

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 432nd Edition – Dec. 31st, 2016

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The decorated Christmas Tree at the room where we enjoyed our lunch
Photo courtesy Harvey Burian hburian@telus.net (In Parksville)

Vancouver Island Yukoners' 2016 Christmas Lunch Party

by Harvey Burian hburian@telus.net (In Parksville)

The forecast was for snow ... lots of it! Despite the foreboding weather forecast we had a great turnout for the Christmas luncheon party of the Vancouver Island former Yukoners at the ABC Country Restaurant in North Nanaimo on Thursday, December 8th. Though a few of those who intended to come cancelled due to the expected unfavourable weather outlook, the 30 of us who did gather had a great time of friendship, laughter and reminiscing, along with some delicious food.

Special mention for attendance is due to Percy De Wolfe, who at 101 was the oldest participant. Once again the St Jean family was well represented. with Betty, Paul & Liz, Gerard and Betty's nephew, Bob Patterson present. Lowell and Lyn Bleiler and Helen Fitch came from the Mainland. It was a joy to be able to meet Ted North's new wife, Alice who attended and got suitably introduced to all of Ted's Yukon friends! Welcome to the Yukon Family, Alice!

The door prize consisting of a bag of goodies, including a copy of some of the writings of Edith Josie from 1963, was won by Harry Miller. Six others who found green tape on their chairs were able to take home the lovely poinsettias that served as table decorations.

Harriett Butterworth and Sharon Redmond once again made all the party arrangements. It was good to see Harriett present as she had fallen and suffered a broken hip while doing some shopping in Las Vegas, Sharon acted as the emcee. A BIG THANK YOU once again to these ladies for what you do to bring us all together!

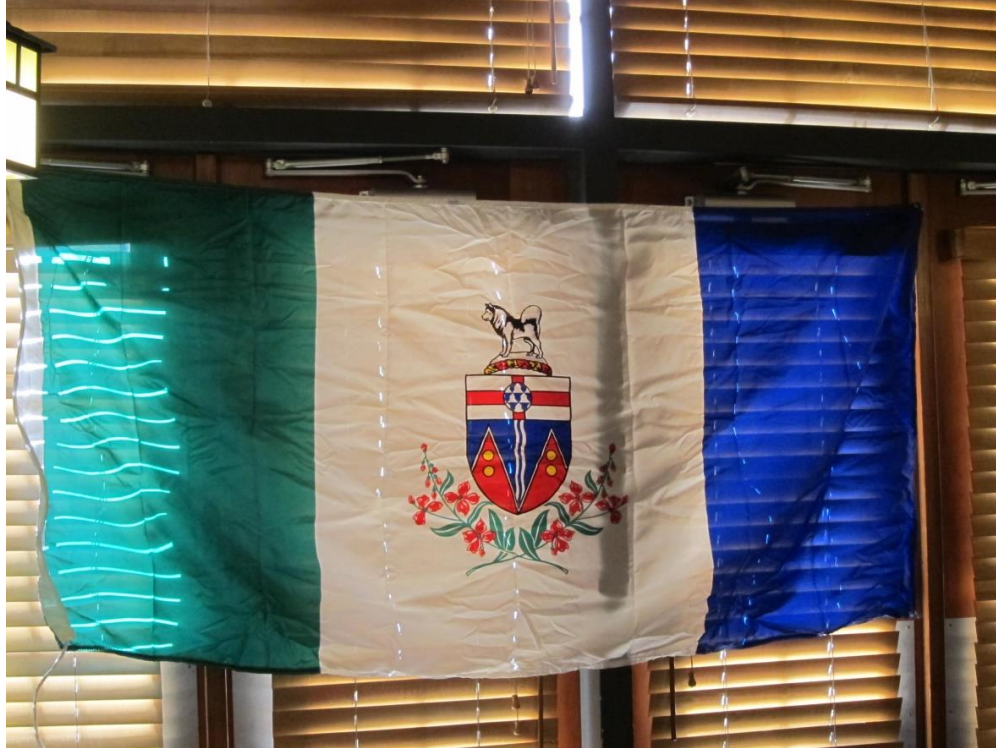
Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.



The following photos in this article are courtesy Harvey Burian [hburian*telus.net](mailto:hburian@telus.net) (in Parksville)



Colleen Butler in the room at the ABC Country Restaurant before the others arrived



The Yukon Flag put up for the lunch



Left from Front: Gerard St Jean, Betty St Jean, Liz & Paul St Jean, Bob Patterson
Right from Front: Percy De Wolfe, Gus Barrett, Blanche Barrett, Valerie Duckworth, Art Nagano



Left from Front: Lowell & Lyn Bleiler, Bev Mason-Wood, Helen Fitch, Sharon Redmond Right from Front: Barry Graham, Carol Pearce, Harriett Butterworth, Collen & Ron Butler



Left from Front: Ted & Alice North, Harvey Burian, Mary Jean Morrison, Casey Rippon Right from Front: Bob & Karren Crowley, Harry Miller, Ralph & Janice Beaumont



Ted & Alice North

Photo courtesy of Bob Crowley kbcrowley@shaw.ca (in Sidney)



Harvey Burian, Mary Jean Morrison and husband Casey Rippon



Karren Crowley in foreground, Harry Miller, Ralph & Janice Beaumont
Karren is Ted North's sister.

Photo courtesy of Bob Crowley kbcrowley@shaw.ca (in Sidney)

**Reports and Papers relating to the “Lost Patrol”
Inspector Fitzgerald & Party – 1911
Fort McPherson to Dawson Patrol
(Part 2)**

Royal Northwest Mounted Police
Dawson, Y.T., April 17, 1911

“B” Division,
The Officer Commanding,
“B” Division, R.N.W.M. Police
Dawson, Y.T.

Sir:- I have the following to report as of the Dawson-McPherson Relief Patrol, of which I was in charge.

On Feb. 27, 1911, I received the following instructions from the Officer Commanding “B” Division:-

(See Preceding orders Sgd. By O.C. “B” Div.)

In accordance with the above, I left Dawson at 1 P.M. on 28, accompanied by Reg. No.4937, Cst. Fyfe, J.F., ex-Cst. F. Turner and Indian Charles Stewart with three dog teams of Five dogs each. Reg No. 4847, Cst. Brackett, R.: with teams accompanying me as far as Power Plant, some 48 miles from Dawson, hauling the heavier part of our outfit, thus giving our dogs a chance to get into condition before commencing the harder part of the journey.

After arrival at the Power Plant, on the Twelve Mile River, we loaded our toboggans, and got an early start on the morning of March 2nd, and followed the usual route.

On March 12th, we struck an old trail on the Little Wind River about 12 or 15 miles from its mouth. We could only see this trail in places over the bars, as the river was flooding and obliterating it. We could pick it up in places between this point and the mouth of the river. I could not determine whether this was Inspector Fitzgerald's trail or not, as it was possible it might have been an old Indian trail. I figured that if this was Inspector Fitzgerald's trail he must have turned back, as at one point some distance above, where the river is narrow and there is a three mile portage, I saw no sign of the trail, and again had they gone up the Little Wind and missed Forrest Creek, and crossed the divide by any other creek leading to the westward out of the Little Wind it would bring him to the Hart River, where he would strike an Indian camp or an Indian trail, as there were Indians camped at different points on the Hart River.

I continued on down the Little Wind, picking up the trail and losing it again and saw no sign of a camp. At the mouth of the Little Wind I could see no sign of, the trail and thinking it possible that he had made a mistake and gone up the Big Wind, I left Fyfe and Turner, with the Indian Stewart I went up the Big Wind for some distance, crossing and recrossing the river from bank to bank, searching for some signs of a trail but could find no trace of one, so we returned and the whole party continued on down the Big Wind River. We pulled into some timber to camp for the night, and I came across a night camp which had, in all probability, been made by the missing party. We saw old butter tins, corned beef tins, and a piece of flour sack marked R.N.W. Police, Fort McPherson.

The next morning we followed their trail from this point, and had been travelling for about two hours and came across another of their night camps. These two camps being so close together, I concluded that the party must have been returning, but for the rest of the day I could find no trace of their trail. The following morning I again picked up their trail, and for the last 20 miles on the Big Wind we were able to keep the trail fairly well. We passed three of what appeared to be night camps, and these were all within 15 miles. The following morning we came across another at "Waugh's" Tent, and this was about 5 miles from the last camp. At the mouth of the Big Wind for the distance of about 100 yards, the snow was blown off the ice, leaving the old trail hard and standing high off the ice, and on this trail we could distinctly see the imprint of snowshoes heading down river.

On the following morning, March 16, in a little cabin about six miles up Mountain Creek, we found a cached toboggan, wrapper, and seven sets of do harness, and on searching

about I found the paws of a dog and a shoulder blade, of which I could see the meat had been cooked and eaten.

Although everything along the Big Wind River seemed to indicate that the party had returned to McPherson, this discovery was the first positive proof that they had turned back, and also that they were short of provisions. Even at this time, I could not bring myself to believe that they had been compelled to eat their dogs, as I found a very small quantity of dried fish in a corner of the cabin above mentioned, which indicated that they still had dried fish with them, and I felt confident that the party had returned to McPherson in safety.

In crossing the Big Portage we saw little signs of them; we were able to follow their trail with difficulty. We saw an occasional camp, but nothing to show that it was one of their camps.

On the evening of March 20 we arrived at a cabin known as "Colin's Cabin", between 50 and 60 miles from McPherson. This cabin is situated on a high bank, and I could see no trail leading up to it, but as it was getting dark I decided to pull up to it and camp. In this cabin I saw a couple of packages on a beam, and I remarked, "I wonder what old Colin has cashed up there". Stewart, the Indian, said he would pull it down and see, and we then discovered the dispatch bag and a bag of mail. These I took possession of and took on to the Fort.

Even with this discovery I did not think that any untoward accident had occurred to the party, but thought it strange that they had not sent back for it. I thought the party had been somewhat hard pressed and had put off everything possible to make their load light, with the intention of patrolling back again for their cache. I thought that after finding the seven sets of dog harness they still had two teams of four dogs each.

The following morning, about ten miles from this cabin, on the Seven Mile Portage, I found a tent and stove alongside the trail. There were also tent poles, and a plate and thermometer. I could find nothing else there, so proceeded on for about ten miles when I found a toboggan and two sets of dog harness out on the river, some 100 yards from the bank. I noticed that the rawhide ground lashing had all been cut off. Tied to a willow on the bank was a blue handkerchief, the trail leading towards it. I went over and climbed the bank and back through a fringe of willows into the timber, and here I found a small open camp and I found two bodies, one of whom I recognized as that of Cst. Kinney, and I believed the other to be that of Cst. Taylor, which belief was afterwards confirmed.

Constable Taylor had evidently committed suicide by blowing off the top of his head with a 30-30 rifle which he still grasped in his left hand. Both men lay in bed side by side. A fire had been at their feet; each lay on his back, they had three Alaska sleeping bags, one under them and two over them; there was a frying pan, camp kettle, a small tin with a few matches in it, an axe with a broken handle, axe being very blunt. The camp kettle was full of moose skin which had been cut up in small pieces and appeared to have been boiled. Beneath the robe on which they lay was a gunny sack containing Inspector

Fitzgerald's diary, some old socks, duffles and moccasins, also a note book belonging to Constable Kinney. There was also a pocket barometer which had been borrowed from Mr. Campbell at Red River. This was found out afterwards.

On Cst. Kinney's person was found a cheap watch and chain; on Cst. Taylors's person was found a small beadwork firebag containing \$32. Constable Kinney's right foot was bare and the toes had been badly frozen, and one toe appeared to have been cut.

We cut some brush and covered the bodies and proceeded on towards the Fort, as I now concluded that Inspector Fitzgerald and S/Cst. had left these two men in a desperate effort to reach the Fort and would be found somewhere between this point and McPherson.

On the following morning about ten miles further down river a trail appeared to lead towards the bank, and while feeling for the trail we kicked up a pair of snowshoes. We then climbed the bank, and a little way back in the woods we found the bodies of Insp. Fitzgerald and Special Carter. This was Wednesday, the 22nd of March. Carter had evidently died first, as he was lying on his back with his hands crossed over his breast and a handkerchief over his face. He appeared to have been drawn from 10 or 15 feet from the fire. Inspector Fitzgerald was lying on his back on the place where the fire had been burning, his left hand on his breast, and the right lying almost parallel with his body but slightly extended outwards. Two half-blankets were wrapped around him. A kettle and a cup and a blunt axe with a broken handle were near him. There had been a little tramping around, caused, I suppose, by getting firewood. No effort of any kind had been made in making any kind of a camp.

(to be continued)

MocTel 431

Sherron, I just read issue 431, saw that Okanagan Yukoners had lost 2 members and Vancouver Yukoners, one. I never knew Ed McKay but I did know Al Sowden.

As a kid, I had heard of Al through my Dad. After my parents, Peggy and Gordon Tubman moved to the Okanagan, they reconnected with him. Vaguely, I remember Dad mentioning something about Al having some connection to Enderby, where I was living at the time. One day, I was sitting at the nurses' station, concentrating on charting, when I heard a man's voice, "You have got to be Maribeth". He was leaning over the ledge, trying to read my name tag but my looking like my Mom was his first clue. Since then, I have always looked forward to chatting with Al and Sharon whenever I could get to the Okanagan Yukoners picnic. I know Al had health problems in recent years but he had a great attitude of carrying on anyway. One or two less of the familiar faces every year!

Which reminds me. At last Thursday's meeting of Vancouver Yukoners our Sunshine Lady, Nancy Moulton, retired from the position. Until we find another to take on the job, I'll be filling in. If anyone hears of a member, spouse of a member, or long-time but maybe lapsed member who is very ill, had major surgery, hits a major milestone birthday or anniversary, or passes on, please let me know.

Maribeth Mainer
vanyukoners@gmail.com

Over \$350-million spent to clean up abandoned mine in Yukon and not an inch has been remediated

Genesee Keevil, Special to National Post
Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016



The vast Faro Mine Complex, one of the worlds largest open-pit lead-zinc mines and the target of a costly taxpayer-funded cleanup that has done little to ameliorate the situation. Paul Nicklen/ Postmedia News

WHITEHORSE — More than \$350 million of taxpayer dollars in the past two decades — over a quarter billion dollars in the past decade alone — has been spent to clean up the abandoned Faro mine site, a moonscape of waste rock and mustard yellow ponds in the mountains of south-central Yukon.

But, according to the Treasury Board of Canada's annual reports posted online, nothing has been remediated: Zero. Zip. Nadda.

“Actual cubic metres remediated: zero; actual hectares remediated: zero; actual tonnes remediated: zero.”



Peter Mather/Postmedia News Few Canadians know about the abandoned Faro mine in the Yukon — but that doesn't mean they aren't paying for it.

Off limits and out of sight — overlooking the Pelly River Valley on the territory of the Ross River Dena First Nations — the 2,500-hectare Faro mine property is one of Canada's largest contaminated sites.

And one of its costliest secrets. Few outside of the North have paid attention to this toxic mess. And, managed by several layers of government since the mine was abandoned in 1998, accountability appears astonishingly absent.

“The biggest problem has been figuring out what to do,” said Lou Spagnuolo, the Vancouver-based Faro mine remediation project director for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), which has the lead on the mine clean-up, and is also working with the Yukon government and affected First Nations communities.

Faro Mine began operations in 1969, and was one of the world's largest lead-zinc mine and the Yukon's largest employer. The company's permit simply required a \$100,000 security deposit, and that it “dispose of its mill tailings in a good and miner-like fashion.” In 1998, after 29 years, Faro's final owner, Anvil Range Mining Corp., declared bankruptcy and the mine was abandoned.



Peter Mather/Postmedia NewsThe Faro Mine, now abandoned, operated from 1969 to 1998, and now the federal government is on the hook for the cleanup.

Today, Faro's 70 million tonnes of tailings fill a four-and-a-half-kilometre-by-one-kilometre psychedelic slough. The 320 million tonnes of acid-leaching waste rock surrounding it could rebuild Egypt's largest pyramid 40 times.

When it was abandoned, a joint federal-territorial government team stepped in to manage the toxic mess, with funding through the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan. And that's when things got really messy, critics say, with layers of bureaucracy and endless consultations stalling any cleanup.

For example, between 2003 and 2009, more than 100 technical studies and assessments were undertaken, and 12 plans created to deal with various levels of government and affected communities.

Things keep dragging out, said Kathlene Suza, who represented the Ross River Dena on the Faro Mine Closure Office team run by the Yukon government. "We were supposed to have a remediation plan in place by 2011," she said. "How much longer is this going to go on?"



Peter Mather/Postmedia NewsFaro Mine began operations in 1969, and was once the world's largest lead-zinc mine and the Yukon's largest employer.

In 2009, remediating the site was projected to take another 40 years and cost \$450 million, according to a statement made at the time by a committee of senior officials from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (as it was known at the time), the Yukon Government, Selkirk First and Ross River Dena Council.

Now, remediation costs may rise as high as \$1 billion, according to Spagnuolo, not including the \$350 million already spent.

“By 2009, we all agreed on our options,” said Spagnuolo. “Since then, we have been gathering information and refining our design.”

The Yukon Conservation Society, a local environmental non-profit, is calling for an audit of Faro mine spending. “Canadian taxpayers have already spent more than a quarter-billion dollars, and nothing has happened,” said Lewis Rifkind, the organization's mining analyst.

“There hasn't been any remediation or results on the ground. We have no idea where the money has gone, and they're still issuing contracts like crazy,” he added.

Parsons Corp., a California-based engineering and construction giant, just won a \$58-million contract to provide care and maintenance at the Faro mine site over the next four years. Before Parsons, Denison Mines Inc. had the contract for \$32 million.

These numbers are out of whack with the Treasury Board of Canada annual reports, which indicate that since 2005, just over \$29 million has been spent on care and maintenance at the Faro mine, while more than \$241 million has been spent on remediation.

Spagnuolo explained the contradictory figures as “a reporting blip.” The Treasury Board website “is a little different,” he said. “It might not be up to date.”



Peter Mather/Postmedia NewsMore than \$350 million has been spent to clean up the Faro mine, but not one inch has been officially remediated.

The Treasury Board simply tracks and reports departmental spending. “We collect the inventory from the departments and maintain the database,” said spokesman Alain Belle-Isle. INAC is closer to the actual breakdown of spending at Faro. The Yukon government, meanwhile, has also been awarding contracts at the site.

Spagnuolo estimates that \$150 million has been spent on care and maintenance at Faro. Annual monitoring, regulatory compliance and site assessments, which are oddly not included in care and maintenance contracts, have cost another \$60 million, he said. Addressing problems at the deteriorating site, including installing a new water treatment system and covering a section of waste rock that was releasing contaminants, have cost an additional \$60 million. The remaining \$80 million went to “overhead,” said Spagnuolo, including First Nation consultations and government salaries.

On top of this are consulting costs, like the \$20-million Faro project design contract awarded to CH2M Hill in 2011 that, after three change orders, topped out at \$82-million last year, according to the Yukon government’s contract registry.

Meanwhile, the mine site continues to deteriorate. “You’ve got big mounds of acid-generating rock. There are old Roman mines in Great Britain with acid generating rock — the chemistry is nothing new,” said Rifkind.

On Rifkind’s office wall in Whitehorse is a blown-up photo showing mountains of grey rock surrounded by neon ponds. He points to a pool of cloudy orange tailings. “That is the [Faro] polishing pond,” he said, the last pond before water is released. “Obviously, there is a problem. It’s not meant to be that colour. The water should be clear.”

There are concerns anaerobic activity in the waste rock piles is releasing heavy metals into the groundwater, while zinc levels in Rose Creek, which flows past the mine site toward the Selkirk First Nation, have spiked in recent years.

“We only learned about the zinc spike because an Environment Canada water monitoring station happens to be set up 10 kilometres downstream from the mine,” said Rifkind. “And they put all their findings online.”

The mine site is continuously degrading, Spagnuolo said. The longer it takes for the cleanup to begin, “the worse the site conditions get,” he said.

He hopes to have a remediation plan in hand, for review by the Yukon Water Board and the Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Board, by 2018. Such a plan would include things like re-sloping the waste rock piles, installing engineered soil covers over the tailings and waste rock, and upgrading the contaminated water collection and treatment system.

If all goes according to plan, shovels would hit the ground in 2024, and take 40 years to complete.

And after that?

Spagnuolo confirmed that the Faro mine will “have to be monitored in perpetuity.” He did not project how much that will cost.

Treasure trove of history excites Archives staff

Archivist Jenn Roberts’ excitement is clear

By **Stephanie Waddell** on **December 30, 2016**

Archivist Jenn Roberts’ excitement is clear as she looks over a sampling of a collection of old books, photos and papers that have been donated over the past year and a bit.

Roberts calls the collection an “amazing amount of Dawson records” that go back to the late 1800s. They had been left “under the stairs” of Ralph M. Troberg for years after the death of his father, Ralph E. Troberg.

Within the collection are materials that were assumed to have been burned in a fire – including the diary of Jack McQuesten.

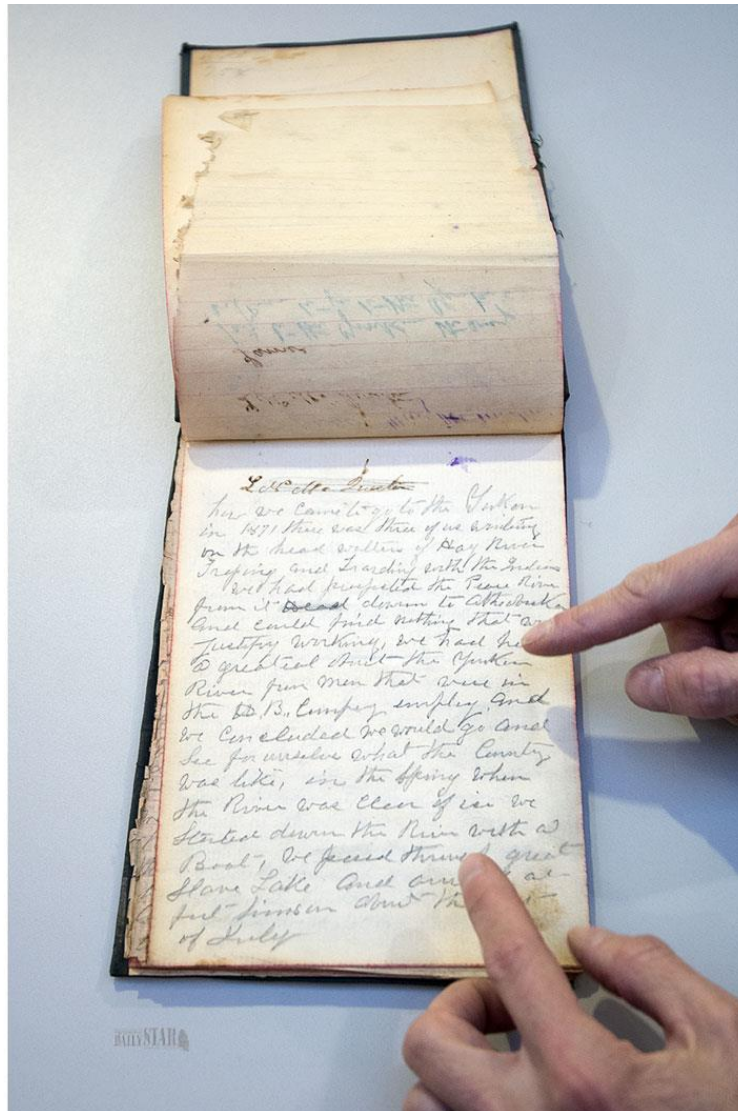


Photo by Vince Fedoroff

NOT LOST AFTER ALL – This is a page from Jack McQuesten’s diary, which had been thought to have been destroyed by fire.

Often called “The Father of the Yukon”, McQuesten, who lived from 1836 to 1909, was an accomplished explorer, trader and prospector in the territory and Alaska.

Speaking with the Star Thursday, Roberts said it was in October 2015 that (Ralph M.) Troberg first turned up at the Yukon Archives with early record books from the Yukon Order Of Pioneers (YOOP), detailing the minutes of meetings and so on.

The books had been part of Troberg's father's collection. The elder Troberg was a fervent collector, anxious to hold onto Dawson's history at a time when many of the historical records were being shipped out of the territory.

"His dad really wanted to keep it for others," Roberts said. The younger Troberg inherited the boxes and boxes of materials his dad had collected over the years. The younger Troberg didn't have the same interest in that history.

The boxes simply made their way from under the stairs in his father's house to beneath the stairs in his house, where they remained until his recent decision to sell his property in Dawson.

That meant clearing out the house and deciding what to do with all those materials. He showed up at Yukon Archives with the materials from YOOP – books upon books detailing the minutes of meetings and so on.

As the grand historian for YOOP, the elder Troberg had a slew of documents detailing the history of Dawson.

Archives staff worked with YOOP to have the material kept at the Archives' premises. "They were pleased," Roberts said of the materials' discovery. Troberg has continued to bring in more boxes filled with history.

The items include photos of the gold dredges, Dawson assessments books dating back to the early 1900s, a short story entitled *The Arctic Mixologist* by Chester Whitman Tennant, and McQuesten's diary.

While it's labelled as a diary, it is more of a book of remembrances detailing his years in the Yukon from 1871 to 1885.

While it was published as a book in 1952 by YOOP, Roberts said the discovery of the original is significant.

As she explained, the published version is a more-readable version of what was written, but this gives Yukoners a chance to take in the writings as they were first done. Initially, Roberts thought the diary was that of McQuesten's daughter Mary, whose name appears on the first page.

As Roberts recalled though, fortunately for the Archives, archival assistant Pam Brown was on hand to work on transcribing the book.

It soon became clear it was that of Jack McQuesten. Had it not been for Brown's transcribing work, she said that may have never been made clear. "I was really excited," Roberts said of learning that it was the original diary, thought to have been destroyed by fire years ago.

While Troberg was "pretty muted about" the discovery, Roberts said, he wants it known it was all his dad's work collecting the materials over the years. He also told Roberts that he has more materials from his father's collection he plans to bring by the Yukon Archives after he returns to Dawson in the spring.

In the meantime, Roberts and other Archives staff will work on getting the pieces from Troberg's collection organized so it's easy for those interested in viewing them to do so. As Roberts stresses, this collection is rare, given that much was thought to have been consumed by fire and the wide variety of materials in it.

Normally, a collection would be focused on one theme – perhaps family, perhaps records from an organization like YOOP or early-era Dawson.

This one has a lot of everything – and it's fascinating to go through it all. Roberts and her colleagues are now set to work on cataloguing the collection so it's easier for interested viewers to find its materials.

She noted, though, that those interested need not wait the months it will likely take to do so – they're welcome to stop by the Archives and speak to staff about viewing the pieces. She cautioned it may take some additional patience before the items are catalogued, but they're part of Dawson's history, there to be shared with the public.

This donation is one of 40 the Archives has received in 2016 – the average number for recent years. Donations can range anywhere from a single photograph to the Troberg collection.

Looking for Ron Hardy

Looking for Ron Hardy, former Outfitter around Aishihik/Snag area in the 1970's. Have a question regarding an aircraft that may have crashed in this area.

Contact Jim Thoreson or Donna Clayson if you have any info on Ron:

Jim Thoreson@shaw.ca

Telephone: 403-436-6731

or

Donna Clayson
24 Salmon Trail
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5Y2
Landline: 867-456-4981
Cellular: 867-332-5118
e-mail: bdclayson@northwestel.net



Membership Benefits

The Vancouver Yukoners' Association, established in 1928, was founded so that Yukoners 'outside' for the winter, or had moved to Vancouver could keep in touch with each other. Many years later, we continue to thrive for the same reason - to stay in contact with friends and relatives from the North. We have members from the Yukon, BC, rest of Canada and the United States (including Alaska). For our members who have never lived in the north, they may have strong family ties, like a relative who was active in the Yukon.

Perhaps the main reason for becoming a member are the social gatherings. The popular Annual Reunion Weekend and General Meeting Luncheons attract friends and family who wish to reconnect and catch up. We hope you will consider joining our unique association.

Membership assures the continued success of the Vancouver Yukoners' Association and we are pleased to offer you the following benefits....

☺ Ability to re-connect and catch up with friends and relatives from the Yukon & North, both past and present.

☺ Free Membership Newsletter sent 5 times per year, either by regular mail or email. The newsletter contains articles about what's happening in the Yukon, updates on our Members, information on upcoming events, Sunshine Lady's report (birthdays, milestones, achievements), Gone Down

The Trail (Members who have recently passed & their contributions to the Yukon), minutes from the *General Meetings*, and ongoing updates for our Annual Reunion Weekend in April.

☺ Invitation to attend our *General Meetings* at the Croatian Cultural Centre (Burnaby) held 5 times per year in Feb, Apr, June, Oct & Dec. Lunch is provided for a nominal fee.

☺ And a free Vancouver Yukoners' Association lapel pin

Memberships are offered at 2 levels...

Regular - \$15.00 per year (may be purchased for 1 to 5 years at a time)

Lifetime - \$300.00 one time fee (for the rest of your life)

Note - for Annual Membership, the fee is due by December 31st each year

To become a Member, please contact either...

Vivian Stuart Tel 250.383.1349 Email lornellis@shaw.ca

Doug Stuart Tel 250.391.1493 Email hospitality@telus.net

Please visit our website..... www.vancouver-yukoners.com

OBIT

Martha (Burian) Collins

Condolences to the family and relatives of my Aunt Martha Collins who passed away peacefully on Dec 27th, 2016 at the age of 100. She was a strong woman who lived a very active and full life, a large part of which was spent in the Yukon. Whether it was tending a trapline or cooking in mining camps, picking berries or tending her many plants, spending time with family and friends or telling of bygone days, she exhibited a desire and zest for life and always showed a kind heart for everyone around her. Aunt Martha was my dad's closest sister in age and they shared a special relationship. This photo was taken on 23 August 1995 at my parents' home in Whitehorse, Yukon. It is one of my favourites of a sister and brother together. Both of them are missed and remembered with love.



Rene Burian & Martha (Burian) Collins



Allan Wayne Heiland
December 21, 1936 ~ October 7, 2016

A Brilliant Mind and Giant Heart Or as Al would say with a twinkle in his eye... “A Very Remarkable Fellow”

Allan Wayne Heiland passed away on October 07, 2016 at Macaulay Lodge in Whitehorse, Yukon. He was born on December 21, 1936 in Round Hill, Alberta to Walter and Dagny.

Al grew up in Round Hill (near Camrose), Alberta. After high school he attended Camrose Lutheran College and toured with their renowned college choir. He had a lovely singing voice, capable of singing any part. Later, Al, his brothers, and a cousin formed the Heiland Barbershop Quartet. He loved to listen to a wide range of music, and particularly appreciated good harmony. Allan played a variety of instruments; autoharp, banjo, organ, mandolin, guitar and accordion, but it was always his baritone ukulele he brought to gatherings.

Al was a natural athlete, and excelled in any sport, particularly tennis, curling, and golf. He got the first hole-in-one on the Mountain View Golf Course (where he volunteered his time during its construction). As a young man, he played baseball and for years, was hired as a tournament pitcher largely due to his 96 mph fastball.

Al married Verda in 1959 in Ft. St. John and started the family that was always his highest priority. Deanna, Cameron and Cassandra grew up knowing they were safe and loved and completely supported in everything they did. He was overjoyed to watch his family grow with the addition of his son-in-law, Terry; grand-children, Dustin and BUMPER, Jessica and Ryan, and Jacob; and great-grandchildren Haiden, Jack and the new baby due this winter.

For 57 years, Al and Verda created a home where so many were welcomed with open hearts, and open arms, a lot of laughter and a lot of good food. They loved to have family and friends over for perogy dinners where the rule was, "If you don't help make them, you don't help eat them." Al loved animals. He loved nature. He was an avid explorer and outdoorsman. Many weekends, he piled the family into a little Datsun car and went "4-bying" on mountain trails he pretended were roads. He enjoyed ski-dooing, fishing and four-wheeling. He also spent winters grooming cross-country ski trails and skiing with the family. Summer weekends were spent camping, mostly on the shores of Kathleen and Surprise Lakes.

Al's hard-working farmer mentality; his creative mind, diverse interests, unfailing business ethics and spirit of adventure resulted in a fascinating work life.

His first job was when he was 9 driving tractor on a neighboring farm. By the time he retired, Al had driven gravel and fuel trucks, taxis and pilot cars, ambulance and all types of heavy equipment. He sold magazines, life insurance and bomb shelters. He worked in a fiberglass plant, a fertilizer plant, a gas refinery and the White Pass tank farm. He worked at the pre-stressed concrete plant that built the concrete panels that fronted Hougen's store for decades.

Al was a prospector and staked throughout BC and the Yukon. He and 2 friends discovered and staked what would become the Adanac Mine. He was a lab tech; office, business and project manager, and cost accountant. He was an artist, inventor and entrepreneur. When Al was only 24, he developed the very first computer accounting system for doctors and dentists using the first computer in Edmonton.

Al and Verda brought H&R Block to Whitehorse. They started Yukon Appliances, and then, The Appliance (and Furniture) Center, Floor Décor Center, and Coin-op Center. Every job he ever had, Al invented better products and created better systems to improve safety, efficiency and productivity. In the late 70's, Al became concerned with the limited food supply in the Yukon, and soon started a sprout growing operation. He helped design special hydroponic growth chambers and he, Verda and Cam started the first hydroponic food production operation in the Yukon.

Over many years, they supplied hundreds of thousands of pounds of sprouts and lettuce to Kelly Douglas and local restaurants. He became, and was sought after as an international hydroponic expert and consulted world-wide.

Always ahead of his time, Al also studied alternative energy. He met with international experts in passive solar heat, wind power and geothermal energy and was a member of the International Geothermal Research Society.

In 1980, he, Verda and Cam designed and built a beautiful, 6-sided home that utilized passive solar heat and was so energy efficient it rarely needed heating, even in the coldest weather. Many of Al's innovations in other buildings later became industry standards. Al was tough. He was hit by lightning and 'gassed' five times. He capsized in a raft on a log jam in a treacherous river and survived a small plane crash.

Life with Al was never boring. He had amazing dreams. He invented in his dreams. He solved problems in his dreams. He acted on his dreams and he encouraged others to dream big.

Sweet Dreams, Al.

Allan was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Dagny. Allan is survived by his wife, Verda; his daughter, Deanna (Terry) Slonski; son Cameron; daughter Cassandra; grandchildren Dustin Slonski (Bumper), Jessica Slonski (Ryan), Jacob Slonski; greatgrandchildren Haiden Kremer and Jack Thompson; his sister, Thelma Flemming; his brothers, Merlin, Irvin (Evelyn), Glenn (Relande) and David (Kathy), many nieces and nephews, their families and other relatives.



Terence Todd
1939 - 2016

Terence G. Todd (Terry) passed away unexpectedly at the age of 77 on Thursday Nov 24, 2016. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Shirley Todd; his son Greg (Janeen) Todd, his daughter Kathleen (Chad) Tanner and his grandchildren, Douglas, David, Aiden, Afton and Annika, as well as Shirley's mother, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Terry is preceded by his first wife, Marjorie Todd. **He was born in Whitehorse, Yukon (Canada) on September 20, 1939 and was the second of four children to Laurie and Jean Todd;** brother to Michael (Joyce), Jocelyn (Don), and Stephen. In his typical competitive fashion, he was the first of his siblings to pass away. Breaking the mold of his traditional family, Terry led a life of adventure that included marriage to his first wife, Marge (whom he met in an elevator on a trip to San Francisco); co-founding with her a 43-year strong business on a shoestring budget; car rebuilding, tinkering and racing; cruising around in his '66 Caddy; hockey coaching, playing and spectating; marriage to his second wife, Shirley; and travel around the globe. Though small in stature, he was big on personality. He never met a person he couldn't talk to, whether he was waiting in line at the store, making a sales call, ordering at a restaurant, or celebrating a sporting event with whomever happened to be seated next to him. He was a master of the inappropriate joke, loved a story, and liked them more with each retelling. He greatly enjoyed gathering with family or friends for a party. There will be an open house celebration in honor of Terry on Saturday, December 17th from 1-6pm at his home in Aurora. (For address, call Todd Expediting at 303-394-3505.) We would love all who knew Terry to come prepared to share a memory or story in our memory book. In lieu of flowers, the "TGT Memorial Fund" has been set up at Bellco C.U. (15321 E Orchard Rd, Centennial, CO 80015) with proceeds going to a variety of Colorado youth hockey organizations. Memories are welcomed on his memorial page at Horan Cares (www.horancares.com).

Published in Denver Post from Dec. 4 to Dec. 6, 2016



Allan Verishine

It is with deep sorrow that I announce the sudden passing of Allan Verishine, formerly of Langham, SK, on Sunday, December 18, 2016. He is survived by wife Leah (McCaw),

sons Jeff (Tracey), Jade (Marni), Cory and Merle, sister Marilyn (Elmer), nieces Nona, Lori and Tammy, nephew Kim, grandchildren Amanda, Alexander, Austin, Kennedy, Cade, Levi, Daniel, Aaron, Ellen, Justin and Jacob as well as several cousins. Al spent his former years in various places west of Langham, until he **moved to the Yukon in 1990**. As an avid outdoorsman, hunting and fishing were top of the reasons for moving there, as well as a lifelong dream to do so. He met Leah in 1992, they married in 1994 and had been partners ever since. His 73 years have brought many adventures. Everything from rodeo in the young and stupid years, to airplane painting, to mining, heavy equipment operating, all the while honing his skills as a carpenter and master craftsman. **His last 25 years in Whitehorse, Yukon** were spent mostly self-employed as a carpenter, and the latest of those years as a master – making furniture and designer kitchens for some of the select people of Whitehorse. His work was so revered that they'd wait over a year for him to have time to do their project. As well as working more than full time at times, he always had time to volunteer. Just as Leah came on the scene in 1992, he was in the process of organizing a Rodeo in the Yukon. That project lasted about 7 years, then he decided he wanted to go fishing instead of living and breathing rodeo. But that's how he was, giving his all. His next volunteer organization was starting the Harley Owners Group, after obtaining another lifelong dream of owning a Harley-Davidson motorcycle in 2002. The dealership started up in Whitehorse, and he was there, lock, stock and barrel. The culmination of that venture was hosting the 2008 Western Regional Rally. After that, somewhat at the urging of Leah, we left that club in other's hands, and 'retired' from service work, again. That almost lasted a year, when he was approached by the Ride for Dad group. They raise money for prostate cancer research and awareness across Canada. The executive convinced Al that he was the right person to head it up in Whitehorse, so we embarked on 6 years of working tirelessly for that group. Again, he gave his all to the group and the cause. All his years of heavy, physical work took its toll, and his body dictated the next move – to Vancouver Island. Leah's family is all there, so what better place to retire. No snow to shovel! The move was made in **2015, to settle in Nanaimo**, with plans to transfer to Victoria area. He was just starting to get into the swing of retirement and taking it easier, when tragedy struck him down. His wishes were simple. Love family and friends like there is no tomorrow. Start the day with 'Good morning, I love you'. Laugh every day. He didn't want a lot of fanfare upon his passing, but if you feel like you would like to hoist a rum and coke or chocolate milk in his honor, please do. In lieu of flowers or a service, he would be pleased if you wanted to donate to the Ride for Dad or a Children's Hospital charity in his name.

Published in The Saskatoon StarPhoenix from Dec. 23 to Dec. 24, 2016

Phyllis (LePage) Simpson

Received a note that Phyllis had passed, but no details yet.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity. ~ Albert Einstein

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.

Cream Puffs or Eclairs

½ cup butter
1 cup boiling water
4 eggs
1 cup flour
Dash of salt

Put butter, water and salt in a saucepan and place on range. When boiling point is reached, add flour *all at once* and stir vigorously until batter is smooth. Remove from stove add unbeaten eggs, one at a time, beating until well mixed and smooth. Drop on buttered cookie pan 1 ¼ inches apart. Use about 2 tablespoons of batter for each puff.

Bake 35 minutes in a hot oven (375 F) When cold, fill with whipped cream and sprinkle a little powdered sugar over each puff.

While baking, do not open oven door for 10 minutes, then very carefully.

Emma Sealey

COMING EVENTS

Vancouver Yukoners' Association **89th Annual Reunion** **April 07-09, 2017**



Banquet - Saturday, April 08, 2017
Meeting Room: Open Friday from 4 pm and Saturday from noon
Sunday, April 9 – No Host Breakfast in Buffet

Theme – RCMP [Contact Joann Robertson 604 877-1871 joannr6@shaw.ca](mailto:joannr6@shaw.ca)

[Any pictures, mementos you wish to share for display would be appreciated](#)

**River Rock Casino Resort – Whistler Ballroom
8811 River Rd, Richmond BC – Free Parking in Casino Parkade**

**Hotel reservations
Telephone: 604-247-8900 or toll free 1-866-748-3718**

ASK FOR VANCOUVER YUKONERS' RATE
1 King Bed or 2 Queen Bed Standard Room \$155.00 & 1 Bedroom Suite \$185.00
2 Bedroom Resort Suite \$235.00

Special rates extend 3 days pre- and post-banquet based on availability
BOOK EARLY – AVAILABILITY & RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Banquet Reception: Whistler Ballroom Foyer No-Host Bar 5pm – 6pm

Welcome followed by Dinner: 6:15 pm

For group seating reservations, please follow directions on website at
www.vancouver-yukoners.com or Phone Mike Rawlinson 604 565-7581

Check the website for updates and a list of those attending

**REGISTER BEFORE FEB 28/17 FOR DRAW OF FREE 1-Bedroom SUITE FOR 2
NIGHTS AT RIVER ROCK**
Book early as ticket sales could be limited

Donations to Silent Auction contact Doug Stuart 250 391-1493
hospitality@telus.net

THE CANUCKS AND HANK KARR TO PERFORM FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT
.....

FOR TICKETS CONTACT VIVIAN STUART:

Address: #217 – 3255 Cook St, Victoria BC V8X 1A4

Phone: 250-383-1349 email: lornellis@shaw.ca

\$68.00 per person with cheque payable in advance to

Vancouver Yukoners' Association

(Maiden names too please – Helps to find friends of years ago)

Note: Pick up tickets in Hospitality Room

Yukon Residents may contact **Penny Sippel at 867 667-4094**
303A Hanson St. Whitehorse YT Y1A 1Y5

**We encourage Yukon residents to fly Air North. Contact them for any
special discounts**

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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

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

– Sherron Jones sherronjones@shaw.ca

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

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