



DAWSON CITY, YUKON VOL 2, NO 1, MONTHLY 50 CENTS

## Pool Planning Begins

by Dan Davidson

Dawson's quest for a pool takes a new direction this month. Brian Johnston of Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd., has been retained by city council to prepare a feasibility study on the need for aquatic facilities.

As recreation director Peter Menzies explained at a recent council meeting, the term "aquatic facilities" is being used to encompass more than just a pool, so that all the possible options for development may be considered.

Johnston says the study has two purposes. He will provide raw data for Dawson's council to work from and he will also make a range of recommendations. These will encompass the need for a pool, the type, where it should be located, and how it can be financed.

While the first of these four items seems a foregone conclusion, given the age and condition of the old pool and the special measures that are being taken to keep it open this year. Council has been debating new construction for the last two years.

The type of pool is still a major issue. There has been much discussion about the merits of indoor and outdoor facilities. Johnston concedes that an indoor pool always costs more to build and operate, but says there are other factors that may make it more cost effective in the longer term.

His studies indicate that, although pools are probably the most expensive single project any community can entertain, yet they serve a greater cross-section of the population than an arena does.

The study will look at current use, the demographics of the community, and the projected need, and try to balance all these things to make a decision.

The location is still to be decided. The present site, near the museum, and the

once proposed site next to the school will both be examined.

Costs are a major factor.

"It is worth being afraid of," Johnston said, in reference to the cost of the pool. Operating costs of an indoor pool could well exceed \$300,000.00 annually, and revenue is likely to be only a fraction of that.

City council and the recreation board began working on this study at a meeting held on Saturday. Johnston likes to prepare his studies on a cost/benefit basis, but he concedes that intangibles like community spirit and social value are as much a part of the viability equation as are dollars and cents.

Johnston's Delta based PERC organization has done similar studies in over 150 communities in western Canada over the last 15 years, including such places as Tumbler Ridge (pool), Dawson Creek (pool), Fort St. John (theatre) and Fort Nelson (setting up a regional recreation office).

Johnston's initial visit to Dawson was five days long. He will be here several more times during the next few months and will have a consultant's report ready to be presented at a public meeting in July.

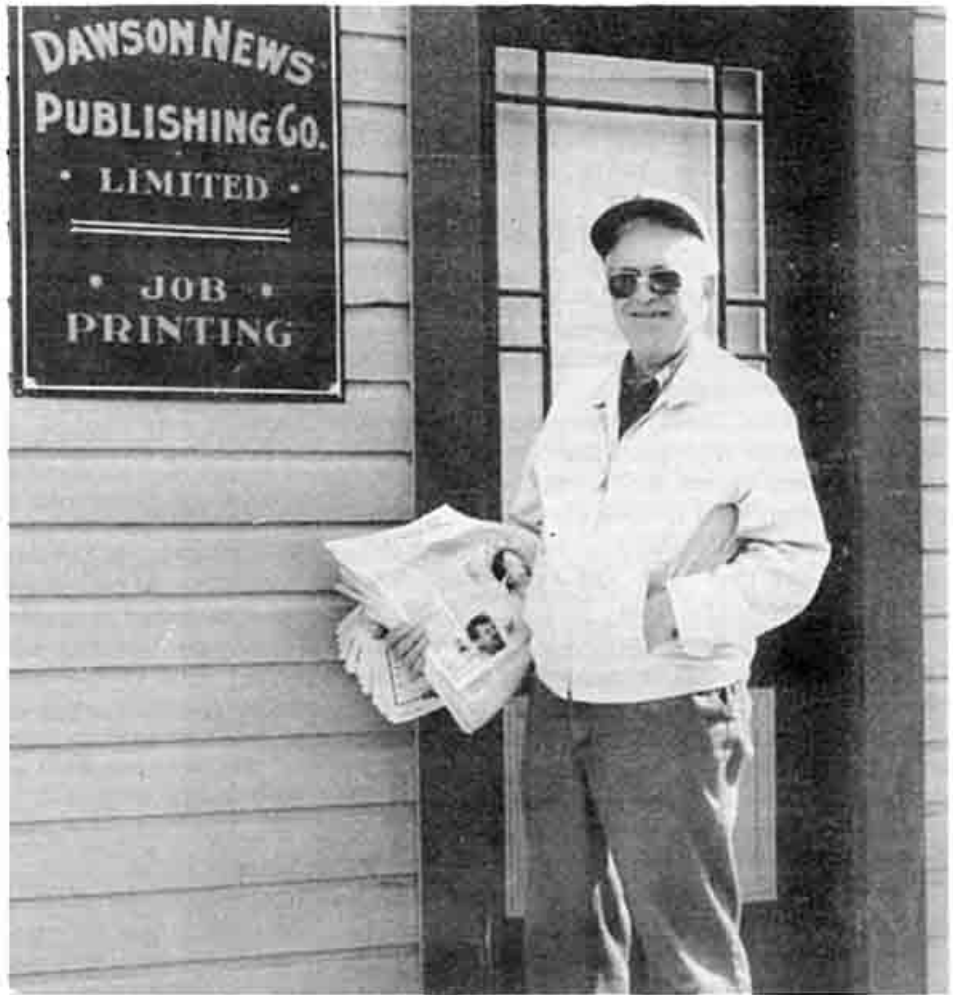
There will not be drawings and blueprints at this meeting. Johnston says they tend to get in the way of the philosophical and practical questions. What he will provide is at least two options for development, along with a recommendation. His design plan will be verbal, with detailed descriptions of the types of spaces and areas needed for the facility. He refers to this material as "program specifications".

Peter Menzies says that an actual plan should be adopted in some form in August.



Luke Everett (age 1 yr. 2 mo.)  
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APRIL 22ND, WINNING \$10.00 AS  
THE KLONDIKE SUN CONTINUES  
THE KLONDIKE KORNER'S LONG  
STANDING TRADITION.



Sixty-one years later: John Gould helped Ronald McCuish deliver the Dawson News in 1929. Now he delivers the Klondike Sun to the local stores.  
Kathy Jones-Gates, photo.

## More Dome Lots to Go Ahead

by Dan Davidson

Dawson City council has passed a resolution in favour of beginning a further expansion of the Dome subdivision. Council passed the resolution at the strong recommendation of Mayor Peter Jenkins, who cited the swift sales of the first batch of lots and the continuing demand as reasons to get started on phase two. Twelve lots went on sale in December and were bid for by twice that number of interested buyers.

The contract to do the preliminary engineering work on the new lots has been awarded to IMC Consulting Group Inc., which prepared the first group of lots and is currently at work on the official municipal plan. The estimated cost given in a proposal from IMC for geo-technical analysis and on-site testing, site analysis/lot layouts, and preliminary engineering assessments is \$23,000.00. Work will begin in late June and a report should be ready by early August.



Dawson City seen from the Dome, surrounded by the remains of Break-up on April 30. For more, see inside.

Kathy Jones-Gates, photo

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Yukon Order  
Of Pioneers  
Centennial 1994

AND MUCH MORE!

# Yukon River Salmon Negotiations: "Talks Are Critical"

by Dawne Mitchell

The Yukon River Salmon Negotiations between the Canadian and American governments have been going on for five years. These negotiations are necessary for the two countries to come to an agreement to ensure conservation and replenishment of the Yukon River Salmon Resource. A resource that both Alaskans and Yukoners depend on and enjoy as a food source and economy.

There are a large number of people in the Yukon, and in the Dawson area in particular, who rely on the salmon and are affected by these negotiations.

The Indian Food Fishery encompasses the largest number of people. Salmon is a traditional food source for the Native people and many local families use it as staple nutrient. Customarily, the Native fishermen share their catch with elders and other members of the Band.

Representing the members of the Dawson Indian Band at the negotiating table is Steve Taylor.

The second group of people affected by the Yukon River Salmon Negotiations, is the Domestic-Personal Use Fishermen. These people (approximately 15 in the Territory, 3 in Dawson) are the white subsistence fishermen who also depend on salmon as their family's stable food source. Carol Johnson, living on the Pelly River, represents this group.

Third, are the Commercial Fishermen. In the Dawson area there are 25 white and native commercial fishermen and about 40 total, in the whole Territory. (On the Alaska side of the Yukon River, there are 800 Commercial fishermen.) In the summer, 25 people work at the Han Fisheries plant processing the salmon for public market.

Add to this the number of assistant fishermen, pulling nets and working on the river for the summer and the total number of people living in Dawson and area, who gain their economy directly from fishing is around 100.

Representing Han fisheries at the negotiations are Doug Beaumont and Don Tutin.

Gerry Couture and Tim Gerberding speak at the negotiations on behalf of the Yukon River Commercial Fishermen.

For several years, the number of spawning salmon into the Upper Yukon River, was on a decline. It wasn't until the April 1989 negotiations in Anchorage, that the United States representatives accepted the fact that at least half the Alaskan salmon harvest, was Canadian spawned fish and that the decline in the salmon stocks would continue unless some serious decisions were made.

Two important points were finally agreed upon:

1) That the agreement would be between the two Federal Governments under the protection of the Pacific Salmon Treaty but that it would be managed by an Alaskan State-Yukon Territory panel instead of a Federal Commission.

2) A rebuilding program for Chum salmon and a stabilization program for Chinook (King) salmon was necessary.

The time periods for which the programs would last were specified and escapement objectives (how many fish would make it to the spawning grounds without being caught) were also included.

Mr. Tim Gerberding represents the Commercial Fishermen and has attended most of the negotiations over the years. About the meeting in Anchorage, he said, "It was very encouraging. After years of going nowhere, it began to seem that an agreement might eventually be possible."

Last summer, in an effort to increase the number of spawners, strict conservation measures were enforced on the commercial fishermen on both sides of the border.

On the Territory's side, they were cut back to 2 - 48 hour openings and 5 - 4 day openings that started after the peak of the fish run was over. This caused frustration with the local fishermen. Not only was their income reduced drastically but their Alaskan counterparts continued to fish as subsistence fishermen with no catch limit cut backs.

This year, as a result of high tech scientific data, it was determined that 80 per cent of the Chinook salmon caught in Alaska has spawned in the Yukon Territory. At the negotiations Whitehorse, in March, the two sides came very close to agreeing upon the number of fish that could be harvested during the rebuilding and stabilization program.

A problem occurred in defining this number, when the U.S. included the Old Crow Indian Fishery, on the Porcupine River, with the total Yukon catch. The Canadian position is that the Old Crow harvest (approx. 250 Chinook and 2000 chum) cannot be included because the rebuilding and stabilization programs do not specifically apply to the Porcupine River. If the Porcupine River salmon are included in the total number, it may suggest a limit on the Indian Food Fishery and also affect numbers allowed for the other salmon fisheries in the Yukon.

Also at the March negotiations, the U.S. withdrew its agreement with the Chum salmon escapement objective because it did not accept the data upon which the objective was based.

Invaluable to the negotiations are the biologists and scientists who gather and present the data. Therefore, a joint technical committee was established with equal members from each country.

Members of the Yukon delegation are off to Juneau next week for more talks. They will try to settle some of the outstanding issues and attempt an agreement in time for the 1990 season.

Dawson representatives are attending with optimism and hope that eventually, an agreement will be found that will benefit as a whole, the Yukon River salmon and the people that use it.

A press release from the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans states that the Canada-USA Yukon Salmon Negotiations in Juneau, Alaska April 23-25 saw "significant progress on the key issues under negotiation". It does not,

however, give any definite dates as to the treaty's completion.

On the issue of the Porcupine River fishery, the press release says: "The U.S.A. has taken the position that limits must be imposed on the Canadian fishery on the Porcupine River. Canada has made it clear it cannot discuss this issue...without consultations with the Old Crow First

Nations members who fish on the river. These consultations will take place in the summer."

Negotiations will continue later this year and into 1991.

"The successful completion of the full negotiations is critical to the survival of the Canadian origin stocks of chinook and chum salmon," concludes the release.



photo by Jean Evans

## Dempster Highway Meeting

by Palma Berger

This meeting was held in the Downtown Hotel to discuss the future of the Dempster Highway. What do we as Yukoners see as its future? Four choices were suggested: (A) Wilderness Highway Corridor only; (B) Wilderness Resource Use with Tourism Emphasis; (C) Multi-purpose Resource Corridor only; (D) Combination of those three.

The question was how to combine all three?

We do not yet know all the resources. There is no Forestry inventory. Will the oil companies tell us exactly how much they have in capped oil wells? Renewable Resources is stretched so thin manpower-wise, that it polices the Dempster under great difficulty as it is, so does it have an inventory of how many animals are where?

The gravel pits along the Highway are an eyesore. But they are there because the Highway has been so improved. Could we hide them?

Can we do away with signs, even interpretive ones? Or do we need these for the tourists in summer? Signs spoil the landscape, but tourists need them.

We should not ban the building of roads, as a new mine may open and this would benefit Dawson's economy.

One man said that he was not allowed to have dogs up in his area because they spoil the environment for the wild animals, but Noranda Mines could come and cut away part of the land.

One complaint was that there is no land open to settlers. One person cannot find

housing in Dawson and so needs land to build, but there is none being opened along the Dempster.

Some argued for keeping the Dempster pure and untouched, others wanted lodges as it is too far between food and gas. Another suggested that allowing mining up there would interfere with his being allowed to hunt near buildings.

It was suggested that the Dempster Highway was built at great expense and should start paying for itself. Is it an entity on its own that should pay for itself or is it not or does it contribute to Yukon's Tourist Industry, or is it of World Heritage value which cannot be measured in dollars?

How much timber should be allowed to be cut along the Highway?

Should we have microwave towers along the Dempster? The highway workers and travellers would certainly appreciate having radio contact, especially in winter. The towers would also provide a secure network of communications if other areas in the Territory or Northwest Territory were down. But how to service them? Roads are ugly, and again spoil the landscape. Is the technology in place to build and service them by helicopter?

There is also a need to provide more rest areas for campers.

When these proposals are in and regulations in place will the Territorial Government be able to police this area?

Any proposals at this moment are not definite until Land Claims are settled.

There is still much to debate. Brenda Carson of Renewable Resources would dearly love your written input.

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# The City News

## Duplex Costs Were Lower Than Reported

by Dan Davidson

Harry Campbell is a little upset with people who seem to think he has taken the City of Dawson for a ride over its new staff duplex. Recent reporting, based on the original draft of Dawson City's 1990 budget, cited the city's down payment on the duplex as \$176,940.00. This was not the correct figure, according to Campbell, who produced a contract showing the figure to have been \$106,850.00.

Likewise, the total amount owed to him by the city under the original contract seems to have been lost in all the discussion. The original purchase price for the completed building was to have been \$213,700.00. Additional charges were later arranged to be paid to the actual contractor, Watson McKinnon, who responded to the city's demands for improvements and changes to the original

concept drawings, but these were not Campbell's affair.

Additions after the original contract was signed added \$51,030.00 to the cost of the building. Campbell says that many of the changes were made at the insistence of the city administration. Changes included upgrading the original carpeting, putting two bathrooms instead of one in each half of the building, adding porches, landings, insulated vestibules and enclosed storage spaces under the building.

All this was noted on a memo from Klondike Transport (Campbell's company) dated December 1, 1989. Later that month Campbell went on vacation and did not return until late in February. During this time the city's original intention to buy the duplex wavered and finally collapsed. At council meetings the quality of work on the building was the main problem cited.

Campbell says it is no wonder that the work was slow and that the building was unfinished when the city administrator and the works superintendent moved in. There had been no specific time limit set on the construction, and once staff moved in the contractor had to work around them. That, in addition to things like the decision to change the colour of the siding and upgrade the carpeting, meant even more delays to the construction as time went on.

When council finally decided to go ahead with the purchase of the duplex, it was said that one of the reasons was the fact that it stood to lose its original deposit if it did not do so. Campbell says that this is true, but that he has no idea where anyone ever got the idea he would have been willing to return the deposit. "Business", he says, "just doesn't work that way".

Campbell says that council members decided to buy the building after he took them through it and showed them how nice it really was. Up until that time no one had been in the building and no one had actually talked very much to him about the problems. He figures a lot of confusion could have been avoided if they had.

THE NEW CITY DUPLEX



## Dawson Council Back at Full Strength

by Dan Davidson

Janet Lyon was sworn in as Dawson City's fourth member of council at the May 3 meeting, bringing council back up to full strength for the first time in months. Justice of the Peace John Bilton presided over the swearing in at a brief ceremony just before the regular meeting got under way.

Lyon's addition to council has temporarily put on the back burner a discussion over the size of council which has been raised several times in recent months by councillor Herb Watt.

Watt advocates increasing council to 6 members in order to spread out the workload and bring "fresh, positive ideas" to the operation of the city.

Mayor Peter Jenkins does not see the need of the increase at this time, though he says it is theoretically possible. He is concerned that an increase in the number of councillors would simply make it harder to get a quorum together. At least twice in the last couple of months council meetings have had to be postponed due to the lack of a quorum. At present any two councillors and the mayor can meet to conduct the city's business.

Councillor Lynn MacKenzie had previously shown a bit of interest in Watt's idea, but she says that she would now like to wait and see how things function with four members. It has been a while since council was at full strength and she would like to see if that improves things.

Councillor Lambert Curzon, recapped his previous position on this issue. Before the by-election he had said that the issue, for him, might well be determined by the number of candidates and the voter turnout. While he saw it as positive that there was an election and a choice between two candidates, he was disappointed that less than 20% of the eligible voters turned out. He, too, is happy to wait for the time being.

Jenkins suggested putting a referendum question about council size on the next general election ballot. Watt agreed with the idea of a poll, but wanted it to be held prior to the election so that the decision could be made before the vote.

The issue has been tabled for now, but Watt vowed to raise it again in the fall.

### NEW CITY COUNCILLOR JANET LYON



Photo by Madeleine Gould



MAYOR PETER JENKINS



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# Editorial: It's Been Quite a Year!

by Sourdough Sue Ward

Early March last year a group of eager folks with nodding acquaintances with all, and a couple of friends gathered in a re-cycled house on Princess Street, and -- within a couple of hours of serious chat over a couple of cups of tea -- set the deadline for the first issue of The Klondike Sun. The monthly newspaper would replace the Klondike Korner Newsletter which had replaced The Dawson Daily News when it closed its doors 35 years ago.

Everyone had an urge to put pen or ideas to paper, one offered photo production, another sketches, another would solicit ads, with some seniors willing to physically transport precious copy to plane and bring back the finished product within forty-eight hours putting the chronicle into the market place. We agreed "we would write a paper". We had little or no idea "how to make a paper". We know now! A journeyman printer appeared as if by magic, putting us through the paces for three issues. A personal loan enabled us to acquire a computer, laser printer, and a copier; a home was offered in a heated building in exchange for a 'fuel-cost donation'.

Last month's issue involved twenty-three volunteers, plus correspondents. Over 260 subscriptions are mailed across Canada, into the States, and a couple Overseas. Of our monthly run of 1,000 to 1,500 copies, 100 are sold through the book shops in Whitehorse to former Dawsonites and friends. This issue contains 51 paid advertisements, plus two complimentaries for air and road transports who handle the "to and fro" to the Yukon News which prints the precious copy.

"When are you going bi-weekly?" asks everyone. "When we have enough volunteers to complete two crews, as none can afford more free time." Perhaps a grant would allow for a part-time employee. We're working on it.

Meantime, may we thank all of our advertisers and each supporter. If you have the desire, we have the patience to show you the ropes. We're a great mix of free spirits, old and young, both sexes. More than that -- if you belong to a group with a happening, tell us about it, and we'll tell the world! We are recording the history of 100 years down the trail. Let's make it as interesting as that Myth which keeps us all "down here" or "up there".

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Klondike Sun

We have enjoyed the odd copy of your fine newspaper sent us by our son (John Lenart) since we visited Dawson City for a month in 1988.

The caring community spirit is reflected in your paper that we observed and felt during our visit. Dawson City lives in our hearts. We are proud that we have part of our family living near the City.

Keep up your good work and a thank you for the countless hours that go into it.  
Yvonne & Peter Wabersich

### Dear Klondike Sun:

We enjoy the newspaper and appreciate all the news. The paper is certainly a highlight in our house each month. We especially enjoy the photographs.

All the best

Dr. Mike Johnston, Karyn, Shana, Susan, Amy & Matthew

### Dear Editor:

Sure do enjoy the paper. Would like to see more pictures, but then I probably wouldn't recognize them anyway.

The old home town doesn't look the same anymore. (Almost sounds like a classic country/western song!) Over the years on my

## First Issue of the Klondike Sun Hits the Ground



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

### The Klondike Sun

Published by the Literary Society of the Klondike. On sale monthly on the second Thursday. Printed at the offices of The Yukon News.

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Writers:	Palma Berger Dan Davidson John Gould Kathy Jones-Gates Dawne Mitchell Sue Ward Others as noted on by-lines	Treasurer	Evelyn DuBois
Layout:	Murray Matchett Sue Ward & Diverse Hands	Directors	Palma Berger John Gould Madeleine Gould Louise Ranger Kathy Jones-Gates Murray Matchett Jan Couture

The Klondike Sun's offices are located in the back rooms of the Golden Age Club's Drop-in Centre, corner of Fifth and Church in Dawson City. Mailing address is Bag 6040, Dawson City, Yukon, Y0B 1G0; telephone number for answering machine is 403-993-6318. We are a volunteer organization, performing a community service.

trips back, there have always been many changes.

Was sorry I had to miss the re-union last June. Will sure make the next one. Have seen lots of pictures though.

Enclosed please find a cheque for another year's reading pleasure.

Yours truly

Marie (Comadina) Kozyniak

7798 Latrobe Cr.

Prince George, B.C.

V2N 3T8

(Editors Note: Michael Comadina was a former mayor of Dawson.)

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Keep up your good work and a thank you for the countless hours that go into it.  
Yvonne & Peter Wabersich

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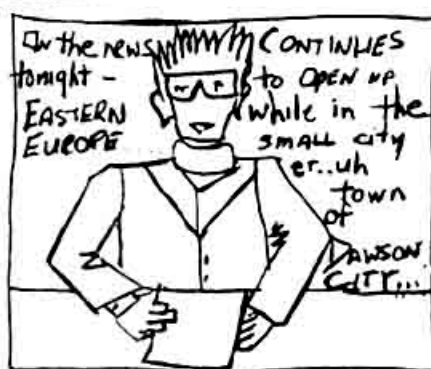
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## Mother's Day Greetings



from the Grade Three Class of Robert Service School

Mum, you are very special to me because you....

- are good to me and take care of me. Shane
- are very kind and helpful. Andrew
- give me my love and food. Kristopher

- love me and take care of me. Jo-Anna
- buy me toys and give me a place to sleep at night. Kieran
- take care of me. Anthony
- are very, very kind to me. Tyson
- buy the groceries. Josh
- take very good care of me. Shawn
- are very kind and pretty. Judy
- feed me, wash my clothes and take care of me. Ceira
- are very loving and kind and are always there when I need. Lisa
- treat me nice, take care of me and are very kind. Alex
- are very kind to me and I do not want you to leave me. Larissa
- take care of me and are very kind. Jay
- are the best Mum in the whole world - at least that's what I think. Charissa
- are kind, pretty and I love you a lot. Tammy
- are my Mom. Vanessa
- take care of me and are kind and nice. Darren
- give me lots of good food and are going to give me a birthday party. Tish
- are so loveable, especially on birthdays. I love you Mum! Trevor



by Art Webster, M.L.A., Klondike

Recently I mailed out a questionnaire requesting responses to questions on several matters of interest and concern to all residents of the Klondike. The purpose of this exercise was to get your assessment of the Government of Yukon's performance, as well as the priority you place, on each of these matters. It is important to be aware of your criticism, constructive or otherwise, to determine where improvement is necessary. Just as it is crucial to receive direction as to where Government should focus more of its resources. I thank those who took the time and made the effort to complete the questionnaire. Prior to reporting the full results at a later date in a constituency newsletter, I want to comment on one subject based on responses to the first 30 questionnaires received.

Generally speaking, the majority of respondents (at least 67%) believe the Government of Yukon is doing a good/fair job at "settling land claims", "building the economy", improving health and social services, and "investing in rural communities". However, with respect to "environmental protection", we only received a passing grade. And when asked what priority do you place as a Klondike resident on "the Environment", 25 indicated "high", 5 "medium", and none "low".

The message is clear that there must be more done to protect the environment and to enhance its quality. Recent measures such as a Pesticide Control Act, establishing a Council on the Economy and the Environment to integrate the two for the purpose of achieving sustainable development, and additional initiatives to discourage littering and to encourage the reuse and recycling of beverage containers are positive first steps.

Honouring commitments to ensure the wise use of our natural and heritage resources, as called for in the just released Yukon Conservation Strategy, and introducing an Environmental Protection Act which will address air and water pollution, waste management, litter, and environmental emergency response, will take us further down the path to a healthy environment.

Our Government through the Yukon Conservation Strategy is committed to a comprehensive plan to introduce policies, procedures and programs to protect the environment. It involves all Ministers and their departments, and will affect everything from drafting legislation, to educating the public, and from handling and destruction of hazardous wastes to lobbying for changes to federal legislation such as the Territorial Lands Act. The Department of Renewable Resources will soon have in place a 3 person Environmental Protection Unit which will be involved in much of this work.

The individual responsibility to ensure that all living things prosper in a healthy environment cannot be understated. For example, you can better educate yourself about the use of environmentally friendly products in your home, or, together with your business, community, or public interest group sponsor a Conservation Demonstration Project, with financial support available from the Department of Renewable Resources. And when the white paper on the new Yukon Environmental Protection Act is circulated over the next four months for public review, please provide your comments and suggestions.

I look forward to your active participation in the efficient implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy.



Signs of Spring...Fishing for Tadpoles - "Huckleberry" David Everett

## "Smile" You're on "RADAR"

Yes, it is that time of year again!

We have a good influx of people into Dawson City, the highways and streets are bare again, and speeds increase as people become in a rush. BUT!! Our children are still out there, even more evident on the streets as they have again traded their sleds for bicycles.

The Dawson City R.C.M.P. will be increasing their traffic enforcement, paying particular attention to speeding, stop signs, vehicles poorly equipped and vehicles not properly registered to the Yukon. And since Radar Detectors are illegal in the Yukon, any found will be seized and the operators could receive a fine.

Make this summer a safe one by practicing safe driving habits.

"DRIVE SAFE -- DRIVE SOBER"

## NEW AD RATES

Advertising rates for the **Klondike Sun** will be going up by **20%** beginning with our June 1990 issue. A full schedule of the new rates will be available from **Madeleine Gould** by the time the current issue goes on sale.



By Dawne Mitchell

## Ambulance Crew Practice Complete with Victim Fire Chief's Report

### Practices

124 man-hours spent on training this month. This includes a special training session on critical incident stress that was conducted by Terry Wispinski from Transport Canada. The seminar explained how to handle the stress that is present when responding to emergencies.

### E.M.O.

A meeting of the Dawson E.M.O. Committee was held to discuss a contingency plan for a possible flood.

### Fires

April 24, 9:00 p.m. - We responded to a fire at the Docken residence at Henderson Corner. House was fully involved when we arrived. Damage estimate is \$20,000. Cause of fire unknown.

### False Alarms

We had three false alarms caused by the melting of snow on roofs of some buildings in town. This is normal for this time of year. These buildings have been disabled and will be connected again after all the snow has melted.

## Dawson City Museum



## NEW FEATURES

- ☐ Nightlife Exhibit
- ☐ Model Train Display
- ☐ Yukon Ditch Slide Show
- ☐ Daily Guided Tours
- ☐ Resource Library

PLUS

May 19 - 31 & Sept 4-15: 1-4 pm, Tues, Thurs, Sat  
June 1 - Sept 3 Daily 10am -6pm

# Tin Building At the mouth of Hunker

by John Gould

Have you ever wondered what this building is or was? This building was erected in the early spring of 1915 by one of J.W. Boyle's companies, the Canadian Klondike Mining Co. According to the Dawson Daily News of June 7th 1915, a large electrically driven pump was installed capable of pumping 600 miners inches of water per minute to 600 feet.

A large pipeline went under the Hunker road and up the hill on the south side of the valley. The water was discharged here into a large four mile long ditch which took the water over to the Last Chance side of Dago Hill (where MiBen Mines have been operating for the last few years). Here the water supplied five hydraulic giants washing down the gravels through sluice boxes. The water to supply the pump came through a four mile long ditch, past the airport from the Klondike River at Rock Creek bluff.

The pumping station was in operation for 10 or 12 years. The pump was removed from this building by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corp. and used to pump water to their mining operation on Paradise Hill in the 1950's. Parks Canada now has this multi-stage pump at Bear Creek. The electric motor to run this pump was 1200 horsepower. It used more power than No. 4 Dredge on Bonanza Creek.

Back in the early days of mining in the Yukon, water was measured in miners inches, each miners inch was equal to 11.2 U.S. gallons per minute. 600 MI equalled 6720 U.S. gallons per minute.

# Klondike River Break-up Unspectacular

by Dan Davidson

With a minimum of fuss and bother, the ice on the Klondike River went out between Henderson's Corner and Dawson City on April 26 and 27.

George Kerr, who owns and operates the Farmer's Market in town and also lives and farms at Rock Creek, said that the river was low and that the break-up, which had occurred in stages over the two days, had been very mild.

"It just kind of melted away", Kerr said. Where ice chunks from two to three feet thick are generally left behind by breakup, this year's crop is just candle ice, a mere foot thick.

"All my fields are dry," Kerr said. "The water went right into the ground."

"I'm actually ploughing already, when I usually can't until the last week of May."

Kerr's farm is about 40 acres in size. While he will be unable to sow his grain for some weeks yet, he said that being able to turn over the land puts him way ahead of other years.

Kerr theorizes that the unusually heavy snowfall of the winter insulated the ground and kept it from being as frozen as normal in spite of the extreme cold snap in January. As a result, the water was able to soak into the soil instead of pooling on top as it normally does.

In the past, the Rock Creek area has been subject to floods. While there was still a lot of ice to come down from upstream, that was no cause for worry this year.

# What is "Hazardous" Waste?

WHITEHORSE - A study commissioned by the Yukon Government has identified the amount and types of special or hazardous wastes generated in the territory and the industries which generate the wastes.

The study, considered one of the first major steps which will lead to the eventual management of special wastes in the territory, was prepared by Monenco Engineering of Vancouver.

Ione Christensen, Chair of the Yukon Advisory Committee on Special Waste Management, said the new information will be invaluable for the public and the committee to understand the extent of the Yukon problem.

"We have suspected for some time that certain industries were contributing to our hazardous waste problems but this is the first time that someone has actually gone out and documented the extent of the problem," Christensen said.

"The report does not present the total picture because of survey limitations but it does show the trends which have been developing in the territory and provides a good indication of where we might go in order to reduce the problems associated with hazardous wastes."

The study concluded that of the 1,500 companies operating in the Yukon today, 388 are generating hazardous waste.

It also identified that over 1000 tonnes of hazardous waste are generated each year in the territory.

Of that total, the study determined that oils and greases make up 683 tonnes, miscellaneous chemicals and products account for 110 tonnes, sludges and inorganic residues amount to 85 tonnes and organic and oily residues amount to 62 tonnes.



Jim VanDusen and Bobby Blanchard -Frontier Freightline employees - helping move the Klondike Outreach office to new location.  
Palma Berger photo

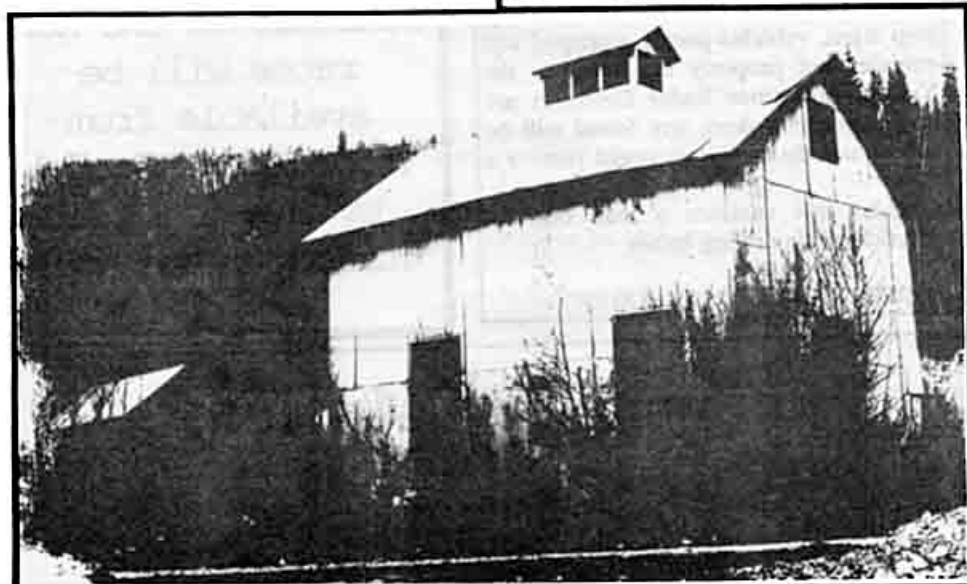
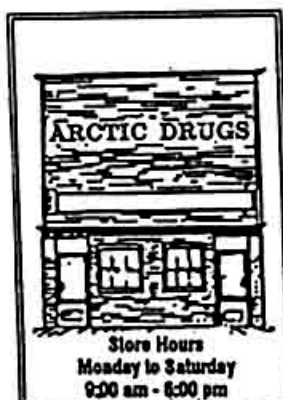


Photo by John Gould

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# NATIVE ELDER'S RECALL DEMPSTER MEMORIES

by Dawne Mitchell

Well loved and respected elders, Joe and Annie Henry of Dawson and Mary Vittrekwa of Ft. McPherson, shared some history of their traditional home, Black City, on the Dempster Highway to a group of interested people at Robert Service School.

Last summer, Anthropologist, Sheila Greer and YTG Native Heritage Advisor, Louise Profeit-LeBlanc, conducted an oral research project of the Dempster Highway corridor, with the help of these elders and interpreter Hannah Alexie Archer of Ft. McPherson.

Called 'Research Specialists', the elders provided oral information for the first written Native history of this area and helped the anthropologist record historic native sites that had never been recorded before.

Archaeological evidence indicates that, for thousand of years, people have made the Dempster Highway landscape their home.

It has always been Joe Henry's dream to get this information out to the public. Joe, 94 years old, spoke about the research trip.

"Lots of graves weren't recorded last summer. When we went in the helicopter, we passed by them. We have to walk more there and then we can find them. There was lots of people that died there. In 1915 the grave fences were looking really good. When I saw them last summer I felt really bad. They don't look good now.

Heritage Advisor, Profeit-LeBlanc, explained that although Joe can't see very well, he found some of the graves just by feeling with his feet.

"When we were in the helicopter," said Profeit-LeBlanc, "you knew he had a map in his head because he knew all the mountain and valley systems and directed the helicopter pilot, 'just around the mountain and down this valley' and sure enough we found exactly what he told us".

At the presentation, Mary Vittrekwa, born around 1907, spoke in the Gwich'in language about growing up in the Black City area.

Translator Hannah Alexie Archer reported, "Don't exactly know when she was born. Birthdate was never recorded. Her Grandmother brought her and her brother Joe up. In winter they stay around the Hart River area. Uncle Richard Martin and Benjamin Kendi supported them by killing caribou and moose."

Mary remembered the area as providing a good living, rich in game. She spoke about leaving Black City in 1927 for Ft. McPherson and how she didn't want to, but had to go along with her brother Joe and all the others.

Mary also talked about how much she missed the mountains and her home country after she had settled in Ft. McPherson.

Sheila Greer explained that these Gwich'in people were renowned travelers. They lived and hunted in the upper Ogilvie area and down the Hart River valley. Traditionally they moved around a lot and traded South with the Han Native people on the Yukon River and with other Gwich'in groups to the North.

On one of their treks to the McPherson area, Annie was pregnant. Her first son Percy, was born near the Peel River Canyon.

Joe remembered his elder's traditional caribou skin houses and described in animated detail how to build them, digging a hole first, bending the right trees in just the right way and putting the skins over top. He talked about having a low fire in the middle of the tent and using sheep horn to make spoons.

At Black City last summer, Joe showed the researchers the remains of old cabins, tent sites and holes in the ground from the really old houses that were subterranean.

Joe also talked about the caribou fence and corral that was built from the Blackstone River valley all the way to the Ogilvie by his ancestors.

"Don't know where they found all that wood. I guess it is a long way to pack," remarked Joe.

There were snares set in the corrals to catch the caribou and then the hunters used knives to kill them. They also used bows and arrows. Profeit-LeBlanc said there were arrow heads found in the area.

Joe remembered the first guns that were traded at Ft. McPherson for marten skins.

"The skins piled right up to the top of the gun," said Joe, "If you needed one more marten to get to the top, you didn't get the gun." Joe went into great detail to describe how those first musket guns worked. "And when you're ready to

shoot," he said, "you have to be strong to hold it, it might knock you out."

One of the questions from the audience, was what did the Gwich'in people use for diapers before they had cloth?

Mary and Annie conferred on this question and explained that they used the bark from the birch tree shaped like a diaper with thick caribou skin inside. A certain kind of soft moss was washed and cleaned and put next to the baby's skin. This could be replaced when necessary. It kept the baby dry and the birch bark helped the baby sit up.

When the Dempster was built, the surveyors asked Joe to help them.

"I didn't really want to do it, but they told me I had to," said Joe. "So I showed them our trail. I told them not to go one way but they go anyway. The road cut off the end of the Giant Beaver House Mountain. It rained and rained for a long time after that," Joe laughed.

Laughter and dry humor were a highlight of some of Joe's stories and at the end of the gathering he sang a traditional chant and gave a great dance.

Joe's dream of recording his family history will be a continuing project. The oral information will be used in regional planning and certain sites can now be protected.

## Conservation Crime of the Month

In April of this year the body of a calf Moose was recovered by Conservation Officers in the vicinity of the North Fork Dam on the Klondike River. Evidence indicates that the calf was simply shot and left to rot.

It is believed that this calf belonged to a cow Moose that was shot nearby and about the same time. The meat was taken from the cow. Only the gut pile and the remains of a fetus she was carrying were left behind. So in fact three Moose were killed in this one Occurrence.

The killing of the cow may or may not be a wildlife offence but the calf being shot and left to waste constitutes the worst of wildlife crimes.



Gwich'in elders Joe and Annie Henry

Photo by Dawne Mitchell

CLIP AND SAVE ✂

## Yukon School Calendar 1990-91

Schools open	Sept. 4
Last day of school (1990)	Dec. 21
Schools reopen (1991)	Jan. 7
Last day before Spring Break	Mar. 15
Schools reopen	Mar. 25
Schools close	June 25

The following statutory holidays will be observed:  
Thanksgiving (Oct. 8), Remembrance Day (Nov. 12),  
Heritage Day (Feb. 22), Good Friday (Mar. 29),  
Easter Monday (Apr. 1), and Victoria Day (May 20).

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Education

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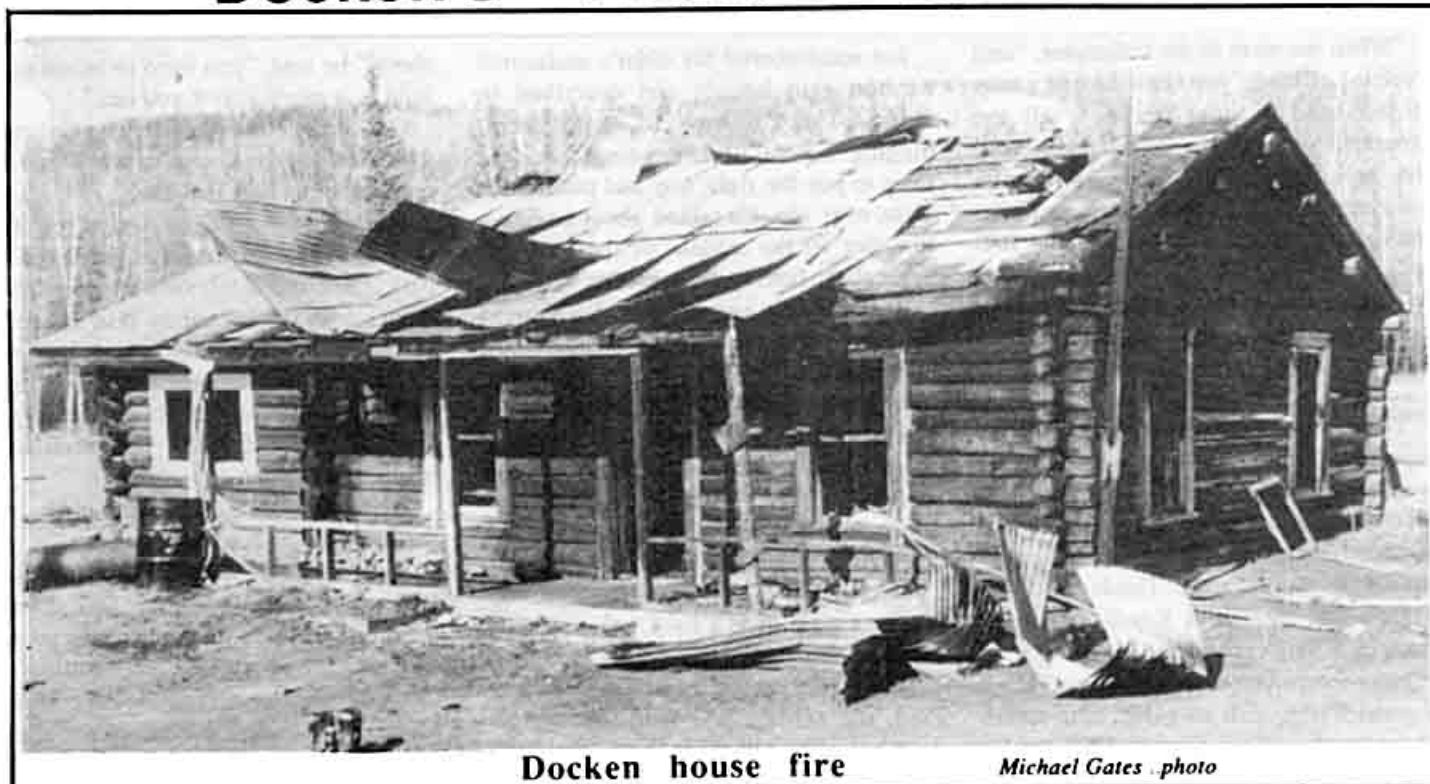
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Community Moves to Assist

# Docken's House Burns



Docken house fire

Michael Gates photo

by Dan Davidson

Electrical problems were initially blamed as the cause of a fire that severely damaged the Docken's log home in nearby Henderson's Corner on the evening of April 24.

The dwelling is owned by Bud and Jenny Docken at Henderson's Corner south of Dawson. Dawson fire chief, Dennis Montgomery, hadn't completely ruled out the home's woodstove as a source of the fire, but leaned towards the electrical theory the day after the event.

Jenny Docken's pottery shop, located next to the house, was undamaged.

The fire was first visible in the second-floor bedroom of the Docken's son, Eric. It spread quite rapidly once it had been noticed, collapsing the bedroom into the main rooms beneath.

The house is an older structure which the Dockens have occupied since the spring of 1986. Neighbours hastened to the rescue with fire extinguishers and water, and Montgomery says the fire department had five fighters and a truck on the site within 15 minutes after they were called out shortly before 9 p.m.

The composition of the building made it difficult to fight the fire, which was

still smoldering and showing some live flame 12 hours later. Montgomery said log and sod construction is hard to extinguish, as the sod tends to smolder like peat moss. One can soak it, but it warms up again and smokes.

Short of bulldozing the building into the ground, there was no way to put it out completely that night. Montgomery said it will need to be checked regularly over the next week as it slowly goes out.

Strangely enough, the log construction also tended to keep the fire restricted to one side of the house. The side nearest to the Klondike Highway sustained the most damage. The rooms there are charcoal blackened and the roof is a mess.

The far side of the house was relatively undamaged. From there, the family and neighbours were able to salvage a sewing machine and rifles along with lots of clothes and other things.

In the hot part of the building, things melted. Fifteen-year-old Carrie Docken's stereo equipment was described by friend Kyla Burns as being half its previous size.

Montgomery left extinguishers at the site when firefighters returned to town. Many of them finally left the firehall about 2 a.m.

The call-out was ironic for the volunteers. They had been listening to a guest lecturer describe the effects of critical stress on firefighters after an alarm.

A fund to help the Dockens is being established at the Dawson branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Those interested in donating should contact Wendy Burns at the bank. There was a benefit dance held on May 4 to assist the family.

Docken's are currently living in a camper and a travel trailer parked on their property. They had been planning a building project this summer, but hadn't planned to be moving out of the cabin quite so soon.

The cabin on the left is believed to have been built in 1901 or 02. Adrienne SanSouci lived here for many years. Chester Henderson acquired the cabin from Mr. SanSouci and occupied it until his death in the late sixties.



## Alcoholism Workshop

An extremely interesting and informative three day workshop was held at the Tro-Chu-Tin, April 20, 21 & 22nd. Seventeen participants gathered to share the knowledge in Randy Tetlich's seminar on the disease of Alcoholism. This was an opportunity to learn about all the effects of alcohol on one's body, mind, emotions, spirit and also the effects on the family, community and nation as a whole.

Mr. Tetlich offered ways to recover from alcoholism using a variety of tools, as well as ways to help others in their fight against this terminal disease. He taught the members of the group the basics for walking the path of a good life: with kindness, honesty, caring, and sharing. The culprits to overcome on the way to recovery are: anger, jealousy, envy, false pride, procrastination and loneliness.

There was a very valuable exchange of wisdom and the first of many more seminars for helping heal our community. Watch for upcoming workshops on: Adult Children of Alcoholics, Co-Dependency, Anger Management, Spirituality & Healing with Medicine Wheel, Recovery & Relapse, to mention but a few.

If you are interested in any of these topics or wish for further information, please call the NNADAP Worker at the D.I.B. at 993-5387

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601	Whitehorse	12:00PM	Dawson City	1:30PM	
	Dawson City	2:00PM	Mayo	2:40PM	Tue
602	Mayo	2:45PM	Whitehorse	4:00PM	Thurs
603	Whitehorse	12:00PM	Mayo	1:05PM	
	Mayo	1:20PM	Dawson City	2:00PM	
604	Dawson City	2:30PM	Whitehorse	4:00PM	Mon, Fri
Summer Only - 04 June - 31 August					
605	Whitehorse	6:15PM	Dawson City	7:45PM	Mon, Wed
606	Dawson City	8:00PM	Whitehorse	9:30PM	Fri

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# Preparing For the Centennial

by Dan Davidson

Former members of the City of Dawson's Centennial Advisory Board plus members of the Chamber of Commerce and other concerned groups are upset that city council has disbanded the board and does not intend to revive it until the fall.

A letter was presented to council by Rene Mayes and Kathy Jones-Gates at the May 3 meeting. The letter was prepared on Chamber letterhead after a meeting on April 12 was held to discuss what might be done. In part it read:

"The general consensus of the group is that it is the responsibility of the City of Dawson to coordinate the centennial celebrations associated with Dawson City, and that individual events can and will be sponsored by individuals and groups under the umbrella of the City of Dawson coordinating committee.

"We are of the opinion that there is sufficient interest in the Centennial Committee to have it actively working, given that so many interested people turned out to the meeting on April 12."

The letter went on to request the immediate reactivation of the committee as a working board rather than as an advisory committee.

Council was surprised to get this response since it had been under the impression that there was little immediate interest in the centennial celebrations. Mayor Jenkins informed the delegation of the difficulties council had had in recruiting members for the board, and how the feeling had been to reconvene in the fall after such high profile events as the Gold Show and the World Goldpanning Championships were over and done.

Mayes responded by saying that the old committee had met infrequently due to interference from the former city administration, which had consistently declined to sanction official meetings during the time Mayes had been with the committee. Jenkins said that this was news to him.

Jones-Gates, a veteran of the 1977 Diamond Jubilee celebrations, noted that now was the time to begin to prepare for the Gold Rush Centennial. There was too much to be done to wait.

Everyone seemed to agree with that, but there remained the problems of authority and money. The city has budgeted less than \$1,000.00 for centennial work this year, and it will take much more than that to get the thing rolling in a major way.

There are grants available to groups working on such projects, but this money is not available to committees sponsored by municipal councils. Jenkins suggested that a new committee could receive seed money from council to get started but would be much more solvent if it were independent of the council and under the umbrella of something like the Klondike Visitors Association or the Chamber of Commerce.

There was a feeling at the April 12 meeting, Mayes said, that the committee needed the sort of legitimacy that a council connection could provide. It did not need to be tagged "tourism" or "business" oriented, which might happen with either of the two suggested sponsors. Of the two mentioned, only the K.V.A. has sufficient organization to handle the job, any way. The chamber shares both office space and secretary with the Dawson City Gold Show Committee. 100% of the office effort must be given over to the Gold Show from early spring until about a month after it ends. It is a seasonal but very intense project.

There was no resolution to this issue during this meeting. Councillor Herb Watt has promised to look into grants for the committee, and it is certain that more will be heard of this in the weeks to come.

## Yukon River Breaks

by Dan Davidson

No one was present to see it when the Yukon River broke up quietly on the morning of April 30. The time clock attached to a tripod in mid-river was tripped at 3:51 a.m. according to Mona Troberg, who was in charge of this year's ice pool.

The river had been rotting away slowly for over a week and predictions had been that nothing too spectacular would happen this year. City offices sent its annual flood notice around anyway, just to be on the safe side, but the ice sneaked out of town in the wee hours, passing unnoticed until later in the morning.

By 6:58 a.m., when the alarm went off to alert the town the river had gone out and small chunks of ice were twisting almost unimpeded down the river, heading for the ocean.

The winner of this year's ice pool is Al Lueck of Whitehorse. Troberg said he can expect to take in a prize of \$2,500 and a bit more. Last year's prize was \$2400.00, but quite a few more tickets were sold this year.

Technology has caught up with the ice pool. In former years it took up to a week to receive official confirmation of the winning ticket. This year Lueck "faxed" his entry here the same day.

### THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all the hardworking ticket sellers, both here and in Whitehorse. Special thanks to Ann Cawood, Mimi Elliott, Louise Iskra, Cathy Laking, Downtown Hotel and the Eldorado Hotel, Norm Carlson and the City Crew and C.R.J. Springbank Electric.

The official time: April 30th, 3:51 A.M. Allen Lueck of Whitehorse is the 1990 Iceguessing Contest Winner with his time of 3:41 A.M.

Thanks to all the hardworking ladies in the I.O.D.E. who sold and sorted all those tickets!

Mona Troberg

Regent, Dawson Chapter I.O.D.E.

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To meet the special environmental concerns of Northern Canada, a Federal Arctic Environmental Strategy is being developed as an element of the Green Plan. The input of Northerners will be especially important in charting the North's environmental future.

To provide you with information on specific issues within your region, we invite you to join us, at any time, during the following information session:

Town Hall, Gold Rush Inn  
411 Main Street, Whitehorse  
12:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
May 22, 1990

Tro Chu Tin Hall  
1214 Front Street, Dawson City  
12:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
May 24, 1990

Copies of *A Framework for Discussion on The Environment* are available at community libraries throughout the Yukon. For further information on the Federal Arctic Environmental Strategy, call Indian and Northern Affairs Canada collect at:

**(403) 667-3146**

(For information on the Green Plan for Canada, call Environment Canada toll free at: 1-800-665-2001)

Dates and locations are subject to change.

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## Private Action Is Focus

by Dan Davidson

"Environmental Protection for Everyman" might well have been the motto of the Earth Day Open House held in Dawson City on April 22. There was no march, no loud demonstration, no waving banners and militant outcry; just some quiet displays in the conference room at the Downtown Hotel, where the local environmental group meets every other Tuesday at noon.

Visitors could buy a T-shirt, read about composting, look over a display of alternative cleaners, try them out at home by taking away the free cleaner cookbook, check out samples of the latest thing in cloth diapers and grocery bags and compare their own garbage with the samples strewn on a blue tarp on one side of the room.

"I couldn't find a green tarp," said Rene Mayes.

She explained the group's aims briefly: "We're just a few people getting together to talk about what we're doing to the Earth and about what we can do to help."

For the most part their plans deal with things that can be done at home, by individuals trying to clean up their own living spaces. When members of this group shake their heads at public problems, they do it with an awareness that they are part of the public.

Mayes was very happy with the afternoon's turnout. Fifty people in three hours was about twenty more than the six members of the group had expected. Doorprizes (reusable cloth grocery bags) were won by Sandy Pilon, Shirley Pennell and Trish Malfair.

"Not bad for a totally unorganized group," Mayes quipped. Thanks were due to the hotel, which donates the space, to all those who helped and to Maximilians, which provided a stock of topical books for visitors to buy.

## The "Litter"al Truth

Adults 21 to 35 litter twice as much as those 35 to 49 and three times as much as those over 50. Men litter more than women. Clean-up Week in the Yukon is May 12 to 18. Let's make our Yukon pride show in our own yards and in our communities.

In an average community, 75 percent of the accumulated litter can be found trapped at the bases of walls and fences, lodged in grassy and planted areas, and along embankments. Clean-up Week in the Yukon is May 12 to 18. Let's make our Yukon pride show in our own yards and in our communities.



photo by Palma Berger

Barely a month ago snow was up to the window ledge of John Anderson's turn-of-the-century cabin on 6th Ave.



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All children need our watchful attention when we drive. Slow down near school grounds. Children's lives are more important than a few minutes.

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# Bravo! Gaston!

He is fifteen years old, a bundle of energy, well-travelled, is game for anything, has light-chocolate colored curly hair, weighs about ten pounds, and adores his lifetime girlfriend, Carole. Gaston is, of course, a miniature French Poodle from Alberta, calling the Klondike "home" because Carole mashes a foursome of sled dogs, honing her skills for competition in future dog-mushing races. Dog racing is something one 'grows into' rather than 'goes into'.

Gaston rides, adding little weight to the sled, though once the pace settles down, he'll join Carole and scamper along for a spell. Trails are rough and sleds have no springs, not all smooth sailing as movies would have one believe. But so it was when Carole and her friend Kristen, with two teams, decided to tackle the trail to Eagle, Alaska and back, a distance of some 230 miles, through the valley of the challenging Yukon River, just days after the Percy deWolfe Mail Run. Some years the temperature drops to the minus thirties Celcius. This year's race ran in such warm temps that the trail would become soft, causing the dogs to tire and the mushers to sweat up.

After a well-earned rest in Eagle, the girls harnessed for home with the weather holding to frosty nights and sunny warm afternoons, and, with 'Time' not a factor, it was decided to camp over at Cassiar Creek, roughly forty miles from Dawson. There is much ado when camp is made. Each dog is released to run free for a spell while fires are lighted, grub-box broken open, sleeping gear laid out, and water acquired from melted snow or ice. All of this being done, the dogs are staked to clear space before feeding. Think of at least eight hungry hounds looking forward to curling up nose to tail on a full stomach.

Events happen quickly in the bush and in one unguarded moment, one of the

unfamiliar team darted around the corner of the cabin, saw Gaston, maybe thought he was a rabbit, and pounced on him. The girls jumped into the scuffle and



Photo by Sue Ward

## The Incredible Gaston

squealing, swooped Gaston to safety, knowing that his attacker's teeth had hit their target.

Poor little Gaston lay so still, scarcely breathing, all through the night. In the early morning he moved slowly towards the cabin door, asking to be let out. He failed to return. Was nowhere to be seen. Did not answer Carole's calls or whistles. Snowshoes were strapped on and the girls tramped an ever wider circle, peering into the deep snows and bushes. By afternoon they sadly agreed that Gaston had, as dogs are known to do, crawled into the bush to die. They broke camp, convincing each other Gaston had lived a full and exciting life, knowing too, he would be sorely missed.

by Sue Ward

This is Gaston's Story so little will be said of the wonderment of the trail. Or the spiritual experience engendered midst the endless pristine valley of awesome beauty in its winter silence. Carole's "It is such a magnificent land I'm not sure I will be able to leave it." And so they mushed their way North to Dawson, where the phone call was made to Carole's folks in Alberta, telling of her safe return and the loss of Gaston. After all, the little fellow had spent his whole life with the Legace family. He was as one of them.

Folks with dog-teams must live out-of-town, with visiting privileges, on a 'come and go' basis. Carole lives in a cabin in Lousetown, the early gold rush site on the south side of the Klondike River. Caring for her dogs, and settling back in, consumed the best part of a week. Then it was time to check the mail and stock up on groceries in Dawson. As she strode through the melting slush, a friend driving by in a pickup truck, slowed to ask her if she had seen Kristen, if not, she should track her down at once, and drove on. Carole hastened to find her friend and spotted her travelling in the same direction, so hailed her to wait. Kristen turned in answer. **GASTON WAS IN HER ARMS!**

Where, what, how? Kristen too had

come into town, calling at the cabin of the friend who had once cared for Gaston for a couple of weeks. She could scarcely believe her eyes. There sat Gaston on the front porch, finding no one home, but patiently waiting for one of his friends to arrive.

We will never truly know what went through Gaston's mind, but the moccasin telegraph reported him turning up at a cabin of one of the river-folk, about forty miles down North, and there he was joined by a young female sled dog, who began her journey from Eagle, Alaska. She had been left as she had been unable to keep the pace of the mushers. Together, somehow, they had covered the forty miles to Dawson. We will never know how many times Gaston and friend escaped the talons of the eagles or owls swooping in search of a fresh kill. Eagles by day, owls by night. No coat of winter white for Gaston as provided for rabbits and ptarmigan. And what would they find to sustain them on the long hard trail? One wonders.

Let's fact it: Gaston is one smart poodle who simply decided he wasn't up to the lurching and pounding of the sled. It had been "tough sleddin'", and besides, "What's the hurry? Getting there is all that matters!" **WELCOME HOME, GASTON!**

## DAWSON CITY INTERNATIONAL GOLD SHOW

May 25th & 26th, 1990

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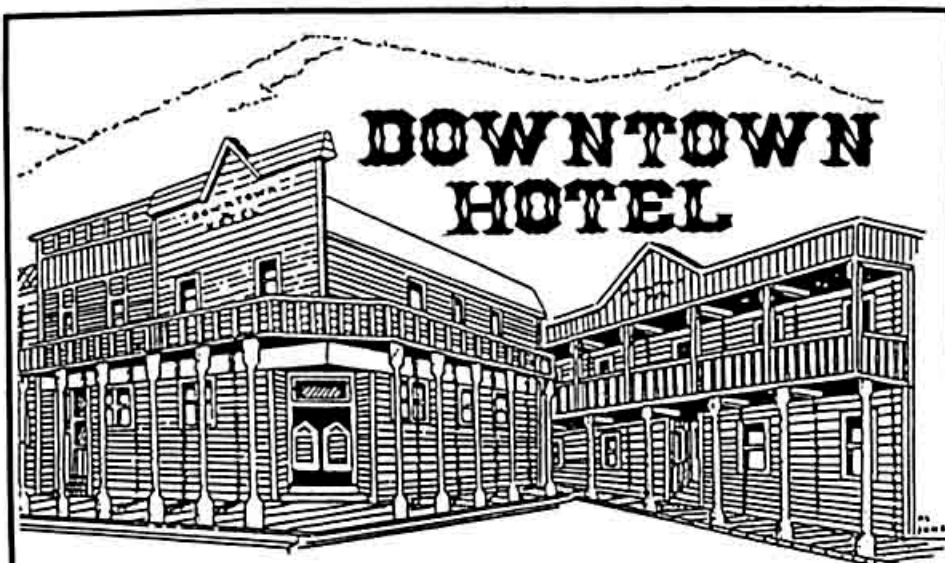
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# NEWS FROM THE ROCK

Correspondent - Marjie Mann



Shh...listen. Can you hear it? Oh that wonderful sound! The River! Splashing and gurgling and throwing up chunks of ice to create momentary sculptures! It's running!! Like a toddler restrained for too long, the river is busting out and really moving! I listen - one of the nicest sounds I'll ever hear - and I watch. I just can't get over how Spring turns a motionless, changeless, frozen chunk of water into something that can't be held back! Thank you Mother Nature, for another natural high!! Rock Creek is listening to the river, and happy that it did not come into our living rooms this year.

Hey - good news with the Fire Protection Issue. YTG sent a couple of fellows to our area who did an informal survey of some of the residents. They will be recommending to their supervisor that fire protection be provided to us - and I guess their supervisor will recommend it on up the line. There won't be any action for awhile - but it is heading in the right direction. These fellows figure there will be a meeting of the masses in the Fall with the community and representatives of YTG to offer an opportunity to get questions answered, and perhaps work out some of the details. They say they will "keep in touch". Let's hope. We're edging closer to the line between wishful thinking and reality.

The bad news is that local fire protection didn't come soon enough for the Docken family in Henderson's Corner.

The Dawson Fire Department responded to the call in an amazing 15 minutes - but they just don't have the equipment to fight out-of-town fires effectively. Bud, Jenny, Kerrie and Erik lost most of their home and almost all of their belongings either to fire or smoke damage. Family and friends are joining forces to help them out - but nothing can bring back their home, their personal treasures.

Hopefully, fire protection will be a reality before another family has to go through this sort of pain.

Does anyone out there know anything about supposed "residential development in Rock Creek"? Whispers and rumours abound - but no one person seems to have all the answers. It seems a chunk of funding (\$100,000) has been allocated by YTG for development in Rock Creek. Where exactly - who knows? I have heard rumours of development in the piece of land between the Klondike and Rock Creek Road near the Evans' and also on the pie-shaped piece beginning by the campground and bordered by the Rock Creek Road and the hiway. Naturally, any major development will affect the entire community, so I certainly hope the community will have the opportunity to have some input in all this. Perhaps we should solicit our MLA for some information on this project. Art Webster - are you listening?

And now, a word from "Himself"...

"On our almost annual trek to Crocus Bluff, I was much dismayed by the garbage, empty and broken beer and liquor bottles, and 4X4 trucks out at the point. I feel that the trek to and the VIEW from Crocus Bluff is as glorious as from the Dome. Why do lazy slugs have to come thrashing thru the bush in their Mighty Idiot Machines and throw rubbish and break glass all over one of Mother Nature's shrines?" H.

And on that note, I'll say "Bye".



"Les Bouchérons" entertain at the school with some help on percussion from the local talent



**WANTED - HOUSEKEEPERS TO START MAY 15 - JUNE 1ST.**

Persons interested in this position should contact Nadine at 993-5542, or send resume to  
Nadine Swan  
c/o Westmark Hotel  
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## ELLA'S TRAVEL TIPS

By Ella Patay

In this day of tightened security at airports due to terrorism, political unrest and restricted freedom-to-move, anyone who is contemplating travel across any border (including the USA!) would be wise to check out all passport and visa requirements with their local travel agent or directly with Customs & Excise.

It is now a Customs requirement for Canadian citizens to carry a birth certificate in the United States, as well as some form of picture I.D. A valid passport is a universal key to border crossings. Personally I carry my passport even when travelling into the States. It eliminates any identification problems. Obviously one has to consider the mode of travel -- that is, if you are driving through the States, or backpacking, and cannot secure your valuables, a passport is not a necessity and may in essence become a hazard.

At present, the fee for a passport is \$25.00 CAD. Forms are available at the Post Office and Gold City Travel. Give yourself lots of time, as to my knowledge, there is no one taking

passport photos in Dawson on a year-round basis. This means a trip to Whitehorse before you can even apply. Using double-registered mail and special delivery takes three weeks, provided all information is intact. In addition, travel to Australia, for example, involves a visitors visa. Therefore you must send your passport out once again to the Australian Consulate to process the visa. As you can see, all this would take approximately 5-6 weeks. Passport renewals can be done directly in Vancouver or Edmonton and takes 3-5 days, if all is in order. Passports issued in Canada will not be mailed to an address outside Canada.

Quick word on foreign health requirements - Innoculations -- check with your local travel agent or Public Health Nurse.

Next issue -- unaccompanied minors

**\*\*Hot Tip\*\*** Summer seat sale/Air BC and Canadian Airlines, Whitehorse/Vancouver Rtn \$299.00 excl. tax.

\*Specific flights apply

## ELECTRICITY FROM THE SUN

Russ Slater  
of  
**Softech Solar**

Will be giving a presentation on solar electricity. If you are now depending on diesel generated electricity, solar electric power can save you money by extending generator life, and by reducing fuel consumption and maintenance costs.

**Place:** Museum

**Date:** Saturday, May 26

**Time:** 7:30 P.M.

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# Kushniryk Thomas Wedding April 7, 1990

You might well ask how it came to pass  
That this American boy has swept up our  
fair lass  
Indeed who'd have known on that girls  
night out  
that Cupid's arrows were out and about  
It was on a luscious tropic isle  
That the Thomas grin met the Kushniryk  
smile  
Her eyes met his 'neath the Banana Moon  
Their souls embraced their hearts did  
swoon  
And so we've gathered 'neath the  
Midnight Sun  
To wish them well on this life they've  
begun.

written by  
Marianne Collins

With blue skies and sunshine, Holley Ann Kushniryk and Gerald B. Thomas, were wed at Diamond Tooth Gerties, April 7th, 1990. The ceremony was led by 6 year old Alexandra Wood, Flowergirl and 4 year old Jason Thompson, Ringbearer. They were followed by Holley's two sisters, Yvonne and Laura, and her maid-of-honour and childhood friend, Marianne Collins. The ladies were dressed in Southern Belle gowns, accented with small hats and lace umbrellas.

Tucked under her father's arm, the bride descended the staircase, with a beautiful smile and teary eyes. Her veil, set like a halo, lightly covered her pretty face and her white satin dress was trimmed in seed pearls and lace.

Dressed in top hats and tails, they were greeted by the Groom and his entourage. Groom's brother, Marty Thomas from Eugene, Oregon was Best Man, with Don Armitage and Jim Williams, friends from Dawson, as the Ushers.

The vows were a bit of tradition mixed with their own creation delivered by Justice of the Peace and personal friend, John Bilton, held special meaning for the couple. Among the honored guests were

Holley's Father and Mother, John and Eleanor Kushniryk; Brother-in-law, Jim Wood; Nephew, Tobin Wood; and soon to be Brother-in-law, Rick Ambrose; Niece, Candice Pilkington; and Jim Wood's sister, Alfreda Easton. Dawson folk honored the occasion by dressing in 1800 period attire.

The Ceremony was followed by a Reception of about 120 people at Diamond Tooth Gerties. The Downtown Hotel did a superb job of catering the event. Peter Menzies MC'd the evening with his usual flair for humour. (If there are any remaining keys to Gerry's apartment please turn them over to Peter. Thank You.)

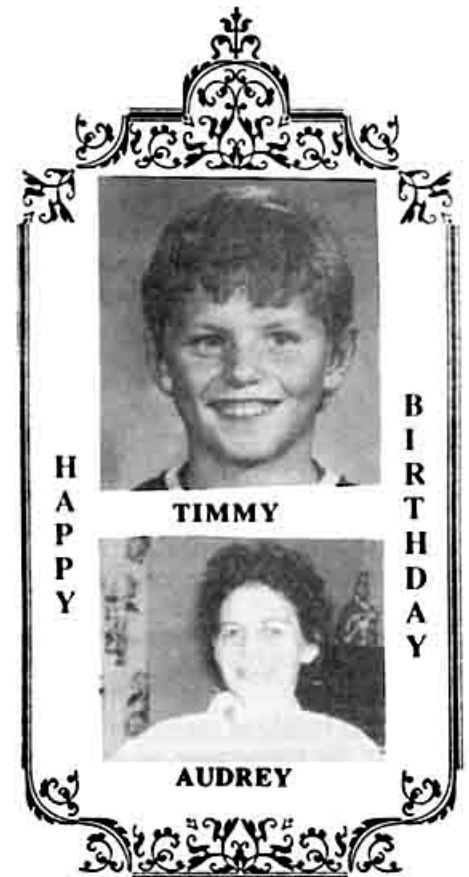


Photo by John Gould

The couple were presented with one of Dawson's famous quilts made by nine of their closest friends. The couple left Dawson April 10th to make their way to their new home in Fort Collins, Colorado. Dawson is going to miss Holley's cheerful disposition and high energy and Gerry's versatile skills.

Best Wishes Mr. and Mrs. Thomas on your new life together.

(contributed)



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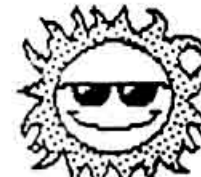
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MEM# \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\*\*\*\*

## SUMMER IS HERE





### The Clearing House

*I hear all the time about people "catching a virus". What exactly is a virus?*

The two major infectious agents are viruses and bacteria. Most bacteria can be controlled with antibiotics but viruses can't. Viruses are smaller than bacteria & have various shapes, many like tiny cut jewels.

The way they cause damage is to invade cells taking over the reproductive mechanism and making thousands of new virus particles. In the process the original cell is usually destroyed and others are invaded. The body mounts an attack, through its natural defenses, and if this attack fails an infection occurs.

Some viral diseases are shingles, chicken-pox, infectious mononucleosis, rabies, yellow fever and influenza (flu).

Flu is spread in the spray from coughs and sneezes. Symptoms appear after an incubation period of 1-4 days, fever lasts 3-5 days and you feel weak a few more days.

Many thanks to Dr. Gerard Parsons for checking this item for factual correctness.

#### More tips to help us conserve energy

Keep the temperature on your hot water tank at 48 degrees. This is hot enough for most household needs.

Insulate both hot and cold water pipes from source, as this will help keep the hot water hot and the cold water cold.

The new fluorescent light bulbs for all fixtures are now on the market. They conserve energy and though the initial price is a bit costly, they are cheaper in the long run.

Stop using detergents. There are many good phosphate-free washing soaps that used along with Arm & Hammer washing soda or Sal Soda do a very good job. Look for the environment safe products at your supermarket.

And for your children's future; use a cloth or canvas shopping bag instead of plastic. These are re-useable for years and are environmentally safe. I have a very good one made from heavy corduroy and it is nice and strong and carries most of my shopping for the day.

# KLONDIKE LIFE

## The Dawson Child Care Association

would like to take this time to invite everyone to our 10th Anniversary. We will be having an open house Saturday, June 9th, 2-4 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come and see the changes that have taken place in the past ten years, as well as our strivings to improve the quality of care deserved by all children in Dawson and the Yukon.

There will be local entertainment, guest speakers and of course, refreshments.

We look forward to seeing all of you there.

## Forty Mile News

by Cathy Wylie

Everyone in the Forty Mile survived the winter. Spring started a little earlier than usual with the Clinton Road being opened on March 31st. The Yukon Government worked overtime and came by our place at 5:20 pm. The whole family turned out to watch.

The Claxton family were waiting in Dawson to return to their home. They had come over earlier in March to do some business in Dawson and Whitehorse.

The road opening, of course, brings visitors in. The Winton family and Jordon family were in for Easter weekend.

The sound of heavy equipment can be heard across the river again which means Forty Mile Placers are back in operation.

The last sign of spring for us is the Forty Mile River breaking. That occurred on April 23. Mel Besharah has had flooding at his place and we're hoping it doesn't go much higher.

### GOT A PROBLEM FOR OUR "EXPERTS"?

send letters to

The Clearing House  
Bag 7020  
Dawson City, Yukon  
Y0B 1G0

no signature necessary unless you want a private answer

## "Every Little Breeze Seems to Whisper..." Malamute

by Louise Ranger

I refuse to begin with "Well, it's April already!" or "Gosh, isn't it beautiful -- winter wasn't that bad!"

I would, however, like to take a few moments to ponder the magnitude of my winterlude experience north of south. O.K., on with it already!

Well, I'll give you that winter is cold, dark, isolated, cold, windy, snowy, cold, icy, titillating and yes, cold, but I did manage to find myself "responsible" for a dog. For those of you who haven't had the biting "pleasure" of meeting her, she's the white mutt, red collar, sometimes answering to the name of Mookie.

I digress. Just to update you on the perilous thoughts that plagued my summer mind last fall.

Socks are important. My feet did manage to hold their own against the cold, thanks to the special efforts of my supervisor and comrade Paula (honourable mention to Irwin) without whom I would have had chillier little piggies.

Parkas are handy. Need I say more?

I'm proud (or foolish?) to boast that I, wimpy Southerner, made it through winter without a pair of long johns. Mind you, at any given 40 below, I could be seen waddling my way down the road, sporting upwards of three pairs of pants. It's really a sad (and very cold) day when you can wear most of your wardrobe in one outing.

What is this fascination with listening to the CBC morning weather report -- "Oh good, we're not as cold as Old Crow. We're sitting at a balmy 49 below." To be frank, I did find some warped comfort in not being the coldest spot in the Yukon.

I think people who haven't wintered in Dawson fail to realize the full significance of it. Sure, everyone guesses "Oh, it's cold I'll bet" or "I'll bet everyone becomes real close" or "It must get depressing, all that dark isolation." Huh, peanuts! What's winter all about, this far north of south? My own personal ponderings have left me with two elements that speak to me of "winter in Dawson" -- dressing/undressing and raffle tickets. I am only thankful that I have a job to finance the "Wanna buy a ticket?" impulse I have. The ticket budget almost cut into the rent I feel I have paid to the Downtown. Alas, life in that great big raffle draw in the north.

What I find so very exciting is being able to see the faces of people I have been blindly waving to or greeting in the night/mornings, along 5th Ave. on route to work. And more recently, I see them drive by in vehicles.

Anyhow, all this is just my long winded way of saying "Gee, thanks" to all those who made my first winter in Dawson so...special. You know who you are, the crowd at work, the crowd at the D.T., the kids in the hall, my southern kin and kind, and you, the purveyors of various and sundry raffle tickets. Oh, where are my break-up stubs? Did I win? See you next winter!

(Ed. Note: For all of you who aren't old foggies like Whezzie here, the original line in her title ends with her name and is best sung with a Maurice Chevalier French accent.)



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## The Art of the Piano

by Dan Davidson

It takes months of practice to learn a piece of music, years to become a proficient player of an instrument. Much of that time is spent alone, working with scales and counting time on the keys, learning the notes until the hands know how to do what the eyes can see and the ears can hear. It's nice to show off now and again, though, and April 11 was the night when Aleta Melashenko's students did just that.

A small concert for families and friends was held in the art room at the Robert Service School. The players ranged in age from 6 to over 40, but each one put his or her heart into the work. There was a

small selection of "Test Pieces" (the sort of work on which one might be examined) from the Grades 1, 2 and 5 levels. "Contemporary, Part 1" showed the younger, pre-grade 1 students doing exercises they have had as lessons. Things were a bit more difficult in the "Baroque" selections, while only the adults were left to play the "Romantic" and "Sonatina" selections.

The difficult material concluded, the evening returned to a series of short mood pieces under the heading of "Contemporary, Part 2", concluded by Aleta's demonstration piece, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

Cookies, punch and small talk concluded the evening, which most folks seemed to feel had ended too soon. All

that work for such a short time in the limelight!

The students at the recital, in order of appearance, were: Jo-Anna Davidson, Karl Algotsson, Betty Davidson, Alex Bowie, Charissa Reeves, Matthew Webster, Nova Besharah, Marion Stobbe and Kathy Webster.

## Stamp Around Dawson

by Kathy Jones-Gates

See Dawson and collect a unique souvenir! The Klondike Visitors Association is again offering both visitors and residents a novel way to enjoy our community, and take home two special mementos of the visit. For \$2.00 there is a red covered, Gold embossed "passport". Twelve of Dawson's attractions are represented, and as the passport bearer visits each site listed, they ask for a special stamp cancellation on the appropriate page. Collect all 12 stamps, and then return to the Visitor Reception Centre on Front Street and the reward is a unique pin. Unique in that it is not for sale anywhere in town, and it bears the words "Visitor Award, Dawson City, Yukon".

Both K.V.A. attractions and those of the Canadian Parks Service are included, as well as the Visitor Reception Centre, and the Dawson Museum. Each stamp is distinctive of the site, and extra pages at the back of the passport allow visitors and residents to get stamps from special events such as the Music Festival and the World Goldpanning Championships.

The passport was first introduced in 1988, with the end result of being eligible for a draw for a gold necklace. Those who visited all the sites certainly enjoyed collecting the stamps. The K.V.A. will be selling the passports at Gerties, the Visitor Reception Centre, the Palace Grand Ticket Booth and hope to interest some local businesses as well. A great, but inexpensive way to see much more of Dawson and unique mementos of the visit. The passports will be on sale June 1st.



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## Clean-up Week, May 12 - 18



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Let's preserve them for our own enjoyment and the pleasure it will bring to our visitors. Let's make sure the same experience will be available to our grandchildren.

## Let's all pitch in for Clean-up Week, May 12 to 18

Let's clean up our own yards and then do what we can to help out with a community clean-up project.

And throughout the year let's remember to **reduce** (generate less waste), **re-use** (refillable containers), **recycle** (return cans and bottles) and **recover** (organic waste for compost). Let's learn too, how to deal with our special wastes (oil, paint, solvents, chemicals).

**Yukon**

Community and Transportation Services

[illegible]

**"Until it's printed it's rumour."**



## HAND AND HEART SHAPED YUKON HISTORY

[illegible]

**"I've got another 3 million ads."**

**"Just tell me where to deliver them."**



## 1990 Budget Tops Four Million

the 1970s. However, the city's population has declined since 1970, and the city's economy has been hit hard by the loss of manufacturing jobs. The city's economy is now heavily dependent on the service sector, and the city's population is projected to decline further in the 1990s.



## The Lone Ranger



"And now we do what - -?"



**"Just kiddin"**



**"Kathy, you did say you'd be home  
Six hours ago!"**



**Whadaya mean "36 pages"?**

## Building Boom

[illegible]

### Forest fires burn more than 17,000 hectares

[illegible]

**M.V. ANNA MARIA ARRIVES AT LAST**

[illegible]

**Aleta, you were just great when we needed you.**

[illegible]