

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 424th Edition – June 12th, 2016

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Memories rekindled as Telegraph Office reopens

With the grand reopening of the Telegraph Office last Wednesday, Yukoners were reminded of a time before Snapchat, Whatsapp and Facetime.

By **Sidney Cohen** on **May 30, 2016**



INSPECTING THE PREMISES – From left to right: Tim Kinvig, a retired CBC North technician; Ron McFadyen, a retired CKRW and CBC broadcaster; Keith Halliday of the MacBride Museum; and local businessman Rolf Hougen are seen at last Wednesday’s grand reopening of the Telegraph Office at the museum.

About 300 people came out to celebrate the MacBride Museum’s new exhibit about how Yukoners communicated with the Outside prior to the digital age.

Opening the historic site to the public was made possible, in large part, because of a donation from Rolf Hougen, head of the Yukon retail institution Hougen Group of Companies.

Hougen was the guest of honour at last Wednesday’s event.



SHOWING HOW IT WAS DONE – Former Yukon Commissioner Doug Bell demonstrates Morse code at last week’s grand reopening of the Telegraph Office at the MacBride Museum.

Photos by Vince Fedoroff

Under a large white tent set up next to the historic cabin in downtown Whitehorse, he explained his desire to share the territory’s telecommunications history.

“The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, they were in every community in the North ... they had maybe nine or 10 (personnel) here in Whitehorse, and they did the Morse code all the time to keep people in touch,” Hougen said from a podium at the front of the tent.

“That story is more or less lost to the public, and it should be told, and there are countless other stories of landlines and White Pass and all of these that should be recorded.”

Commissioner Doug Phillips reflected back to when tuning into the Toronto Maple Leafs game up north wasn’t so easy.

“I remember my dad and a bunch of his buddies used to get together and they’d find out who was new in town, and they’d make a wager with the new person about who would win the Saturday night hockey game,” he said.

“The reason was, the game was a week old. The person they were wagering with didn’t realize that (my dad and his friends) had already won. And those were the days that the Maple Leafs had a team in the NHL.”

Mayor Dan Curtis and Premier Darrell Pasloski also shared stories from the pre-Netflix era. They paid tribute to Hougen, the man who was instrumental in creating homegrown TV and radio in the Yukon.

“Yukon became a pioneer in (the telecommunications) sector thanks to Rolf and many other forward-thinking investors, innovators and partners,” said the premier.

“Despite Yukon’s small population, Rolf and others set about working together to improve radio and television for Yukoners.”

In 1958, as president of Northern Television Systems, Hougen helped launch WHTV. For four hours a day, the local channel aired black and white programming that was six months old.

This involved the costly exercise of flying in 200 pounds of tape from Vancouver every day, Pasloski noted.

About a decade later, Hougen put CKRW on the dial as the first commercial radio station in the North.

“Rolf has been a leader and entrepreneur through all of these changes in Yukon’s telecommunications,” said Pasloski.

About 10 years ago, Hougen approached Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor and Patricia Cunnin, the MacBride Museum’s executive director, about telling the story of telecommunications in the Yukon.

Since then, dozens more have expressed interest in seeing this piece of the Yukon’s history shared, said Cunnin, “so we, MacBride, decided that we should tell that story.”

With its weathered exterior and red-trimmed windows, the 1 1/2-storey log cabin on First Avenue is a conspicuous feature on Whitehorse’s riverfront, but few know its history and the importance it had to Yukoners at the turn of the century.

Built in 1900, the Telegraph Office is the oldest building in its original location in Whitehorse, and one of only two buildings in the city that are more than 110 years old.

For 27 years after its construction, the Telegraph Office connected the influx of prospectors to the rest of the country.

Back then, the only way to send a message to the Outside was to transmit it across a single telegraph line that ran south from Dawson City to Whitehorse along the Yukon River, and down through Ashcroft, B.C. to Vancouver.

The cabin was a workplace and residence to its operators until the telegraph became obsolete.

The RCMP used the building briefly in the 1920s, and after that, it was the Boy Scouts headquarters.

In 1952, the cabin was made into a museum, but for the last 30 years, the doors have been locked and windows shuttered.

“My dad told me that this was Sam McGee’s cabin,” Curtis told the audience, pointing to the Telegraph Office behind him.

“Imagine my shock when I find out, from the McBride Museum, that it’s actually the telegraph spot.”

The mayor commended the Front Street museum for recording the Yukon’s history and expanding upon it with the new telecommunications exhibit.

“It’s so, so important to be stewards of our heritage,” he said.

The Telegraph Office is open for tours twice a day and is accessible with admission to the museum.

Historic telegraph office re-opened after many years



HISTORY HUNTER Michael Gates Friday May 27, 2016

Michael Gates/Yukon News



The old telegraph office is open to the public once again, and contains a new exhibit on telecommunications.

More than 200 enthusiastic guests turned out Wednesday evening at the MacBride Museum despite wind, rain and low temperature, for the celebration of the old, the new, and one Whitehorse family's contribution to the history of the Yukon.

The telegraph office is the oldest surviving building in Whitehorse that remains on its original site, at the corner of Steele and Front Streets, overlooking the Whitehorse waterfront.

When the Klondike Gold Rush occurred in 1897-1899, the Yukon was a remote and isolated district where news was slow to travel the long distances from the Outside. The first telegraph line built in the Yukon in 1899 ran from Dawson City hundreds of kilometres south to Bennett, B.C.. There, it connected with an American telegraph line that followed the route of the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad line to Skagway. Whitehorse, at this time, was located at the foot of the Whitehorse Rapids on the east side of the Yukon River, near where the Robert Campbell Bridge spans the river today. A telegraph office was built there, and another within the North West Mounted Police post located at the head of Miles Canyon.

This telegraph line had its drawbacks: first, there was no direct link with the rest of the continent, and any message still had to be transported from Skagway to Victoria, Vancouver or Seattle by boat. The second drawback was that any messages had to be dispatched over a telegraph line that ran through American territory.

All of that changed in 1900 when the railroad reached Whitehorse on the west bank of the Yukon River. The new telegraph office, housed in the two-storey log building that survives today, was constructed in its current location and the old site across the river was abandoned.

This building served both as a telegraph office and as living quarters for the operator. A telegraph line following an all-Canadian route over the old telegraph trail between Ashcroft, B.C., and Whitehorse, was finished in 1901, and a tenuous link between the Yukon and the Outside, the longest such telegraph line ever constructed, was finally established.

The telegraph office continued to serve in that capacity for 27 years, until it was replaced by a more advanced radio system. After that, it served as quarters for the Mounted Police. In 1952, stated Keith Halliday, the master of ceremonies for the evening, the building was taken over by the museum society, and served as the community museum. Halliday added that in the early days, a 10-word telegram cost \$4.25, at a time when a labourer made only a dollar a day.

If the building served as a communication hub in the early days, it now serves as an exhibit hall, commemorating telecommunications during the latter half of the twentieth century. In this regard, homage was paid to Rolf and Marg Hougen and family, and the Hougen Group of Companies, who were one of the sponsors that supported the development of the new exhibit.

In turn, Halliday, Yukon Commissioner Doug Phillips, Premier Darrell Pasloski and Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis paid tribute to the Hougen family, both for its commitment to the arts and heritage of the territory for seven decades, and for its advancement of the Yukon through its innovative business practices. Rolf Hougen was instrumental in bringing radio and television and finally satellite communication to Whitehorse. Phillips recalled the Queen's visit to the MacBride Museum when he was "small." On another occasion, he remembered running down to the Hougen's store on a cold winter day to stand in front of the store window with other youngsters and watch cartoons on a black-and-white television. Back then, the adults would place wagers with gullible newcomers to Whitehorse on the outcome of the Saturday night hockey games. The new arrivals didn't know that they were watching games that were recorded the week before. Pasloski noted how, in the early days of cable television, the programs were recorded in Vancouver, and each day, 90 kilograms of pre-recorded material was flown to Whitehorse to be rebroadcast on WHTV. This is hard to imagine today, when we can connect to anywhere in the world on a small hand-held device.

Ten years ago, Rolf Hougen wrote to local museums about the obvious absence of recognition for the role of telecommunication in their messaging. This new exhibit, he stated, is just a beginning.

Hougen spent a few minutes recalling the development of cable television in Whitehorse, and then the first efforts to link to satellite. He saw the potential of satellite communications for the North and was instrumental in establishing the Canadian Satellite Communications Company, or Cancom.

A number of people were singled out for their contributions to developing this new exhibit, including Patricia Cunning and Colleen Dermotis of the MacBride Museum. Tim Kinvig, Ron McFadyen, Doug Bell and Ken McKinnon were recognized for their volunteer contributions.

After the speeches were complete, Rolf and Marg Hougen cut a large cake, which was then shared with guests, and tours of the telegraph office began. Various pieces of telecommunications equipment are displayed in two rooms on the main floor of the building, and in a third room on the second storey.

Ron McFadyen and Tim Kinvig were both viewing the exhibit when I entered the building. Ron had earlier been acknowledged by Rolf Hougen for being at CKRW when it began broadcasting, for his many years working for CBC, and finally, for his return to CKRW in recent years. Kinvig, who worked on the technical side of broadcasting at CBC for many years, now works on the digitization of the audio collections of the Yukon Archives.

They pointed out one of the objects now on display - a wire recorder, which was the precursor of the tape recorder. They posed for a photograph in front of pictures of pioneer Yukon broadcasters, including colleagues Bill "Wee Willie" Anderson, Les McLaughlin,

Terry Delaney, and Yukon troubadour Al Oster. Oster, Hougen mentioned earlier, is still a going concern at age 92.

Just before I left the telegraph office, Ron McFadyen had seated himself in front of a radio key that was on display, and was demonstrating Morse Code to one of the guests. His enthusiasm and love for the historical technology was obvious.

Michael Gates is a Yukon historian and sometimes adventurer based in Whitehorse. He is currently writing a book on the Yukon in World War I. You can contact him at msgates@northwestel.net.

Early long distance communication:

Feeling the passing of time: Ron McFadyen, my husband Bill Jones and I all received our ham radio licenses in the 1970's. So thankful it gave me a headstart and our first personal computer, a Commodore Pet ! 8k memory. Unbelievable. My first attempts at programming were saved onto cassette tape. We were able to program the sending and receiving of Morse Code. My shaking "fist" did not result in easily readable copy. One memory of a frequently used term: CQDX CQDX VE8BK later VY1BK first used in morse code and later in voice. The code meant Calling anyone long distance – this is VY1BK. The call sign was individual to me. This call would often result in a farmer in Queensland, Australia coming on to say hello and that he was in the barn milking cows and heard my voice all the way from Whitehorse, Yukon Canada. The VE8 told him I was in northern Canada and the VY1 told him it was Yukon Territory.

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



I received my advanced license May 16 1979, one year after Bill. I had taken a year off studying Ham Radio to place my effort on Management courses taken from the University of Alberta Extension Program.

Ian Rutherford signed my license after testing me at home. I thought he had come for a visit and yes he had an ulterior motive. He was correct, if I didn't do it now I likely never would have taken the test. Ian was the manager at DOC and his assistant Andy Cobham taught the code portion of the classes while Ian taught us the rules of the Canadian and International airways. Jack Wreggit taught theory. We were required to learn to build/draw and explain a transmitter and a receiver.

The first level of Licencing was taken in 1977 and we were required to be proficient at Morse code at 10 words a minute. The requirements of the Advanced Amateur are listed on the license and include proficiency of Morse Code at 15 words per minute. I used the same type of electronic Key that now resides in the Telegraph office museum. (The same type as the one that had belonged to Ron McFayden, on the desk beside Doug Bell in the photo in the Whitehorse Star Story). I suspect Doug was using a traditional hand key.

Ham radio is an interesting and exciting hobby. My first Morse code contact was with a person in Russia. Thank heavens that English is the International language of Communication. We were required to keep a log of all contacts and not use voice during the first year.



Bill Advanced license was issued May 10, 1978, one year after we both passed our Amateur class license requirements in 1977.

Note from Ron:

The green keyer was on my desk for first ham test in summer of 1976.

Made my first contact with it.

Ron McFayden

For Immediate Release

Tuesday May 24, 2016

From Telegraphs to Gold Fish Bowls to the World's First Scrambled Satellite Television Network

Announcing the opening of Yukon's Telecommunications History at the MacBride Museum and Hougen's 70th Anniversary.

5pm Wednesday May 25th

Over 70 years ago, Rolf Hougen, started a store with his parents that was about 240 square feet, about the size of 2 average bedrooms. They sold brushes and household supplies.

Over 70 years ago, when that first store opened, Whitehorse was a frontier town. World War II was raging. The town bulged with U.S. Army personnel. Paddle wheelers plied the Yukon River carrying supplies north. The White Pass Railway brought in in freight, using four steam locomotives each trip to negotiate the grade from Tidewater to Summit Pass. There was no running water: the water wagon went from house to house delivering water by the bucket. The streets weren't paved: they were icy, muddy or dusty depending on the time of year. Dawson City was the capital of Yukon.

How did this small store not only survive the huge changes of the past 70 plus years but grow into a multi-faceted business that, over time, incorporated everything from telecommunications to ladies wear to automotive sales to real estate? Through innovation. And hard work.

So it seemed apt that, in order to celebrate 70 years, Hougen's would contribute to the "Yukon Innovator Series" at the MacBride Museum.

The Innovators Series tells the stories of Yukoner's who have invented or improved technology that has impacted life in the Yukon, Canada and even the World. From development of the World's first containers for the Whitepass Railway to satellite communications to ice tools and northern construction, Yukoner's have been pioneers. Innovators celebrates these pioneers.

Telecommunications History is the first segment of The Innovators to be showcased. In the 1960's Rolf Hougen's store was selling some of the first black and white televisions... but there were no TV signals. So Rolf started WHTV in order to put something on those TV's!

At one point, WHTV was so desperate to fill air time it pointed its only camera out the window at the liquor store across the street to record the comings and goings. It even put a camera on a bowl with gold fish.... Later Mr. Hougen taped programs on the air in Vancouver and flew them to Whitehorse, but the cost was high and much of the programming was dated. On top of that, the practice, although legal, irritated the Vancouver station where the signals originated.

So, in March 1979, Rolf Hougen flew to Ottawa with his «Down to Earth Proposal» for Canadian Satellite Communications (Cancom). This proposal weathered daunting technological problems, bitter resistance from illegal dish owners, segments of the broadcasting and cable TV industry and huge personal financial burden. In 1981 Cancom, the company that Rolf Hougen pioneered, constructed the first scrambled satellite television network in the World.

The Innovator's telecom exhibit is, fittingly, housed in the 1900 Telegraph Office at MacBride. The Telegraph Office is the oldest building in Whitehorse in its original location and it is a municipally designated historic site.

The exhibition illustrates the time period from the early Gold Rush to the introduction of satellite communications, pioneered by Hougens. The show incorporates early radio and satellite communications, aviation communications, phone and cable in communities and work undertaken by Yukoners to bring communications to remote and underserved communities.

The Celebration of Over 70 years in Business and the Official Opening of the Telegraph Office will take place 5pm to 8pm, Wednesday May 25th at The MacBride Museum. Refreshments, music by Hank Karr, and the first tours of this new exhibit will take place. All are welcome.

For more information please call

Patricia Cunning, Executive Director of MacBride Museum, 867-667-2709
Mary Jane Warshawski, Hougens Group Communications, 867-333-0466



Hank Karr and Canucks.

Left: Ken McKinnon, band Ray Parks on keyboard, Hank Karr on Guitar, Red Lewis on Drums, Ed Issak right.

Photo by Vince Fedoroff



Doug Bell
Photo by Vince Fedoroff



Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis, Rolf Hougen, Commissioner Doug Phillips, Premier Darrell Pasloski, Keith Halliday
Photo by Vince Fedoroff



Ron McFadyen, a retired CKRW and CBC broadcaster and Tim Kinvig retired CBC technician.

Photo by Vince Fedoroff



Photo by Vince Fedoroff



L to R: Ray Parks, Hank Karr, Red Lewis and Ed Issak
Photos by Vince Fedoroff



Rolf Hougen & ?



Marg Hougen cutting the cake to celebrate the reopening of the Telegraph Office.
Old timers at the table Bill Weigand, Millie (McMurphy) Jones, Goodie (Erickson)
Sparling

Photo by Vince Fedoroff

Tidbits of history: Bill Weigand was owner of Murdoch's Gem Shop, Millie's mother Adele McMurphy was the White Pass Agent and Postmaster in Carcross, Goodies parents ran the Regina Hotel.



Bust commissioned Rolf Hougen, with Jack London Bust and great grand-daughter of Jack London, Tarnel Abbott.

Photo courtesy Rolf Hougen marg*hougens.com (In Whitehorse)

Jack London's great granddaughter heeds the call of the Klondike 'Kind of thrilling,' says Tarnel Abbott on her first visit to Yukon, where London made his name.

By Paul Tukker, CBC News Posted: Jun 04, 2016



Tarnel Abbott poses with a bust of her great grandfather, Jack London, on Main Street in Whitehorse. It's the first time she's been to Yukon. (Submitted by Tarnel Abbott)

Tarnel Abbott, an activist and retired librarian, did not always embrace the legacy of her legendary forebear, author Jack London.

"It is something that I kind of grew into in more recent years," she said from Dawson City, Yukon, where she's participating in this weekend's Jack London Festival. It's the first time she's been to Yukon.

"It took me a while to understand the legacy, and how important it is."



Jack London writing, in 1905. London was not yet famous when he joined the stampede heading north to Dawson in 1897. He spent one winter prospecting in the Klondike, developing scurvy, and leaving empty-handed. But he found the raw material for his most famous stories. (Century Company)

Her visit to Dawson is likely to deepen that appreciation — London is easily the most well-known and celebrated stamper to have reached the Klondike, a century ago.

His Yukon-inspired stories, among them *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, and *To Build a Fire*, are classics of American fiction, and countless tourists arrive in Dawson every summer with copies stashed in their RVs, canoes or backpacks. Legions of fans make the pilgrimage from Germany, and Japan.

They typically visit the Jack London Cabin and museum, where there's a replica of his gold rush cabin. They might even stop for a bite at the Jack London Grill. And, when they pass through Whitehorse, they can stop for a picture at the [Jack London bust on Main Street](#).

Dawson 'a little more authentic'

"It's kind of thrilling, you know," Abbott said as she took in some sights in Dawson this week, "very charming."

She lives in the epicentre of all things Jack London — Oakland, Calif., where London also lived for years. Oakland also has a replica of his gold rush cabin, and a Jack London Square that's a commercial hub. Abbott prefers Dawson's lower-key embrace of his legacy.

"There's something a little more authentic up here that I appreciate," she said. "He's less commercialized."



The Jack London cabin and museum is a mandatory stop in Dawson City for the legions of London fans who arrive every summer in the Klondike.

One of the things that's most intrigued her is Yukon's First Nations heritage. She said many of London's stories addressed "that culture clash of first contact."

"And I would be very curious to know how those stories are viewed by the people today, the First Nations people. Because I think, by and large, Jack was sympathetic to the aboriginal population."

Abbott has already visited the Dawson's Jack London Cabin and museum ("sweet"), and had plans for a boat trip on the Yukon River. She even bought a Dawson City T-shirt — "had to prove I was here, you know!"

London's political bent

This weekend, she'll be talking about London and his work at the Jack London Festival, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the author's death.

"If they want me to speak, I'll speak my mind," she said, earlier this week.

For Abbott, a long-time community activist in Oakland, that means talking not just about London's brief Klondike sojourn, but his life-long socialist bent. Many of London's works (such as *The Iron Heel* and *People of the Abyss*) vividly reflect his politics.



Abbott with staff of the Klondike Visitors Association in Dawson City this week. 'There's something a little more authentic up here that I appreciate,' she said. (Paul Robitaille) Abbott has a particular fondness for *The Iron Heel*, a classic dystopian novel about the rise of tyranny in the U.S., "because of its political relevance to our times, in the United States."

She's been a supporter of Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders, and says she's terrified of "the opposition, especially in the form of that guy with the funny hair." "If he happens to win, I might be heading north to Canada, myself," she joked.

In the meantime, she's happy to be a visitor, and to have been invited to the festival. She hopes to come back to Dawson, next time with some relatives.

"Once you have been in the geographical location, certainly it effects your imagination when you're reading a story in that setting.

"Of course, I'm not here in winter!"

Dawson City's [Jack London Festival](#), celebrating the author's life and work, includes talks, readings and film screenings. It runs until Sunday afternoon.

Canoeists say man saved them from frigid Yukon lake 'I can certainly tell you that I wasn't going to make it back to shore,' says 71-year-old

By Philippe Morin, Paul Tukker, [CBC News](#) Posted: Jun 06, 2016



Kathleen Lake is in Yukon's Kluane National Park. (Philippe Morin/CBC)

Two men want to thank a stranger who leapt to their rescue this weekend, after their canoe capsized on Yukon's Kathleen Lake.

One of the canoeists, 71-year-old Frank Glass, says he's convinced the stranger saved his life.

"I can certainly tell you that I wasn't going to make it back to shore," Glass said, back home now in Quebec City. "Most definitely I am here today because of that." Glass was visiting Yukon to take part in a geology conference last week. He and a friend from Yukon, 69-year-old Donald Francis, decided to end Glass's visit with a paddle on the scenic lake in Kluane National Park.

Glass says they had taken appropriate precautions before heading out in the 18-foot canoe. Both were wearing life jackets.

Along for the ride was Kody, an eight-month-old Portuguese water dog, also wearing a flotation device.

Deadly cold water

Glass says they had been out for a while when suddenly the wind picked up.



Frank Glass of Quebec City was in a canoe that capsized on Yukon's Kathleen Lake on Saturday. He says a stranger saved his life by helping pull him to shore. (Submitted by Frank Glass)

The men turned the canoe back toward shore but Glass says it started rocking with the waves, side-to-side.

"The wind increased, broadside — parallel to waves," Glass said.

The canoe capsized about 50 metres from shore, spilling the men and Kody into the deadly cold water.

Glass remembers trying to load gear back into the canoe, but the men and the dog were unable to climb back in.

"The dog was swimming away. I'd put him back in, but each time the canoe would roll over again with another wave the dog would come out," he said.

Glass thought he was going to die. He looked for Francis, and remembers seeing him clinging to the stern of the canoe.

"At a certain moment in very cold water the switches simply turn off," Glass said.

Francis, who lives at Mendenhall, outside of Whitehorse, admits that having a young dog like Kody on board "didn't help" in either navigation or rescue.

"At one point, he was climbing up on top of me and pushing me under water," he said with a laugh.

'This other guy ran in'

Glass doesn't know how much time they spent in the water. Francis guesses it was about 10 or 15 minutes.

"We were holding on to the canoe and the dog. It was all very confusing," Francis said. "It's hard to know because it was a very intense experience."

The two men tried to swim to shore while holding onto the canoe. It was exhausting and difficult in the bone-chilling water.

"I was losing a lot of energy and I knew I wasn't going to make it," Glass said.

Their struggle was noticed by some people on shore. One man stripped down to a bathing suit and got in the water to reach the canoe.

"Just as we're getting to the shore, this other guy ran in and grabbed the front of the canoe and pulled us out. We staggered out and Frank looked in pretty bad shape. I thought I was in good shape, but then I started to get cold," Francis says.



Kathleen Lake is south of Haines Junction, and within Kluane National Park.

"The man took off my vest at shore and put a shirt on me which was dry," Glass says.

"He rubbed my hands, my upper body. He put his body against mine to get more warmth."

The man even offered him a banana.

After a few moments, the canoeists tried to walk toward Parks Canada's public cabin at Kathleen Lake, but Glass was unable to stand. He says his rescuer lifted him to carry him inside.

"Apparently I was incoherent on the beach," Glass says.

Francis says he was able to walk. He watched as other bystanders provided a sleeping bag to keep his friend warm.

An ambulance soon took Glass to the community health centre in nearby Haines Junction. Francis says he took the dog and followed behind in his truck.

Safe and sound

Glass says nurses at the health centre found him exhausted but unharmed. He was released after about an hour and found Francis and Kody, also in good shape. The dog "kissed and licked my arm," he said.

Glass says he'd like to find the stranger who helped pull them from the water. Francis says his first name was Jeppe or something similar and both describe a strong European accent.

Glass believes the man should receive a formal commendation from the Canadian government, but he also wants a chance to offer his own personal thanks. "I want to mail him a bottle of maple syrup every year," he said.

2016 Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony Transportation Museum, Whitehorse Yukon

Photos and info courtesy Donna Clayson bdclayson*northwestel.net (In Whitehorse)

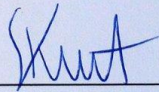


Opening Remarks Mr. Dan Davidson, Emcee



2016 Order of Polaris - The Late Mr, Jack Stalberg
Induction By the Honourable Doug Phillips Commissioner of the Yukon
Acceptance of Award By Mrs. Susan Thomas (Jack Stalbergs daughter)

*In recognition of meritorious service in Yukon aviation,
a significant contribution to the advancement of the aviation industry,
and endeavours which served an important role in opening up the North.*



The Honourable Scott Kent
Minister for the Department of Highways and Public Works
Government of Yukon

2016 ORDER OF POLARIS

Jack Stalberg was born in March 1924 in Sexsmith, AB. After serving overseas during WWII, Jack made his way north on the Alaska Highway and arrived in Whitehorse in 1952. His first Yukon job, maintaining the airport as a heavy equipment operator and mechanic at the Royal Canadian Air Force Detachment in Snag, stimulated a new lifelong passion - flying. In early 1956 Jack became a private pilot and later that summer he and Betty Armstrong were married in Beaver Creek.

From 1955 to 1958 Jack was employed by the Canadian Army at the Northwest Highway System Maintenance Camp at Mile 202 Beaver Creek where he worked to maintain the Alaska Highway.

In 1958 Jack built a home for his wife and new baby and started operating his own service station and garage. He yearned to return to flying and decided that an airport in Beaver Creek was needed. This decision would become an endeavour that would require Jack's time, energy and dedication for the next eleven years. In 1960 he determined the requirements and standards for building a landing strip after discussing his proposal at a visit to the Department of Transport in Edmonton.

In 1962, he became temporarily sidetracked when he gained employment working on the U.S. Army Haines-Fairbanks Petroleum Pipeline, stationed at the Beaver Creek pump station. He sold his garage business and moved his family to the pump station. After settling in, Jack again set forth on his plan to build a local airstrip.



Beat Ledergerber, friend to Jack Stalberg.



Bev Buckway, Pam Buckway, Beat Ledergerber, Sue Thomas, Gary Knickel, Murray Biggin

THE LATE MR. JACK STALBERG

Over the years he faced many challenges and obstacles, but he persisted in gathering the necessary permissions, seeking and securing financial assistance when possible and garnering the support of politicians, government officials and the community. He worked with the Department of Transport, the Commission of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the Yukon Government, and local businesses among many others to accomplish this task. He was also responsible for working out the details with the Beaver Creek Customs Department to obtain clearance in and out of Canada for small aircraft.

Once he had received permission in 1965 he took it upon himself to clear the 500,000 square feet of land required - and then maintained that strip of land, often at his own cost, until the Yukon government took over upgrading and maintenance in 1971.

Jack was instrumental in establishing a medical "flying-service" for residents of Beaver Creek and visiting tourists. During this period, there were numerous medical evacuations and Jack also helped search for downed aircraft in the area. Many American aircraft used the air strip to clear customs on their way to or from Alaska.

Jack`s employment with the US Army-ended in November 1971 when the pipeline was shut down. The Stalberg family moved outside, but Jack eventually returned to Beaver Creek after his wife died.

Today an airstrip exists in Beaver Creek because of Jack's single-handed ambition and efforts. In 2000, a monument was built by the community to acknowledge and honour his remarkable contributions.



2016 Yukon Transportation Person of The Late Mrs. Jennie Lynn Howie

Induction By the Honorable Wade Istchenko Minister of Environment
Acceptance of Award By Mr. Dave Howie

2016 YUKON TRANSPORTATION PERSON – The Late Mrs. Jennie Lynn Howie

Jennie Howie graduated from F. H. Collins High School in 1977 and then joined the Canadian Armed Forces. In 1978, she was awarded the "Commandant's Shield" for her leadership, dedication and high academic scores during her basic training in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. Her career in the Armed Forces was punctuated by rapid promotions.

In 1985 she left the Armed Forces to return to Whitehorse with her husband, Dave, and her children, Amanda and Ben, in order to be closer to family. Having grown up in Whitehorse, Jennie and Dave wanted to provide their children the same opportunities they had enjoyed and looked back on with great fondness.

Though Jennie enjoyed being a mother and homemaker, she also wanted to return to the workforce, feeling that she could make valuable contributions. In 1993 she joined the Transport Services Branch of the Yukon government and soon thereafter became the first female Director of Transport Services.

It is in this role that she indeed made a difference. Under her leadership, numerous pieces of legislation were passed, including those addressing impaired, uninsured and suspended drivers. She was influential in bringing about increased suspension periods for impaired drivers, vehicle impoundment as a result of impaired driving, the establishment of a graduated driver licence program, and the establishment of the alcohol ignition interlock program.

Jennie also left her mark on the commercial transportation industry. She worked hard to have the Yukon join the national Periodic commercial Vehicle Inspection (PMVI) program. She also ensured that all weigh stations and National safety code employees were trained and certified commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspectors, which meant that commercial vehicles and drivers in the Yukon were held to the same safety standards as those operating in the rest of Canada, the United States of America and, ultimately in Mexico.

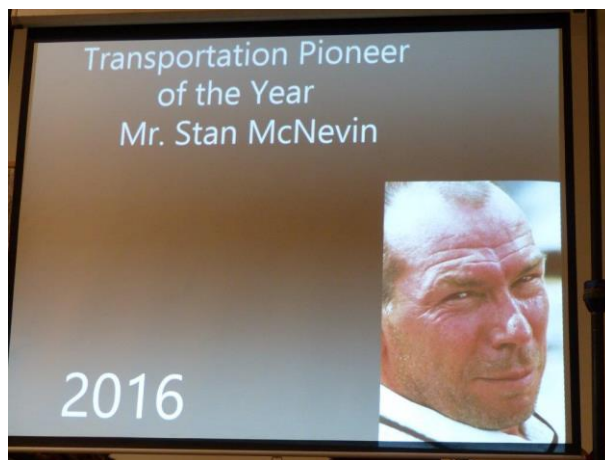
Jennie put the Yukon on the map as far as road safety is concerned, for her efforts were not just limited to the Yukon but had Canada-wide implications. She served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA), where she was a valued member. In recognition of her contributions, CCMTA changed the name of the "Government Member Award" to "Jennie Howie Government Member Award" in May of 2005. In 2006, the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) honoured Jennie with the association's Award of Excellence.

Fairness was as important to Jennie as her unwavering dedication. She listened to the concerns of the transportation industry and was always concerned about the well-being of her staff members. Among Jennie's lasting accomplishments was the creation of the Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame in 1996, which illustrates her interest in preserving the transportation history of the Yukon.

After an eight-year battle with cancer, Jennie passed away on January 5th, 2005. While she was unable to finish some of her projects, her contributions to road safety will never be forgotten. Much of the current work in this area is built on the foundation Jennie worked so tirelessly to create.



2016 Yukon Transportation Pioneer - Mr. Stan McNevin
Induction By the Honourable Wade Isthenko Minister of Environment
Acceptance of Award By Mr Stan McNevin



2016 YUKON TRANSPORTATION PIONEER

Born and raised in a small town in Saskatchewan called Carrot River, Stan later moved and settled in Saskatoon. Following his graduation from high school, he attended the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Science in the construction apprentice program. His career began by working as a construction labourer on jobs all over northern Saskatchewan. Eventually he became a construction foreman and worked on jobs that took him all over northern Canada.

Stan came to the Yukon in 1979 to work at Eagle Plains. His knowledge and skills helped streamline the building of the new facility there for the next two winter seasons. After getting a taste of the rest of the Yukon he settled in as the General Manager at Eagle Plains in 1985, where he continues to live and work to this day.

Living and working in such an isolated and remote facility presented numerous challenges, many of them extremely demanding. Being responsible for resolving any issues related to power generation, heating, water handling and all of the various critical operating systems at the facility meant there was never time to be bored or to take anything for granted.

Even the simplest tasks, like communication and having contact with the Outside, were not straight forward or easy. In the beginning communication involved getting in a truck and driving up and down the highway until you could find a location where there was a radio signal so you could place orders for various supplies and parts. This was not guaranteed and some days no signal could be found.

Services and the traffic flow in this region were very minimal. There was no set schedule for pickups or deliveries and oftentimes it felt like receiving the mail was more of a sport than a reality, let alone a 200 item grocery order.

On top of the operational demands and requirements of the traveling public and industry, the weather presented another distinct challenge. The weather in Eagle Plains is as extreme as anywhere in the world. Working in this environment demands the ability to think on your feet and to have a love of problem-solving and being creative. Working together with staff and highway personnel, Stan coordinated the people and equipment required to enable the safe movement of goods and people in this region.

Over the years Stan built up a range of skills, having worked with a variety of people in the transportation industry including road and aviation, among others. These skills were often called into service as one of the only developed outposts along the Dempster Highway. Stan's helpful manner and attitude, along with his good sense of humour were key to helping meet the needs of all those travelling the highway.

For three decades, Stan has managed the facility at Eagle plains where he's observed and contributed to its growth and continuous improvement. He continues to be instrumental

in making the reliable movement of goods and people possible as they travel through the terrain north of the Arctic Circle.



Whitehorse General Hospital is in crisis

Dr. David Storey Friday June 10, 2016

Ian Stewart/Yukon News

COMMENTARY

I wish to share with you the heartache that we, the physicians and nurses, are feeling at Whitehorse General Hospital.

Last Thursday, June 2, I was told that there were no beds in the hospital - something we have been used to for a very long time now - and that all the holding areas for short-stay were filled with admitted patients apart from one bed and that we had to cancel my mastectomy for cancer the next day and my gallbladder operation for chronic pain because there was nowhere to put them and nowhere to hold them waiting for surgery.

I was also told that there were no recovery room nurses and that we would have to wait between cases to recover each patient before proceeding to the next and that even for pre-operative endoscopes we had no room to hold more than one at a time so there would be long delays between cases. You can imagine what kind of a day Friday was.



Whitehorse General Hospital.

I started practice in the Yukon in 1974, at which time we had over 100 hospital beds. We had a psychiatric ward as well as medical and surgical wards and a pediatrics ward. We had two full-time orderlies. At any given time we had the two general surgeons working, as we do now.

I believe there were in the neighbourhood of 15 administrative staff and the doctors and nurses were very much involved with planning and decision-making. I don't recall many, if any, policy analysts, planners or program directors. The nurses and doctors, I believe, at that time ran an exemplary show.

We fast-forward 42 years and we have half the number of beds for far more than double the population. We have no orderlies. We often have no recovery room staff because we lack permanent staff. We have a difficult time finding people to work in our ICU and in our emergency room. Our clinical nurse leaders and managers are literally pulling their hair out to find people to work, to find beds for patients and to arrange transfers to alternative locations. I have literally seen our wonderful clinical nurse leaders crying out of exasperation. No matter how hard they try we seem stymied.

A year and a half ago I had said there was a crisis and it had to be dealt with - not next year but tomorrow. A year and a half has passed and the promises and platitudes sound exactly the same. Next week we have no recovery room nurses. We have extraordinarily poor funding for OR instrument replacement and purchase. We are destined to be cancelling more and more surgeries. Even our visiting specialists are having cases

cancelled. The last orthopedic surgeon, I believe, had at least one total-knee replacement surgery cancelled for lack of beds. We have been begging for a colonoscopy suite to get colonoscopies out of our operating room now that we have over, I believe, 800 a year.

There seems to be no solid plan but simply promises to do something about it. The new addition at the hospital is not going to give us a significant number of hospital beds for acute care and post-surgical care. Thus we have only 17 beds to deal with the medical and surgical needs of about 35,000 people. At present, chronic and palliative care patients are using up most of our beds. I'm not saying they shouldn't have beds, but I fail to understand, for example, why the Thomson Centre can't be reconfigured to place palliative and chronic patients. We would give up our office space tomorrow. I'm told that the renovations cost too much money, but surely those rooms, if adequate for hospital planners, program directors and policy analysts, should be fit for a dying patient without significant additional risk.

The bottom line of all this, of course, is "no money." I think most of us would be willing to pay more tax should that be necessary to have a safe and solid facility. So far, all the promises seem lame. I understand that the soil has been turned at Whistle Bend but little more.

Our need is now and our need is critical. Any of you who can lobby the powers that be - and I can't actually figure out who they are - please help us to procure enough funds and room to deal with our problem over the next few months, not just the next few years.

This letter is out of frustration just from one surgeon and does not represent the Yukon Medical Association, hospital committees or board, but I believe that it does beg for the wants and needs of all our nurses, all our doctors and all the worker bees in this hospital who are involved with patient care, as well as all Yukoners.

Are there risks to patients? Of course there are. Is there suffering? Of course there is. I don't believe our leaders have any idea how much.

Dr. David Storey is a longtime surgeon at Whitehorse General Hospital



So sorry to hear of the passing of Carol Clark! She was one of the most fun people I knew.

Above is a photo I took of us girls hiking around the Whitehorse Rapids.
Left to right: Carol Clark, Barbara Gibbon, Fran Law & my cousin Jane Wilson. Taken around 1956-57.

Photo courtesy Joy Denton joydenton@hotmail.com (In Whitehorse)

OBIT

I'm sure you are aware that Joyce Yardley has passed away (I noticed the obit in Friday's newspaper and that the MocTel was mentioned). I recall the last time I saw her and Fred. They visited us about 10 years ago in Ardrossan, AB. We had a wonderful visit with them both. My sincerest condolences to the family.

Donna Clayson

Joyce visited us here in Vernon also and we took them to Summerland with us for the Okanagan Yukoners luncheon. That was several years ago. They had been on a trip in the Caribou area that year. We also had a gathering of Yukoners from our area to the house for a lunch and visit.

Sherron



Yardley, Joyce

November 3, 1925 – May 5, 2016

Freda "Joyce" Yardley (Nee Richards) was born on November 3, 1925 in Whitehorse, Yukon. She married Gordon Yardley in 1942, and they moved to Carcross in 1943. During that time, they raised a daughter, Norma, and two sons, Kirk and Ted. Her husband Gordon was an entrepreneur who worked at various occupations in the area. Joyce was the Postmistress there from 1955-1960. After many years they moved from Carcross and bought and operated Dezadeash Lodge on the edge of beautiful Kluane National Park on the Haines Highway. After a few years they sold to family and moved to Whitehorse eventually gold mining in various corners of the Yukon, Atlin BC and South America, alongside their 2 sons. Joyce loved everything creative including

painting, pottery, singing, theatre, and especially writing. She frequently wrote poems to friends and family and chronicled her life and travels in colourful prose.

Joyce and Gordon retired and moved to Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island and she took up writing in earnest through her 60's and 70's, publishing 3 books over the following decade. Her first and third published books are memoirs that outline her adventures during her interesting life. Her second book 'Yukon Riverboat Days' is a series of biographies of pioneering men and women who worked on the Paddlewheelers in the early 1900's. Joyce deeply loved the Yukon. She contributed for years to the 'Moccasin Telegraph' with articles and photos.

After Gordon passed on, from a stroke, Joyce took up kayaking, went to elder college, explored, and preserved photographs, stories and genealogy of the entire family and travelled parts of the world. In 2002 she married Fred Horn who became her best friend, travel companion and tender caregiver. He was by her side when she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease necessitating an eventual departure to a home. Fred passed away on November 26, 2014. Joyce was in the expert care of the team at Woodgrove Manor, Nanaimo, until she passed peacefully at the age of 90, surrounded by family and friends, on May 5, 2016.

A celebration of life is planned for mid-August, in Carcross, Yukon, details to follow.



Matthew Ruttan
1983 - 2016

Ruttan, Matthew: Feb 2, 1983 - Jun 1, 2016 Born in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Survived by Terry & Viki Ruttan, Adam Ruttan (brother) & Rochelle, Liz Ruttan (sister) & Nick Caspers, and Xeneb.

Matthew passed away in a tragic accident while working in the Yukon. He was that truly incredible person you only find once in a lifetime. It was our greatest privilege to have shared with you his sense of humour, his sense of humanity, and his sense of better possibilities for this world. We will miss you forever.

Celebration of Life to be announced.



Glenn Leroy Green

December 18, 1933 - February 6, 2014

We will greatly miss Glenn Leroy Green. He went to his creator peacefully, in his sleep, on February 6th, 2014 in Lumby, B. C. Glenn was born December 18th, 1933 in New Westminster, B.C. He spent his youth in White Rock, B. C., where upon his graduating from Grade 13, he joined the Bank of Montreal and retired after 40 years of service. Glenn liked to joke that he started from the ground up. He actually did janitor work evenings at the Bank after school. In those days, you moved to get promoted and move he did - all the way to **Dawson City, Yukon**, Kitimat, Vancouver, Kimberly, Ashcroft, Port Alberni, Merritt, Trail, Kelowna, Summerland, Fort St. John, and Smithers where he retired from the bank. His last move was to Lumby.

Glenn enjoyed life. He played basketball and even refereed a Harlem Globe Trotters game. That was something! He golfed (had a hole-in-one), played soccer, baseball, curled, fished, square danced, scuba dived, hiked, swam, bowled a 445 game in competition, and was on a ski patrol and citizens' patrol. He also loved to cook and barbeque. Glenn received service and recognition awards in a wide variety of volunteer groups such as Kiwanis, Rotary (a long time member since 1970, receiving 7 Paul Harris awards.), and the Gleaners, to mention a few. Glenn had a favorite place called "The Cabin"; a quiet place where friends and family would meet and enjoy each other's company. He accomplished much in his life but his focus was his family and family values. Through all the ups and downs of life, he remained humble, a true friend, and most of all, a supportive and loving husband father, grandfather and greatgrandfather. He will be loved and cherished and never forgotten by his loving family, dear friends, and colleagues.

The Celebration of Life for Glenn will be held in the chapel of Pleasant Valley Funeral Home on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

Pat Berube (Peake)

October 27th 1935 to March 13, 2016



It is with great sadness and memories of life well lived that we share the news of Pat's passing.

Patricia Claire Berube (Peake), "Patsy" to her younger brother Russ, was born in Lloydminster to Vern and Nona Peake. Pat served her country with the Royal Canadian Air Force and her friendships with colleagues from the Airwomens' continued throughout her life including co-hosting their reunion in Yukon in 2015.

Following her service career, Pat moved to the Yukon working for United Keno Hill at Elsa where she met her husband of 51 years Gerry Berube.

If Gerry suggested a snowmobile trip, or if someone thought a quad or a road trip might be a good idea, if there was a curling event to watch – or curl in, you could be sure Pat would be the first one ready to go. She might have already left for the event by the time you thought of going.

Pat was a volunteer and loyal fan in the stands for two generations of Whitehorse Glacier Bears swimmers, softball players and Whitehorse Minor Hockey defensemen. The last one at the party, Pat lived life to the very fullest throughout her 80 great years – besting Kim at crib to the very end.

Pat will be fondly remembered by friends throughout Yukon and sorely missed by her husband Gerry; son Daryl (Pat Duncan), grandchildren Kirsten and Craig (Whitehorse); daughter Kim (Calgary, Alberta); brother Russ Peake (Rhonda Risebrough); and nieces Debbie (Todd Garman, children Madison and Carter); and Jodi (Darren Angerman, son Ephrem Ashacker), (Calgary, Alberta).

Respecting Pat's wishes there will not be a funeral service.

*The family would especially like to express our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Blaker, Klondyke Medical Clinic, and the staff at Air North.
Words cannot express how truly grateful we are for your kindness and compassion.*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

I'd rather attempt to do something great and fail than to attempt to do nothing and succeed. Robert H. Schuller

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

From The Star Cook Book, The Women of Yukon Chapter No 1 order of Eastern Star, Dawson, Yukon Territory, for the Benefit of the War Work 1942.

Rosy Cinnamon Apples

(Salad or Garnish with meat)

1 cup cinnamon candies
2 2/3 cups of boiling water
8 small or medium apples
½ granulated sugar

Dissolve candies in boiling water, then add the apples which have been peeled and cored (may be cut in halves.) Cook slowly until tender, turning frequently. Remove apples to shallow dish, then add the sugar to the cinnamon syrup and boil 3 minutes. Pour over apples, turning them carefully to glaze each. Cool. Serve as a garnish with meat, or stuff with a mixture of cream cheese and nuts, and serve as a salad.

- Virginia Redmond

COMING EVENTS

Okanagan Picnic – Summerland Research Gardens – June 26

Don't Forget the Picnic in June 26. That's the weekend after Father's Day 11am - 3pm at the Summerland Gardens. Pot luck at noon and meeting after lunch. Bring your own utensils and beverage. I will check with Sach and see if we can't "round up" a coffee pot.
- Larry Chalmers

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 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

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