



The KLONDIKE Sun

DAWSON CITY, YUKON VOL. 2, NO. 11, MONTHLY 60 CENTS

Noranda is Cautious, But...

Something MIGHT Be Brewing Up the Creek

by Dan Davidson

Noranda Minerals Inc. would like everyone to know that while they are looking at property at Brewery Creek in conjunction with Loki Gold Corp., while there has been about \$3 million spent on exploration there since 1987, while there is a summer program planned for this year as well, and while they have discovered a possible 10 million tonnes of ore at a gold concentration of .05 troy oz. per short ton (or 2 g per tonne), none of this means that there will be a mine there in the immediate future.

On the other hand, if there were to be one developed at the site, it could happen as early as 1993.

That was the ambivalent message which D. Erik Seraphim (Brewery Creek project manager for Noranda Min. Inc.) and Rick Diment (geologist for Noranda Exploration) brought to a select group of invited guests in Dawson City on March 7. The 20 or so people at the meeting in the Downtown Hotel conference room were treated to an overview of Noranda's worldwide operations and given a look at the Brewery Creek operation since its inception in 1987.

In summary, the project, which is located about 60 km from Dawson City, by way of the Dempster Highway and the old Yukon Ditch Road, shows a lot of promise, but no production decision has been made yet. Such a decision might be made as early as this fall if this summer's exploration proves as good or better than last year.

If that were to happen, Seraphim said it would take two years to jump through all the regulatory hoops and get ready to produce. This being so, the company is proceeding now with a "baseline study" to determine

what the actual environmental resources of the area are now. This would give the company the jump on an environmental impact study when and if one is needed.

All this is hypothetical, though. As Seraphim put it, the gold concentration isn't very high: "Point zero five in the Yukon is not a very big strike."

It is unusual, though. This gold occurs in pyrites which have been thoroughly oxidized over the centuries and never ground down by a glacier. Beneath the area where the finds have been identified there is more of the same kind of ore in an unoxidized state which could not be mined at all because the gold bits, microscopic in size, are too thoroughly bonded to the host material to be separated. So this could be a somewhat unique operation, if it did go forward.

If it did, the effects on Dawson would depend on the type of operation. Seraphim and Diment spent most of their time talking about "heap leaching", a process which would lead to the employment of perhaps 200 people and move about 3,000 tonnes per day from several open pit type operations spread over about a 4 kilometre area. While singles would probably live in a camp at the mine site, there would undoubtedly be families living in Dawson City with parents working at the mine. This would be a 7 month per year type of operation.

A standard mill development would cost more to establish, would employ more people and would run the year round. It would also have a better rate of gold recovery so it might also encourage the company to seek to find and develop more ore bodies in the area to capitalize on its investment. Diment said the ground to the east of the present

exploration area looks like it might be good.

Seraphim estimated that the mine might have a life of from 8-15 years.

The presentation emphasized the role of Noranda as a responsible corporate and environmental citizen. Seraphim said he had come to Dawson to quell fruitless speculation and rumours and tell exactly what was going on. On the other hand, he was anxious to hear from anyone who had any questions or concerns about a mining development, because he wanted to deal with all of those things in advance.

So he was happy to hear from Jack Fraser, a winter trapper and summer placer miner, whose cooperative trapline is in and around the area of Brewery Creek. Fraser said he and his partners did not oppose mining developments as such, as long as they were done carefully, had as little impact as possible on the wildlife, and didn't encourage other settlement and development along the access road to the new mine. In particular, he did not want to see a town site developed.

"We're not looking for another town site," Seraphim responded quickly. "A town site would be suicide (for this project)."

There were some other questions about possible damages caused by the chemicals used in the heap leaching process and about oil fuel spills on the poor road to the site. The chemicals, Seraphim said, are the same ones, whether used in a mill or on a heap. The oil spill last summer was a result of bad roads in poor weather. The company has installed a larger fuel tank on the site, which will enable its supplier to be more selective about when it makes the trip, allowing deliveries to be made in safer weather.



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Looking East on Harper Street, from 2nd Ave. On the right is the most photographed building in Dawson

Dawson Votes for New School Year

by Dan Davidson

The school year will be different in Dawson City this year, if a proposal aired at a special school council meeting on March 5 is agreed to by the Minister of Education. The council, backed by a show of hands from about 30 parents, would like to see the school year here begin on August 20, 1991 (the day after Discovery Day) and end on May 31, 1992. There would be 182 school days, as opposed to the 190 currently in use, but each day would be 14 minutes longer to make up the eight days worth of minutes of instructional time.

School council chair Robert Van Rump put two slightly different proposals to the meeting. The first would have seen a two week March Break and had school end a week later, on June 5. While the meeting found some advantages to this plan, and it had its share of supporters, the majority of the votes went to the second scheme.

There was no argument at all about starting earlier in the year. It is accepted here that late August is really Dawson's autumn, and a much more natural time for students to be in school than the hot summer month of June, which is one of Dawson's two best months.

This vote is the culmination of a long road for Dawson residents. Van Rump says he has heard of proposals like this one being made 20 years ago. Former teacher Palma Berger says that she and the present MLA, Art Webster, put together a letter on this same subject ten years ago, when she was on the Education Council. It has certainly been a regular item on the agenda of school committees during the

last 6 years of this reporter's detailed coverage here.

Dawson representatives fought long and hard to get the option for local councils to alter their school years placed in the new Education Act when it was in the draft phases, so it should be no surprise that a Dawson school council would be the first to try to use it.

Van Rump says the change was an agenda item at the council's very first meeting, and that the decision to move on it immediately was an easy one to make. School staff were involved in the drawing up of both proposals, which were put into final form by Principal Carol McCauley.

There was some attempt, in the second proposal, to address the continuing problem of students who miss large amounts of time during mid-winter vacations. About 50 out of the present school population of 226 are affected in this way. The meeting felt, however, that most people would continue to go Outside in January and February even if the option of a longer March Break were made available.

The proposal which was accepted will mean that senior high students will be able to get into the summer job market at a better time of the season, rather than having to wait until July, or worse, try to work and finish school at the same time, as many now do.

Grade 12 students would face the inconvenience of having to return to the school, after two weeks off, to spend up to 4 half-days writing Departmental Examinations, since these originate in British Columbia and are issued according to that province's school year.

Two Plans for the North End

by Dan Davidson

While realignment of the streets in the North End of Dawson may or may not happen some time in the future, the City has initiated engineering studies to see what the possibilities are. Residents of the area clearly prefer an option which would not require them to move their houses.

Peter Thompson, of Thompson & Aucoin, presented two preliminary options to council and a gallery of about 11 citizens on Feb. 21. Many of the spectators were North End residents and discussion on the options was brisk.

The first option would close 3rd Avenue and use the preserved land to increase the size of the lots on 2nd and 4th. Lots in this area of town were surveyed much smaller than in the rest of the community so this addition is welcome to most residents.

Option two would realign 2nd and 3rd avenues to match the alignment in the rest of town and, according to the opinion of another set of city engineers, make the extension of sewer and water services into that area of town much less costly. On the other hand, nearly every existing building in the area would have to be relocated. This plan would also create some large commercial property lots along Front Street and give somewhat less land to the residential lots, although they would still be larger than at present.

Tim Gerberding wanted to see adoption of a plan which would give priority to the existing

residences. John Loder wanted to know who would be paying for the moves. Mayor Jenkins said this would have to be negotiated on an individual basis.

"It's not really negotiations," said contractor Duncan Spriggs. "You'll have to move."

Gerberding refused to accept as a given thing that streets had to be realigned in order to accommodate the water and sewer extension. He wanted to see the studies and talk to the engineers first. He and other residents will get that opportunity some time in April.

Claiming to speak for all of the North End residents, Gerberding said, "Every resident of the area opposes realignment and supports a design which supports home owners. The quality of our lives as residents is more important than the creation of a 2nd Disneyland."

John Mitchell and Shirley Moi felt that there had to be a balance struck among residential, commercial and utilities concerns.

There are presently about a dozen residences among the many small lots in the North End. The majority of the remaining lots are the property of the City of Dawson or the YTG. Since it is city policy not to sell lots until they have been serviced, and since there is a pressing need for building lots in the community, one can expect that council will press on with some version of its scheme, though Mayor Jenkins notes that it will be several years before things happen.

Weather Summary for February, 1991

as supplied by Art Vickers, Flight Service Specialist, Dawson Flight Service Station

If you felt, as many I've talked to have, that February, 1991 was warmer with more precipitation than normal, - you're right!! Below are a few statistics for comparison. (The temperatures are in degrees Celsius and snowfall is in centimeters. However, I know there still are many who have trouble relating to the Metric system, so I have given the temperature in Fahrenheit and the snowfall in inches - in brackets.)

For you trivia buffs - (and to justify most people feeling warmer this February compared to last.) This February we only had one day that the temperature

dropped below Minus 40 whereas last February we not only had 12 days shivering below Minus 40 but also 3 days below Minus 50. Quite an improvement!!!

Check this column next month and the answer to the following questions will be given: -

Was there more snow last year or this year???

How much snow have we had this winter compared to last???

How much snow is officially on the ground now???

Exciting stuff!!!!
That's it for this time.

	Feb 1991	Feb 1990	Normal (1941-70)
Maximum	+0.4 (32.7)	-1.2 (29.8)	
Minimum	-43.1 (-45.6)	-51.4 (-60.5)	
Mean Mo. Temp.	-19.8 (-3.6)	-33.4 (-28.1)	-23.0 (-9.4)
Total Snowfall	35.0 (13.8)	26.0 (10.2)	16.8 (6.6)



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

Looking North. Is Dawson's future somewhere in those trees?

Yukon Draft Environment Act Gets Mixed Reviews

by Tim Gerberding

There was a good turnout at the Downtown Hotel Conference Room on March 6 when the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources sponsored an Open House to discuss the Draft Yukon Environment Act. The meeting opened with a short video presentation outlining the rationale for the act and the provisions therein. Then the floor was opened to questions and comments.

The discussion was spirited. Most of the participants had invested some time examining the Act prior to the meeting, so it was a well informed group with well formed views. It became immediately apparent that considerable divergence of opinion exists in this community over the degree to which the environment ought to be protected.

All agreed that environmental protection in itself is a worthy objective. But the cost of that protection is a bone of contention.

One opinion, represented most vociferously by the miners present, holds that environmental protection should only be indulged in to the extent that it does not seriously affect the economics of mining and other industries. It's nice to have a clean environment, but we've also got to be able to make a living. If the cost of implementing the provisions of

the Act make it unprofitable to pursue a livelihood mining, then they should not be implemented.

One example of a provision miners don't like is one which allows the Commissioner to make regulations preventing the "discoloration" of streams, ponds, etc., which not only greatly exceeds the present water quality requirements, but could preclude mining of any sort if interpreted in its strictest sense.

An opposing opinion expressed at the meeting holds that environmental protection is not a debating point or a choice we have to make depending on convenience or underlying economics. Rather it is a necessity for our continued survival, regardless of cost. Those who hold this view say it has become obvious that the planet cannot continue to sustain the abuse that mankind is subjecting it to. If we don't clean up and protect our environment, it will no longer provide for us. If we've got to tighten our belts and accept a lower standard of living, so be it. The cost of a cleanup will never be cheaper. To postpone it is only to increase the eventual pain.

Advocates of this view found the Act weak and vague. It was suggested that the language in the Act be strengthened to reflect a real commitment to Environmental Protection. For

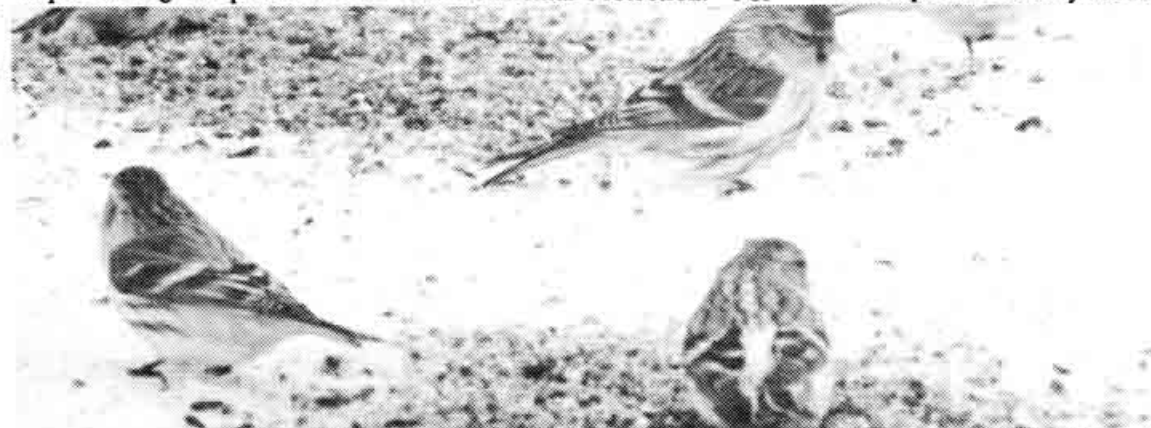
example, instead of saying that the Commissioner "may" do such and such, the Act should say "shall". Instead of saying that the Yukon Government will "consider" taking such and such an action, the Act should say "is committed to" and so on.

All persons involved wanted greater Territorial authority in establishing and maintaining environmental standards. There was considerable frustration with the fact that this Act applies only to land under Yukon Territorial control, and has no authority whatsoever over Federal land, which comprises the vast majority of the territory.

In terms of reclamation, this Act applies to only 2% of the territory. For the other 98% the provisions are meaningless. Basically, this means that the Act will only have jurisdiction on lands immediately surrounding population centers.

The only area in which the Territory has complete authority is in the matter of litter. As usual, our attempts to govern and determine our own destiny are limited to the scraps cast off the federal trash heap.

Citizens have until April 5 to comment upon the Yukon Draft Environment Act. The Act could become operative as early as June.



Common Redpolls Our flock of weather and environment specialists tells us the real story: it's nice out there.

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

The City News

In Chambers: Report for Feb. 21, 1991

by Dan Davidson

No Parking

Overnight street parking for tour buses is a thing of the past in Dawson City. Council has passed a resolution prohibiting this common practice. This is in line with council's previously expressed desire to have major hotel owners and tour operators make off-street parking available for their motorcoaches.

Council has been discussing the problem of downtown core parking for some months now and had concluded that it was in the best interests of the community to get most of the buses out of the core area except for the purposes of loading and unloading passengers.

As to where buses may park in the future, there are two plans in the works. In the short term a section of the parking area along the dike on Front Street offers enough space to hold some motorcoaches. It may be set aside for this purpose. In the long term, council would like to acquire and develop some land on the old Dome Road, just off the Klondike Highway beside Crocus Bluff. This area has also been suggested in the past as a possible site for an R.V. park, so time will tell which gets priority.

Community Plan

It's official. After nearly 100

years of being known as a mining town, Dawson's new community plan states clearly that "Tourism shall be considered as the industry base from which sustainable development will occur."

The plan, which was widely circulated as an insert in the Klondike Sun in February, passed its second reading on Feb. 21

with three minor changes. Two of the changes involved the incorrect placement of lines on the poster style map. The other change removed the word "existing" from the phrase "The town shall assist in the promotion of existing tourist related business..."

The plan is now on its way to the Y.T.G. for ministerial approval before coming back here for a final reading.

Problems Down Below

Some fairly large sections of Dawson's famous sewer system are nearing collapse. "Pig testing", in which round balls of various diameters are pulled through the system to check the diameter of the pipes, show that some areas of the 8 inch pipe will not presently take a 4 inch ball. Sixth Avenue is in particularly bad shape, with many areas that Mayor Peter Jenkins says have been repaired 3 to 5 times. Some major rebuilding of the system will be needed soon, and the

city's position is that the sooner this takes place, the better it will be.

Aside from avoiding interruptions to service which would be caused by breaking pipes and freeze-ups, it will simply cost the city less to have the work done now. This is due to the declining value of the cost-sharing guarantee between the city and the YTG which was hammered out when the city finally took over the ownership of the system.

If the replacement work were to be done this year, as recommended by the engineering firm of Stanley & Associates, the YTG would have to chip in 45% of the costs. This recommendation appears in Feb. 10, 1991 letter. In the same council package is a Feb. 8, 1991 letter from Mark Malinsky, Program Engineer for YTG's Community and Transportation Services, in which it is suggested that only a portion of the 6th Avenue repair work be carried out in 1991 and that the rest be done in 1992, when the YTG's share of the load would be only 30%.

Obviously, council intends to proceed with the alternative which would cost it the least in overall terms. After some discussion, it was concluded that the city's public works department would continue preparations with an eye to having the work done in 1991.

Gerberding Wins Council Seat

by Dan Davidson

Tim Gerberding is Dawson's newest city councillor, filling the seat left vacant by the resignation of Herb Watt back on January 3. Gerberding was declared winner by acclamation when he was the only elector to declare interest in the seat by February 25.

He says that winning by acclamation isn't such a big deal, but admits that he wasn't looking forward to having to mount a campaign, so he's a bit relieved. He is looking on this brief stint - the next general municipal elections will be held this November - as a good training time to find out whether he would want to run for a full term.

Gerberding is a trapper and fisherman who has recently

emerged as a North End resident concerned about the proposed changes that might be taking place in his end of town if the streets should be realigned and serviced with water and sewer. As a member of the gallery he has had some intense, but polite, exchanges with council, so it remains to be seen how he will work out at the table. He has some experience in formal situations from his involvement with the Canada-U.S. Salmon talks. Though originally from the States, Gerberding has been a Canadian citizen for several years now.

Gerberding is the fifth replacement councillor to be elected or acclaimed to office since the last general election in 1988. He will be sworn in at the next regular meeting of council on March 21.

Council has indicated that it will strongly oppose a license application to mine gold along the side of the Yukon River between the north Dawson boundary and the Dawson Indian Band village of Moosehide. Mayor Jenkins brought this application to council's attention at the Mar. 7 meeting. The

application was, he said, in the name of Richard Semple, who was previously the operator of one of the two concerns mining at the south end of the community. Semple's operation crossed the city's south boundary and he was shut down by the Yukon Water Board.

Council Briefs (March 7, 1991)

by Dan Davidson

Airport is a Frustration

Citing lack of political will on the part of the Yukon government, Mayor Peter Jenkins has asked city council to help him spearhead a drive to get a decision made on the future of the Dawson Airport. The mayor has previously expressed his frustration over the lack of speed with which this issue is being pursued, and has long since staked out the position that a newer, bigger airport should be created closer to the city.

He repeated once again his conviction that highway traffic will only increase marginally from here on, and that the future of Dawson as a tourist destination lies with an increase in accessibility by air.

Council has decided to convene a meeting of interest groups - including the Klondike Visitors Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Dawson Indian Band, the Bear Creek Residents' Association and the Klondike Rural Residents Association - to develop a common position on

the subject prior to the holding of a meeting the Yukon government is planning here between April 10-15.

The YTG's Department of Community and Transportation Services has given notice that this meeting will discuss three options that might meet future

needs. At a public meeting last fall, Klondike MLA Art Webster described these in general terms as being a) a site near the Dempster Corner, b) an expansion of the present airport or, c) a site closer to town, near the Bear Creek Subdivision.

Snow Removal Questioned

The possibility of favoritism in city contracting surfaced again when Councillor Glen Everitt raised the matter of how the snow removal contracts were being awarded this season. Everitt said he had understood that the contracts were to have been fairly evenly divided between the two major contractors who do this sort of work. He mentioned no names, but the companies involved are Gammie Trucking and Klondike Transport Ltd.

Everitt said that he had received a complaint that all the work was going to one contractor, and that when he checked with works superintendent Norm Carlson he

found that this was the case. He said that Carlson told him that one company was easier "to get ahead of" than the other.

Mayor Jenkins said that he was not personally involved in this matter and that it was under the control of the works superintendent, but he instructed City Manager Carol Murray to look into it.

Sources at Gammie Trucking confirm that the company has not received the volume of city snow removal business that it was expecting this winter, but they also indicate that they had not filed a complaint either with the city office or with Councillor Everitt.



Photo by Sue Ward

Some city councillors have been heard to complain of a lack of variety in housing design. While not exactly historically sympathetic, this spiffy little number in Donna Close's yard has the advantage of being flood-proof!

Editorial: Fixing the Calendar

by Dan Davidson

It's strange to be talking now about when school will be starting in the fall, isn't it? Not really, though, not when you consider that it has been a constant topic of discussion here for a generation or more. (You should read our story on the subject before you go much further into this article, by the way. I'm assuming here that you already know the details.)

If the school council gets its way, there will be quite a few changes to the school calendar, yet none of them are new ideas and most of them have been in circulation regularly since I came to live here in 1985. Except for a few differences in the actual dates, the proposal accepted by the recent public meeting, and ratified so quickly by the school council, is identical to one I reported on shortly after I moved here.

At that time the actual structure of the school year was set in the aging concrete of our old education act, a dinosaur piece of legislation that was out of date shortly after it came into being. We have reached the day where we can talk about what our school year ought to be through the efforts of a lot of people who lobbied long and hard to get the power to change it built into the new act.

This was a struggle, and, according to most reports, it was largely because the proposal came from here that it was so hard. We are the community most affected by this issue, because of the nature of our weather and the timing of our business season. Our needs in this matter seem to be unique. There were those who didn't want to grant us that right. We will have to be careful not to misuse it if the dream comes true.

Those concerns are for next year, however. This year we celebrate what may be the triumph of good sense over inertia and hope that everything works out.

If you like what is being sent down to the Minister of Education, Piers McDonald, or even if you don't, you should voice your opinion on this issue. The politicians will find it easier to justify doing what we want them to if they can point to significant public support. A letter to the Minister or a letter to Art Webster c/o Box 2703, Whitehorse couldn't hurt, now could it?



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Renewal

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To Whom It May Concern:

There is not a day that goes by that somewhere within our manipulative sensation seeking media, we hear of so-called learned people, those of socio-political status, making the query regarding Canadian Unity, and asking what Canadians in general want of their country. Having said this, one of rational thinking is aware immediately that these individuals of questionable political persuasion don't give a tinker's damn what you think, or what you want! For if they did there would not be legislation enacted that separates and tears our country apart. It would seem that logical thinking people would not in any manner ever allow laws legislation or political documentation that put people and culture by their very existence poised against each other with a sense of anger and confusion which has served to instil prejudice in its worst form.

It would seem to me if you wish to instil Canadian Unity, you have to have a country united as one within itself and this will never be achieved as long as you indicate and separate

by legislation that factions of Canadian Society be deemed a uniquely distinct and separate society, enjoying preferential treatment at the expense of the rest of Canadian society; a perverse sense of socialism which benefits the few and taxes the mass. This is not to be misconstrued to indicate those of French extraction only but those of any culture and race whether they be aboriginal or any conventionally white culture that detracts or in any way takes away from the unity of Canada.

So until Canadians get off their passive rear ends and put prejudice and self-centered issues aside the state of the country will continue to deteriorate in a typically passive Canadian manner.

So I leave the question with you as to what direction Canada takes, but as for myself and my house, we choose to unite as with one voice to the strength and unity of Canada as one.

Sincerely,
Karsten Hamsen
Box 713
Dawson City, Yukon
YOB 1G0



Dear Editor,

Barry Mahoney and his family wish to thank the following people for making it possible for him to go to Vancouver for the RLSSC awards banquet.

1. Peter Menzies for the coordination
2. Joan Bilton - DRB Chairperson
3. Dave Millar - Run Dawson, arranged for plane tickets
4. Phil Dyke - Canadian Airlines International
5. Art Webster and his staff for donation of monies
6. Walt Scott for Westmark Hotels for room in Whitehorse
7. and last but not least, Kendall Deminich for providing a home away from home and being with him through it all.

Sincerely,
Ona Mae Mahoney

Dear Editor

I wonder if you would be so considerate to allow me a small space in : column or letters page, to request a penfriend with one of your good readers please.

Any friendly person, with a sense of humour, and interest in animals and outgoing will be fine.

Thank you
John Mack
79 Pavilion Court
Marine Parade
Folkestone, Kent, CT20 1QB
U.K.

CHANGES IN THE KLONDIKE SUN

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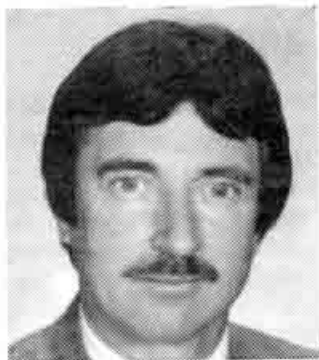
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Klondike Nuggets: Everyone loves a new baby. . . we think a photo of the baby and the vital statistics can be a treasured keepsake. . . providing Mom is up to one of us arriving to take the photo. Call the office or a Sun staffer for the photo time.

Photos of your Event: The Sun staff are all volunteers, so cannot always get out to every event. Contact us in plenty of time to see if we can be there; OR if we are unable to, we can supply the black and white film, you take pics, we will process and use pics and you get the credit. Or provide your own film. After we have used photos we will return the film to you with a contact sheet.



by Art Webster
MLA for Klondike

Words from Webster

The Canadian fur industry contributes \$850 million to our economy annually, and provides incomes for more than 100,000 individuals ranging from trappers and ranchers, to manufacturers and retailers. In the Yukon, trapping provides an important economic boost to our small rural communities, and helps sustain a northern lifestyle enjoyed by approximately 700 trappers and their families.

The fur industry, which has always been largely dependent on foreign markets and subject to the cyclical nature of international monetary fluctuations and fashion trends, has been in a major slump for the last few years. This is a result of several factors: a surplus of ranch-raised furs; a world economy in recession; and an effective lobby by anti-fur and animal rights groups. The downturn is so serious that in January the Hudson's Bay Company announced it was getting out of the fur-selling business on which its retail empire was founded over three centuries ago. Most disturbing is the recent news that, as a result of low prices for furs, the Ontario Fur Trappers' Association has declared bankruptcy after fifty years of operation.

Despite the bad news, I believe there are reasons to be optimistic about the future of the wild fur industry. For example, recent survey results indicate a new attitude is emerging among consumers, the vast majority of whom continue to value fur and view it positively. People are beginning to question the arguments and tactics of animal rights activists, preferring to hear all the facts from both sides of the issue before making their own choice. Many new developments, including the increasing use of humane traps and the effective promotion, through trapper education workshops, of more humane trapping techniques, are encouraging consumers to look more favourable on the fur industry. These initiatives help to counter the claims by animal welfare groups that there is excessive cruelty to animals in the fur industry. In addition, the development by trappers of a national accreditation program and a Code of Practice would further enhance the public image of the industry.

Improved education and communication strategies are still needed to get our message across. The annual Dawson Fur Show sponsored by the local chapter of the Yukon Trappers Association during Yukon's "Trapping Awareness Week" is an excellent example of what can and is being done to better inform local residents of the ways and means of trapping, and its benefit to our society.

To advance our cause, more can be done in our public school system through such programs as



Photo by John Gould

For those of you who are new to town, Art Webster does exist outside of his column. Here's the proof!

Project Wild and wilderness education courses.

More important, however, is the need to reach to potential consumers of wild fur living in cities throughout the industrial world. This can be achieved by focusing on the close relationship between the wild fur industry and a healthy environment. With all the attention and concern for the environment and conservation demonstrated by governments, by businesses offering "environmentally friendly" goods and services, and by individuals participating in activist groups, we have an opportunity now to promote the wild fur trade as an excellent example of an environmentally sound activity. Trapping is totally in keeping with the principle of sustainable use management of natural resources. From an environmental point of view, convincing arguments can be made that the use of natural fur

for making garments is much preferable to the use of synthetic materials which are manufactured from non-renewable resources, such as oil and chemicals, which contribute to the pollution of our environment. This environmental message should emphasize the beneficial role the trapper plays in observing changes in the health of fur species and/or wildlife habitat and reporting them immediately to prevent further deterioration.

In short, the statement that trapping is good for the environment should be raised at every opportunity.

The development of educational programs highlighting this theme, and measures to communicate it, is the priority of a national committee recently formed to prepare a comprehensive strategy for the promotion of the Canadian fur industry. Our Yukon representative will be making a significant contribution to the work of this committee in developing a clear message that the fur industry is of vital social, economic, cultural, and environmental importance to the North.

The role politicians can play is an important one in achieving this end. In addition to providing human and financial resources for our Governments to implement the above-mentioned programs and strategies, we can demonstrate our moral support in a personal way by wearing more fur harvested from the Canadian wilderness.

REPORT FROM OTTAWA



Audrey McLaughlin,
Yukon MP

Friday, March 8, was International Women's Day, and since the days of Martha Louise Black the plight to achieve equality for women has come a long way. But of course, that is not to say all of our work has been accomplished.

Equality in the workplace and the elimination of violence against women still remain high priorities and through the efforts of Yukon women's groups, transition homes, programs and individuals, positive steps are being taken to meet those goals. I particularly want to congratulate all those people involved in the Dawson Shelter Transition House.

On the other hand, we cannot ignore the federal budget announcement of February 26, 1991, which makes it difficult for equality goals to be achieved and demonstrates how support is lacking when it comes to crucial programs such as transition homes, child welfare services, child care, education and medicare.

This budget definitely had some winners and losers and the winners weren't the low and moderate income families, the unemployed and small businesses. Instead of seeking some form of relief for Canadians already under pressure, as a result of the "made in Canada" recession, this government has tabled a budget that will only result in further unemployment and hardship.

Who will pay? All Canadians can expect to pay more unemployment insurance premiums in July, 1991 -- meaning those paycheques for the workers are going to get smaller and the responsibility of the unemployment crisis will be

continually shifted to the Canadian people.

It is agreed that this budget provides no solutions, therefore, making one wonder about the expenditures this government has incurred to promote its messages and positions. There is the additional \$8 million for the new GST senators that were only brought in to ensure the GST was approved before the deadline of January 1, 1991. What about the \$24 million increase for Canada's spy agency? What about the \$1.1 million for a flyer to advertise the GST which another \$65,000 study proved was not a success? Canadians cannot help but be sceptical under these circumstances!

Although it looks pretty grim for Canada's economy, we do have to be pleased on another front -- the Persian Gulf War is over. This will be the time for the United Nations to work to resolve outstanding issues. Canadian men and women who served in our troops have done their job well and we wait eagerly for their safe arrival home. It is now up to the politicians to settle the conflicts that politics have caused.

The Gulf War has indeed been a military victory, whether it is a political victory remains to be seen. This week, as we learn of over a hundred thousand deaths, virtual destruction of two countries, untold trauma in Israel, hundred of children deafened from the thousands of daily overhead flights and uncalculated environmental damage, we must surely reflect on what "victory" means.

There is one thing for sure, we will be feeling the aftermath of this war for a long time to come.

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Also any one we may have forgotten and to all the volunteers who helped make the weekend a great success.

Thank you!



Elders Receive Heritage Award

by Kathy Jones-Gates

"You can't say Joe without Annie, or Annie without Joe, and they have really demonstrated what a couple is all about," acknowledged Louise Profeit-LeBlanc, as she introduced Gwich'in Elders Joe and Annie Henry at the 9th annual Yukon Heritage Awards on February 18th.

Holding up a pair of snowshoes, LeBlanc said: "This is a fine example of snowshoe making, with Grandpa Joe constructing the frame and Grandma Annie weaving the mesh. Grandma's motto is, 'If you don't knit it right, the hunter won't get anything.'"

The respected Indian elders were brought to Whitehorse for the annual Yukon Heritage Awards by son Percy to receive one of the three awards given out by the Yukon Historical and Museums Association. The ceremonies were held in the new Yukon Archives building reading room which was overflowing with people of all ages for the occasion.

The festivities began with the soul-stirring drum beat and singing of the Carcross-Tagish Dancers. Opening remarks were made by Clara Schinkel, Y.H.M.A. president, who said that Annie and Joe "really help us all know who we are. They are a great example of living traditions." Yukon Education



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

minister Piers McDonald and Rose-Marie Blair-Smith, the vice-chair of the Council for Yukon Indians also welcomed everyone to the ceremonies.

"Joe and Annie are great-grandparents to my children," said Profeit-LeBlanc, who had worked with the Henrys in 1989 to conduct an oral history of the Blackstone people in the Dempster region.

Joe was born in the Peel River Canyon in 1900 and has held a trapline in the Upper Blackstone river region since he was a young man. Annie was born in Black City on the Upper Blackstone River in 1904. She grew up in the upper Blackstone, Ogilvie and Wind River country and is a Tkudh Gwich'in. Joe and Annie were married at Moosehide in 1921, and together they had 10

children. At 91 and 87 respectively, Joe and Annie will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary this summer.

Joe's intimate knowledge of the Dempster region led him to become the person most responsible for guiding the early surveyors of the Dempster Highway through the Ogilvies and Richardson mountains. The Henrys have resided half of their

time up the Dempster where they have a cabin both at Wolf Creek and Ogilvie river.

In addition to contributing their time and knowledge to the recording of native history along the Dempster corridor, they have instructed cultural activities at Moosehide. They have also participated in presentations for the Yukon Science Institute.

LeBlanc presented the Henrys with a framed early Yukon map and a certificate. Joe acknowledged the award and said that "everywhere we go, we have got lots of friends".

The talented Carcross-Tagish dancers, established in 1973, were presented with a Heritage Award for being the first Yukon group to revive traditional dances. Geraldine James received the award from Commissioner Ken McKinnon. She explained that there are 30 dancers of all ages. All dancers must be drug and alcohol free, attend practices and participate in fund-raising. School students are expected to have good school attendance and marks.

Former Commissioner James Smith was the third Heritage Award recipient. He was acknowledged for personally taking an interest in the establishment of the Yukon Archives 20 years ago.

Following the presentations, the large audience was treated to the dancing and singing talents of the Carcross-Tagish dancers.



Northern Polar Games in Dawson

by Dan Davidson

The Northern Polar Games, a non-competitive sports meet of most of the schools north of Whitehorse began at the Robert Service School last Thursday morning. About 200 students from grades 7-12 participated in the two day event. Guests arrived Wednesday night from Faro, Ross River, Carmacks, Mayo and Old Crow.

The purpose of the games, according to student organizer Heather Burns, is "to bring Northern rural communities to-

gether to participate in action-packed activities."

These included curling, broomball, badminton, volleyball, floor hockey, downhill skiing, soccer, indoor baseball, outdoor activities, Arctic sports and a games room for more sedentary students.

Activities ran all day Thursday, when the highlight of the day was a sparkler parade to the Front Street Gazebo and a fireworks display put on by the Dawson City Volunteer Fire-

fighters. On Friday evening, a banquet and dance at Diamond Tooth Gerties brought the games to a close.

The organization of the games is a part of the course activities for the Phys. Ed. 11/12 class at Robert Service School. Teacher Bob Sutherland says that the games are meant to be fun, "non-stop action" in a non-threatening, non-competitive atmosphere. For students at the host school the games came as a welcome break after the intense stretch of second term examinations.



Photo by Dan Davidson



Photo by John Gould

Marji Mann presents John Worries with his Life Membership in the Curling Club

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Dawson City Chamber of Commerce We Mean Business

and Axel Speer for speaking to the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce Members at the last two meetings.

The next general membership meeting is being held at the Downtown Hotel at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 3, 1991.

Gold Show Update

Time is running out! The Dawson City International Gold Show 1991 is receiving exhibitor booth reservations daily. Anyone interested in becoming an exhibitor or delegate please send in your forms and payment as soon as possible.

Anyone interested in increasing their public awareness by sponsoring the Gold Show this year, please contact me at 993-6720 for more information.

On behalf of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce I would like to wish you a Happy Easter and all the best in March.

Let us help you and your business; join the majority and become a member of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce. WE MEAN BUSINESS!

What can \$35.00 buy you? Not much you say? Well, for only \$35.00 you can promote your business in Dawson City and world wide in information packages sent from the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce! The business directory is where you will find such advertisements at low prices! The deadline was March 1, but we have decided to give you one last chance! The deadline is extended to Friday, March 22. Don't miss this opportunity! Members \$35.00 Non-Members \$55.00

The G.S.T. video is available at the Chamber office for anyone interested in borrowing our copy.

Don't forget about our Group Insurance Plan! For more information about receiving benefits for your business, please call 993-5274.

Thank-you to Donna Conley



Photo by John Gould

Taking Home the Wage Gap

While women may have made progress in terms of career opportunities over the last three decades, according to the 1986 Census they are not reaping the financial benefits of that employment. Women still earn 65% of the salaries of men. The impact of this gap between male and female wage levels is particularly acute for lone-parent families headed by women. The next Canadian Census of Population, on June 4th, 1991, will gather new information about the living conditions of women and children.

Decisions about the provision of community services like educational programs and health care which support improvements in the daily lives of women and children are based, in part, on census data. Each year in Canada thousands of children suffer through their parents' marriage break-up. Thirteen percent of all children live in lone-parent families, most headed by women. The median income of these lone-parent families (\$15,000.) is one-third that of two-parent families (\$45,000.). Approximately 16% of all Canadian children live in low income families.

As the most complete source of information about the living conditions of women and children

in Canada, it is vital that women understand the value of completing their census questionnaire, providing complete information about their family group. It is from Census data that we know the number of children has declined to only 21% of the Canadian population. It is estimated that by 2001 children will make up just 19% of Canadians.

For women, information about how much income they have, how it is generated, and how it is contributing to the well-being of their family, is of growing importance. Women make up 51% of the total population. However, data from

the last Census shows that they earn only 35% of the country's total income. The next census of population, on June 4th, 1991, will provide a new measurement of the progress of women in terms of pay equity, educational and career opportunities. It is, therefore, vital that Canadian women are aware of the Census and recognize the importance of census data as a basis for decision making about the real issues which affect their daily lives and the lives of their children. June 4th is Census Day - COUNT YOURSELF IN!

Helping Hands

Paula Pawlovich
Sheila Jones
Roberta Humberstone
Lawrie Stewart
Fran Hakonson



Photo by Sue Ward

Clearing Gertie's Roof before the Quest Dance turns the heat up

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Record Breaking Quest Marred by Virus

by Kathy Jones-Gates

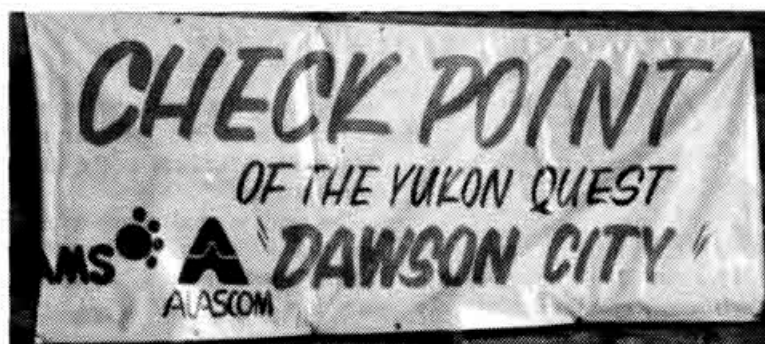
The 8th Annual Yukon Quest International Dog Sled Race is winding down to its last "Gee and Haw". The race has been won and the last few teams are heading towards the finish line in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Dawson is the scheduled halfway point in the 1,000 mile (1,600 km) race where mushers and dogs get a much needed 36-hour lay-over. The Curling Club staged its 91st Curling Bonspiel, and the Oldtimers Hockey Tournament was on. Gerties was open, dances were being held and the town was buzzing this past week.

The Veterinarians headed by Jeannie Olsen set up shop at the campground at West Dawson, across the Yukon River, where handlers prepared comfy, cosy 'nests' of straw for the dog teams. A vet from Ohio State University arrived to conduct research on the sled dogs, do E.K.G.'s, blood work, etc. Dr. Ken Hinchcliffe is with the University's Department of Veterinary Sciences at Columbus, Ohio. This is the first year for the project. Any work done is with the musher's voluntary approval. He had to combat blood samples freezing in the cold weather and the

liquid crystal display for the E.K.G. not displaying.

Banners across the streets welcomed mushers and handlers, race support staff, officials and even a guest from Russia arrived to oversee the Dawson segment. The media arrived covering the event for both Yukon and Alaskan radio and newspapers. The Dawson checkpoint was at the Information Centre on Front



Quest Vets: Clint Armsberry, Jim Kenyon, Jeannie Olsen, Warren Webber

Street, and the Percy DeWolfe Committee manned a concession booth while other volunteers readied the check lists, wrote the times down, stirred the special paint that all the dogs are daubed with, and answered a million queries. CBC Radio Whitehorse set up at the Centre and broadcast morning and afternoon programs from there, with Pam

smooth-running in Dawson as she can make it.

Since February 2nd, a volunteer team has been breaking the Quest trail 135 kilometres south of Dawson at Scroggie Creek on the Stewart River, up to Eureka Creek, Quartz Creek Road and onto the Bonanza Road, through Callison and into Dawson, and from Dawson north

Thirty-five teams departed Whitehorse on February 24th leaving at 2-minute intervals. Dawson was rooting for Corwin Guimond of Cassiar Creek, wearing bib number 25 and entered for the second time, and Francois Varigas, entered for the sixth time, having placed third in 1990, and wearing bib number 30.

An unknown virus that had



Buckway's vast dog mushing knowledge enabling her to get interviews for a very informative afternoon program.

Since December, Wendy Fellers, who sits on the Canadian Board of the Quest race has been gathering her volunteers, getting permission to use the Information Centre, and ensuring that the event is as

to Forty Mile, located approximately 80 kilometres downstream from Dawson on the Yukon River. Using snowmobiles, with MacKenzie Petroleum Ltd. donating 833 litres of gas and 30 litres of oil, they put down a trail, resorting to snowshoes in some places to pack the snow covered trail enough to allow the machines to proceed.



Frank Turner of Pelly Crossing heads for Eagle, Alaska. He won the Vets Award for exceptional dog care

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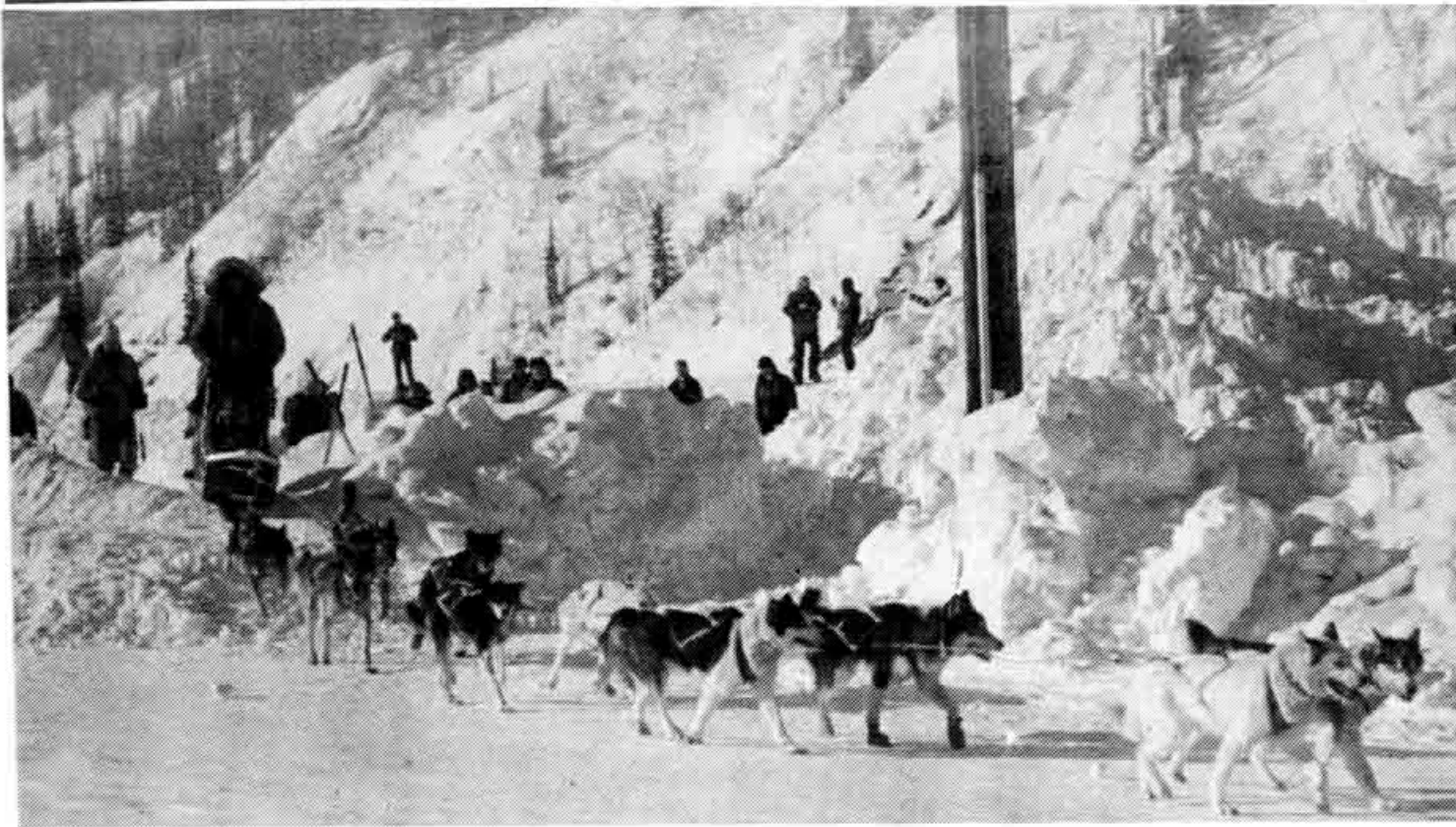


Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

The Dog "Hilton"

Francois Varigas is the 1st musher in to Dawson



David Dalton mushing on to Fairbanks

plagued dog lots in Alaska earlier, appeared amongst the Quest teams producing symptoms such as lack of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea.

On Thursday, February 28th, the fire siren's wail alerted us all to the imminent arrival of the first team. At 12:59 p.m., Dawson's Francois Varigas urged his team to the checkpoint, followed a minute later by Paxson, Alaska, musher John Schandelmeyer.

Excitement gave way to sorrow for many Varigas supporters on March 3rd, when Varigas arrived in fourth place into Eagle with one dead dog and his team infected with the virus. The dead dog was flown to Fairbanks for a necropsy and Varigas, disappointed by an effort that seemed all for naught, scratched from the race.

Corwin Guimond completed the race in seventeenth place arriving in Fairbanks in time for the Mushers' Banquet.

In a record time, Alaskan trapper and fisherman Charlie Boulding crossed the Fairbanks finish line on March 7th at 9:12 a.m., Alaskan time. He had mushed the 1,000 mile race in 10 days, 20 hours and 12 minutes, breaking the previous record by more than 15 hours. The first Canadian musher to arrive was Pelly Crossing's Frank Turner in 11th place.



Hans Algottson helped mark the trail

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All Quest Photos
By
Michael Gates



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THE BESNER FUND

Applications for youth related projects.

THE YUKON INDIAN HERITAGE FUND

Applications for Post graduate scholarships and projects related to Indian cultural heritage.

THE JAMES MURDOCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships for studies in music, drama or other fine arts.

THE Y.W.C.A. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship for women over 25 who have resided in the Yukon for over 5 years.

THE WHITEHORSE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S BURSARY

Bursary for any woman who has at least two years residency in the Yukon.

THE CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH SCHOLARSHIP

To provide financial assistance to any non-francophone Yukon student who wished to become fluent in Canada's second Official Language. Note: This scholarship does not close until July 31, 1991.

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Former Gertie Returns as Playwright

by Sue Ward

When Cathy Elliot arrived from Toronto to be 1989's "Gertie", she'll admit that she hadn't much of a clue as to what was ahead, but Darrell Steininger was ready to show her the way and everyone had a grand season, and Cathy lost her heart to the Yukon. She has returned to research her two-act play-with-music, "Fireweed", based on women of the Yukon. She is writing all of the songs as well as the lyrics for them, and the entire script. It is scheduled to be presented at the Muskoka Festival in Ravenhurst, Ontario, in 1992.

When I asked what prompted such a challenge she told me "I ran a Stop sign in Dawson City while riding my bicycle, and I had to stay put so I began playing with notes and keys and it was just meant to be!"

Her play will be written around the lives of Yukon women from earliest days to contemporary times. Several weeks will be spent in researching her subjects. Cathy applied for, and received, a Canada Council Exploration Grant, which will allow her to spend her entire energies on her findings and writings.

On March 7 Cathy welcomed about 35 interested supporters to the Dawson City Museum to a reading of a work-in-progress that started just over a year ago.

This scribe found the hour-and-three-quarter presentation most stimulating, as Cathy had shown but one side of her creative talents when performing as "Gertie". Due to the length of the read-through, folks were reluctant to remain for discussion as other events around town that evening were overlapping.

The musical score is most tuneful, exciting and original, and Cathy gave an all-out rendition while accompanying herself on keyboard and guitar. I had some difficulty in separating the "here and now" from the "back then" time periods, no doubt not a factor when costumes and scenery are present.

Kim Tuson and Dale Cooper had a lark in reading the roles of the supporting female adventurers.

Cathy's introduction stated that "Questions about the plot-line are heartily invited. Any pointers? I'm sure I'll have questions for you as well." One quick question was "Will we ever see the performance in Dawson City?" The answer was a hopeful "Yes."

This talented young Canadian woman who calls her company "Outside Productions" would welcome input on her play, or add you to her mailing list. Write to Cathy Elliot, 248 Wright Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6R 1L5.



Photo by Sue Ward



Benny Kingwell's home bites the shovel

Photo by Sue Ward

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Quiz for March 8: International Women's Day Women around the world

(NC)—1. What per cent of the world's population are women?

- a) 41
- b) 50
- c) 53
- d) 58

2. Which of the following answers is the least likely answer to the question, "In developing countries, where do poor rural women go to find water?"

- a) To their backyards to a well;
- b) To the village pump;
- c) Ten kilometres to the nearest water supply;
- d) To a tap in the kitchen.

3. How do women carry large, heavy containers of water back to their homes?

- a) They get the men to do it;
- b) They help each other;
- c) They don't have to, since they get water from a tap;
- d) They carry the containers themselves, most often balanced on their heads, and often 5 to 15 km. each day.

4. How much do African women participate in agriculture?

- a) Women are not allowed to participate in agriculture—it is work that is dominated by men;
- b) Women help out, sharing the work evenly with men;
- c) Women grow over three quarters of Africa's food and thus do most of the work;
- d) Women's involvement is limited to storing and processing and marketing food.

5. In Bangladesh, girls can spend six hours a day:

- a) At school;
- b) Playing with their friends;
- c) Doing housework;
- d) Collecting firewood for heating and cooking fuel.



Bangladesh. Photo: Barbour/CIDA.

NC

6. What per cent of the world's total working hours are performed by women?

- a) 40
- b) 50
- c) 60
- d) 75

7. How much of the world's property do women own?

- a) 40 %
- b) 35%
- c) 25%
- d) less than 1%

Answers:

- 1. B
- 2. D. While some villages have water pumps available, it is not uncommon for women to have to walk long distances every few days to obtain water.
- 3. D
- 4. C
- 5. D
- 6. D
- 7. D

For information on Women and Development, contact the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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Looking For Canada

by Dan Davidson



Searching out the Great Canadian Consensus may be a task not unlike that faced by the blind men who tried to describe an elephant. The fifteen men and women who turned out in Dawson City to meet Citizen's Forum commissioner Susan Van der Veld and her co-hosts produced the usual 15 different viewpoints about what's wrong with Canada and what ought to be done about it.

If there was a major theme to the evening's discussion it was probably to be found in the tension between the regional and national visions. Ironically enough, these two extreme positions were argued by a former German and a former Austrian.

"There are no Canadians," said Fred Berger, the owner of Arctic Drugs, "because there's too much regionalism." Before coming to Canada in 1953, Berger remembers being an Austrian first and a citizen of Vienna second. He believes that the region first and Canada second attitude which he finds in so many people is one of the reasons Canada can't decide what it is.

"The only key I see is to decentralize the country," says dentist Helmut Schoener, whose youth in West Germany ("...what used to be..." he shrugs) left him with a different perspective on national identity. Schoener doesn't advocate taking the country apart, he simply feels that the central vision of the "people who just see paper" doesn't seem to work in practice.

When you start to talk at that level, you find that Berger and Schoener have points of agreement in their opinions. Both agree, for instance, that it ought to be possible to have dozens of

cultures operating in cooperation in Canada without having to regulate it, or be afraid of it.

Berger cites his time working with people from 35 different countries at the United Keno Hill mine in Elsa and remembers how they all got along, how they were all part of the same unit even while they were different. Schoener talks of a need for tolerance and understanding, something he sees as being part of what has made Canada great in the past.

The same desire for toleration produced a lot of pain for Byrun Shandler as he watched the reports of anti-French demonstrations in Ontario last winter.

"The saddest time of my life was last winter," Shandler told the group seated around the city council table. "Our strength used to be in compromise."

Michel Vincent is an unrepentant Quebec separatist who says he found that "being French and being Indian were two bad things to be" as he worked his way across the country. He says this is not the case in the Yukon, but he adds, "I've never been one who wanted to keep Canada together."

Peter Menzies, on the other hand, is an unrepentant Canadian nationalist who accepts the criticism Vincent levels at Western Canada's dealings with the French.

"I really want Quebec to stay," said Dawson's recreation director.

"I think," he pointed out, "that it's normal to be a frustrated Canadian, yet we still think it's a great country. We're schizophrenic."

He wasn't the only one to use that word. Former assistant commissioner Peter Gillespie

raised it later in the evening and for every point of view raised at the table there was one to counter it.

Rene Mayes has no beef with people maintaining their ethnic heritage but, "Why does everyone expect the government to keep their culture alive?"

For Fred Berger the very concept of Canada as "two nations is insane" because it denies the existence of contributions by cultures other than English and French. Berger felt that the much maligned American "melting pot" concept had actually done more for cultural survival than Canada's official legislation of multi-culturalism and bilingualism.

Hugh Guthro felt that these policies had paradoxically worked to drive us apart as a nation. "Nobody wants to be a Canadian any more. Everybody's 'something hyphen Canadian'." (The policy) has done more to push people apart than keep them together.

"We're spoiled," said Kathy Kosuta, a Dawson born white resident who works for the Indian Band. "We're complacent and we haven't suffered." She felt that Canadians have become too self-centered and focussed on individual rights: "Whatever happened to the idea of collective responsibility?"

Money was a problem, too. Harold Shannon and Peter Menzies came together at the point of needing to do something about the deficit. Menzies moaned that we could, in fact, afford to do almost everything we've ever wanted to do as a country, if only we weren't tied up paying the interest for the things we've already done.

Not all regions are equally prosperous of course, and Byrun Shandler wanted to know: "How do we share power for the best interests of the whole?"

Fred Berger suggested that there has to be enough of a central government to enforce the necessary sharing, but Helmut Schoener felt that it would be more natural to allow the testing that tough times must bring to regions and people.

Kathy Kosuta worried that the present direction we are moving in as a country would soon see us nothing more than an appendage of the United States, while Palma Berger wondered if the multi-national corporations hadn't already achieved that kind of dominance.

Shandler talked of having a country which would empower people to be the most that they could be, to live in tolerance and a loose unity. There was, he said, a need to overcome the problems created by our responses to the need for power and control and our feelings of greed and envy. "Aren't we," he asked, "empowering the wrong people?"

This was a reference to govern-

ment in general and to the current federal government in particular. The Tories got low marks for Meech Lake, for the GST, for their handling of the Gulf War, for the Oka Standoff and for being so ideologically bankrupt as to need to set up the Citizens' Forum in the first place.

On the other hand, everyone at the table felt that the Forum was a good idea, a sign that perhaps, at last, someone was prepared to listen first and act after, rather than the other way around.

There was also agreement that the problems that seem so to trouble the nation seem to be less troublesome here in the Yukon. Peter Gillespie, Daniel Tlen and others around the table felt that local government seems to be working after a fashion here, that it is still accountable for what it does in a way that seems to have been lost nationally and in the larger provinces. Gillespie asked the citizens to consider what message there might be in this for the country as a whole. That had yet to be determined when the evening ended.



Chickadee - A familiar Dawson winter bird Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

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April 8th and 9th, the Deans of Yukon College will be in Dawson. Please contact the campus if you would like to make an appointment regarding a specific program.

The Dawson Campus is sponsoring Mistie Bowers as a Queen candidate for this year's Spring Carnival. Good luck, Mistie.

For more information on programs you can contact the Campus at 993-5231 between 9 and 5, Mon to Fri.



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Library Pages

By John Bilton

The month of March is upon us and with it the promise of Spring just around the corner. When you stop to speak with friends these days the topics of conversation are invariably about seed catalogs and what to plant this year. Spring also brings out more people each day and hopefully they will spend a little time with us at the library. We still have a couple of vacancies on the Library Board and would really like to see them filled before the Summer break. The Board is a volunteer group of people who meet once a month and make the major decisions about running the library. The Librarian takes care of the day to day general business but it is the Library Board that must make the financial and policy decisions. If anyone is interested they can either drop into the Library or call me at 993-5571 for any further information.

There have been so many things happening at the Library that I hardly know where to start. To begin with the Library was used for the Assessment Review Board Hearing (North) on February 7th and on the 13th of February the Dawson Recreation Department held a meeting in the Library. This meeting was arranged by Peter Menzies for the purpose of discussing the viability of bringing a piano teacher to Dawson once a month for lessons to interested people. The Dawson NDP party members had a meeting scheduled for February 14th in the Library, but due to conflicting engagements, the turnout was rather small and the meeting has been rescheduled.

Our long time Library Board member, Valerie Brickner, started a moccasin making course in the A.V. Room of the Library on Saturday, February 16th. This course is sponsored by the local Recreation Department and ran for three consecutive Saturdays from 1 - 4 p.m. The course had

four ladies diligently cutting and stitching to turn out some very impressive work.

The Library has received two VHS video cassettes from the Federal Taxation Department entitled "Stepping Through Your Tax Return - 1990". One video is in English and the other is in French and they are available to the public to assist you in preparing your 1990 Tax Return. We have also received new video cassettes titled "Meet George Spangler, avid angler", "Take a closer look" and "Talking about AIDS". These videos will now be a permanent part of our Library.

The Library has also received many new books over the past few weeks and I will only

publish a partial list of the titles:

BABY GAME by Elaine Martin (A guide from birth to 3 years)
BEYOND STONEHENGE by Gerald S. Hawkins (523 - ancient civilizations)
HANDBOOK OF GARDEN FLOWERS
THE GREAT DEPRESSION by Pierre Berton (330.971 self-explanatory)
THE RING by Danielle Steele (adult fiction)
THE WAR BETWEEN THE GENERALS by David Irving (adult - war)
THE DARK WAY by Virginia Hamilton (398.2 tales of the supernatural)
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION: THE YUKON ACT (344.719107)
GUTS AND GUILE by Ed Phillips (338.2 true tales of the pipeline industry)
BARBARIAN EUROPE: TIME-LIFE BOOKS GREAT AGES OF MAN (940.1)
BYZANTIUM: TIME -LIFE BOOKS GREAT AGES OF MAN (949.501)
THE SELF-HEALTH GUIDE (613 a personal program for holistic living)

We have also received a full set of Horizon Canada reference books plus several French language books that are now on display for our patrons. The Libraries and Archives Branch have named the winners of the contest to name the new CD-ROM system that was installed last September. Apryl Dawn Gage from Carmacks and Karen Walker from Whitehorse came up with ROMEO and Kris Jones of Faro called it the LASER LIBRARIAN. They decided that all three were winners and now the system is called ROMEO, THE LASER LIBRARIAN with congratulations going to all three contestants.

The Library Board has just received application forms from the Challenge 91 grants for student employment. As in the past the Library will be hiring a student to work as a Library Assistant for the summer months if our application is successful. This position will have to go up for competition so watch for it at your local Manpower Office. I will publish more information on this position in the future columns as it becomes available.

During the month of April we will be having a visit from author Pauline Gedge and I will also have more information about this visit next month. We still have a large amount of books on our overdue lists and would appreciate it very much if those patrons could make a concerted effort to return these books. Until next time good health and good reading.

BOOKENDS

by Dan Davidson

Every Poem Tells a Story chosen by Richard Wilson, Puffin Books, 164 pages, \$4.95

Most poems these days don't tell stories. Poems in childrens' collections, do, but they're not exactly in the mainstream of things. Poetry has tended to become based on verbal snapshots, aphorisms, bits of insight and crystallized emotion. I am not saying that any of this is wrong, it's just the way things are.

It is nice, however, to be reminded that poetry's roots are elsewhere, that poetry predates short stories and novels as a way of telling stories. There are 93 little stories in this collection. They cover every subject you might think of - and some you wouldn't want to. The oldest of them originates in 718 BC and the most recent from the 1980s. Some are scary, some are stirring, some are funny, some will make you groan. Some are familiar, but many are not.

The book is intended for the younger audience, though few of the poem in it were necessarily written with kids in mind. I've been reading it myself, and I now intend to drop it into our evening story-time with the kids. One or two a night along with whatever else we're reading should make a nice mix, I think.

A Wing and a Prayer poems by Ronald C. Ferris, Anglican Archbishop of the Yukon, Diocese of the Yukon, 18 pages, \$3.95

The Anglican Diocese of the Yukon is celebrating its centennial this year. Bishop Ferris, who flits around the territory and northern British Columbia in his Cessna Cutlas when the weather will let him, also likes to dabble in verse, and has published these poems to help commemorate that anniversary.

Last year was also a personal anniversary for Ferris, who became Anglican Bishop of the Yukon in 1980. His service in the Yukon goes back further than that. He was a school principal in Carcross from 1966-68 and served as pastor in Old Crow from 1970-72.

Ferris' poetic inspiration is not prolific nor is it contemporary. The 16 poems here represent 10 years of occasional work. The subjects range from celebrations of the land to prayers and commemorative verse. The style is the one that Ferris learned in grade school: dominated by verse structure, rhymes and definite rhythms. Robert Service would have recognized some of the patterns, while others seem to recall Sunday hymns.

"I like to use the older forms," says Ferris. "I'm kind of disillusioned with modern poetry and all those drinking bouts in blank verse."

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Conservation News Yukon Moose Inventory Results A Summary 1980 - 1989

To properly manage wildlife populations, good information on abundance (numbers) and composition (age/sex ratios) is important. Two types of aerial surveys are used to collect this type of information on Moose populations in Yukon; intensive surveys and trend surveys.

Intensive surveys began in priority areas, around the communities (generally those experiencing the most intense hunting pressure) in 1980. They provide very detailed and reliable information but are time consuming and expensive. Each priority area is intensively surveyed about once every 5-7 years.

Trend surveys were established within some of the larger intensive survey blocks in 1988. They do not provide the same high quality information as intensive surveys, but are much cheaper and less time consuming. They are conducted annually with the intent of gathering general information on regional Moose population trends.

Both intensive and trend surveys are done in early winter (November) when the animals tend to aggregate in mixed groups in open areas. New snow and the lack of leaves on trees and shrubs makes it much easier to spot Moose from the air. The bull Moose still have their antlers in November which helps us distinguish between sexes.

The intensive survey technique has been used successfully in many northern areas, including Alaska, Yukon and NWT. While Moose can often be difficult to spot, particularly in heavily timbered areas, the use of a helicopter in early winter to survey small areas very intensively makes our counts more reliable. This reliability is expressed using confidence limits (90%) around the estimate. For instance, we may conclude there

were 500 + 100 Moose in an area which is the same as saying we are confident 90% of the time, there were between 400 - 600 Moose in the area and that our best estimate is 500 Moose. The quality of the surveys will also depend on the experience of the observers and their ability to spot and classify Moose from the air. The survey crews now used in the Yukon have several thousand hours of flying experience between them. Whenever possible, we also try to include local residents in the survey crew.

Survey data provides a regional perspective of Moose distribution which is helpful when trying to predict land use impacts and the overall importance of localized hunting. Information from the Moose surveys is used to calculate a harvestable surplus that we can later match the hunter harvest to. While this is the ultimate management objective, several things can be said about a population just by looking at composition (age/sex) data. For example, a large proportion of calves and yearlings in the population suggests good survival and recruitment and possibly an increasing population. Approximately 50 calves / 100 cows are required for a population to increase. In areas that are hunted heavily for adult bulls, a skewed sex in favour of cows may eventually affect calf production. In the Yukon, we like to maintain a ratio of at least 30 bulls/100 cows to ensure that all cows have a chance of being bred.

In 1980, a list of seven priority zones was established around the communities of Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Teslin, Watson Lake, Ross River, Mayo and Dawson City. The survey areas are selected based on hunting pressure documented from harvest questionnaires. In the Yukon, most of the Moose hunting pressure is concentrated in areas of easy access near

settlements and along roads and rivers which make up only a small portion of the Territory. For instance, about one third of the resident hunters road hunt for Moose. This localized hunting in addition to other natural causes of mortality can severely limit Moose population growth and will undoubtedly result in poor hunter success. This seems to be the case along roads such as the South Canol which has some excellent Moose habitat but very few Moose.

Equally important to gathering data on Moose numbers is the collection of good harvest data, both from native and non-native users. A cooperative program to collect native harvest data on key game species is underway that involves local field-workers interviewing active hunters in the communities. The harvest by resident non-natives is

reported through annual questionnaires sent out through the mail to all licenced hunters. The non-resident harvest is reported through outfitter declarations.

The final task in Moose management is to encourage the public to distribute their hunting pressure to coincide with the areas most able to sustain the harvest. In the Yukon, this is done whenever possible through public education. Only in extreme cases, such as in Game Management Zone 7, are restrictions such as permit hunts imposed.

The cost of a complex Moose survey over a 1,500 square km. area (eg. Whitehorse South) is approximately \$30,000 with about 80% of the cost attributed to aircraft charters. A good survey repeated every 4-5 years will, in conjunction with accurate harvest data, provide the wildlife manager with enough information to evaluate population condition.

This information, combined with active management programs (hunting restrictions, habitat enhancement, predator control, etc.) will ensure populations are thriving and used wisely.

Survey costs represent only a fraction of the total value of the Moose resource. In addition to being a priority species for subsistence use, about two-thirds of all recreational hunting days for big game species can be attributed to Moose. In economic terms, an annual harvest of 600 - 1000 Moose by residents in the Yukon represents the equivalent of one million dollars in meat value alone. The annual harvest of 150 Moose by guided non-residents, combined with hunts for other big game generate \$6 million annually by the Yukon outfitting industry.

TABLE 1. SELECTED SUMMARY OF YUKON MOOSE SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY BLOCK	GAME MANAGEMENT ZONES	SURVEY AREA KM ²	YEAR	TOTAL MOOSE 1000 KM ²	BULLS/ 100 COWS	YEARLINGS/ 100 COWS	CALVES/ 100 COWS	POPULATION STATUS
1. Kluane	5-28 to 5-41	3755	1981	120	54	27	17	Stable to Decline
2. Whitehorse North	5-44 to 5-50	3108	1982	170	45	1	6	Decline
3. Carcross	9-01 to 9-05	916	1980 1983	443 187	63 52	25 9	23 4	Decline
4. Haisla	10-10 to 10-13 to 10-21 to 10-24	4248	1986	130	89	36	49	Stable to Increase
5. Liard East	11-27 to 11-29	2227	1986	140	79	37	51	Stable to Increase
6. North Canol	4-39 to 4-40 to 11-02 to 11-07	2744	1987	190	66	54	64	Increase
7. Mayo North	2-53 to 2-58	2235	1988	128	59	42	68	Stable to Increase
8. Mayo South	4-01 to 4-06	2616	1988	148	76	11	56	Stable to Decline
9. Dawson East	3-07 to 3-13	2611	1989	238	65	41	76	Increase
10. Dawson West	3-03 to 3-06	1870	1989	168	105	25	45	Stable to Increase
Yukon Wide Average		51-601*	-	160	59	24	35	Stable

*Total area surveyed = 15% of Yukon



Jennifer Bowers
Miss Yukon Electrical Co.



Vanessa Joseph
Miss Dawson Indian Band

Spring



Mistie Bowers
Miss Yukon College
Dawson Campus



Sandra Roberts
Miss Raven's Nook

Carnival

Queens

And the Winner is:



Wally

Photo by Madeleine Gould

and the Skidoo she won in the Ski Club Raffle