

## MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 396<sup>th</sup> Edition – September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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



Edward Thompson – Dawson - 2014

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby)

## **COURTESY WHITEHORSE STAR – YUKON HISTORY SECTION -**

By **Whitehorse Star** on August 4, 1955

### **Tutshi trip hits the spot**

More than one hundred Whitehorse residents and friends enjoyed a perfect weekend excursion to Ben-My-Chree from Carcross on board the steamer Tutshi last Saturday and Sunday, under the sponsorship of the local branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

Sunny skies and calm weather enhanced the vistas of blue lakes and rugged mountains, and Captain Alex Courquin and crew did their best to make the trip memorable for everyone on board.

Responsible for organizing the charter trip were members of the local E.I.C. executive, the burden falling equally on John Phelps, M.E. Almstrom and Ken Baker.

One of the most interesting passengers on the cruise was George Rose who had chalked up over thirty years' service on board the steamer Tutshi as an engineering officer, and enjoyed his trip as passenger to the full. His comments on the various points of interest seen along the way were greatly appreciated by his fellow passengers.

The gardens at Ben-My-Chree brought exclamations of astonishment and delight from the Whitehorse visitors, many of them expressed the wish that there might be accommodation for a stop-over in that lovely spot.

As a final extra touch, Patsy Henderson's lecture at Carcross brought the trip to a very happy close - there are at least 100 people in Whitehorse who would like to repeat the cruise at some future date.

Rough estimates of the footage of film shot by shutter-bugs during the two-day cruise were astronomical, and there should be many happy evenings spent this winter viewing the crop of color movies and slides.



Steamer Tutshi towing engine 51 on scow to Taku Landing, c1921. Note extension made to Texas deck in 1920. R.Brooks Coll/Yukon Archives

One of the amusing sidelights on the trip was the clever lists of answers to questions frequently asked the Purser on board the Tutshi by tourists not familiar with this part of the country. D. A. McWilliams gave The Star special permission to reprint his bulletin and here it is-

Answers to some frequently asked questions on steamer Tutshi-

"No, Madam, we have no other slides than those on display in this case."

"No, Sir, you are not in Alaska - you are either in the Yukon or in British Columbia depending on when you read this and both are part of Canada."

No, Sir, Canada is not a colony of England but is a completely independent country. The Queen of England is also the Queen of Canada because we like it to be that way, and has no control over our government, just as in Great Britain."

"The lake on which you are travelling is called Lake Tagish and is 65 miles in length."

"The temperature of the water is about 40 degrees (above zero) and it is for this reason that we do not recommend diving from the top deck. Also, the statistical detail demanded by the authorities in reporting missing persons is very tiring on the Purser. For these reasons we urge parents of young children to keep close watch over them at all times."

"Yes, Madam, we do have Northern Lights in the Yukon. These things have not been explained by science to date and the Purser can do no better. All that can be said for sure is that they occur at night, usually when the Chief Engineer plugs them in.

The depth of this lake varies from zero to over 750 feet, depending on how far out from the shore you are measuring and also on how thick the water happens to be."

"The speed of the steamer Tutshi is about 12 mph but is greatly affected by strong winds. Thus, if the wind exceeds 13 mph the boat has to turn around and back up to Ben-My-Chree."

"No, Madam, there are no keys for the staterooms on this ship. Everyone is honest in the Yukon."

"No, Sir, there is no Bar on this ship due to inclement liquor regulations in British Columbia until recently and a strong Methodist upbringing." - (D.A. McWilliams.)

Note- At the end of the 1955 navigation season the Tutshi was placed on the ways at Carcross.

She was never on the water again.

## **YUKON NUGGET**

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin

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

## **Mount Churchill**

It was so remote that no one had ever heard of it. Even today, Mount Churchill is seldom seen and rarely explored. But this giant mountain in the St. Elias has certainly left its mark on the Yukon. Located 25km west of the Alaska-Yukon border in the Wrangell St. Elias National Park, Mount Churchill is more than 15,000 feet high and permanently covered with ice and snow. The first explosion that blew the top off the mountain occurred about 1900 years ago, when volcanic ash was sent flying over northwest Alaska, landing as far away as Eagle. Then, 1250 years ago, Mount Churchill erupted again in a much larger explosion, which blew the lid off the mountain, and carried the ash into the southwest Yukon. It's known as the White River Ash, and covers almost 600,000 square kilometers in Alaska, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. Along roadways it appears as a thin white line close to the surface. However, closer to the volcano, the ash can be 60cm thick. The ancient ash is well preserved, leading scientists to believe that the explosion occurred in the winter because it was immediately frozen and protected by a layer of snow. People and wildlife living in the southwest Yukon at the time would have been well aware of the eruption, and may even have heard it, but they would have no idea of its source. The ash would have killed vegetation in the area, making it difficult for people living on the land, and would have darkened the skies for weeks, if not months. So massive was the explosion that anthropologists think it could have caused the migrations from the north that eventually led to the formation of Athabascan cultures, such as the Apache and Navajo in the southwestern United States.

Mount Churchill, the source of all the misery, has been inactive for a long time because it has a thick magma, and takes a while to build up pressure before exploding again. Volcanoes of this type tend to erupt in 100 to 1000 year cycles, so it's an open question as to when the mountain may blow its top again. But it will, and when it does it will have a significant economic impact on Canada. It could obstruct air travel, trigger mudslides and floods in the region, and cover a large area with more white ash. Although southwestern British Columbia and the Yukon have not experienced a major volcanic eruption in a long time, the potential for future activity remains. A volcano can be dormant for many centuries while gas pressure slowly builds up in its subterranean chambers. Mount Churchill in the St. Elias is certainly a candidate for a future catastrophic event.

A CKRW Yukon Nugget by Les McLaughlin



Edward and Gillian

Lee & Karina's Wedding – Dawson - 2014

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby)

Hi Sherron

I thought you might like to see the short film on Jim Robb and his exhibit Jim Robb's Yukon we produced with Yukon Film Society. Please do pass it along to others subscribed to the Moccasin Telegraph and anyone else who may be interested.

Best

Jessica Vellenga [jessica.vellenga@yac.ca](mailto:jessica.vellenga@yac.ca)

Curator – Jim Robb’s Yukon

Community Engagement - Visual Arts  
Yukon Arts Centre Public Art Gallery  
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## **Jim Robb Documentary**

The Yukon Arts Centre and Yukon Film Society have produced a short film honouring Jim Robb’s dedication to preserving Yukon history through his artistry. Jim’s first ever retrospective exhibition, *Jim Robb’s Yukon*, will be closing this Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Yukon Arts Centre Public Gallery.

View the documentary: <http://vimeo.com/103866270>



To learn more about the artist and the stories of his colourful five-percent, view:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXz06y8DKMM>



Old Riverboat across the river from Dawson, July 2014  
Photos courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby)

## **Ken McKinnon tells some tales about the Palace Grand and the foundation of the AYC**

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

Ken McKinnon was actually at the Association of Yukon Communities annual general meeting to talk about the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, but the veteran Yukon politician (MLA: 1961-64, 1967-70, 1975-78) and Commissioner (1986-1995) couldn't resist telling a few tales that didn't make it into either Linda Johnson's books about the Yukon Legislature or the Yukon Commissioner's Office.

Lots of people who mount the stage at the Palace Grand theatre succumb to the urge to establish their bona fides for being there. McKinnon even brought along a few props.

"I thought when I was Commissioner that I would be appearing for the last time on the stage of the Palace Grand," he said, "so believe me, this is a real bonus in the twilight of my career.

"When I was on the territorial council I had worked in the summer as a student in Dawson City – for two or three of the most pleasant summers I ever spent in my life.

"On the territorial council at that time we were talking about the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gold Rush, and I was a strong supporter, along with Erik Nielsen, our Member of Parliament at the time, in getting money through the Dept. (of Indian and Northern Affairs) to reconstruct ... the Palace Grand.

"Well that worked out and we finally got this magnificent re-creation of the Palace Grand in its heyday. Then we decided that at the (drama) festival that we were actually going to import a Broadway play called *Foxy* for the signature opening of the Palace Grand.

"Well, the minister of DIAND at that time was a Salvation Army Minister by the name of Walter Dinsdale. And Lester Pearson (leader of the Liberal Opposition) was taking great delight in the House (of Commons) on a daily basis of rising and saying how can a minister of the Salvation Army be pouring more and more money into the house of ill repute known as the Palace Grand Theatre in Dawson City.

"So Walter was getting more and more embarrassed and he was trying to work with Erik to launder the money that was necessary for the Festival through the territorial council – through us. So Erik came to the council and said 'I've got a proposition.'"

Most of the council members, who were led by the Commissioner in those pre-party days before responsible government, were happy to agree with this plan.

"But a couple of members ... decided they didn't want to launder the money from the federal government to Dawson ... Well, George Shaw was the member for the Dawson district at that time and he was just hurt more than any other time I saw him that some of his colleagues weren't prepared to continue the Dawson City Festival. And it came down that I was the turning vote on the council to pass the money through to continue the festival. So I do have some bona fides for speaking at the Palace Grand Theatre."

McKinnon went on to say that he felt it was time at his age to tell the truth about some of the things that happened during his four terms on the territorial council.

He was also in on the founding of the Association of Yukon Communities 39 years ago when he was serving as the territorial Minister of Community Affairs, as the Dept. of Community Services was known in those days.

“Andre Carrel was the city manager of Dawson City,” he said. “Those of you who know Andre know that he’s very smart, he’s very determined and he’s very persistent. Well, Andre came up with the idea that he should form this organization.

“I said, ‘Andre, why would I pay for an organization of people who will all be against me?’

“He said, ‘No Ken, really, it’s a benefit to you because we have these solutions to these problems that you have coming from one body. We’d be speaking with one voice.’

“I said, ‘Well, Andre, I’ll think about it. A little bribery may help.’

“A couple of weeks later Andre appeared in my office with this beautifully gift wrapped package, and I opened it, and this was this package, that I’ve kept on my desk to these days.”



Ken & bribe box. Ken McKinnon holds up the miniature bottles that he says helped him to decide to allow the formation of the AYC 39 years ago.

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

McKinnon lifted up a small Johnnie Walker Red Label carton full of miniature bottles.

“Inside it was a (collection) of miniatures.” He held them up one by one.

“This one is called the Dawson Pool Bribe. This one is called the Pavement Bribe for Dawson City. Here we have the Municipal Ordinance Bribe and the formation of the AYC.”

“So that changed my mind, and the AYC was created, and it’s been a benefit to all the ministers who have followed in those 39 years.”

## **Summer Workers are welcomed by Dawson's Churches**

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

Fifty newcomers to town – summer workers, mostly, enjoyed a hot meal and a couple of community information talks at the Dawson Community Gospel Chapel for the third session of the month long Tuesday Transient Dinners.

That number was up from 36 the week before and a mere dozen during the first week in May. For those earlier weeks the ferry was not yet in the water, and that always seems to bring an increase in numbers.

The dinners are provided in rotation by the Gospel Chapel, St. Paul's Anglican Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church, with all the churches pitching in to provide the fourth meal.

Some people who were returning summer workers – or summerdoughs – were a little confused this year since this dinner has usually been held at St. Mary's, but they reported that they spotted the sign on the door and figured out where to go.

Aside from the churches, the local grocery stores also pitch in to make sure that new employees, who may be short on cash after getting here, get at least one hot meal during their first weeks.

The philosophy behind the meals is a working out of Christ's command to look after the less fortunate and welcome strangers, but it also assumes that if an entire month has gone by and folks are still not able to fend for themselves, it might be time to move on.

Information sessions with the local hospital, the town's bylaw officer, the RCMP, the territorial environment dept. (on being bear aware) and volunteer recruitment pitches by a number of organizations are also features of these weekly sessions.

The evenings feature lots of warm smiles, grateful thank-you's and lots of willing hands to help with the clean up when the meal's over.



Lineup

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



Eating

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

## **Girl Guides from 20 to 80 celebrated a centennial in Dawson City**

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

It's been 100 years since **Harriet Edna Osborn** started the first Girl Guides group in the Yukon and since that happened in Dawson City in 1914, the Yukon Guides organization decided that there needed to be a Dawson event to celebrate the fact.

They had hoped to have 100 delegates to mark the event, but in the end there were 42, spanning several generations from women in their early 20s to the oldest, an 82 year old Lena Emma Tzya, who had travelled to Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953 when she was a Guide.

The group began arriving in Dawson on Friday, May 23, and after their registration were off for a Guiding Display and Scavenger Hunt at the Dawson City Museum.

Dancing Moose Gifts held a reception on Front Street early that evening.

Saturday was a big day, with a Walk on the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trail, more events at the Museum, Parks Canada's Strange Things Done Tour and a production of the Greatest Klondiker at the Palace Grand Theatre.

There was a banquet that evening at the Odd Fellows Hall, with a dinner cooked by the Dawson Firefighters and a presentation by former Dawson Girl Guide and former Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber.

Sunday morning was free, but a sizable number of the delegates came to church at St. Paul's before heading over to the Commissioner's Residence for a group photo and a tour before hitting the road for Whitehorse.

Sarah Usher, one of the organizers, said that Parks and the Museum bent over backwards to make the event a success for the group.

"We had a great weekend, touring Dawson, going on hikes. We've just had the best hospitality ever from this community and everybody appreciated it. It's been a fantastic weekend getting together with old friends and meeting new and celebrating 100 years of Guiding in the Yukon."

All of the women had been Guides in the Yukon. Some came back for this event from as far away as Arkansas, and Kansas.

"I was a Guide in Dawson City," said Van Bibber, "and I had the honour of being invited to be the guest speaker for the anniversary, and it was my pleasure to come and say a few words at the dinner."

The only complaints heard from any of the participants had to do with the condition of the Klondike Highway. Several people insisted that their reaction to that had to be mentioned in any article about this event.



Most of the delegates gathered for a commemorative photo on the front steps of the Commissioners Residence.

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

## **Policing is being bigger than law enforcement, Clark tells community leaders**

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

Chief Superintendent Peter Clark, Commanding Officer of the RCMP's M Division, held out hope that the troubles that have been facing the national organization have passed or are being dealt with through new legislation that will be replacing what he called the "old and outdated" operational rules of the force.

"You will be hearing about Bill C-42, the 'RCMP Accountability Act', "he said. "This is a wonderful piece of legislation. It is a powerful, positive change, not only for those of us trying to administer the RCMP, but also for the Canadian public."

Clark was speaking to the annual general meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities in early May in Dawson City.

"This legislation cements and codifies some of the oversight and improves structures that we in the RCMP have been asking for and we have heard the citizens asking for," he said.

“It’s going to take the authority to deal with employee conduct out of national headquarters in Ottawa and put it back on my desk. So although I ... firmly believe that the RCMP members serving your communities ... have integrity, character ... strong values and ethics and are highly trained and dedicated men and women, the fact is they’re human beings, human beings make mistakes, and the organization needs the ability to correct their mistakes should that happen.”

The new legislation will, he continued, allow such problems to be dealt with in a timely manner at the local level.

The RCMP continue to recruit actively he said, indicating that this includes all types of people, not just those who are bilingual, First Nations or visible minorities.

“We do seek those kinds of candidates because we want to have a mosaic in the service that represents Canadians, but we also have many, many opportunities, not only for those that wear firearms and red coats ... but many opportunities for employment, everything from technical computer work ... and also analysis, clerical functions and at our dispatch center.”

Some priorities for the Division, which have come from the territorial Justice Minister as well as the communities, include concerns about domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, cyber crime and Internet luring. Specialized units have been deployed on short notice for these types of cases.

Many Yukon communities have two or three person detachments, but the division sends out extra staff for such events as the Haines Road Relay, the Dawson City Music Festival and Discovery Days and events in Watson Lake.

“We want to get the earliest possible notice we can from those of you who are planning special events,” he said. “Alert your detachment commander so that we can collectively, as a division, be assured that you’ve got sufficient resources deployed to your community for those extraordinary busy times.”

Clark shared with the group his personal mantra, his list of primary concerns that he has given to detachment commanders.

There should be regular contact between members of the force and local governments. They should be proactive in dealing with the community and not sitting in the office waiting for the telephone to ring.

They should be active community members contributing to the life of the community and helping to build capacity in a number of areas, as well as helping to set priorities with the local governments.

There should be no surprises for local governments in the form of press releases in matters of public safety or local issues. They will have been contacted already. The Yukon government has a share in the process of picking detachment commanders. Local governments should also.

Local priorities should be developed in tandem with local governments.

Clark is aware of the towns' issues with the turnover and replacement of members, an item that was on the AYC agenda.

He said his policy was to leave members and their families in place as long as possible. There were issues related to training, career advancement and balance of skills in a detachment that needed to be considered. He would support longer stays wherever possible.

“A community can always invite a member to stay,” he said.

Yukon postings are highly sought after, he added.

“We have some demanding expectations of those who are moving to our communities. The screening and selection has been stepped up over the last few years, but we still get people who want to come here. It is because of places like this and communities like yours that welcome those members and their families.

“I’ve done that job. I still do that job. It’s a tough job. But when you feel the support and you are acknowledged by your communities, then we have lineups of people that want to come.

“Kudos to you,” he concluded, “for what you’re doing to support policing in your community. Thank you for seeing policing as being bigger than law enforcement, but a community responsibility that we all have a role to play in, and for being so supportive of our membership over the last few years.”



Chief Superintendent Peter Clark speaking at the Palace Grand Theatre.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Holland/America and Air North deliver a new way to get to the Klondike**

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

Holland/America travellers began arriving in Dawson by air towards the end of May. While the first few groups were ferried from Fairbanks to the Klondike in Air North's Hawker, the last week of the month saw them arriving in the 737 for the first time.

The Holland/America flights are charter only, thus circumventing some of the regulations for cross border travel. This does mean that you have to be part of a package tour to board the plane. If you just want to fly out of Dawson, you have to take the regular scheduled service.

To accommodate the new traffic, the Canada Border Services Agency had to create a new station at the Dawson Airport. Previously, Customs checks have been handled out of a single room in the cramped airport building. The new structure was erected earlier in May.

Passengers leave the plane and enter the new building immediately, after which they are loaded onto Holland/American buses and transported to the Westmark hotel in town.

This summer's switch to air rather than coach travel for Holland/America has been described as game changing by both Yukon Tourism officials and the Klondike Visitors Association. Speculation is that a successful season will lead to increased pressure to pave the runway in Dawson.



The new Customs Station at the Dawson Airport.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Air North's 737 in Dawson on May 27.

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

## Revisiting the Berger Inquiry 35 years later

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

At a time when the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act is about to be amended in order to “contribute to the efficient and predictable environmental assessment process in Yukon through the introduction of legislated time limits and clarity around project assessments... (which) ... will promote investor confidence and foster economic opportunities and growth while promoting sound environmental stewardship” it is hard to recall a time, just 35 years ago, when a thorough and painstaking process like the Berger Inquiry could actually manage to delay a pipeline project.

Perhaps that's why it's a good time now to take a look back at Berger's inquiry, the event that, until recently, provided the model for how such socio-economic and environmental reviews were to be done.

Drew Ann Wake was a CBC reporter in the Northwest Territories from 1975-1977, which meant that she covered the wanderings of the Berger Inquiry throughout the NWT.

Wake is the curator of Inquiry, the travelling exhibit of photographs, scrapbooks and documents, created at the University of British Columbia, that has been making its way around the NWT, parts of BC and recently, parts of the Yukon, over the last 18 months.

The exhibit visited Dawson City on May 22 and 23, and set up in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall. The travelling exhibit doesn't include everything that has been assembled. Much more of the material, including documents, photos and videos, as well as lesson plans for using the

material in classroom settings, can be found at [http://wiki.ubc.ca/Documentation:Berger\\_Inquiry\\_Installation](http://wiki.ubc.ca/Documentation:Berger_Inquiry_Installation).

The exhibit includes current photographs of people who were involved with the original inquiry, people who were in their 20s when the event was taking place, as well as period photographs, scrapbooks and documents.

The scrapbooks contain interview transcripts with lawyers, officials and community people who testified or participated in the inquiry. These enable students who visit the exhibit to role play the different presentations made 35 years ago, using some of the words that were used at the time.

Wake says her overwhelming impression at the time of the event – and it hasn't changed over the years – is that the people on the land weren't totally opposed to pipeline projects; they simply didn't feel they were ready for them. As land claims wrapped up in various areas, and economic development corporations were created, attitudes changed, and by 1999 it was the aboriginal population that led the next attempt to promote the project.

The Dawson exhibit captured a lot of local interest, but Wake said there were also people who came from Old Crow, Fort McPherson and other Dempster communities.

“This exhibit has been to the University of Ottawa, to the University of Toronto – it's toured the country,” Wake said. “We're booked for another year after this. The next major tour is to the Maritime Provinces.”

There were about 20 people at the exhibit on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and quite a few more than that wandered in and out during the second day.

“We gave people the scrapbooks and asked them to look at comparisons between the situation 35 years ago and things that would be applicable now.”

Now, of course, Thomas Berger is active another case, hired by several Yukon First Nations to represent them in the current struggle over the land management proposals related to the Peel Watershed Area.

History may not repeat itself exactly, but the resemblance is often uncanny.



Photo exhibit of inquiry participants 35 years later. The scrapbooks are on the tables.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Period photos from the time of the Inquiry.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Awards, sweets and music filled up the program at the Commissioner's Tea**

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

The sun shone down brilliantly on the lawn at the Commissioner's Residence to create a perfect afternoon for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Commissioner's Tea. This event, as noted by hostess Gabriela Sgaga, is a production of the IODE, Parks Canada and dozens of volunteer bakers and servers.

"Are we wearing expandable clothing?" Sgaga asked. "Because you're going to need it." IODE President Janice Cliff welcomed those on the crowded lawn on behalf of the group and presented a brief history of the organization's activities.

Martha Black formed the George Mercer Dawson chapter on March 6, 1913, and it was not the only chapter, but eventually all the groups were amalgamated in 1919. During the First World War the ladies knit socks for soldiers, but they also pioneered tourism with teas at the Robert Service Cabin. Since 1940 they have been running the Ice Guessing Contest (which predates the group) and use the money from that for a variety of charitable donations.



Former Senator, Commissioner, and Whitehorse Mayor Ione Christiansen  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

Admission to the Tea is by donation and this year's receipts were earmarked for the Dawson City Food Bank.

"Today doesn't compare to Martha's first party where she put in an order for 1000 sandwiches, 20 gallons of sorbet, 20 gallons of salad and 20 pounds of candy," said Cliff.

"You might find it interesting to know that today we have over 40 community members who prepared over 400 sandwiches, approximately 960 sweets, 60 gallons of lemonade, tea and coffee - and Bonnie Barber is responsible for making our cake."

Commissioner Doug Phillips began his remarks by explaining that the official flags in town were at half-mast to honour the three RMCP officers who were killed in Moncton and the two who were injured earlier in the week.

“Welcome to Dawson City,” he continued. “I am a federal appointee and I am responsible for the weather.

“On June 13, 1898, the Yukon was established as a Territory of Canada, 116 years ago next week. There is no better place in Yukon to celebrate Yukon’s birthday, don’t you agree?”

“This beautiful building was occupied by Commissioners until 1916. Parks Canada acquired the building in 1973 and their dedicated employees began the tedious and detailed task of restoring it to its former grandeur. Haven’t they done a wonderful job?”

“Although this is the Commissioner’s tea I can’t take any credit for the event. All of the work and preparation is done by Parks Canada, the IODE, Dawson Chapter, with some assistance from Lyndsey (Hamilton) and Lillian (Loponen), my staff in Whitehorse. Thank you all for all your wonderful work.”

Phillips then introduced the first group of performers in his Youth Showcase.

“The purpose of this program is to give these outstanding young Yukoners an opportunity to perform at events sponsored by the commissioner’s office,” he said.



Peter Menzies, with youth fiddlers Jesse Amos and Beasy Duncan  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

“The North Klondyke Highway Music Society Youth Fiddlers perform at local coffeehouses and community concerts. The youth study the fiddle with local tutors, on-line instructor Zav Horcroft (based in BC) and Whitehorse instructor Amelia Slobogean, when she visits Dawson City. The group is supported by their families and Society volunteers.”

Led by their mentor, Peter Menzies, two young girls, Jesse Amos and Beasy Duncan, performed several tunes.

There were a number of awards to be presented this year.

“It’s no secret that Yukoners go the distance to help one another. I am honoured to present awards to such deserving individuals,” Phillips said. “Dedicated volunteers, people of action and young artists serve as role models and help our communities thrive.”

These recipients were being honoured for their integral volunteer work with community organizations, events, boards and auxiliaries.

Kevin Blanchard of Dawson was awarded the Commissioner’s Certificate of Exemplary Action. Blanchard was recognized for rescuing Ron Johnson, who was drowning in the Yukon River in the summer of 2013. He had fallen off the Moosehide dock and was quickly pulled under by the current. Blanchard was able to pull Johnson from the river. Johnson was called upon to introduce his rescuer.



Kevin Blanchard, Exemplary Service Award  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

The first of several Public Volunteer Service Awards was presented to Mark Icton for his forty years service with the Whitehorse Fire Dept.

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly David Laxton introduced the next recipient, Richard Edward Smith, in honour of his years of service to the RCMP’s Auxiliary Constable Program, averaging 350 hours of service each year since he joined in 2002. He is credited with having worked to keep

the program alive in Whitehorse during a difficult period in its history. There were numerous other citations in Laxton's introduction.

Karen McKay, of Dawson and Ottawa, introduced by Gail Calder of the Dawson City Arts Society, began coming to Dawson 14 years ago and has made it her winter home for the past 8 years. During this time she has volunteered for what must be just about every event and organization in the community. She was recommended for this award by the Yukon Quest, Yukon River Quest, *Klondike Sun*, DCAS (and its many sub groups), the Dawson Humane Society and the Dawson Community Library, the Klondike Visitors Association (and its many activities) and the IODE.

"Believe me," Calder said, "this is the first Tea that Karen has sat down at since her arrival. Some of you may recognize her as having been your server in other years."

The last award went to Vicki Roberts, who was introduced by Lambert Curzon. Vicki was nominated for her 17 year stretch of providing assistance to the seniors at McDonald Lodge by organizing and calling Bingo every year from late September until April, as well as finding ways to provide little prizes for the games.

Next up were two pianists from Whitehorse, Maria Peters and Alexis Gee, who performed solo numbers and a piano duet for the delighted audience.

Youth Showcase performers receive a certificate and a small financial award to help with their studies.

At the end of the event there were tours of the ground floor of the Residence.

While that was going on, Karen MacKay could be seen picking up cups, glasses and dishes and carrying them off to be washed. She shrugged when this was noticed and said she just couldn't stand around doing nothing.



A piano duet by Maria Peters and Alexis Gee, assisted by Joyce Klassen, their teacher.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Receiving Line. L-R – Kip Veale, Justice Ron Veale, Dale Stokes, Com. Doug Phillips and Executive Assistant Lyndsey Hamilton  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



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



Karen MacKay, Public Service Award  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Rick Smith, Public Service Award  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Vicki Roberts, Public Service Award  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish\*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



The head table, including Mr. & Mrs. Yukon, Justice and Mrs. Veale, Com. Doug Phillips, Dale Stokes, Mayor Wayne Potoroka and Sourdough Rendezvous Queen Elizabeth Foubister  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish\*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



Com. Phillips and IODE Pres. Janice Cliff cut the official birthday cake.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Mark Iceton

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

## **Yukon Celebrates 116 years by having a ball**

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

Commissioner Doug Phillips is nothing if not a man of the people, and so it was no surprise when he and his wife, Dale Stokes, strode across King Street to the crowd of 50 or so gawkers gathered to look at all the ladies in their finery, and took the time to explain to them the nature of the Commissioner's Ball and approximately how long they would have to wait to see all 103 guests gathered in front of the Palace Grand for the traditional group photo.

The watchers were having fun too, and several of them came equipped with score cards bearing the numbers 8 and 10, which they held up as if they were judging the costumes. RCMP Superintendent Peter Clark also visited the audience, as did Premier Darrell Pasloski and his wife, Tammie.

Shortly before 7:30 the guests, who had been trickling in over the previous 45 minutes, exited the building to squint into the bright evening sun and pose for the group shot, ably managed by the Commissioner's two photographers, who were also considerate enough to get out of the way themselves and let the crowd take some pictures. Digital cameras, pads and smart phones were quickly pressed into service.

Inside, some 90 minutes later, after a well catered full meal, Phillips had a few brief words for his quests.

"We're here tonight," he said, "as we gather every year, to celebrate the Yukon's 116<sup>th</sup> birthday. It's a special occasion. In fact, the Yukon's birthday is actually the 13<sup>th</sup> of June and next year I think the Ball will probably be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, so it will be an actual 117<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"It's especially pleasing to me to be, not only in Dawson City, but here in this magnificent theatre that's been here almost since the Gold Rush days. It's such a great atmosphere.

"I want to thank all of you for taking the time out – I know that many of you have busy schedules – to come up here to Dawson City and pretend you were here 100 years ago, as we are."

Phillips noted that the Ball is very much a joint effort that could not succeed at all without the participation of the Klondike Visitors Association and a host of volunteers. He made special mention of local resident Karen MacKay, who was working as a volunteer at the Ball that night after having received a Commissioner's Award for Volunteer Public Service at the Tea just that afternoon.

Karen has volunteered at the Ball for every one of the 14 years that she has been a late fall to early summer resident in the community.

"Karen is one of those people in the community that makes the community work. She volunteers for all kinds of organizations in the town."

The commissioner next introduced the two young women who were part of his Youth Showcase this year, Maria Peters and Alexis Gee, both students of the Henry and Joyce Klassen. Each of

them performed a solo composition and then settled down together for a couple of piano duets. They were joined for these by their fathers, who held the electronic keyboard steady for them during the two lively pieces.

Typically, many of the ball goers conclude the evening by heading over to Diamond Tooth Gerties for one of the later shows, but first there was a dance, with the Brass Knuckle Society front and center on the stage and belting out a fine selection of tunes.

Dawson residents got a bit of a preview in the wee hours of Friday night and Saturday morning when the band members settled in at the Front Street Gazebo and put on a bit of an open air midnight concert.



Piano duet. Alexis Gee and Maria Peters perform a cross hand maneuver while their fathers hold the piano steady.

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



Premier chatting. Darrell and Tammie Pasloski chat with the crowd.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Commissioner Doug Phillips and Dale Stokes chat with the tourists and locals across from the  
Palace Grand.

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



The audience was very appreciative of the piano performances.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson uffish\*northwestel.net (In Dawson)



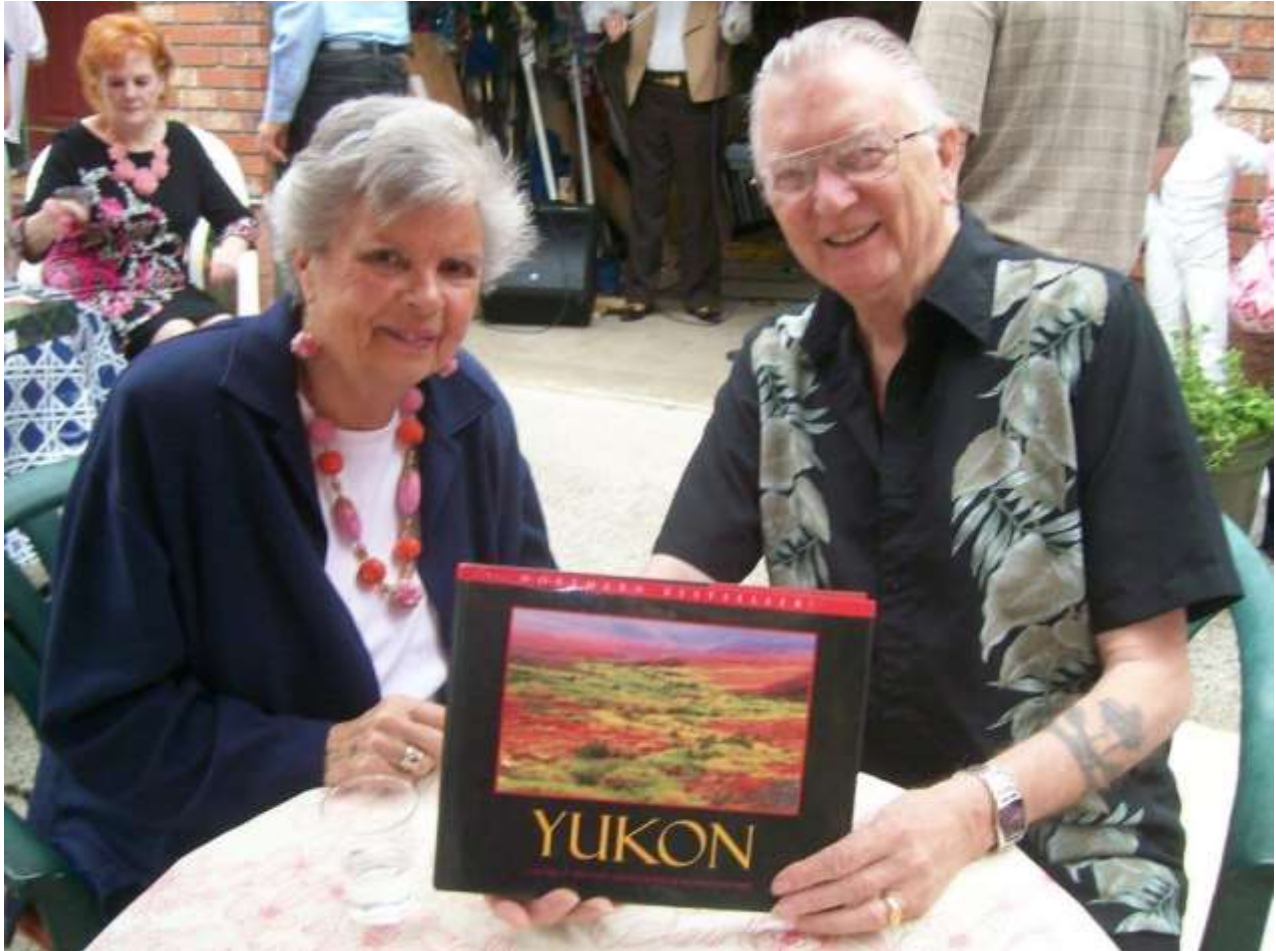
The Brass Knuckle Society in concert.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The ball goers gathered for the traditional group photo outside the Palace Grand.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## Discovery Day/Anniversary Party

Gillian and Edward hosted a party to celebrate Discovery Day in the Klondike with Vancouver Yukoners as well they included their own friends who gathered to celebrate Gillian and Edwards 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

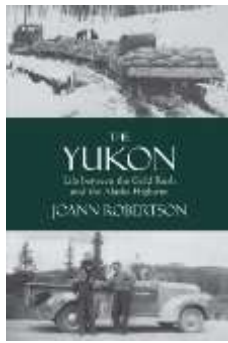


Joann Robinson (author of Yukon book) & Ray Buchanan (Gillian's dressmaker)  
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)

Joann Robertson is Author of 'The Yukon: Life Between the Gold Rush and the Alaska Highway'.

Found at: <http://www.amazon.com/The-Yukon-Between-Alaska-Highway/dp/1926991095>

Joann Robertson's grandfather moved to the Yukon in 1897 to make his fortune. He did not succeed, but loved the North and decided to settle there. Leaving their eldest two children in London, his wife joined him in 1899. They had six more children born in various settlements. The life the family lived and the work they did -- telegraphy, dog team mail delivery, teaching and working in the gold-mining industry -- were typical of the Yukon during this era.



From memories of her Yukon youth, family letters, photographs, unpublished works and news clippings, Joann describes the life of her and other families during this little-known period of Yukon time. Her narrative -- at one point describing the dismantling of a Model T Ford to smuggle it by canoe across a river in the dead of night -- echoes her love of this unique society.



Former Yukoners, Dorothy Graham, Nancy Moulton, Corinne Loeppky, Maribeth Mainer  
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Gillian and guests.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Jim Robb and a piece of his art work.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Ken Jones, arriving from up the valley on his motorcycle.  
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Linda Rawlinson and Maribeth Mainer  
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Gillians' daughter-in-law Dana and her mother Aleeza and lots of other guests.  
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Lyn Bleiler, Marilyn Hirshcorn, Maureen  
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Lunch time !

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Bill, Maureen and Edward

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Gillians' Irish friends.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Gillian's son Richard with extended family.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Shiela Firth and Gwen McFayden

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



More Yukoners and party guests.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Guests were entertained.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Familiar Yukoners from the Vancouver area.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Edwards' girlfriend Marilyn.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



After party visit with friends who were working all day.

Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Jim Robb making friends with one of the dearly loved inmates of the Thompson home.  
Photo courtesy Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate@shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)



Carcross and Lake Bennett at noon today, as we descended to Whitehorse. What an amazing place to call home. Sept 2, 2014.

Photo courtesy Murray Lundberg [yukonalaska@gmail.com](mailto:yukonalaska@gmail.com) (In Whitehorse)

## **MocTel 395**

Dear Sherron.... I just have to write to tell you how much I enjoyed Mocketel this month. First the beautiful pictures of Nares Lake which I intend to print and frame.

Next the history of the Carcross desert so much of which I did not know when we lived in the Yukon! I will have to travel back one day.

The story of Andrew Lutz brought tears to my eyes. Wonderful to know there are youngsters in the world like him. I guess there is hope for this old world after all.

I have read the whole copy of Moc Tel several times. Friends have sat at my computer and read a good part of it too.

Thanks for all the work you do to bring this to us.

Jean Hartnell [jvhart@citywest.ca](mailto:jvhart@citywest.ca) (wife of the late Norm Hartnell an early bush pilot in Yukon) Kitamat BC

## **OBIT**



### **Edna Mae Perks nee Barton**

December 26, 1946 - August 15, 2014

On Friday, August 15, 2014 Edna Perks passed away at the age of 67 years.

Edna will be lovingly remembered by her sons Todd and Scott Perks; and brother Edgar Barton.

Edna will also be fondly remembered by her extended family and friends.

Edna was a Judge for many years for the Grande Prairie Kennel Club, a position she thoroughly enjoyed serving in.

A Celebration of Edna's life will be held on Friday, September 5, 2014 at 1:00 pm at Oliver's Funeral Chapel in Grande Prairie (10005 107 Ave).

Memorial Donations may be made in memory of Edna to the H.O.P.E Program (Room 9120A, 11402 University Ave, Edmonton, AB T6G 2J3).

Celebration of Life

Friday September 5, 2014, 1:00 pm at Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel

Edna moved to the Yukon in 1966 and took the LPN course at the vocational school. She graduated in June of 1967. She was born and raised in Oliver BC. She married Dave Perks in Whitehorse on Sept. 1, 1967. The family moved to Edmonton in 1974 and to Grande Prairie in 1978.

**Tributes flow in for master outdoorsman**

Myles Dolphin, Reporter Yukon News, Wednesday August 27, 2014

*Submitted Photo/Yukon News*



**Monty Alford at Pine Lake in December 2011.**

Monty Alford, one of the Yukon's great mountaineers, passed away last week. He was 90 years old.

Alford was a guide in the expedition party that brought Robert F. Kennedy to the summit of Kluane's Mount Kennedy in 1965, the first ascent of the 4,000 metre (14,000 feet) tall mountain.

The climb was one of many for the Whitehorse resident, who completed a number of daring expeditions in the 1960s and 70s, many of which took him to some of the highest peaks in North America.

Remembered as a humble and generous man, Alford rarely boasted of his accomplishments.

One of his three sons, Dominic, said his father found peace and solace in beautiful, wild surroundings.

"I realized, by doing a lot of little climbs with him, that he had little interest in the summit," Dominic said.

"It was all about the day for him. The destination was a footnote."

Born and raised in Cornwall, England, Alford immigrated to Canada 1948 and wasted little time organizing a 6,700-kilometre canoe expedition from British Columbia to the Gulf of Mexico.

Alford's endurance was legendary. He would often outpace his young, fit sons when they were out on day trips.

“Dad was a consummate tortoise,” Dominic said.

“I can remember quite demanding hikes or ski trips where we’d start out with a lot of vigor in the morning. We’d tease dad about keeping up with us, but he had a certain pace. By lunchtime we were a bit tired and more or less at the same pace. But by three o’clock great fatigue set in for us, and he had kept the same pace all day.”

Alford spent 35 years as a federal water surveyor, continuing a strong family tradition of love for the water.

His father had been a member of the Royal Navy.

In 1998, at the age of 75, Alford’s children bought him a comprehensive package of sailing lessons for his birthday.

Monty bought a sailboat, which he kept in Skagway, and loved bringing his friends on trips.

Malcolm Taggart, a godson of Monty’s, recalled a sailing trip they had about 15 years ago.

“My wife and I offered to crew for him for three weeks and he was really happy with that,” Taggart said.

“We sailed with him for 21 days - it rained for 20 of them - but Monty didn’t care about the weather. It made no difference to him. He just loved being out there.”

Dominic said his father would relish the bad weather, when it came. He would appreciate the lessons it provided.

“He used to tell us that some of the best experiences can come from adverse weather,” Dominic said.

“He said you’d get bored and unappreciative of the nice days if you had too many of them.”

One of Taggart’s most vivid childhood memories of Alford was of his infectious laughter. Growing up nearby in Riverdale, the families would often spend time together.

Dinner parties were often an exciting affair.

“You wouldn’t even have to hear the joke,” Taggart said.

“Monty’s laugh would start to gather steam and people would just have tears streaming down their faces, laughing with him. It became hysterical at times.”

Yukoners also knew Alford from the countless winter survival training courses he offered in his spare time.

He would teach youth about making shelters, keeping warm and staying hydrated.

Stephen Hureau, who took one of these courses as a 16-year-old in 1989, said Alford was a very friendly man who was also caring and mindful.

“We were up on Grey Mountain and he taught us how to make a stove out of two tin cans and tea candles,” he said.

“Some years later when I’d see him around, he’d always ask me whether I still had the little stove.”

Monty and Renee had six children in total.

Dominic recalled an evening in the mid-to-late 1960s, shortly after the last of the children had been born, when his father came home with news that he’d been invited to another lengthy expedition to Antarctica.

Monty casually made the announcement, one that could shake the foundation of any family, over the dinner table.

“He floated that out, just to share what had happened during his day, and I can remember my mother saying, ‘Well, you have to go!’”

“Dad told us so many times that he’d hit a home run with her. He said he was so blessed to have had a woman like that who supported his dreams.”

Also a story about Monty Alford at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/monty-alford-yukon-outdoorsman-and-mountaineer-dead-at-90-1.2746040>

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

We are now [gord.and.em\\*telus.net](http://gord.and.em*telus.net) telus instead of at shaw.

Thank you.

Gordon P Berberich

## **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*Harsh words don’t break bones, but they often break hearts. – Rev Run Quotes.*

## **RECIPE OF THE WEEK**

The Eastern Star Cookbook

For the benefit of War Work – Dawson 1942

### **Baked Tuna and Potato Chip**

1 large can of Tuna

1 can mushrooms

½ can pimento (small)

1 large pkge potato chips, crushed

Put casserole in layers; cover with a thin white sauce and bake about 20 to 30 minutes (until firm) at 400 degrees.

Florence McLaren

## **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 your bank's website, find "Money Transfers" or "Email Money Transfers" or however your bank may list it, enter the amount, my email address of [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca) and enter a password ie: moctel and press "Send". It's that easy. Then please send me an email to confirm your payment.

– Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)

## **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

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