11, at The Church of Latter Day Saints, 5th Avenue (between Voyageur and Brigade), Prince George.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the BC Heart and Stroke foundation would be appreciated.

"May the road rise to meet you
May the sun shine softly on your face
May the rain fall gently on your plains
And, until we meet again,
May the Lord hold you safely
In the palm of His hand."



BROWN, Jay Vaughn

July 7, 1961 - April 23, 2014

Jay died suddenly at the age of 52 years in Dawson City, Yukon. He is survived by his wife, Lydia Oblak, son Trevor of Whitehorse and mother Helen of Calgary. He was predeceased by his father Frank. He is also survived by extended family in B.C., Alberta and the Yukon. Family and friends will hold a Celebration of Jay's life on his birthday near his summer residence on the banks of the Yukon River. If desired, donations can be made to Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Published in The Calgary Herald on May 9, 2014 - See more at:
http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/calgaryherald/obituary.aspx?n=jay-brown&pid=170964968&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.BDFRdFWf.dpuf

REMOVED FROM THE LIST BY REQUEST

Derek Charlton – removed by request (2010)
Al Kaufman – removed by request (Jul 11)
Brent Hougen – removed by request (4-5)
Lloyd & Shirley Day – removed by request (Jun 10)
Laverne Rasmuson – removed by request (12-13)
Merton Friesen – removed by request (A-M 13)
Reg Jensen – removed by request (S 09)
Fran Hennings – removed by request (O 09)

Removed due to email address problems

Marylou Howell – not correct email address
Cami Yaremcio – not correct email address
Trish Reeder – no such address (08)
Connie Casselman – telus.net – recipient rejected (04-05)
Steve Martin - martinst*bantrel.com – address rejected ((06-07)
Brent & Kathy Twa – address rejected (08)
Earl Bennett – no longer on server (06-07)
Brian Monahan @nwt – no such user (06-07)
Rod Jacobs @nwt – no such user (06-07)
Ron & Catherine Veale @nwt – no such user (06-07)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If the very old will remember, the very young will listen. - Chief Dan George

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

CHEESECAKE BARS

Submitted by Gillian Campbell with a note that they are YUMMY.

Crust:

2 cups graham cracker crumbs
5 tbsp. butter, melted
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 tbsp. sugar

Combine above ingredients, mix well, and press the mixture into the bottom of an ungreased 11” x 7” baking pan.

Cheese mixture:

1 ½ cups cottage cheese
1 cup cream cheese
¾ cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Puree the cottage cheese for several minutes in a food processor fitted with a steel blade (or use a blender). Add remaining ingredients and process for a few more minutes.
3. Spread the cheese mixture over the crust. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until the top feels firm to the touch.
4. Cool and place in refrigerator. Serve topped with jam or pie filling (optional).

DATES TO REMEMBER**VANCOUVER YUKONERS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING**

June 19, 2014
11:30 am-2:00 pm

Croatian Cultural Centre Room C
3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver
Parking plentiful and free
Transit accessible – Handicap accessible
Bring a friend
Lunch \$10
RSVP Corinne.loepky@telus.net
604 277-2766

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

If you have received this copy of the Moccasin Telegraph from a friend and wish to sign up to receive future editions yourself, the criteria is that you **are or were a Yukoner**. The goal of this project is to provide an opportunity for folks to reconnect. There is an annual subscription fee of (\$20 - \$25. your call) for the Moccasin Telegraph.

An easy way to send a money transfer is via your internet banking. Log into you bank's website, find "Money Transfers" or "Email Money Transfers" or however your bank may list it, enter the amount, my email address of sherronjones@shaw.ca and enter a password ie: moctel and press "Send". It's that easy. Then please send me an email to confirm your payment.

– Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH ARCHIVED DISCS

Discs containing all MocTels from the beginning to the end of 2013 are now available.
Price is \$25.00 which includes mailing. Please provide your mailing address with your order.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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