

## DONNA CLAYSON'S STORY SECTION (Aug. 22/03)

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### Murals in Whitehorse

*When I last visited Whitehorse in 1999 I was pleasantly surprised at all the beautiful murals that had been painted onto buildings around town. They are, quite simply, beautiful. There are certainly some talented artists in the Yukon! I spent one morning searching for all the murals and hope I didn't miss any. Enjoy!*

*Murals can be seen on the following buildings; Royal Bank, Northwestel, the Westmark Whitehorse and the Hougen Centre. Typically, murals can take between two and six weeks to complete. A significant amount of funding for the project has come from the territory's Community Development Fund.*

*I'd like to thank Samson Hartland for supplying so much information and spending the day taking pictures for this article. Without his help this article would be half of what it is. THANK YOU SAMSON!*

Yukon Visitor Reception Centre (2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue & Lambert Street)  
Faces onto Lambert Street



Photo Courtesy Samson Hartland

Separated into 2 photographs, balance of photo at header of document. Painted by Bill Oster.

Yukon Mural (Hawkins Street & 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)  
Facing interior lobby & common space

On display in the Yukon Territorial Administration Building public mall is a 210 foot long acrylic resin mural portraying the historical evolution of the Yukon as researched, conceived and interpreted by West Vancouver artist, David MacLagan. The mural is designed in a series of 24 panels each measuring four feet by five feet.

*Sorry, no photo available*

NorthwestTel's Main Office Parking Lot (Elliott Street & 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)  
Facing onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue



Donna Clayson Photo

NorthwestTel's main office parking lot is the beneficiary of this wonderful piece. Painted by Lance Burton and a crew of 10 young assistants in 1998 (Youth of Today Society). The mural shows mountains on its far right and a river on its left. On the riverbank, a man can be seen in the process of climbing a telegraph pole. The building in the painting is the Caribou Crossing telegraph station (the station's name was shortened to today's Carcross).

Headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Elliott Street & 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
Facing onto 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue



Donna Clayson Photo

This is a collage of historical scenes that the Mounties were at. It is the background to a replica of a Northwest Mounted Police log cabin. Showing the history of his transportation via faithful dog sled team or horse. Dealing with locals and aboriginals alike, there is also a depiction of snow-shoeing across the frozen tundra with a plane flying over top. Presumably depicting the scene of the hunt for the Mad Trapper.

Bonanza Inn (Main Street & 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
Facing 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue



Donna Clayson Photo

A collage. featuring historic moments in the transportation of the NWMP & RCMP. Transportation featured are via canoe, Cessna, Cycling and snow machine. It faces the RCMP Building currently located on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Whitehorse, and compliments their mural quite nicely (listed above).

Parking Lot Behind Hougen's on Main (3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & Elliott)  
Facing onto Elliott Street



Donna Clayson Photo

The parking lot behind the Hougen's retail complex was painted to look like a frontier main street during the filming of a movie in 1993. Artist was Lance Burton. This was one of the first murals done in Whitehorse. The painted fronts come from actual images of Front Street - now called First Avenue. From left to right the three businesses shown are: The Whitehorse Hotel, next to that is the Arctic Trading Company (c1902 – Front Street) North of Arctic Café & Next to Whitehorse Hotel. The third building is Whitney & Pedlar (c1900 – Front Street), which was also home to the Whitehorse Tribune. Not pictured is the 4<sup>th</sup> building to the right of this photo – Hougen's (c1944 – 2<sup>nd</sup> & Wood Street)

Wood Street Annex (4<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Wood Street)  
Facing onto 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue



Donna Clayson Photo

This is the most colorful of all the murals. Can you see the animals in the mountains? It was painted on the side of a former elementary school now called the Wood Street Annex. The beautiful gardens and picnic tables help to make it a popular spot. There is now a new scene on the front entrance facing Wood Street. Photo to be supplied at a later date. This particular scene depicts a setting sun with Loons on a golden reflective lake. No credit sourced as of yet.

Sorry, location not known and no information available on the photo below. Can our readers help?



Donna Clayson Photo

Yukon News Building (3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & Wood Street )  
Facing Wood Street (Parking Lot of Westmark Whitehorse)



Donna Clayson Photo

Sternwheeler, Casca and her crew facing the Westmark Whitehorse parking lot. Credited to Mike Lane & Haydock. These works look great enhancing our many stale parking lots. One of many is depicting the famous mode of transportation provided to gold rush participants at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Westmark Whitehorse Hotel (2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue & Steele Street)  
Facing onto Steele Street



Donna Clayson Photo

This mural is credited as best I can tell to Bill Oster. This has since been painted over with a new mural depicting a similar scene promoting the Frantic Follies performed in the building it graces. This portrays performers of the Frantic Follies. Whitehorse earned its reputation as the “Transportation Hub” of the Territory with the White Pass and Yukon Route. These are depicted here with a train and sternwheeler.

Royal Bank Building (4<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Steele Street)  
Faces onto Steele



Donna Clayson Photos

I had to take two pictures to get the entire painting. Showing Prospectors and once again the famous White Pass and Yukon Route train.

Transportation Museum  
Located beside Airport



Donna Clayson Photo

In this mural can be seen the first mail plane in the Yukon, a railroad car from the White Pass Railway, old trucks, an ambulance and a 1940's four-wheel-drive TravelAll. Also are the wartime Alaska Highway and Can-Oil Road project, dogsleds, snowshoes, canoes and bush pilots. *This mural is so long I had to take two pictures and piece them together.* – Donna

Isis Building (4<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Alexander)  
Faces onto 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Isis parking lot)



Photo Courtesy Samson Hartland

Painted by Lance Burton. This as well is a creative piece to beautify a parking lot for a residential/business complex. There are currently plans to paint a mural on the opposite side of this building, facing 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Traffic heading north. It may well become one of the most visible

Murals painted yet in Whitehorse as many people daily use the route as a major thoroughfare. The other side is also to be commissioned by Lance Burton & Youth of Today Society.

Lynn Building (3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & Steele Street)  
Off of Steele Street



Photo Courtesy Samson Hartland

This wall faces a parking lot for this Yukon Territorial Government building. You can commonly associate this mural with the great folks at the Motor Vehicles Branch, as their outlet is in this building. It looks to me as a Bill Oster creation, although no credit or story has been supplied on this mural as of yet. - *Samson*

*Artist Bill Oster, son of the famed Yukon musician Al Oster is renowned for his mastery of the airbrush technique. Born and raised in the Yukon, he has patiently built a highly regarded reputation around town for his work. He works on all scenes on all types of surfaces including cars & trucks, elevators, and murals.*

*Artist Lancelot Burton is well recognized among the community and it's youth. His involvement with Youth of Today Society allows him to share and mentor his talents onto others, bringing the best out of the youth in our community. He currently approaches the political realms of City Council and Territorial Government, along with local businesses in proposing various mural projects for the youth to work on.*